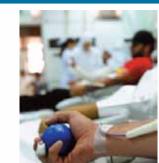
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

**Kuwaitis donate** blood to mark invasion anniversary



**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016** 

Samsung's new jumbo phone unlocks with iris scanner



With cheap spy tools, nations 'monitoring everyone'



Saudi female runner breaks barriers in Rio marathon





# RIGHTS OF INDIAN, OTHER EXPAT WORKERS GUARANTEED: SUBAIH

Min 34° **Max** 49° **High Tide** 10:40

**Low Tide** 

Thousands of Jobless Asians stranded in Saudi Arabia 05:07 & 18:23

## MPS SLAM PETROL HIKE, WARN GOVT

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Lawmakers yesterday strongly lashed out at the government for raising the prices of petrol, saying they will not accept the hike and vowed to take measures. The criticism came after an urgent meeting called by Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem held at his office to discuss what the lawmakers described as a surprising government decision. The meeting was attended by 14 MPs. MP Mohammad Tana called on all MPs to cut short their summer vacations in order to hold an emergency meeting of the National Assembly, which is now on a three-month summer recess.

A number of MPs blamed the government for violating promises not to raise petrol prices and criticized it for making the raise while the Assembly was on summer vacation. Deputy Speaker Mubarak Al-Khrainej said MPs during the meeting reviewed steps that could be taken after the government decided to increase the prices of petrol in a surprising way and without consulting the Assembly.

Khrainej said the majority of lawmakers underscored that the decision will negatively affect the lives of citizens and expected it could have a negative financial impact on lowand middle-income people. He said the government breached a pledge it made in the Assembly that it will not raise the price of petrol unilaterally and before consulting the Assembly. Khrainej said the lawmakers will discuss at future meetings, which will be likely attended by the government, alternative measures to compensate citizens for the increase and alleviate its negative impact.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: Young divers search for oysters containing pearls yesterday during the annual pearl diving season off the coast of Khairan, 100 km south of Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 5)

KUWAIT/MANILA: Kuwait is keen on safeguarding foreign communities, namely Indian expatriates, who constitute the largest non-Kuwaiti community in the country, affirmed the minister of social affairs and labor. Hind Al-Sabeeh, also minister of state for planning affairs and development, said in a statement yesterday that the presence of a large number of Indians in the country indicates that their businesses are stable and their rights are safeguarded.

Kuwait, she added, has signed a protocol with the Indian labor ministry, stipulating that it approves the employment contract ahead of a worker's entry into Kuwait. She put the number of Indian workers in Kuwait's private sector at 549,196, adding that the number of them who had lodged complaints requesting attainment of their rights between July 31, 2015 and July 31, 2016 amounted to 4,223 only.

**Continued on Page 13** 

### **MERCURY RISING**

KUWAIT: Kuwait's temperature has reached an abnormal level of 50 degrees Celsius, according to meteorologist Essa Ramadan at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. Ramadan told KUNA that the northwest wind speed will increase with a chance of dust in desert areas, adding that an increase in the height of waves yesterday was also expected. Also, humidity levels will decrease, and it is expected that temperatures will increase in desert areas, Jahra and the suburbs of Kuwait City. Ramadan added that humidity will return today

**Continued on Page 13** 





KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Ambassador of the United States of America to Kuwait Douglas Silliman.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Kuwait Capital Market Authority (CMA) Nayef Al-Hajraf and CMA board members. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

# CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY OFFICIALS PRESENT ANNUAL REPORT TO AMIR, CROWN PRINCE, PM

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh year 2015-2016, while also providing details Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah separately received Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Kuwait Capital Market Authority (CMA) Nayef Al-Hajraf and board members.

The members presented to His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince the fifth CMA annual report for the fiscal

on the authority's plans for the future. The two meetings took place at Seif Palace yesterday. Hajraf and the CMA board members later met with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and presented to him the authority's report for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. His Highness the Prime Minister was briefed about the authority's tasks, namely the achievements that have been made since its

future plans designed to promote the capital market, in line with CMA's bylaws.

His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince also received Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received Douglas Silliman, the outgoing Ambassador of the United States of America to Kuwait, on the occasion of the end of his tenure. In the

received Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Ali Al-Omair, as well as Minister of **Education and Minister of Higher Education** Dr Bader Al-Essa. His Highness the Crown also received Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz Al-Saud Al-Sabah, and Engineer Abdulaziz Abdullatif Al-Ibrahim.

Separately, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad

establishment, as well as broad-lines of meantime, His Highness the Crown Prince Al-Sabah hosted Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr Ahmad Saleh Al-Athari and his deputy for administrative and financial affairs Hajraf Al-Hajraf.

> His Highness the Premier received Athari and Hajraf on the occasion of PAAET's winning the award as the top establishment that provides smart education in the Middle East, granted by the Dubai Distinctiveness Institute in the Middle East. —KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz Al-Saud Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Engineer Abdulaziz Abdullatif Al-Ibrahim.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr Ahmad Saleh Al-Athari and his deputy for administrative and financial affairs Hajraf Al-Hajraf.

### CAPITAL OF ISLAMIC CULTURE EVENTS TO PROMOTE STATE REPUTATION: MINISTER

**KUWAIT:** The events and activities of the 'Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016' are seeking to promote Kuwait's reputation, both at home and overseas, said Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday.

Sheikh Salman, who is also chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), made the statement after he presided over the fifth meeting of the committee tasked with the planning, supervision and coordination of the 'Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016' celebrations.

The meeting reviewed a host of distinguished proposals and views for the concluding event of the celebrations, offered by the special consultation committee, Sheikh Salman said. He urged fast efforts for the implementation of the celebrations agenda till the end of the year.

The minister said that they had also followed up what was achieved of the recommendations of the fourth meeting, regarding the coordination among the state institutions, ministries and other bodies for the "Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016" events and activi-

Sheik Salman pointed to a MoU between the NCCAL and the governorates for a host of activities, and cooperation with the Ministry of Information to produce a documentary of the year-long celebrations. This also includes activities carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Justice and Awqaf and Islamic Affairs during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

### **SMEs**

In other news, Sheikh Salman said that small and medium enterprises constitute some of the main pillars for economies, namely that of the State of Kuwait, at the global level. The Ministry of Information said in a statement released yesterday that Sheikh Salman underlined the key role for such projects during a meeting with the Board Chairman of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development, Dr Mohammad Al-Zuhair, the Acting Director General of the Kuwait Central Statistics Bureau Mona Al-Daas and the executive manager in the executive sector, Meshari Al-

Minister Sheikh Salman, during the meeting, examined tasks that have been accomplished by a joint committee tasked with scanning all economic installations in the country as a prelude to devising plans for shoring up the national economy. The State of Kuwait devotes special attention to SMEs, and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has launched a special fund to finance such projects, with aim of encouraging the youth launch private businesses. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Information and Youth Affairs Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with Board Chairman of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development Dr Mohammad Al-Zuhair. — KUNA

# **AMBASSADORS MEET CHIEFS** OF YEMENI OPPOSITION

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled meets UN envoy

**KUWAIT:** Ambassadors of 18 states concerned with the aspired peace settlement for Yemen yesterday met delegations from Ansarullah and the People's Congress, on sideline of the Kuwait-hosted inter-Yemeni consultations that got underway on April 21st. During the meeting which was attended by the UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the two sides discussed latest development in the conciliation process namely a proposal by Cheikh Ahmed to work out a settlement.

Cheikh Ahmed was set later yesterday to meet with a delegation from the two opposition movements to follow up on the talks regarding the proposal, which had already been accepted by the Government delegation. The inter-Yemeni talks are scheduled to conclude by August 7th.

### **Developments**

On Monday, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met with the Cheikh Ahmad at Bayan Palace to review the latest developments on the ongoing Yemeni peace talks in Kuwait. The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Khaled Al-Jarallah, Kuwait's Ambassador to Yemen Fahad Al-Mai, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Affairs Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar, Ambassador Salem Ghassab Al-Zamanan, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Arab World Affairs Ambassador Aziz Al-Daihani, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for the Foreign Minister's Bureau Affairs Ambassador Saleh Al-Loghani, and a number of senior officials at the foreign ministry.

### **Departure**

The UN special envoy had stated earlier Monday that the Yemeni government delegation's departure from Kuwait after signing a UN draft peace agreement "is not a departure from the peace talks." Confirming that the delegation left Kuwait for Saudi Arabia after signing the agreement, Ahmad asserted that that "the departure of the Government of Yemen delegation from Kuwait is not a departure from the Peace Talks."

He said that "we agreed with the parties to keep the talks ongoing until we agree on next steps in the coming days which shall be dedicated to intensive meetings with the Ansarallah-General People's Congress delegation, as well as with concerned members of the international community."

Yemeni Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Abdulmalek Al-Mekhlafi said earlier that the Kuwait-hosted inter-Yemeni consultations have neither been suspended or ended, affirming that they would conclude as scheduled, on August 7th.



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with UN envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmad in Kuwait on Monday. —KUNA

### Blueprint

Speaking at a news conference at Kuwait International Airport, Mekhlafi called on Ansarullah and the People's Congress party to sign the blueprint to substantiate how much they are serious with respect of achieving peace and security in Yemen, as well as ending the war through arms handover, withdrawal from the cities and reinstating the State institutions. He further noted that the government's delegation's return to Kuwait to resume the peace consultations hinges on the opposing party's signing of the concord.

"We are adamant about restoring peace to Yemen, which explains why we have agreed to this UN agreement," Al-Mekhlafi noted. He also added that the government's delegation encountered various difficulties due to the opposing sides' "capricious" nature. Speaking on the future of these talks, the Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister said "we have made progress towards finding a lasting solution to the conflict, " he said. He also described the draft accord as encompassing all political issues. — KUNA

### KUWAIT ADHERENT TO ISRAEL'S BOYCOTT

CAIRO: The State of Kuwait is among leading Arab States that abide by principles for boycotting Israel, said a visiting Kuwaiti official said yesterday. Waleed Al-Hammadi, the head of Israel's boycott bureau at Kuwait Finance Ministry's custom general directorate, stressed on necessity of maintaining support for the Arab boycott officers.

Speaking on sidelines of the 90th conference for officers of the Arab boycott offices, Hammadi said participants in the meeting discussed "status of some foreign companies that deal with Israel, or deal in products

produces by the Israeli settlements." Israel is seeking to infiltrate Arab markets with disguise of foreign companies, the Kuwaiti official revealed. The conference supports foreign and Arab groups that advocate boycotting Israel, namely the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS), which has played a key global role for encouraging the boycott.

Kuwait acts to implement the boycott seriously through coordination with the main Arab League Israel Boycott Bureau in Damascus, "We in Kuwait do not allow Israeli commodities enter the Kuwaiti marker and the people of the country support the boycott," he affirmed, noting that concerned authorities often receive notifications about sneaking commodities. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Senior military and security chiefs are pictured ahead of their meeting yesterday. — KUNA

### KUWAIT SENIOR SECURITY, MILITARY CHIEFS HOLD COORDINATION MEETING

KUWAIT: Senior military and security chiefs zens. The ranking security and military offiheld a coordination meeting yesterday aimed at mapping out an integrated strategy to enhance performance of personnel in the key international security and defense sectors.

The Ministry of Interior (Mol) said in a statement that the joint meeting depicted the joint and ongoing cooperation between the security and military establishments for serving the homeland security and the citi-

cers examined common plans, missions and joint training programs as well as coordination mechanisms. Taking part in the coordination meeting were Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Kheder, Interior Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Fahad Al-Fahad, Chief of Staff Deputy Lieutenant General Abdullah Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah and other commanders. — KUNA

### MINISTRY PREPARES TO APPLY 4,000 PERSONS' NATURALIZATION LAW

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry has begun preparations to apply the naturalization law on more than 4,000 persons this year, as it began gathering the names of those who are eligible for it. Sources said the Interior Ministry is investigating the names of people who will probably be naturalized and check their security backgrounds. The list includes bedoons (stateless) who meet the required conditions for naturalization, though their numbers are not clear. The sources added that the list includes per-

sons of known nationalities, in addition to children of Kuwaiti women. There are also those whose fathers and brothers were naturalized but they were not included.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry committed Kuwaiti fathers to register their newborn children in the nationality file within six months after birth, adding that both the father and his child will be sent to the forensics department for DNA tests. The interior ministry wants to eradicate Kuwaiti parents' negligence towards the nationality files, and make sure about the status of newborns.



KUWAIT: This handout photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows two people arrested on cable theft charges.



A firefighter participates in extinguishing a blaze reported in Salmiya.

## **DUO ARRESTED ON** CABLE THEFT CHARGES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Jahra detectives stopped a truck loaded with a large quantity of cables, and asked for the driver's ID. The driver, an Egyptian man called Emad Barakat, told them the cables belong to an Iranian man, who told him they are his and he has papers proving it. Later, the Iranian denied knowledge of the cables, adding that the Egyptian man offered to sell them to him. The cables belong to the Ministry of Communications, and officials there said

the cables were stolen from Abdallah Port warehouse that belongs to a contracted company. Both suspects were sent to concerned authorities.

### Fire extinguished.

Firemen put out a fire that broke out in a building under construction in Salmiya before it spread. Salmiya fire center, backup and Qurain fire center responded, and on arrival, they found the fire was in wooden planks in the basement of a building. No injuries were reported.



KUWAIT: Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem visited injured fireman First Lieutenant Fahd Al-Mukaimi at Mubarak Hospital. Mukaimi was injured while fighting a fire. Ghanem was received by Kuwait Fire Service Directorate officials, including Acting Director General Major General Khalid Al-Mikrad and Acting Director of Public Relations and Information Major Salman Al-Juaidi. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

# NO COUNTRIES EXEMPTED FROM APPLYING FOR E-VISA

### MINISTRY HAS RIGHT TO APPROVE, REJECT VISA: HASHASH

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Director of Relations and Security Information at the Interior Ministry Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash told Kuwait Times that no countries are excluded from having their citizens apply through the electronic visa system, adding that the Interior Ministry has the right to approve or reject the visa. Hashash had said in a press conference this week that the e-visa system is functional at all land, sea and air outlets, adding that among the conditions applicants must meet

is that they should not be holders of temporary travel documents or laissez-passers of all

They also must not have any security restrictions, and there should be no variations between the data on the visa and passport, otherwise the visa will be cancelled and the holder will be denied entry. He said the ministry is keen on providing all modern equipment for this system as part of its strategy to develop its services. He said KD 3 will be collected as fees at the border outlets.

Hashash said the goal behind this new e-service is to benefit from the tremendous development in the technical field and simplify procedures to serve citizens and expats through the use of modern technology. He added that the visa holder must comply with the laws in Kuwait and not exceed the stay period given to him in the visa to avoid legal action. He said 52 nationalities can get an instant visa, in addition to residents of GCC countries. He said applications can be made through (www.moi.gov.kw), which is a safe and secure portal.



Adel Al-Hashah





KUWAIT: Kuwaitis donate blood, marking the Iraqi invasion's anniversary. — KUNA

### KUWAIT MARKS 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF INVASION WITH BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Health's (MoH) blood bank launched yesterday a day-long blood donation campaign marking the 26th anniversary of the blatant Iraqi invasion on the State of Kuwait, in cooperation with the Ministry of Information.

Dr Hanan Al-Awadhi, the supervisor of medical services and guidance at the blood bank, said that the campaign aims at recalling the

martyrs' sacrifices and enhancing social solidarity among citizens and expatriates. The bank plans to increase number of donors' beds in each health district from 20 to 40, Dr Awadhi said, revealing that the donated blood bags, in 2015, reached 75,008. Yesterday marked the 26th anniversary of the Iraqi aggression that happened on August 2nd, 1990, when troops of

the executed Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein, invaded the country, wreaking havoc, inflicting casualties and causing miseries for scores of Kuwaiti families. The State of Kuwait marks the occasion each year, recalling the bitter hardships under occupation and the unified stances of the people of Kuwait in the face of the

# 'RAISING FUEL PRICES HAS GREAT MPACT IN IMPROVING ECONOMY'

HELPS RATIONALIZE CONSUMPTION, DIVERSIFY ECONOMY: EXPERTS

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet's recent decision to raise diverse types of fuel prices, particularly the gasoline, has the greatest significance in positively impacting the country's economy, experts said yesterday. The Government's economic reform plan will eventually help diversify the country's resources and release its reliance on a single source of income, they Head of Kuwait Competitiveness Committee Dr Fahad Al-Rashid said that this decision is considered a step forward to improve the country's budget deficit and encourage austerity to face economic challenges. Raising gas prices will reduce individuals' high unconscious consumption of fuel; this consumption is rated the highest in the world, he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Accountants and Auditors Association chairman Ahmad Faris described the raise in gas prices as 'acceptable' in comparison to that in the GCC and Arab countries. He added that the positive side of the Cabinet decision is that gas prices will be reviewed every three months, reassuring that this raise will not be "permanent but changeable" in accordance to the fluctuations of oil prices.

"It is a quick fix and a precautionary measure to improve the economy," Faris pointed out, hoping that the Government would not rely on short-term solutions but rather utilize other investment tools to strengthen the country's financial situation.

### **Rationalizing subsidies**

On Monday, the Cabinet approved recommendations presented by the economic affairs committee with respect of a proposal by the committee charged with revising various kinds of State subsidies, on setting fuel

It approved the commission recommendation and decided to begin "rationalizing subsidies for gasoline in the country, as part of the Government reform scheme where the fuel products' prices will be restructured to be in harmony with the average rates in the other GCC states. "The new pricing policy will be in effect as of September 1, 2016 in line with the policies adopted in the GCC countries."

The new prices are as following: Octane-91: 85 fils per liter, Octane-95: 105 fpl, Ultra-Premium: 165 fpl. The new prices have been set after examining global rates. Kuwait is the last GCC State to embark on "restructuring the fuel prices," however the new ones remain the lowest among the Council countries, as well as globally. Moreover, the Cabinet has tasked a special commission to re-examine the State subsidies and the fuel prices every three months, to be in harmony with the global rates. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Vehicles line up to be refueled at a gas station in Kuwait City on Monday. - Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

### HOUSING TOP PRIORITY FOR GOVT: MINISTER ABUL

ority for the government with measures some 120,000 housing units for citizens being devised to provide proper dwellings annually for the decade ahead.

to all citizens, said State Minister for Housing Affairs Yasser Abul yesterday. In a forum late Monday discussing the issue of housing, the minister said that solving the housing problems will have social and security benefits for citizens.

He stressed that the current housing plan, set in motion by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, will not be affected by the government's policies to

rationalize spending. He added that requests submitted to the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) had reached citizens who applied

on December 31, 2011. Abul took the chance to thank the National Assembly for coming out with legislations that enabled PAHW to work more smoothly in addressing the citizens'

needs for housing, affirming that the gov-

KUWAIT: The issue of housing is a top priernment will stick to the plan to provide

Recently, the Minister signed an agreement for the construction of the South Saad Al-Abdullah city, considered to be the first smart and environment-friendly city in Kuwait. The city will spread over 59 square kilometers to accommodate some 400,000 people. Regarding violations by some construction companies in previous projects, minister Abul affirmed that these companies were

**State Minister for Housing Affairs Yasser Abul** 

projects.

Meanwhile, the minister touched on Kuwait's major housing project of the city of South Mutla which will house a population of 400,000 citizens with some 30,000 housing units to be constructed. The contract to start building infrastructure and roads in South Mutla city costs around KD 288 million, said the minister. —KUNA

banned from carrying out

construction on any new

LOCAL

In Brief

## SPEAKER RECEIVES TURKISH AMBASSADOR

**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim hosted on Tuesday Turkish Ambassador Murad Tamir. The meeting was attended by the deputy speaker, Mubarak Al-Khurainej. Ghanem also hosted Dr Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf, Chairman of the Commissioners Board of the Capital Markets Authority (CMA), and board members. During the meeting, the speaker received a copy of the Authority's fifth annual report for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. — KUNA



## KUWAIT OIL PRICE UP TO \$38.02 PB

**KUWAIT:** The price of Kuwaiti oil went up Monday by 61 cents to reach \$38.02 per barrel after being at \$37.41 pb the day before, said a statement by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. In the US, the price of the American crude was down Monday due to increasing fears over news regarding a surplus in US and OPEC production. Crude oil contracts retreated to \$40.57 per barrel last Friday at trading in New York Markets, settling on its lowest price since April 20th. — KUNA

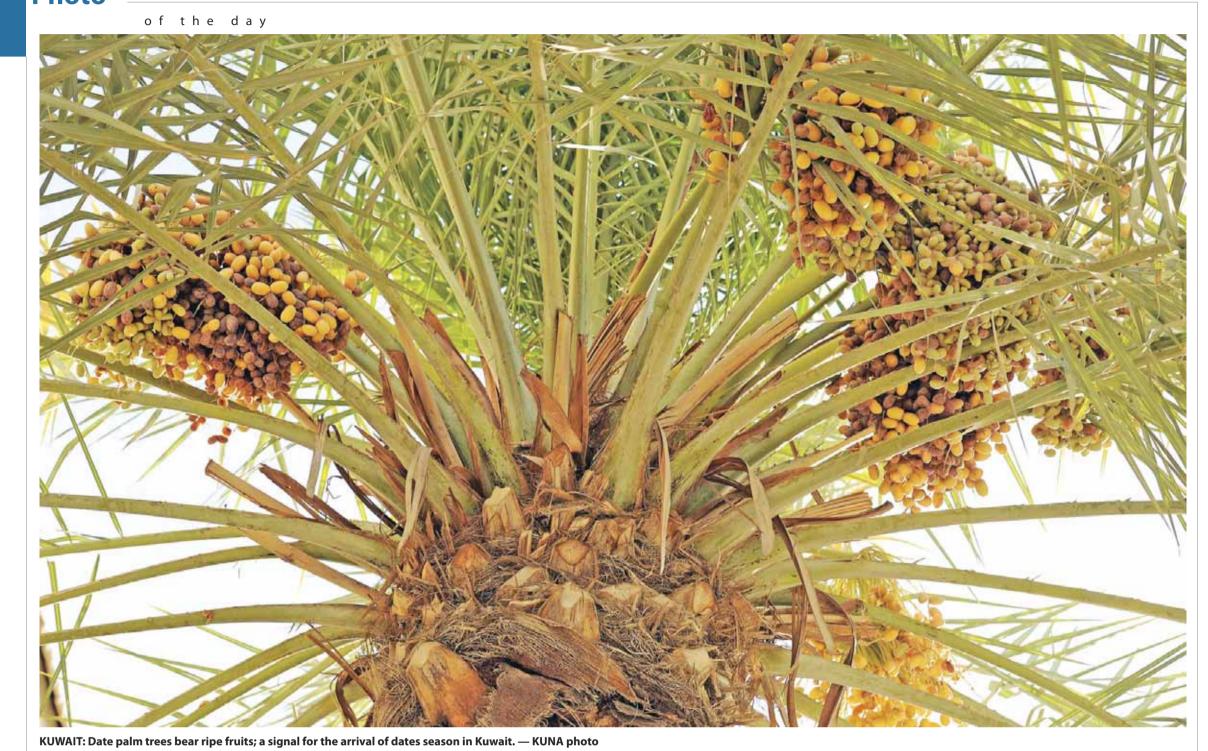


## US DOLLAR STABLE AGAINST DINAR

**KUWAIT:** The exchange rate of the US Dollar stabilized against the Kuwaiti Dinar at 0.301 yesterday, and the euro stabilized at KD 0. 337 compared to Monday's rates, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). CBK added that the Sterling pound dropped to 0.398 KD, while the Swiss Franc stabilized at 0.311 and the Japanese Yen remained at KD 0.002. — KUNA



**Photo** 



# EGYPTIAN MINISTER WELCOMES RASHID, SABRY TO DISCUSS ARABIC CONNECTED GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

CAIRO: Engineer Yasser ElKadi, the Egyptian Minister of Communications and Information Technology met with Adnan Al-Rashid, Deputy Chairman of Federation of Arab Journalists, and Magdy Sabry, Executive Manager of NoufEXPO Company of Kuwait. NoufEXPO and the Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) have joined efforts to organize the Arabic Connected Government Conference - Road to Sustainable Modernization, due to be held at Sharm El Sheikh from 12 - 14 December 2016.

Rashid hoped that the Conference will sup-

port Arab countries' efforts towards stability, modernization, and growth. Rashid believes that all means, including information technology and e-government programs, should be used to achieve those goals. He confirmed that we wanted to send a message of support and solidarity by choosing Sharm El Sheikh as the venue.

Meanwhile, Elkadi welcomed the convening of the event, especially in Sharm El Sheikh. He confirmed that all departments and resources of the Ministry of Communications will be available to ensure the success of the

Conference. ElKadi also prized the organizers' efforts and the topics that will be covered. Specifically, he welcomed the private and public sector collaboration during the event, represented by many Arab and global technology wonders and organizations.

vendors and organizations.

ElKadi hoped that we benefit from the experiences of connected government implementations in Arab and non-Arab countries. ElKadi believes that digital media is, particularly, playing a significant role in spreading information swiftly and clearly, thus boosting a cultural exchange among nations.

The Arabic Connected Government Conference plans were thoroughly presented by Magdy Sabry. He expressed his gratitude for the support offered by ElKadi, confirming that the Ministry of Communications' teams are already working closely with the organizing committees.

Sabry highlighted the steps organizers are carrying out in preparation for the forthcoming press conference due to be held shortly at the Arab League premises to officially announce the Arabic Connected Government Conference.

The press conference will be led by His Excellency Eng. ElKadi; Dr Nasser Alqahtani, Director General of ARADO; Yousef Khaled Al-Marzouq, General Manager of NoufEXPO, as well as leaders of strategic supporting partners and media channels from Egypt, Kuwait, and other Arab countries.

By the end of the meeting, Rashid and Sabry thanked ElKadi for his hospitality and support. Reciprocally, ElKadi reaffirmed his support for the Conference, and sent his best wishes to Kuwait, which has always stood by Egypt and its people.









CAIRO: Engineer Yasser ElKadi, the Egyptian Minister of Communications and Information Technology meets with Adnan Al-Rashid, Deputy Chairman of Federation of Arab Journalists, and Magdy Sabry, Executive Manager of NoufEXPO Company of Kuwait.

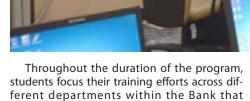
### AUB LAUNCHES INTERNAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

In partnership with Loyac Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced yesterday the launch of a new internal training program for university students in partnership with LoYAC Kuwait. The training program reflects the bank's intention to strengthen its social role across the educational sector and to develop professional skills of young people by encouraging the development of practical skill sets.

AUB welcomed seven university students as well as new graduates for a training course which is to run for six weeks. Students are to be exposed to a wide variety of topics that include an introduction to Islamic banking, AUB's different operating departments as well as developing students' skills in a number of banking specialties.

Apart from instruction in Islamic sharia principals the students will have the benefit of sessions covering their career opportunities developing their abilities in effective communications through customer service techniques and understanding the handling of customer issues. Furthermore, the course also includes training on various business IT platforms.



include marketing, commercial services, quality

control as well as human resources. Moreover, trainees are also given hands-on training approach throughout AUB's network of branches across Kuwait to gain more practical experi-

ence. Naqib Amin, AUB's Human Resources General Manager said, "AUB aims to strengthen its social support and reinforce its position within the local community, in an effort to drive young people's career development aspirations as they reflect the true backbone of the country's sustainable development future. AUB continues to roll out its social responsibility approach by participating in similar programs."

"We are pleased with the partnership that

"We are pleased with the partnership that has developed between AUB and LoYAC Kuwait. Our collaborative efforts in a number of activities have resulted in a positive outcome. This particular training program is expected to drive stronger results on the young people's choice of professional background which will ultimately help to support the wider Kuwaiti society in various practical and specialized fields," added Amin.

LoYAC is a nonprofit organization and was established in 2002 as a proactive response amongst youth and to overcome violence by encouraging peace by providing them with opportunities for personal growth, experience of the joy of service and developing their overall professional skills to qualify and enable them to join the workforce.





# YOUNG DIVERS SEARCH FOR PEARLS IN KHAIRAN

### 28TH ANNUAL TRIP CONCLUDES TOMORROW

the anniversary of diving continued to dive at Al-Khairan yesterday. Participants are committed to using the old traditional methods of diving, following specified timing schedules in areas that have good amount of pearls. On Monday, the organizing committee of the 28th Pearl Diving Trip held a ceremony where youth participants performed

**KUWAIT:** Participants in the 28th annual expedition to commemorate traditional maritime arts. The youth then headed to diving locations at Al-Khairan yesterday. They were accompanied by media delegations from different newspapers and TV channels, as they closely followed the divers' activities. The annual expedition, set to conclude tomorrow, includes 193 captains and divers aboard 13 ships provided by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.









Kuwaiti men find pearls in shells that divers picked from the sea during the trip.







Kuwaiti divers search for shells containing pearls during the trip.

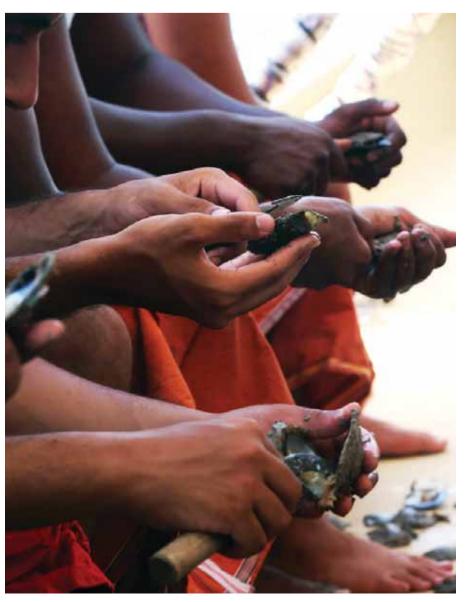












### **Crime**

Report

### Man who caused fatal **Hawally accident caught**

KUWAIT: A person who caused the death of a Syrian woman and injured her two daughters in an accident reported last Friday was identified and arrested. The accident took place in Hawally, and when police and paramedics rushed to the site, they found the Syrian woman dead and her two daughters critically injured. The suspect who caused the accident had fled the scene at the time. Detectives were able to identify the Egyptian motorist, who is being questioned over running the red light.

### Skin damage

A female citizen who bought face cream online suffered burns that damaged her skin. The citizen saw ads on Instagram, so she called and placed an order. A few days after using the creams, her face was burned. She went to Bayan police station to complain after the person who sold her the creams said "maybe they are not suitable for your skin."

### Harasser in custody

Abu Halifa detectives arrested a Syrian man who slapped a female citizen after she admonished him for harassing her. The woman complained to police, telling them she was shopping when the young man harassed and beat her after she rejected his actions. Detectives who reviewed surveillance videos identified and arrested him. He said he beat her because she hit him on the face in front of other shoppers, and he could not stand the insult.

### Police offender arrested

Criminal detectives summoned a female citizen who verbally abused a traffic policeman when he issued her a ticket for reckless driving. A video clip that circulated on social media of a woman using foul language prompted detectives to work on the case, and they were able to arrest the woman. She said her actions were because of the ticket. She was released after a complaint was lodged against her.

### **Food theft**

A security source said that two restaurants in Ahmadi governorate filed two separate complaints about a person who called them and ordered food worth KD 25, but after he went to the restaurant to collect it, he escaped as soon as it was placed in his car trunk without paying. Police arrested him and he was identified by restaurant employees. He said he wanted to entertain his friends and thought that the restaurants would not complain.

### Man hospitalized

A citizen in his twenties was found in a pool of blood in Mangaf. Police and paramedics rushed to the area and found the man unconscious with a severe wound to his head. Police are waiting for him to recover and tell them what happened.

### Cafe fight

Five citizens engaged in a fight inside a cafe after one of them described the other as 'Abu Ras,' or one with a big head. Several patrons at the cafe called police, who arrived to the scene and only found the one who was taunted as "Abu Ras" there. The man was taken to hospital for treatment. The four others who escaped were charged with beating and insult and are summoned. — Al-Rai



### CAPITAL GOVERNOR PRAISES KFH LEADING ROLE IN ASSUMING SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**KUWAIT:** Governor of the Capital Governorate retired Lieutenant General Thabet Al-Muhanna praised the role shouldered by Kuwait Finance House (KFH) in assuming the social responsibility that serves in achieving the comprehensive development in the country.

In a special ceremony on the occasion of concluding the Ramadan program, the Governor had received at his office a delegation from KFH represented by the Public Relations team and honored the bank in recognition of its significant social responsibility role and remarkable initiatives, mainly the "Feeding a Fasting Person" campaign and iftar cannon program, not to mention the huge number of voluntary, humanitarian and social activities and events.

The Governor's recognition comprises an impetus for KFH to go extra miles in achieving the social responsibility, while reassuring the bank's leadership in this important field especially that KFH's strategy coincides with the efforts of boosting the economy, and achieving prosperity

and development in the country. It is worth noting that KFH's efforts in Ramadan reinforced its keenness to contribute in easing the suffering of low-income segments, while shouldering the social responsibility in all its categories, be it educational, environmental or health in an attempt to assure the importance of social responsibility commitment, yet to reinforce the bank's leadership position as a world leading Islamic financial institution.



## MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR INAUGURATES 'ZAIN LAB'

AS PART OF STRATEGY TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the inauguration of 'Zain Lab' in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's Career Rehabilitation Department. The social initiative, sponsored by Zain, came as part of the company's CSSR strategy towards people with special needs.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the attendance of HE the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih, Director General of the Public Authority of the Disabled Dr Tareq Al-Shatti, Deputy General Director of the Rehabilitation Services Division Majed Al-Saleh, as well as a delegation of Zain officials. Zain's contribution came as part of the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibly strategy, especially towards the special needs sector. The company's solid CSSR umbrella primarily focuses on the wellbeing of the entire nation, and for this reason, Zain has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that help make a difference in people's everyday lives.

'Zain Lab', a fully equipped computer lab, offers people with special needs the needed equipment and necessary training for them to explore job opportunities that suit their specific needs in both the public and private sectors. The initiative also aims at



empowering people with special needs to be more productive and active members of the Kuwaiti society.

The company constantly finds ways to shoulder initiatives that work towards enhancing the society's welfare. Zain's long-term cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor as well as other public entities springs from its belief in the importance of having a positive print in the society by sponsoring and launching initiatives that cater to various inter-

ests of the community.

It is worth noting that Zain recently provided the Ministry of Interior with over 40 wheelchairs to be distributed to the ministry's various departments that witness large numbers of visitors on a daily basis.

As a leading private sector company, Zain assures its commitment to contribute and support the various social and economic needs of the Kuwaiti society hand-in-hand with the public authorities.

# ficed their souls for the sake of this country.

**Crime** 

الانباء

over the years.

THOSE WHO

**OFFEND KUWAITIS** 

do not know why some people use the provocative

sentence 'May Allah bestow His mercy on Saddam' in front of Kuwaitis in case of any differences! Saddam did not commit criminal acts against Kuwaitis only, but

also against Iragis before the Kuwaitis. The entire Gulf was

dismantle and destroy the Arab world began with the entry of the first Iraqi tank into Kuwait in an unprecedent-

ed historic event. Since then until now, we all are paying

The Iraqi invasion's anniversary reminds

us about the amount of crimes and sins

dearly with all the repercussions and unhealed wounds

users aim at provoking us, because we know very well

that Saddam Hussein is a criminal according to all rules

and means, and history will not forget or forgive his acts.

It is a history full of tragedy, sadness and painful memo-

ries. Let us while we remember, take the lesson from the

past, and learn how to benefit from lessons. May Allah

bestow His mercy on our martyrs and those who sacri-

We should not be provoked by this remark, which its

Saddam committed during his life.

The Iraqi invasion's anniversary reminds us about the amount of crimes and sins Saddam committed during his life, and we do not exaggerate if we say that the plan to

his target and no country was spared by him.

Report

Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Anbaa

**By Madhi Al-Khamees** 

### **Foreign companies** to develop islands

**KUWAIT:** A special government committee is currently studying opening the door for foreign investors to invest in five Kuwaiti islands by 100 percent, said Dr Khalid Al-Mahdi, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Planning and Development. The current plan is to carry out projects valued between \$120 billion and \$150 billion, with projected revenue reaching 10 to 20 percent according to preliminary studies, he added. — Al-Jarida

### **New remand regulations**

KUWAIT: Attorney General Dherar Al-Asousi canceled a remand law passed by the parliament that was annulled in 2012, and order the Public Prosecution members to enforce the new amendments to the law. According to the new regulations, a suspect can be remanded for a maximum of three weeks in criminal cases, and ten days in felony cases. The judge can order the suspect to be remanded for an extra 15 days in criminal cases and 10 in felony cases, as long as the total remand time does not exceed 80 days in criminal cases and 40 in felony cases. — Al-Qabas

### 1980 census

KUWAIT: A decision was made this week to form a government team in order to summon stateless residents who possess documents of the 1980 census or beyond that year. The team would discuss the possibility of legalizing those residents' status according to the official documents they provide, said security sources familiar with the news. — Al-Anbaa

### Shrimps at KD 90 per basket

**KUWAIT:** Shrimp sold for KD 90 per basket Monday on the first day after the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources allowed fishing for shrimp in international waters, following a 7-month-long halt. Shrimp prices are expected to drop in the coming weeks, and especially after fishing in territorial waters is allowed on September 1. — Al-Jarida

### **Kuwait, Bahrain trade electricity**

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) plans this month to provide Bahrain's power grid with 100 megawatts for two weeks, as part of an agreement that stipulates that Kuwait receives back the same amount of power at the beginning of September. The goal behind this operation is to pave the way to apply commercial trade between countries connected through the GCC power grid network, MEW Undersecretary Mohammad Bushehri said. Kuwait's current excess of production, which reaches 15,500 megawatts a day compared to 13,310 megawatts that was the maximum daily consumption recorded this year, allows the state to go ahead with this agreement, Bushehri added. — Al-Rai

### **Clinical waste incinerator**

KUWAIT: A Health Ministry insider said that building an incinerator for proper disposal of clinical waste in Kabad is expected to start this year, saying that work is currently ongoing to place and award the KD 3.2 million project's tender. — Al-Rai



**KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced** Nazeq Al-Shammas as the winner of the KD 150,000 Najma Account's Grand Prize 2nd Quarter Raffle Draw, which took place recently at the bank's head office under supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and



# OOREDOO KICKS OFF ITS 2016 SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



KUWAIT: In collaboration with Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP), Ooredoo Kuwait, member of international Ooredoo group has recently announced the kickoff of its annual summer internship program 2016. The program has recently commenced and will last for one full month, where Ooredoo will be hosting and training nine students.

Students participating in the internship program will be visiting various departments within Ooredoo, get familiar with the different working environments at each one. Certain departments will be will be handling the training for a particular number of

students, Corporate Communications division is handling the training of one student, five students will get their training at Ooredoo branches, one student at B2B and two students Human Resources and Administration Services department.

The internship program provides students with the different abilities and skills required in the world of business such as working within a team, ways to develop creative thinking, self-expression and best professional way to service customers.

Commenting on the annual summer internship program, Chief of Human Resources and Administration Services Saleh Al-Houti at Ooredoo

said: "As an organization we are keen to organize this summer training for the university students on annual basis as we strongly believe in the important role youth play to form a better future for our beloved country. We believe that the private sector has a huge responsibility towards this category, responsibility to train them and provide them with job opportunities in order to utilize their skills and knowledge."

This summer program comes in line with the company's corporate social responsibility strategy and considered to be one of multiple initiatives aiming at supporting youth generally and graduates particularly.

# International

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016

### France Lays to rest slain priest

Wildfires burn in 7
Western states,
prompt evacuations

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COLUMBUS, OHIO: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a town hall event on Monday. —AP

# Trump suggests general election could be 'rigged' No immediate evidence

**COLUMBUS, OHIO:** Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has suggested that he fears the general election "is going to be rigged" - an unprecedented assertion by a modern presidential candidate.

Trump's extraordinary claim - one he did not back up with any immediate evidence - would, if it became more than just an off-hand comment, seem to threaten the tradition of peacefully contested elections and challenge the very essence of a fair democratic process.

"I'm afraid the election is going to be rigged, I have to be honest," the Republican nominee told a town hall crowd in Columbus, Ohio on Monday. He added that he has been hearing "more and more" that the election may not be contested fairly, though he did not elaborate further.

Trump made the claim after first suggesting that the Democrats had fixed their primary system so Hillary Clinton could defeat Bernie Sanders. Trump has previously backed up that thought by pointing to

hacked emails from the national party that appeared to indicate a preference for Clinton. Still, the former secretary of state received 3.7 million more votes than Sanders nationwide and had established a clear lead in delegates by March 1.

### Conspiracy theories

The celebrity businessman - who has been known to dabble in conspiracy theories, including claims that President Barack Obama was not born in the United States and, more recently, that Sen. Ted Cruz's father was an associate of President John F. Kennedy's assassin - also claimed that the Republican nomination would have been stolen from him had he not won by significant margins.

He then asserted that November's general election may not be on the up-and-up. He repeated the charge Monday night on Fox News Channel's "Hannity," saying: "November 8th, we'd better be careful, because that election is going to be rigged. And I hope

the Republicans are watching closely or it's

going to be taken away from us."

Requests to Trump's campaign for additional explanation were not returned. The statement could be an effort by Trump to lay the groundwork of an excuse if he goes on to lose the general election. But if he were to be defeated in November and then publicly declare that the election results were bogus, his claim could yield unpredictable reactions from his supporters and

fellow Republicans.

Trump has not been shy about asserting that the electoral process has been "rigged." It became a frequent catchphrase of his during a low-water mark of his primary campaign this spring, when forces allied with Cruz managed to pack state delegations with supporters of the Texas senator. Trump also asserted that the Republican Party had changed the delegate allocation in the Florida primary to favor a native candidate, like Jeb Bush or Marco Rubio, at Trump's

### A deal with the devil

In recent weeks, in an effort to woo angry Sanders supporters to his campaign, Trump has made the claim that the Democrats' process was also rigged. Monday night, Trump said Sanders "made a deal with the devil," and said of Clinton, "She's the devil."

The Clinton campaign declined to comment about Trump's remarks.

The event in Ohio was Trump's first campaign appearance since the onset of his tussle with the parents of a slain Army veteran, but he did not address the flap. He spoke for nearly an hour Monday in Columbus, but did not mention his criticism of Khizr and Ghazala Khan, Muslims whose son was killed in Iraq in 2004

The Khans spoke out against Trump and questioned his familiarity with the Constitution last week at the Democratic National Convention. Trump struck back by questioning whether Ghazala Khan

had been allowed to speak. She said she is still too grief-stricken by her son's death.

Trump criticized the family in an interview Sunday and again in a pair of tweets Monday morning. Asked on MSNBC Monday whether Trump should apologize, Ghazala Khan said, "I don't want to hear anything from him and I don't want to say anything to him." But his running mate, Mike Pence, quieted a campaign rally crowd Monday that booed a woman who said she had a son who serves in the U.S. Air Force and asked how he can tolerate what she called Trump's disrespect of American servicemen.

Pence asked the Nevada crowd to quiet down, then said about the questioner: "That's what freedom looks like. That's what freedom sounds like." He continued: "Capt. Kahn is an American hero. We honor him and his family ... we cherish his family." He added that Trump had great respect for veterans. —AP

# TURKEY SENDS 2ND DOCUMENT TO US SEEKING CLERIC'S ARREST

**ANKARA:** Turkey's justice minister sent a document to the United States yesterday seeking the arrest of cleric Fethullah Gulen, who lives in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania and whom Ankara accuses of

instigating an attempted coup on July 15.

Bekir Bozdag sent a "second written document" requesting Gulen's arrest, the staterun Anadolu news agency said. The minister said the second letter explained why there

was an urgent need for the arrest.

Ankara has demanded Gulen's extradition over the failed coup, which left 271 people dead. Washington has asked for evidence of the cleric's involvement, saying the

extradition process must take its course.

The Turkish government launched a sweeping crackdown on Gulen's movement, which it characterizes as a terrorist

organization and which runs schools, charities and businesses internationally. In Turkey, nearly 70,000 people have been suspended from their jobs on suspicion of being involved in the movement. "They requested certain information following our first letter; we provided answers to the question 'why is it urgent," Anadolu quoted Bozdag as telling reporters in parliament.

"We wrote to them that there are serious claims and statements that Fethullah Gulen has a finger in the attempted coup. That is why he needs to be detained urgently. (We wrote) that we have intelligence that he can escape to third countries," Bozdag said.

"I hope that the United States decides in Turkey's favor, in line with democracy and the rule of law, and returns this leader of a terror organization to Turkey." The minister said that if Gulen leaves the US for another country, it would be with the full knowledge of US authorities. "If he escapes then the US would either have turned a blind eye or approved of it," Bozdag said.

### Reforming the military

Part of the crackdown against Gulen's network has focused on reforming the military, bringing it increasingly under civilian command. About 18,000 people have been detained or arrested, most of them from the military, while authorities have said the purge of those suspected of links to Gulen in the military will continue.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim announced plans yesterday to shut down two military high courts - the administrative and appeals courts - and said military courts, which deal

with disciplinary issues, would be placed

under the Defense Ministry's supervision.

The government has already issued a decree introducing sweeping changes to the military, including giving the president and prime minister the power to issue direct orders to the force commanders.

"These arrangements won't weaken the Turkish Armed Forces, on the contrary they will strengthen them and prepare them to face all kinds of threats," Yildirim said in an address to his ruling party legislators. "The Armed Forces will focus their energies on their fundamental duty."

Separately, authorities issued 98 new detention warrants, including for military doctors, a senior government official said, on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.—AP

# ITALY WOULD CONSIDER US REQUEST TO USE THEIR BASE IN LIBYA STRIKES

**ROME:** Italy's foreign minister says his government will evaluate any US request to allow use of a Sicilian air base in the campaign of airstrikes against an Islamic State stronghold in Libya.

Paolo Gentiloni said in comments on state television yesterday that use of the Sigonella base would be considered "if requested" and Parliament informed of any decision. He described as "positive" the airstrikes against IS militants in the Libyan city of Sirte which began Monday.

In February, Italy agreed to let armed US drones take off from Sigonella but only to defend US forces targeting IS extremists. Italy has stressed it won't let Sigonella be used for offensive purposes. Italy has insisted Libya must request any anti-IS airstrikes, which Libya's UNbrokered unity government did in the case of Sirte. —AP

# RUSSIAN STRIKES SLOW REBEL ASSAULT IN SYRIA'S ALEPPO

Russia launched heavy air strikes overnight on the outskirts of divided Aleppo city, slowing a "last-chance" assault by rebels seeking to break a government siege.

The assault began on Sunday and is intended to ease the encirclement of the opposition-held east of Aleppo city, where an estimated 250,000 residents have been under a regime siege since July 17. The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights described it as the largest rebel attack in Aleppo since 2012, when fighting reached the city and left it roughly divided between the opposition control in the east and regime forces in the west.

But government troops backed by Russia's air force have put up a fierce defense, the monitor said. "The Russian raids didn't stop all night on the front lines" there, said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman. "This has slowed the offensive and allowed regime troops to retake five of the eight positions that

added. The strikes came despite an appeal by US Secretary of State John Kerry on Monday for Russia to "restrain" itself and its ally in Damascus from "offensive operations."

Kerry said regime attacks had prevented the warring parties from meeting for negotiations on Monday, the target date set for the regime and opposition forces to agree on the framework of a political transition.

The Aleppo offensive groups fighters from Fateh al-Sham Front, formerly Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front, as well as the powerful Islamist Ahrar al-Sham and other factions. The Observatory said 50 rebels and allied jihadists had been killed since the operation began on Sunday, as well as dozens of regime

### 'Last chance for rebels'

Its main target is the governmentheld district of Ramussa, on the southwest outskirts of Aleppo. The route used government-controlled parts of Aleppo runs through Ramussa. Its capture would both cut off government forces and open a new route into the city for rebels. The Observatory said at least 30 civilians had also been killed since Sunday in opposition bombardment of government-held southwestern districts of Aleppo. "This battle is the last chance for rebels. If they lose, it will be difficult for them to launch a new assault to break the siege," Abdel Rahman said. "For the regime also, it's a question of life or death. They've been preparing for this battle for months and it'll be a tough blow for its troops if they lose," he added.

Elsewhere in Aleppo province, the Observatory said at least 11 people, including five children, were killed in air strikes believed to have been carried out by Russian warplanes on the rebel-held town of Atareb.

The town has been targeted multiple time in recent weeks. According to the Observatory, 76 people have been killed

**BEIRUT:** The Syrian regime's key ally rebels had taken since Sunday," he by regime forces and civilians living in in strikes there since July 16. Residents in east Aleppo have reported food shortages and rising prices since government troops seized the last remaining road into opposition-held districts on July 17.

### NGOs slam Aleppo 'corridors'

Last week Russia announced the opening of "humanitarian corridors" to allow residents and surrendering fighters to flee the east for government-held territory. The announcement was met with skepticism by both residents and some in the international community, and 35 NGOs in a statement on yesterday called the initiative "deeply flawed."

The groups, including Save the Children and Oxfam, urged implementation of a UN call for a weekly 48-hour humanitarian pause in the city. But Damascus and Moscow say some residents and fighters have begun using the passages and Syrian state media reported yesterday that "dozens of families" had crossed from the east.

It reported similar crossings over the

weekends, though residents and rebels in east Aleppo dismissed those reports as "lies." Syria's conflict has killed more than 280,000 people and drawn in world powers on both sides since it erupted in March 2011.

Russia began an aerial campaign in support of Damascus last September. On Monday, Moscow announced one of its military helicopters had been shot down over Idlib province, killing the five people on board.

It was the single deadliest incident for Russia since its intervention began and brought its losses in the war to 18. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the incident, which occurred in an area controlled by a rebel alliance dominated by the Fateh al-Sham Front.

Yesterday, an area near where the helicopter went down was hit with a barrel bomb attack that caused 24 people to suffer breathing problems, the Observatory said. Residents said the attack had used chlorine gas, but the monitor could not confirm. —AFP



CARMEL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA: A helicopter flies over a back burn on a ridge south west of Cachagua as firefighters battle a wildfire in east on Monday. —AP

### WILDFIRES BURN IN 7 WESTERN STATES, PROMPT EVACUATIONS

LOS ANGELES: Wildfires are burning in seven Western US states, from California's famed Big Sur region to tribal towns and hamlets near Reno, Nevada. More than a dozen homes were destroyed in Montana, and evacuations were ordered in Nevada, Oregon and Wyoming. Firefighters were trying to stop a Washington blaze from reaching a thickly forested security zone at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

### Here's a look at some of the fires: **California**

Higher humidity and lower temperatures on Monday helped firefighters battle a destructive wildfire that has scorched more than 63 square miles near the scenic Big Sur coast, while firefighters in Central California faced blistering heat as they worked to contain a blaze that burned rural homes and forced hundreds of evacuations near the small Fresno County town of Prather.

A layer of ocean air that arrived in the mountainous Big Sur region was credited for the better conditions in an area where a fire that started July 22 has destroyed 57 homes and is threatening 2,000 more structures. A bulldozer operator working for the firefighting operation died in an accident last week. It is 18 percent con-

The blaze near Prather has damaged three homes just outside the Sierra National Forest, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said. About 300 people are under evacuation orders.

That fire started Saturday and by Monday had grown to over 3 square miles with just 20 percent of it surrounded by firefighters.

Just north of Los Angeles, a 65-squaremile wildfire in wilderness just north of Los Angeles was almost fully contained and only active with isolated pockets of vegetation burning within a fire lines. A man who refused to evacuate from a home was killed and the fire also prompted the evacuation of about 20,000 people.

### Idaho

A southwest Idaho wildfire burning timber in rugged terrain and pushed by winds grew to 60 square miles Monday. Temperatures in the 90s, wind and low humidity caused significant expansion on Sunday. Firefighting aircraft were grounded for about 45 minutes because of people flying their drones in the area.

The fire closed a section of State Highway 21 between Idaho City and Lowman and destroyed two outbuildings. A firefighter suffered burns during the weekend when fuel spilled on his arm and it ignited.

### Montana

At least 14 homes were destroyed by a fast-moving wildfire in the Bitterroot National Forest in western Montana, authorities said Monday

Ravalli County authorities ordered residents of about 500 homes to leave the area after the fire began Sunday afternoon southwest of Hamilton. It had burned nearly 5.5 square miles by Monday night.

"I've talked to homeowners who said we had 200-foot flames coming off those trees. This thing really blew up, and I've never seen anything like it in the years that I've

been" with the Bitterroot National Forest, spokesman Tod McKay said. Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman said he could not immediately provide details about the number of homes or buildings destroyed.

### Nevada

About 800 firefighters were battling a series of fires that had threatened a tribal town and hamlets near Pyramid Lake, north of Reno. The fire zone totaled about 78 square miles Monday, said fire spokeswoman Jesse Bender.

Residents of about 30 homes in Cottonwood Creek and Fish Springs Ranch were warned they would receive 30 minutes notice to evacuate if necessary. About 600 people were ordered out of the shoreline town of Sutcliffe over the weekend, and 200 were evacuated from beach areas.

Flames destroyed six houses and mobile homes, two vehicles and several out-buildings at historic Hardscrabble Ranch, according to Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal

### Oregon

Eastern Oregon residents urged to evacuate over the weekend because of a wildfire were allowed to return home. About 20 structures remained threatened by the fire east of the town of Pendleton, the Oregon Department of Forestry said.

The East Oregonian reports that columns of smoke were rose Sunday after the blaze scorched about 500 acres of grass and timber along Interstate 84. It was 25 percent contained by Sunday evening.

### Washington

A wildfire burning toward the Hanford nuclear reservation has scorched about 273 square miles of brush and grass as it spread from Yakima County into Benton County in south-central Washington.

The blaze, the largest of several wildfires in central and eastern Washington, began Saturday on the US Army's Yakima Training Center and quickly grew in size over the weekend.

But fire lines set overnight and low winds Monday are helping to slow the fire's progression, said Randall Rishe, a spokesman with the US Bureau of Land Management. Officials said Monday night better mapping allowed them to determine the fire had burned significantly more acreage than previously thought. About 250 residences are at risk, officials also said Monday night and the fire is 10 percent contained. The cause is being investigated. The Department of Energy said Monday on its website that Hanford work schedules were not immediately affected by the fire.

### Wyoming

Firefighters made progress in their effort to contain several fires burning in western part of the state. An approximately 2square-mile blaze that destroyed eight homes and prompted the evacuation of about 140 others in southern Uinta County was 25 percent contained.

Northwest of Dubois, a 21-square-mile blaze was 40 percent surrounded and some residents who evacuated seasonal homes were allowed to return. In neighboring Bridger-Teton National Forest, a fire that has burned about 45 square miles was 81 percent contained.—AP

# SENATE REPUBLICANS ON THE SPOT OVER TRUMP COMMENTS ON KHAN

JUST A TASTE OF TRIALS TO COME

**WASHINGTON:** The uproar over Donald Trump's criticism of a bereaved Army family put vulnerable GOP senators in a tight spot, underscoring anew the political challenges created for Republicans by their newly minted presidential nominee. And with the general election campaign now squarely underway, the firestorm over Trump's attacks on the Khan family is likely just a taste of trials to come as Republicans negotiate how closely to align with their volatile

Senate Republicans running for re-election weighed in one after another Monday to condemn Trump's repeated attacks on the parents of slain US Army Capt. Humayun Khan, with former prisoner of war Sen. John McCain of Arizona leading the charge. And in an op-ed Tuesday, a New York congressman became the first House Republican to announce that he would vote for Democrat Hillary Clinton.

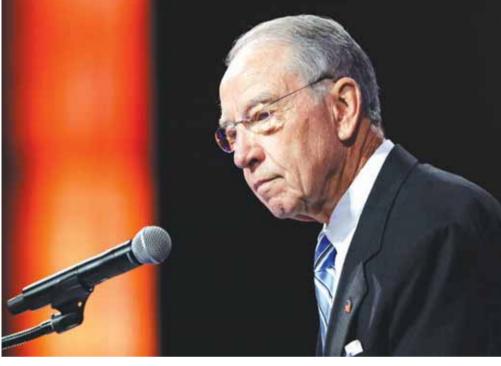
McCain issued a lengthy statement insisting that Trump has no right "to defame those who are the best among us" and pleading: "I hope Americans understand that the remarks do not represent the views of our Republican Party, its officers, or candidates."

### Hero in every sense of the word

Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa said Trump's comments "are not in line with my own beliefs about how the members of the military and their families should be treated." Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina said that "Captain Khan is an American hero in every sense of the term and the Khans deserve our sincerest gratitude."

Yet as Democrats were quick to point out, most of the Republicans criticizing Trump had already declared their plans to vote for him for president, and despite their collective outrage, none of them withdrew their support. Several, including House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, avoided mentioning the billionaire by name. "No matter what Trump has said or done - from shameful personal attacks to racist outbursts - John McCain has blindly pledged to 'support the nominee," said Max Croes, campaign manager for McCain's Democratic opponent, Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, in one typical response from a Democratic Senate campaign. "McCain's window to take a principled stand and abandon Trump has closed. There is no post-primary redemption for John McCain," Croes added, in a reference to McCain's Aug. 30 primary face-off against a tea partybacked conservative.

"Viciously attacking" The furor surrounds Trump's accusations



DES MOINES, IOWA: In this July 15, 2016, file photo, Sen. Chuck Grassley speaks during the National Governors Association meeting. —AP

against Khizr and Ghazala Khan, whose son was National Convention holding up a copy of the Constitution, questioning whether Trump had even read it and asserting the billionaire had sacrificed nothing. Trump has responded by insisting he had made sacrifices and questioning why Ghazala Khan did not speak on stage, which she later said was because she was too bereaved.

It's just the latest Trump-created conundrum for Republican senators who need support from Trump's enthusiastic backers to win re-election, but risk alienating moderate Republicans, independents, minorities and women if they embrace the GOP nominee too enthusiastically.

"There's no question that Donald Trump is making it very difficult for House and Senate candidates who are running on the ballot in November," said Brian Walsh, a GOP strategist and former spokesman for the National Republican Senatorial Committee. "In an ideal world we would have a candidate who would appropriately recognize his comments and apologize for them, but that's not the situation right

now." Writing in the Syracuse Post-Standard, killed in Iraq in 2004. Trump complained that GOP Rep. Richard Hanna said it's not enough to Khizr Khan was "viciously attacking" him by denounce Trump's comments. "He is unfit to appearing on stage at last week's Democratic serve our party and cannot lead this country." The lawmaker, who has announced his retirement, said that while he disagrees with Clinton on many issues, "I trust she can lead."

> Candidates have also wrestled with whether to appear alongside Trump when he campaigns in their states. When Trump appeared Monday in Columbus, Ohio, vulnerable GOP Sen. Rob Portman was not on-hand; aides said he was doing previously scheduled events related to opioid legislation he has sponsored, although his schedule appeared to have him near-by. Grassley's aides also cited scheduling conflicts as the reason Grassley did not attend Trump events in Iowa last week. Burr, on the other hand, joined Trump on the campaign trail in Winston-Salem, North Carolina last week, and other campaigns, including Rubio's, have said they're open to joint appearances with Trump. Trump is backed by all but two vulnerable GOP senators - Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, who is still in a "wait and see" mode, and Mark Kirk of Illinois, who withdrew his endorsement after Trump's attacks on a US judge of Mexican heritage. —AP

> > Shiraz. The evidence isn't conclu-

sive but it "lets us think that we're

perhaps looking at a group that's operating from Iran," Scott-Railton

said. He cautioned that it wasn't

possible to say much about the

group's potential sponsorship -

An outside expert who evaluat-

ed Citizen Lab's report endorsed its

work. The botched cyberespionage

attempt "is consistent with Iranian

activity we've previous observed, in

terms of operational security, social

engineering, and technical sophis-

tication," said John Hultquist, a

threat intelligence manager at net-

government or otherwise.

### IRANIAN LINK IN ATTEMPT TO HACK SYRIAN DISSIDENT

**PARIS:** Syrian opposition activist Lab, an interview with the couple Noura Al-Ameer was combing through her emails late one night when a message caught her eye. The sender was "Assadcrimes" and he promised information about Iranian meddling in the Middle East. But the email seemed odd.

Al-Ameer turned to her husband, cybersecurity trainer Bahr Abdul Razzak, in their small, bookcluttered home in the Turkish city of Gaziantep. "Have you heard of this group before?" Al-Ameer asked. "No," he said. "But let me check the email." Abdul Razzak, a fellow at internet watchdog group Citizen Lab, quickly determined that the group was bogus. The email, sent on Oct. 3 last year, was an electronic trap - one of hundreds of malicious messages that have flown back and forth as rebels grapple with the government of Bashar Assad in Syria. This one had been aimed at snaring Al-Ameer in particular; the website registered by the hacker was in her name, suggesting an attempt to steal her

### **Jumping off point**

Al-Ameer is a well-known opposition figure, and stealing her data or her identity could have been the jumping off point to attack other Syrians in and out of the country. As Abdul Razzak and his colleagues tried to trace the hackers, they found a trail of digital clues leading to Iran. Their story - detailed in a report issued Tuesday by Citizen and conversations with outside experts - raise the possibility that Iran has gone beyond sending men and materiel to tip the scale in Assad's favor.

The country's hackers may have joined the fray as well. "It's not a shock," said Al-Ameer, a 29-year-old who spent six months in Syrian government detention before moving to Turkey in 2013. "They're fighting our people on the ground. I think it's normal for any side that fights you on the ground to fight you on the internet."

Evidence of an Iranian link is outlined in a 56-page report by Citizen Lab, based at the Munk School of Global Affairs at the

University of Toronto. The group has made a specialty of tracking the hackers who've dogged Syria's opposition, which lead author John Scott-Railton said had turned into something of a petri dish for threat actors in the Middle East."

The report says those behind the "Assadcrimes" website appear to have inadvertently exposed their site's logs, showing evidence that its creators accessed it in part from the Iranian internet space. The site itself briefly hosted a Farsi-language email service, and a string of data recovered from the malicious code used to target Al-Ameer appeared to refer to a developer who runs a malicious software site registered in the Iranian city of

work security company FireEye Inc., based in Milpitas, California.

No comment from Iran Calls to Iran's Embassy in Paris were not answered vesterday. The hackers in Al-Ameer's case appear to have made some mistakes. But Scott-Railton said those who target Syria's scattered opposition activists are only as sophisticated as they need to be. Many groups operating in the area, including the pro-Assad Syrian Electronic Army, have used very simple tools and persistent trickery to repeatedly compromise savvier targets. "Not all hacking in a conflict looks like Stuxnet," said Scott-Railton, referring to the complex computer bug widely suspected of being unleashed by the United States to sabotage Iran's nuclear program. "What this shows is how powerful

social engineering is." — AP



ISTANBUL: Bahr Abdul Razzak, 29, and his wife Noura Al-Ameer, 29, show a phone with the email on Monday. —AP



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### UK'S LABOR FACES DEEPENING DIVISIONS WITH LEADERSHIP CONTEST

**LONDON:** Death threats, a brick through a window and one lawmaker even installing a panic room in her office; less than a year after Britain's Labor elected socialist Jeremy Corbyn leader on a promise of 'kinder politics' the party is mired in civil war.

The brutal infighting threatens Labor's 116-year existence and risks leaving Britain without a strong opposition party for years to come, just as the government goes about negotiating the country's exit from the European Union. Britain's June 23 EU referendum brought simmering tensions within Labor to the boil, resulting in a leadership challenge.

On one side are hundreds of thousands of vocal grassroots loyalists who are fiercely protective of Corbyn's left-wing principles. On the other are most Labor lawmakers, who say he did not do enough to prevent Brexit and is not a capable leader. Corbyn now faces leadership rival Owen Smith in a contest so divisive it could ultimately lead to the party splitting if he is re-elected leader, as the bookmakers expect.

The debate has become so poisonous that most local party meetings have been suspended and Labor lawmakers say they have faced abuse ranging from rape threats to vandalized cars. While most of the abuse happens online, the June killing of lawmaker Jo Cox on her way to a public meeting in her electoral district means colleagues are not taking any chances. Her murder is not however thought to be colleagues have described him as a "nice"

linked to Labor's internal woes.

"I'm upgrading my home security, my office security, there is going to be a panic room in my office. I have to carry around a thing that I can press so the police can find me," Labor lawmaker Jess Phillips told Reuters. "I've had people putting my face on (a picture of) somebody with an arrow through their heart, a spear in their side. I've had people wishing that I was dead ... all to protect Corbyn."

Angela Eagle, who triggered the leadership contest by challenging Corbyn but has now pulled out to boost Smith's chances, has been advised by police not to hold open drop-in sessions with her constituents due to safety risks. A brick was thrown through a window at her office in Wallasey, north west England, she has said, and police have arrested and bailed a 44-year-old man on suspicion of making threats to kill after an email was sent to the lawmaker.

Eagle, who is gay, has also faced homophobic slurs. Others have experienced anti-Semitism, and some have said members of Corbyn-supporting grassroots movement Momentum have been intimidating staff and constituents outside their offices. A spokesman for Momentum said the party must settle its disputes democratically "without abuse, intimidation or coups".

### **Culture of hatred**

Corbyn, a pacifist whose dissenting

and "decent" man, has condemned the abuse and urged members and supporters to "act with calm and treat each other with respect and dignity".

The 67-year-old says he has also received death threats. But many of his lawmakers say they do not think he is not doing enough to match his words with action. Eagle told the Daily Telegraph newspaper that Corbyn had created a permissive environment where abuse is tolerated.

"Jeremy, this is being done in your name," 44 female Labor lawmakers wrote in a letter to Corbyn, asking him to do more to tackle the behavior of those involved. "The culture of hatred and division that is being sown does not benefit anybody."

Paula Sherriff, the lawmaker who organized the letter, told Reuters she had seen a significant increase in abuse since Corbyn's leadership was challenged, and the majority of it was coming from people who identified themselves as supporting him.

Sherriff said comments like those from finance spokesman John McDonnell to a rally in July that those plotting against his ally Corbyn were "useless", were encouraging abuse. "It is just so divisive and they need to take some responsibility for some of the behavior that has come as a result of that," she said. "Is there any wonder that some of the activists are going out and doing the same to us on Twitter?"

With Corbyn the favorite to win when the result is announced on Sept. 24, the party faces a struggle to re-unite. Party donor Assem Allam is reported to have offered rebels funding to defect and form a new party or movement. While Labor lawmakers say they are focused on saving the party rather than splitting, they also acknowledge it will be difficult. "There are massive wounds to heal ... Unless something is done, something directly happens, then I just can't see how I could stay," said Phillips.

Sherriff agrees, saying there will need to be mediation. "I am not saying we can't come back from this and I desperately hope there isn't a split ... I want to try and bridge the divide that definitely exists. It will be really hard," she said.

### Long, hard struggle

Corbyn has tapped into an appetite for change, winning support among disillusioned young voters and socialists who had drifted away from the party during two decades battling for the political centre ground. But critics say the leader, who has described Labor as a social movement, cannot win an election due in 2020. Some say his supporters are not even interested in doing so.

"Democracy gives power to people, 'Winning' is the small bit that matters to political elites who want to keep power themselves," Momentum Chair Jon Lansman said on Twitter in July.

Leadership contender Smith has warned that on its current path, the party risks being "consigned to history".

"I feel horrified that we are such a low ebb, horrified that we are where we are, that this party could be split," he told a rally in London last month. "If we split, the forces of darkness, the forces of the radical right will flood into the gap that we leave. And in many parts of Britain we would be out of power for a long, long time."

Historical precedents for a new party don't bode well, said Steven Fielding, professor of political history at the University of Nottingham, predicting any split would only involve a small number of lawmakers rather than a wholesale walk out.

Most are more likely to bide their time and either wait until Corbyn loses an election, or launch another leadership bid when a rival has had more time to become established, he said.

An ICM poll last month gave Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservatives a 16point lead over Labor, who on 27 percent support were at their lowest in that series since 2009. "Labor has been divided for such a period that you just write off the next general election even under Owen Smith ... he has had the backing of the parliamentary Labor Party but then what will Momentum do?" said Fielding.

"In any scenario it is going to be a long, hard struggle, and before it gets better I think it will get worse for the Labor Party ... It is not a pretty prospect." —Reuters

# FRANCE LAYS TO REST SLAIN PRIEST

### Thousands attend

**ROUEN, FRANCE:** Thousands gathered at Rouen cathedral in northern France yesterday for the funeral of Father Jacques Hamel, the 85-yearold priest who was murdered by two jihadists last week. Some 2,000 mourners were expected to pack the soaring Gothic sanctuary, with hundreds more watching the ceremony on a giant screen outside.

A section of pews was set aside

darity after the grisly attack, with the visitors paying a moving tribute to Hamel and denouncing radical Islam.

As on Sunday, security was tight, with police closely checking mourners' bags and backpacks. The church attack came less than two weeks after another attacker ploughed a 19-tonne truck into a massive crowd celebrating Bastille

### 'Unjustly convicted'

"Father Hamel's death was similar to that of Christ, unjustly convicted and put to death," the diocese said. Rouen Archbishop Dominique Lebrun will celebrate the mass, with Marseille Archbishop Georges Pontier, who heads the French Catholic Church, also attending.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, whose portfolio also

Abdel Malik Petitjean and Adel Kermiche had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group and both were shot dead by police after a tense hostage drama in which a worshipper was left seriously wounded. Three other hostages escaped unharmed. The man who was stabbed in the neck and chest, an octogenarian like Hamel, was thought to be well enough to attend Tuesday's funeral mass.

The attack stunned France's religious communities, sparking fears of tensions in a country with a population of some five million Muslims. Pope Francis spoke out Monday, saying Islam could not be equated with terrorism. "It's not true and it's not correct (to say) Islam is terrorism," he said, defending his decision not to name Islam when condemning the brutal murder.

'If I have to talk about Islamic violence, I have to talk about Christian violence. Every day in the newspapers, I see violence in Italy, someone kills his girlfriend, another kills his mother-in-law, and these are baptised Catholics."

### Radical mosques shuttered

The series of jihadist attacks in France have raised tough questions about security failures, but also about the foreign funding of many mosques. Cazeneuve said Monday that authorities have shut down around 20 mosques and prayer halls considered to be preaching radical Islam since December.

There is no place ... in France for those who call for and incite hatred in prayer halls or in mosques," the minister said. Petitjean's 30-year-old cousin was charged Sunday with "criminal association in connection with terrorism".

Media reports say Petitjean and Kermiche met through the encrypted messaging app Telegram. In a separate case Sunday, 20-year-old Jean-Philippe J. was charged with trying to travel to Syria with Petitjean last month. —AFP



MADRID: Spain's interim Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy gives a press conference at the Spanish parliament yesterday after a meeting with Leader of Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE) on forming a government in a bid to unblock seven months of political paralysis after a second round of inconclusive elections. —AFP

### SPAIN RISKS THIRD ELECTIONS. PM WARNS AS DEADLOCK CONTINUES

**MADRID:** Spain's acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy warned yesterday that the country may have to hold a third round of elections, after his Socialist rival refused to back his efforts to form a coalition government.

"If Mr Sanchez (Socialist party chief) continues to say no, we will go to repeat elections," Rajoy, who is attempting to form a coalition or minority government following inconclusive June elections, told reporters.

Spain has been without a fully functioning government for more than seven months, leaving it in political limbo at a sensitive time as it needs to take urgent steps to reduce its deficit as well as address a growing separatist movement in the Catalonia region.

The blockage started after elections on December 20 failed to give any party an absolute parliamentary majority, as upstart groupings Ciudadanos and Podemos shook up Spain's long-established twoparty system.

Efforts to forge a coalition were subsequently unsuccessful as rival parties were unable to overcome their differences, prompting repeat elections in June with a similar result. Rajoy's Popular Party (PP), in power since 2011, won the June 26 vote but fell short of an absolute majority, winning 137 seats out of 350.

He has since been tasked by the king to form a coalition or minority government, which he would have to push through a parliamentary vote of confidence. But Pedro Sanchez, whose Socialist party came second in June elections with 85 seats and who has the power to block Rajoy, refuses to back him. "We are not going to back something we want to change ... the left will not back the right," Sanchez told

reporters after meeting Rajoy. However Sanchez appeared to leave the door open for the possibility that the party would abstain in a vote of confidence, saying that the leadership committee would have the ultimate say in whether the grouping changes its posture or not.

Several high-ranking members of the Socialist party, including former prime minister Felipe Gonzalez, have pushed for an abstention to end the political paralysis. Rajoy is due to meet Albert Rivera, the chief of centre-right upstart Ciudadanos, today. Rivera has said his party would be willing to abstain in the vote of confidence, but with just 32 seats, that would not be enough to push Rajoy's government proposal through. —AFP

# ROUEN, FRANCE: Pallbearers carry the coffin of the priest Jacques Hamel as they enter in

Rouen's cathedral yesterday. —AFP

for residents of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, the nearby industrial town where the two jihadists, both 19, slit Hamel's throat while he was celebrating mass in an attack that shocked the country as well as the Catholic Church.

Along with churches across France, the 11th-century cathedral had on Sunday opened its doors to Muslims wishing to show their soliDay in the Riviera city of Nice, killing 84 people and wounding more than 300 others.

As mourners gathered at the cathedral, Hamel's coffin stood before the altar, draped with a white cloth as is customary at the burial of a priest. A stole, a priest's vestment resembling a narrow shawl that symbolises the passion of Christ, was draped over a giant cross.

includes inter-faith relations, is leading the political delegation to the mass. Hamel is to be buried in a ceremony attended only by close family members, at a location that has not been revealed.

The frail octogenarian became the latest victim of terror in France when the two jihadists stormed his church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray last Tuesday and slit his throat at the altar.

# UKRAINE LAUNCHES HUNGER STRIKE OVER POLITICAL INACTION

**KIEV:** Nadiya Savchenko, the Ukrainian servicewoman-turned-lawmaker who spent two years in a Russian jail, announced a new hunger strike yesterday to speed up the release of other Ukrainian prisoners-of-war, accusing Ukraine's president of ignoring their plight.

Savchenko's return from Russia in May via a prisoner swap was a PR coup for President Petro Poroshenko. But her membership of a main opposition party and vocal criticism of key policies threaten to make her a thorn in his side.

She has been campaigning for the release via prisoner swap of the around 25 Ukrainians still held by Russia or pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine, but said the Ukrainian authorities were not committed to securing their freedom. "I suggested concrete actions to the president of Ukraine - we need

to start initiating the handover of people," she said in a news briefing. "But the children of Petro Oleksiyovych (Poroshenko) aren't in captivity, while he spits on your children," she said, addressing the parents of Ukrainian pris-

She called on relatives of those still in captivity to protest outside government and presidential buildings in Kiev on Aug. 8. Savchenko, who spent much of her time in Russian jail on hunger strike, said she would hold a new strike until progress is made on the prisoner exchange.

Releasing prisoners-of-war is one of the terms of the 12-point Minsk peace deal, which was brokered between Ukraine and Russia-backed separatists in February 2015 with the aim of ending a conflict which has killed over 9,400 since April 2014.

Other conditions, including a complete

cessation of fighting in Ukraine's eastern territory and a pull-back of heavy weapons from the front line, have also not yet been fulfilled, raising concerns the ceasefire agreement could collapse.

Poroshenko and other politicians had not done enough to end the fighting, Savchenko said. "Not one chocolate factory has been turned into a bullet factory," she said, referring to Poroshenko's confectionery business.

Savchenko, a helicopter navigator, was captured by pro-Russian rebels while volunteering with a ground unit in eastern Ukraine and handed over to Russia on accusations of involvement in the deaths of two Russian journalists. Her defiance at Russian authority while in captivity earned her a hero's welcome when she returned to Ukraine and she has said she could run for president at some stage. —Reuters

### FRANCE MENDS FENCES WITH TRIPOLI OVER TROOP PRESENCE

"full support" for Libya's unity government, seeking to mend fences after the interim leader demanded an explanation for the presence of French troops in the east of the conflict-ridden country.

Fayez Al-Sarraj, head of the Government of National Accord (GNA), had last Monday told French ambassador Antoine Sivan that their presence was a "violation of international customs" and "unacceptable interference". He was speaking a few days after France's President Francois Hollande confirmed that his country had soldiers in Libya, after three French troops were killed there during an intelligence-gathering mission.

French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault spoke to Sarraj by telephone to "renew the full support of France to the national unity government acting to unify Libya and restore its institutions," the

French foreign ministry said yesterday. France recognises the GNA, but also

PARIS: France yesterday reaffirmed its supports forces that are loyal to a parliament and government based in the country's east that are refusing to recognize and cede power to the UN-backed administration.

> Ayrault "reaffirmed France's wish to reinforce its cooperation with this (Tripoli-based) government in all domains, starting with security and the fight against terrorism," the ministry said in a statement. The French prime minister also "hailed the decision of the Libyan authorities to appeal for international aid, which led notably to American air strikes on terrorist targets in (eastern) Sirte," the statement said.

US warplanes carried out their first air strikes on positions of the Islamic State group in Sirte on Monday at the request of the GNA. Forces loyal to the GNA have been fighting to retake Sirte from the Islamic State group after the jihadists overran the city — 450 kilometers east of the capital-in June last year. —AFP

# S KOREA'S PARK GETS PERSONAL IN US MISSILE SYSTEM ROW

day evoked memories of her parents' assassination as she hit back at opposition to the planned deployment of an advanced US anti-missile system in South Korea. The defence ministry announced last month that the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, will be installed in Seongju-a rural county about 200 kilometers southeast of Seoulby the end of next year.

The decision was predicated on the

**SEOUL:** President Park Geun-Hye yestergrowing threat posed by North Korea's basic defensive steps like deploying ing an earlier assassination attempt on advancing nuclear weapons and ballistic missile program. Protesting Seongju residents have alleged that the system's powerful radar poses health and environmental hazards, while opposition lawmakers have been less than supportive of the move.

> At a cabinet meeting Park voiced frustration at the objections to what she insisted was an "unchangeable" decision to deploy the system. "If we cannot take

THAAD, how can we protect the country and the people?" she said in remarks posted on her official website. "I have lost my parents in the most excruciatingly painful way. My only remaining calling is to safeguard the country and people from various threats," she added.

Park's father, the former president and military strongman Park Chung-Hee, was shot dead by his own intelligence chief in 1979. Her mother was killed in 1974 durher father by a North Korean sympathizer. Park Geun-Hye never married or had children and once proclaimed herself wedded to the nation and its welfare. While promising to listen to the complaints of the Seongju residents, the president warned against listening to "strange and groundless rumors rather than scientific evidence" about the THAAD deployment. "I ask the political circle to gather their wisdom and efforts

to prevent internal division and conflict," she added.

Tensions on the divided Korean peninsula have been running high since Pyongyang carried out its fourth nuclear test in January, followed by a series of ballistic missile tests. North Korea has threatened to take "physical action" against the THAAD deployment, saying any South Korean ports and airfields hosting US military "hardware" would become a target. — AFP

### **AUSTRALIANS IN SCOTTISH** HIGHLANDS IN LIMBO AS VISA DEADLINE PASSES

EDINBURGH: An Australian family facing deportation from the Scottish Highlands after a change in visa rules are now in limbo, waiting to hear from the British government whether they will be given more time to meet visa requirements.

Gregg and Kathryn Brain, who moved to Scotland in 2011 with their son Lachlan, are hoping for a job offer or a new extension to their visa after the last one expired at midnight on Monday.

Their case has attracted a huge outpouring of sympathy in Scotland, where Kathryn Brain was previously given permission to study and then work as part of a now defunct British government-backed scheme to shore up the Highlands' ageing and shrinking population. "They simply don't know if there will be a knock on the door at some point and they will be removed," Ian Blackford, the lawmaker for Dingwall where the Brains live, told Reuters.

"If that is the route they (Britain's interior ministry) want to go down, well, we just don't know, we're in their hands," he said, adding that he had yet to receive a reply to two letters sent to British Immigration Minister Robert Goodwill's office in the last 24 hours.

Lachlan Brain, 7, has learnt the ancient Scottish language Gaelic and Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon made a personal appeal to the interior ministry in London on the family's behalf in May. The Brains argue that their predicament is unfair because the rules were changed after their arrival. — Reuters

### PNG COURT ORDERS AUSTRALIA TO PRESENT AN ASYLUM SEEKER RESETTLEMENT PLAN

**SYDNEY:** Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court yesterday ordered Australia to present a resettlement plan for nearly 900 asylum seekers held in what it says is an illegal detention centre on Manus islanda move detainees fear will further delay their release.

The Supreme Court ruled more than three months ago that the detention centre, used to house asylum seekers trying to reach Australia, was illegal. The centre was approved by the Papua New Guinea government and is funded by Australia.

The court order is the latest delay in determining the future of the detainees and human rights groups say tensions are rising in the detention centre, which has a history of violent protests and self harm by detainees. "The level of frustration on Manus Island is as high as it has ever been," said Ian Rintoul, an Australian refugee advocate who was on Manus Island last week. "The court action, while a glimmer of hope, is frustrating them as there has been no action despite detention being found to be unlawful."

Under Australia's hard-line immigra-

cessing to camps on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea or on Nauru in the South Pacific. They are never eligible to be resettled in Australia.

The Papua New Guinea government has said it plans to close the Manus centre after the Supreme Court ruling, raising the question where will the detainees be resettled. Many in Papua New Guinea do not want the asylum seekers in their community. The asylum seekers come from across the Middle East and Asia predominately, with Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan accounting for the bulk. Some have been held in detention for several years.

Lawyers for the 898 Manus island detainees have asked the Supreme Court for compensation of 1.500 kina (\$462.75) for every day they were held illegally.

The Supreme Court said it would call on Australia to provide a representative on Thursday to provide details on a resettlement plan.

"The court has embarked on this process on issue of resettlement. That is a matter for the two governments, what we want is for them to be released," said Ben tion policy, anyone intercepted trying to Lomai, a lawyer for some of the detainees, reach the country by boat is sent for pro- told Reuters yesterday. — Reuters



PARIS: This file photo taken on June 21, 2016 shows British Ambassador to France Julian King (R) holding, along with French deputies and government members, a moment of silence for slain British Labor party MP Joe Cox during the questions to the government session at the French National Assembly. — AFP

### BRITISH EU COMMISSION NOMINEE TO HEAD RESPONSE TO TERRORISM

**BRUSSELS:** Britain's nominee for the European Commission will be put in charge of crafting a response to terrorism and promoting intelligence-sharing, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said, a tough role amid a spate of attacks in western Europe. Former British Prime Minister David Cameron nominated Julian King - Britain's ambassador to France - as the country's representative at the European Commission to replace Jonathan Hill, who resigned after Britons voted on June 23 to leave the bloc.

The Commission, the executive branch of the European Union, said King's Security Union portfolio would include setting up a European response to terrorism, organized crime and cybercrime.

In his appointment letter, Juncker said he would like King to improve information and intelligence sharing, "including through initiatives to upgrade Europol's European Counter-Terrorism Centre into a stronger structure and through the development of efficient and interoperable information exchange systems."

London, which has in the past pushed for greater EU cooperation on security matters, welcomed the announcement. "Security is a vital issue for all Member States and cooperation across the EU can help to better protect us all from the range of threats we face," a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Theresa May said in a statement. King's appointment must now be endorsed by the European Parliament. Juncker interviewed King on July 11, and the British diplomat is expected to appear in front of the EU legislature in early autumn.

King has served in Brussels before, notably as chief-of-staff to two previous British commissioners, Peter Mandelson and Catherine Ashton in 2008-09. He has also been ambassador to Ireland, the EU state with possibly the most to lose from Brexit. He took up his post in Paris five months ago. — Reuters



INDIA: In this Sunday, July 31, 2016, file photo, a flood affected family moves on a banana raft past a fishing net in Morigaon district, east of

# India monsoon rains kills 96

### GOVT PROVIDING RELIEF CAMPS

GAUHATI, INDIA: The death toll in flooding from heavy monsoon rains in India has climbed past 90, with about a million people taking shelter in government-run relief camps, officials said yesterday. Incessant downpours have damaged swaths of land, uprooted trees and snapped telephone cables in dozens of districts in the states of Bihar in the east, Assam in the remote northeast and Himachal Pradesh in the north.

A total of 96 people have been killed in the flooding in the three states over the past week, according to state officials. At least 17 rare onehorned rhinos have been killed due to the flooding of vast tracts of Assam's Kaziranga National and environment minister. "Most of the rhinos killed are calves, separated from their mothers during the massive flooding," Brahma said. The park had 1.5-meter-high (5-foot-high)

floodwaters in some places, forcing many of the park's animals, also including wild elephants, wild buffaloes and boars, to cross a highway to move to higher ground. The heavy monsoon rains have come after

two straight years of drought in India. On Monday, landslides and heavy rains blocked highways leading to Tibet and Manali, a tourist resort in Himachal Pradesh state, with hundreds

Park, said Pramilla Rani Brahma, the state's forest of people stranded for several hours before rescuers cleared the way, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

In Bihar state, around 260,000 flood victims were taking shelter in more than 400 relief camps set up by the state government. At least 400 medical camps have been set up as well to aid people who have spent several nights outdoors after their homes were submerged by rain waters. In Assam, where floodwaters started receding on yesterday, some 3.8 million people have been affected by the floods, according to state authorities. More than 700,000 have taken shelter in 770 relief camps. — AP

# BRITON IN GUN INCIDENT COULD DIE IN US PRISON

LONDON: A British man detained in the United States for allegedly trying to wrestle a gun from a police officer at a Donald Trump rally is suffering from severe mental illness and risks dying in prison, his mother said on vesterday.

Michael Sandford, 20, is due to face trial in Nevada on Aug. 22. He has pleaded not guilty to two felony counts of being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm and one felony count of impeding and disrupting the orderly conduct of government business.

His mother, Lynne Sandford, told a news conference in London that her son, who has been diagnosed in the past with autism, depression and other mental health conditions, had been on suicide watch in a Nevada prison for the past three weeks. She portrayed her son as a compassionate, child-like man who enjoyed watching "Peppa Pig", a British children's television program, and who was bewildered and frightened by his incarceration. She said her son had attempted to take his own life when he was 14 years old and was suffering from anorexia.

Michael Sandford was arrested after an incident at a Trump rally at the Treasure Island hotel in Las Vegas on June 18, and later told an investigator he wanted to kill the Republican presidential candidate, according to US court papers.

He has not been charged with attempted murder. "I accept that Michael has tried to do a bad thing but he is mentally ill and is not a bad or dangerous person," said his mother, adding that she had last spoken to him on the phone on Sunday. "He kept breaking down and sobbing on the phone, saying 'please, please, I just want to come home'. He's very remorseful ... He's just in a really bad way," she said. Sandford has launched a campaign to have her son repatriated to Britain so he could be treated in a secure medical facility. She has raised 19,600 pounds (\$25,950) through the crowd-funding website Crowd Justice to pay for legal and other expenses.

She said a British consular official who had visited her son in prison had reported that he was shackled and handcuffed. "It's not clear that Michael actually understands what he has done," said Saimo Chahal, the family's British lawyer, speaking alongside Lynne Sandford. "Because of his Asperger's, OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder) and other psychological conditions there is a question mark over whether he's fit to plead and to undergo the trial process in the States," she said. Chahal said she was working to provide the public defenders' office in Nevada with independent evidence of Michael Sandford's mental illness. She expected the trial to be postponed by at least 56 days initially to allow time for that. She hoped a trial would not happen and that Sandford would be repatriated to Britain as part of a plea bargain agreement. — Reuters



LONDON: Lynne Sandford, the mother of British man Michael Sandford who was arrested in Las Vegas after attempting to snatch a policeman's gun at a rally held by US Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump, speaks at a press conference yesterday. — AFP

### SEXUAL ABUSE PLAGUES FEMALE WORKERS ON INDIA'S SUGARCANE FIELDS

MUMBAI: Every year after the monsoon, Gouri Bhiwde and her husband joined tens of thousands of workers migrating to the west of India's Maharashtra state to cut sugarcane. Every year, Bhiwde and other female laborers were sexually assaulted by supervisors and landowners, she said.

After one difficult pregnancy, Bhiwde's husband and his family took her to a doctor, who advised her to have a hysterectomy to prevent any further complications. "The doctor said, 'let's take it out," Bhiwde said by telephone from her village in Beed district. "He said, it'll only cause trouble." Female workers in western Maharashtra's sugarcane fields routinely face abuse and rape by landlords and middlemen who enslave them through debt bondage, activists say.

They said women are often forced by their families to undergo sterilization or a hysterectomy so they do not get pregnant from the repeated abuse, and can work without a break. "It is an unimaginable violation," said Nirja Bhatnagar, regional manager at ActionAid in Mumbai, which has surveyed dozens of female sugarcane cutters in Beed

district. "There is no human rights violation worse than having to remove your uterus so you can enter an informal economy that does not care for you," said Bhatnagar.

However, a spokesman for the sugar factories' cooperative denied that women are abused. "We have not heard of any such instances," said Sriramji Shete, a vice chairman of the Maharashtra State Co-operative Sugar Factories Federation. "If they are unhappy with the wages or the conditions, why would they keep coming back?" he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

India is the world's second-largest sugar producer. In Maharashtra, India's top producing state, about 500,000 rural poor migrate to Beed, Solapur, Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara districts every year to cut sugarcane. The workers are hired as couples. Most are in debt bondage, receiving about 50,000 to 60,000 rupees (\$745 to \$895) from a middleman as an advance against working for six to eight months. At the end of that period, the workers are often told they still owe money, and that they must return the next season, activists say. — Reuters

# ATHEISTS URGE AUSTRALIANS 'DON'T BE JEDI' FOR CENSUS

not to describe themselves as "Jedi" in the upcoming census, warning that doing so in homage to "Star Wars" makes the country appear more religious than it really is.

Ahead of the August 9 five-year census, the Atheist Foundation of Australia has requested citizens mark themselves down as having "no religion" if they do not consider themselves tied to a faith. "If old religious men in robes do not represent you... don't mark yourself as 'Jedi," says a campaign poster featuring Yoda

**SYDNEY:** Atheists are urging Australians and two other Jedi masters. "'Jedi' and on the census." other joke religions are not placed in the 'No Religion' category but in 'Not Defined'. This makes Australia seem more religious than it really is."

Foundation president Kylie Sturgess said she was encouraging people "to be counted as what they are". "Our attitude is, well here's an opportunity to have a say on the census; pop down what you are," she told AFP. "Maybe 'no religion' suits you, maybe you are someone who has drifted away from the church. "But unfortunately 'Jedi' is just not an option

The joke arose years ago when an email campaign wrongly claimed that if 8,000 people put themselves down as Jedi it would have to be officially recognized as a religion. At the 2001 Australian census, more than 70,500 people listed their faith as "Jedi knight" or something similar, which would indicate the country had nearly as many believers in the "Force" as it had members of the Salvation Army.

"Whether or not people took the claim seriously, it was the start of a reporting phenomenon that gained speed internationally," the Australian Bureau of Statistics said in 2013, adding that New Zealand, Canada, England and Wales subsequently reported large Jedi contingents.

Jedi numbers dropped in the 2006 Australian census to 58,053 but bounced back five years later to 64,390. Sturgess admits that she has put down Jedi as a "bit of a laugh" in the past. "But the fact is that the ABS just doesn't count it, they consider it 'not defined," she said, adding "the joke

is kinda getting a bit old". Australian statisticians could instead follow Britain's example. In the 2001 England and Wales census, 390,000 people, or 0.7 percent of the population, entered their religion as "Jedi" but they were included among the atheists. Or they could embrace non-traditional movements as New Zealand did in 2015 when it recognized pastafarians-who wear colanders on their heads, revere pirates and believe the world was created by a giant deity made of spaghet-

# CHINESE RIGHTS ACTIVIST GETS SUSPENDED SENTENCE

### FIRST PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED HEARING

TIANJIN, CHINA: A Chinese court issued a suspended three-year prison sentence to a human rights activist charged with subversion of state power after a brief trial yesterday, the first publicly acknowledged hearing in a secrecy-shrouded yearlong case involving hundreds of rights activists.

The official Xinhua News Agency said a court in the northern city of Tianjin issued the sentence to Zhai Yanmin, who was arrested in July last year as part of a nationwide government campaign against legal activists. About 300 lawyers and activists were initially seized and questioned before most were released.

him as saying they organized popular rallies during controversial human rights cases to draw international attention and undermine the Chinese state - remarks that echoed previous government accusations toward the group.

Xinhua said the court was told that Zhai, 55, and the three others "conspired and plotted to subvert state power," and "established a systematic ideology, method and steps to achieve it."

In a video from the trial shown on state television and posted on government websites, Zhai read a statement saying he accepted all the charges against him, was "extremely regretful" of

denounced by the authorities as interference in the legal process.

Many wives of the detained activists say they and their retained lawyers have been denied access to the detainees for more than a year, receiving only occasional updates by word of mouth, while some family members seeking information have been briefly detained themselves.

### "It's unfair, it's too unfair"

Zhai's wife, Liu Ermin, was taken into custody on Sunday night and returned late Monday to her Beijing home, where she said she is effectively held under house arrest by security agents outside her door. "It's unfair, it's too unfair," she said in a text message upon learning of Zhai's verdict.

She said she intends to appeal the verdict but does not know how to reach his governmentappointed lawyer, whose identity has not been disclosed to relatives or in state media reports. Zhai's three-year sentence was suspended for four years, meaning he will not go to prison but will have to live under considerable restrictions and supervision. He also will lose all political rights for the same period, making him ineligible to run for local councils or other offices. He can be sent to prison to serve his sentence if he disobeys the rules set for his release during the four-

A three-year sentence is the minimum for people convicted of subversion, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. "It is an unprecedentedly light sentence ... almost a symbolic punishment," said Beijing political commentator

That may be a deliberate move by the ruling Communist Party, which permits no political opposition, to demonstrate that those who cooperate can be treated leniently, while harsh penalties await those who refuse, Zhang said. "The point is not whether you committed any crime, but whether you obeyed or not," Zhang said.

The trial also fits a pattern established under the administration of President Xi Jinping to use more sophisticated legal means to attack perceived opponents as it maintains pressure on activists and non-governmental organizations.

Police cordoned off the Tianiin No. 2 Intermediate People's Court on yesterday, one day after protesters flanked by foreign diplomats demanded more information about the cases. The trial was attended by five foreign media outlets invited by the court and other observers, according to Xinhua, in an apparent attempt to address criticism from the activists' supporters about a near-total lack of transparency surrounding the

It isn't clear whether Zhai will be allowed to immediately return home. A lawyer and legal assistant who were recently released have been videoed apparently recanting their actions, but their whereabouts remain unknown. —AP



BANGKOK: Red Shirt leader Jatuporn Prompan (2nd R) stands with other movement leaders as he speaks to the press before reporting to police at the Crime Suppression Division yesterday. —AFP

### CALL FOR UN TO CONDEMN Philippine drug killings

MANILA: Over 300 anti-narcotics and human rights groups from around the world yesterday called for the United Nations to condemn Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs that has already killed hundreds of people.

The appeal, directed to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), came as an influential Philippine senator called for an investigation into the killings of suspected drug pushers that Duterte has endorsed.

Senator Leila de Lima and the foreign organizations cited reports of police killing hundreds of people since Duterte won May elections largely on a platform to wage a bloody war on drugs. "Instead of ensuring the protection and rights of people who use drugs... President Duterte has called for them to be killed," said the statement from groups such as the Australian Drug Foundation and Canadian Drug Policy Coalition. "Instead of ensuring the rights of people suspected of committing drug-related crimes... the President has called for them to be executed on the spot."

The statement called on the INCB and the UNODC to condemn the killings and "demand an end to the atrocities." De Lima, in a speech before Senate, also lashed out at the killings. "We cannot wage the war against drugs with blood. We will only be trading drug addiction with another more malevolent kind of addiction. This is the compulsion for more killing," said the senator, a former justice minister who also headed the nation's human rights body.

De Lima said police were summarily killing even innocent people, using the anti-drug campaign as an excuse. Since assuming the presidency on June 30, Duterte has promised to protect police and soldiers from sanctions for killing criminals and even urged ordinary citizens and communist rebels to join in the bloodshed.

While his campaign has been widely popular in the impoverished Philippines, more groups have begun criticizing Duterte, with De Lima calling for a congressional probe into the killings. But the president has dismissed human rights concerns while police have insisted that they only acted in self-defense.

In June, even UN Secretary-Genera Ban Ki-moon condemned Duterte's apparent support of extra-judicial killings. Police figures showed that as of Tuesday, 402 drug suspects had been killed a month into Duterte's presidency.

The figure does not include those slain by suspected vigilantes. The country's top broadcaster, ABS-CBN, reported that 603 people had been killed since Duterte was elected, with 211 murdered by unidentified gunmen. —AFP



made available via AP Video, Zhai Yanmin wears a white shirt is escorted by policemen as he arrives the Tianjin No. 2 Intermediate People's Court in northern China's

Zhai's case is the first of four expected to be heard this week. Prosecutors announced in July they would try a lawyer, Zhou Shifeng of the Beijing law firm Fengrui that worked extensively on human rights cases, and three activists who worked with the firm, including Zhai. More than a dozen others remain jailed, their legal status

### **Pushing the wall**

Xinhua said Zhai confessed in court that the group of lawyers, citizens and petitioners who believed in "pushing the wall" - a Chinese expression for overthrowing the government - methodically hyped politically sensitive cases. It quoted his actions and would not appeal his sentence.

Zhai said he would urge others not to be used by "hostile foreign forces" and domestic opportunists, or be blinded by "so-called democracy, human rights and justice." "I hope the court will give me an opportunity to correct my mistakes and start life anew," Zhai said, standing in the defendant's box and flanked by two bailiffs.

The court permitted Hong Kong journalists to attend the session, although foreign diplomats were barred. Zhai and his fellow activists worked alone or in affiliation with law firms to gather evidence of government abuses and lead clients and the disgruntled in protesting outside courts and government offices. Their actions were harshly

# JAPAN WARNS CHINA OVER TERRITORIAL AGGRESSION

**TOKYO:** Beijing risks triggering ner" and its actions "include danunintended conflict with Asian rivals through its aggressive stance in maritime disputes, Japan warned yesterday in an annual security assessment.

China's sweeping claims over the strategic South China Sea, where it has built a series of artificial islands capable of supporting military operations despite overlapping claims from other nations, have stoked international

The region's superpower "continues to act in an assertive man-

gerous acts that could cause unintended consequences," Tokyo said in a defense white paper. Beijing is under pressure to respect a UNbacked tribunal's finding last month that there is no legal basis for its ambitions over the resource-rich South China Sea where the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and others also lay claims.

The white paper said China was "poised to fulfill its unilateral demands without compromise" including efforts "to turn these

coercive changes to the status lished an air defense identificaquo into a fait accompli". And it again called on Beijing to abide by the ruling of the tribunal, which China has denounced as a

Japan also expressed concern over increased activity in the East China Sea, where the two countries have competing claims over a group of small uninhabited islets called the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China. "Recently, China has been intensifying activities near the Senkaku Islands, such as its military aircraft flying southward closer to the islands," it said.

In the year to March 2016, Japan's air force scrambled jets 571 times against Chinese planes flying near Japanese airspace, an increase of 107 from the previous year, it added.

### 'Irresponsible remarks'

China's official Xinhua news agency, in a report from Tokyo, blasted the white paper, accusing Japan of "making irresponsible remarks on China's national defense and China's normal and legal maritime activities in the East and South China Seas".

Last month the two countries were at loggerheads over accusations Japanese warplanes locked their fire control radar onto Chinese aircraft. Beijing sparked alarm after it unilaterally estab-

tion zone in the East China Sea in 2013, demanding all aircraft submit flight plans when traversing the zone which covers islands disputed with Tokyo and also claimed by Taipei.

**US Defense Secretary Ashton** Carter said in February that China's military presence in the South China Sea was increasing the risk of "miscalculation or conflict". Washington regularly sends warships into the area to assert the right to freedom of navigation. And in an emerging flashpoint, tensions have spiked over Indonesia's Natuna Islands in the South China Sea, where Chinese and Indonesian boats have clashed.

President Joko Widodo visited the Natunas on a warship in June with his cabinet to send a message that Jakarta is serious about defending the remote archipelago.

Japan's white paper also highlighted concerns over North Korea's nuclear program, saying it was possible it has "achieved the miniaturization of nuclear weapons and has developed nuclear warheads".

Since carrying out a fourth nuclear test in January, North Korea has claimed it miniaturized a nuclear warhead to fit on a missile and successfully tested an engine designed for an inter-continental ballistic missile that could reach the US mainland. —AFP



MANILA: 64-year-old Minifredo Lastrollo arranges flowers along a street in Manila, Philippines, yesterday. Lastrollo earns 300 pesos (about \$6) per arrangement. —AP

# US MAN ACQUITTED AFTER 5 YEARS IN PHILIPPINE JAIL

MANILA: An American man jailed in the Philippines for more than five years was freed yesterday after being acquitted of rape. A court in metropolitan Manila cleared Scott McMahon, of Seattle, after finding no clear evidence that he committed rape, as a Filipino woman alleged, a court official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

A jail officer, Omar Surigao, said that after the acquittal, McMahon was released from the Muntinlupa City jail in metropolitan Manila. He said McMahon's mother, Shelley Campanella, was among those present when McMahon was released.

McMahon, who has two children with his

Filipino fiancee, had been detained since April 7, 2011. Campanella has said that her son was wrongly accused of rape by the woman after he filed a case against her for allegedly traumatizing his young son.

The woman, the wife of McMahon's friend, had allegedly burst into McMahon's home with police, shouting as she looked for her estranged husband. The incident allegedly traumatized the son.

"We are so thrilled that this part of the nightmare is over and that Scott will not be spending another day in prison," McMahon's sister, Jennifer, said in a video posted on Facebook, calling the rape accusation "retaliation" by the woman for the case McMahon had filed against her. —AP



TOKYO: Tokyo's new governor Yuriko Koike gestures as she addresses staff of the Tokyo Metropolitan government yesterday. —AFP





The pack rides during the first stage of the 38th edition of 'La Vuelta a Burgos' (Tour of Burgos), a 158 km ride from Sasamon to Melgar de Fernamental, in Burgos province of Spain yesterday. — AFP

### MPS SLAM PETROL HIKE, WARN GOVT

**Continued from Page 1** 

MP Saadoun Hammad criticized the government for rushing the decision and taking it without consulting the Assembly as it had pledged. He said that the decision is strange because the government is targeting people's pockets while forgetting other available sources like taxing state-owned plots in Shuwaikh. "The government also forgot to tax merchants and is taxing people," he charged.

MP Awdah Al-Awdah said lawmakers will not remain

silent and will press for alternatives to compensate them which are satisfactory to all parties. MP Khalil Abul said that the decision was supposed to have been part of a package of economic reforms, but it was issued as a standalone one. MP Ali Al-Khamees said the meeting sent a message to the government that the Assembly is against the hike, adding that more meetings will be held to find adequate solutions. The Cabinet on Monday decided to hike petrol prices by over 83 percent from the start of September.

### RIGHTS OF INDIAN, OTHER EXPAT WORKERS...

**Continued from Page 1** 

The ministry's public relations units, based in all of the country's governorates, are ready all the time to receive laborers' protests. Moreover, the local authorities have compelled employers to allocate financial guarantees for all employees, to be used for compensating an employee if he has not been paid. In line with the state policy of protecting expatriates, namely laborers, a shelter has been set up for those in need for help. A number of female Indian workers had taken refuge in the shelter, and departed the country after being paid all pending sums.

The assurance came after New Delhi said it was working to feed more than 10,000 Indian laborers stranded in the Saudi Arabia and Kuwait with no wages after losing their jobs, in what Foreign Minister Sushma Swarai called a "food crisis". "Large number of Indians have lost their jobs in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The employers have not paid wages (and) closed down their factories," Swaraj said late on Saturday. "As a result our brothers and sisters in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are facing extreme hardship. While the situation in Kuwait is manageable, matters are much worse in Saudi Arabia," she added.

Activists and officials vesterday said thousands of jobless Filipinos and Pakistanis are also stranded and destitute in Saudi Arabia after the plunge in oil prices sparked construction layoffs. Some Filipinos are forced to beg or sift through garbage to survive after going unpaid for months, said Garry Martinez, chairman of the Migrante group which works for the millions of Filipino overseas workers worldwide. "Some of them have nothing to eat and have to go through the garbage for food," said

India said Monday it was negotiating with Saudi authorities to repatriate thousands of its own nationals after they lost their jobs, leaving them with no money to return home. Indians are among millions of poor Asians working in the Gulf states, where human rights groups say many suffer exploitation and abuses including non-

payment of wages.

In Manila, Migrante coordinator Gilbert Saludo - who returned from Saudi Arabia last month after two years working there - said as many as 20,000 Filipinos could be affected. Saludo said that while Manila had extended financial aid to them so far, it was not clear how long this could last. The labor problem appeared likely to worsen, he added. "It will get much worse because so much of the income of Saudi Arabia comes from oil... so their budget for infrastructure and other projects will not be met and more people will be affected," Saludo told AFP. The Philippine Labor Department said Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello had visited Saudi Arabia last month to address the problem but would not elaborate.

Pakistan said 8,520 of its nationals in Saudi Arabia had not been receiving their salaries for several months. A foreign ministry statement said that "most of the workers want to leave these companies but only after settling their dues". The Pakistan embassy had set up special centers and a fund to provide aid, food, medicine and shelter. "The (Pakistani) embassy has further informed that the Saudi King has issued a decree for urgent payment of dues to workers by the concerned companies," the office of the prime minister said. "We stand by our hardworking workers who are away from their homeland to earn a living for their families. They are our strength and pride. We will help them out in all possible ways," Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said in a statement.

The Indian consulate in Jeddah has been providing free food for its nationals since their plight came to light last week but repatriation has been complicated by restrictive labor regulations. Swaraj cited a Saudi requirement that workers provide a no-objection certificate from their employers before they can leave the country. In Manila the Migrante officials also said Filipinos could not leave because they lacked proper permits or were still awaiting months of back pay. — Agencies

## SAMSUNG ANNOUNCES GALAXY NOTE 7, NEW GEAR VR HEADSET

### JUMBO PHONE UNLOCKS WITH IRIS SCANNER

**NEW YORK:** You'll be able to unlock Samsung's new phone by just looking at it. The Galaxy Note 7 will come with an iris scanner, which matches patterns in your eyes with what was detected by your phone during setup. It offers an alternative to fingerprint ID, which doesn't work well when fingers are wet. Of course, the four-digit passcode will still work. "We challenged our engineers to design a security system that's convenient and safe at the same time," said Justin Denison, a senior vice president for product strategy at Samsung. "It took five years to perfect, but it only takes a glance to unlock your phone."

Samsung isn't first, though. Microsoft's Lumia 950 phones had it. Beyond that, the updates in the Note 7 are mostly enhancements, such as a stronger glass screen and more storage - 64 gigabytes, or double what Samsung usually offers, plus a slot to add more. The Note 7 comes with a better camera - but it's the same one that the smaller Galaxy S7 phones got in March, save for interface enhancements to access settings and switch between the front and rear cameras more easily.

Samsung had lost its mojo after Apple matched the company on size with the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus in 2014, but thanks to the popularity of the S7, Samsung just reported its best quarterly financial results in two years. The new Note 7 phone comes weeks before Apple is expected to announce new models. Samsung typically releases its regular-size phones in the spring and jumbo phones in August. This time, Samsung has just one large model, which stays at 5.7 inches. It will have curved edges - a well -liked feature limited to a special "Edge" model before. The Note 7 will be available in the US starting Aug 19. Prices haven't been announced.

Samsung is also releasing an updated virtual-reality headset - with a dedicated home button, a wider field of view and a black interior to improve viewing. The new Gear VR will be available Aug 19 for \$100. A previously announced 360-degree camera called Gear 360 also comes out that day, for \$350. As phones mature and innovation slows, VR has been one area in which gadget makers try to entice consumers.

As with past Note phones, the Note 7 comes with a stylus. It expands on a feature that lets you magnify text and images by hovering the pen over it. With the pen, people will have ways to easily create and share GIF animations. The Note 7 also expands on a feature to give sensitive files an additional layer of security. You'll be asked for an iris scan, fingerprint or passcode to access documents you place in a Secure Folder. This way, if you're handing the phone to friends to browse pictures, you're not inadvertently giving them access to confidential work documents. In previous phones, Samsung's Private Mode merely hid files and worked only with selected apps. Samsung says Secure Folder stores sensitive documents and even entire apps in a separate, secure location. — AP



NEW YORK: Justin Denison, senior vice president of product strategy at Samsung, speaks during a launch event for the Samsung Galaxy Note 7 at the Hammerstein Ballroom yesterday. — AFP

### MERCURY RISING

Continued from Page 1

evening and will continue until the weekend, especially in the coastal suburbs and in marine areas. According to the

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the United States, some areas in Kuwait and Iraq reached the highest temperatures this area has witnessed in 137 years, in the months of June and July. — KUNA





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**Washington Watch** 

### DIDI'S DOMINANCE OVER UBER OFFERS ROADMAP FOR RIVALS

**By Brad Brooks** 

hina ride-hailing service Didi Chuxing's dominance of Uber Technologies in the China market may provide a playbook for regional rivals to fend off the biggest US ride-hailing company, especially in Southeast Asia and India. The two companies on Monday confirmed the sale of Uber China to its bigger rival, ending a two-year, money-losing effort to break into one of the world's toughest markets. Uber leaves with around a one-fifth stake in Didi, but will give up control of its China operations. Didi had a head start and maintained the lead on Uber with a strategy that other rivals may emulate, analysts and investors said.

Didi counts two of the most powerful, best capitalized Chinese Internet companies as backers; has tight connections with local government; made an ally of local taxi drivers and expanded into services such as buses that Uber ignored; and exploited its knowledge of local culture and consumers. Uber and Didi declined to comment. Among those closely watching Didi's acquisition is Grab, the dominant Southeast Asia ridehailing start-up that competes with Uber in countries including Singapore and Vietnam. Grab says it has 95 percent market share in third-party taxi-hailing services, while its private-car business has about half of the Southeast Asian market.

"Our investor and global partner Didi has effectively won the battle for market share dominance in China," Grab CEO Anthony Tan wrote in an Aug. 1 memo to staff seen by Reuters. "We have seen that when the local champion stays true to their beliefs and strengths they can prevail," he wrote. Grab and Didi formed an alliance with India ride-service start-up Ola and US operator Lyft last year, and the Asian companies operate in what could be the next battlegrounds for Uber, said Jeremy Carlson, principal analyst in autonomous driving and mobility at IHS Markit.

"Grab knows very well what Didi is doing in China and is replicating that," such as offering transit options beyond personal car services, said Hans Tung, managing partner at GGV Capital, which has invested in both Grab and Didi. Grab also has powerful regional backers that include Japan's SoftBank Corp, sovereign wealth fund China Investment Corp and an arm of Singapore state investor Temasek Holdings.

### Didi's Road Map

Because China is a unique market - in population, regulatory complexity and concerns about foreign ownership of big companies - some lessons learned there may not transfer to other regions. Still, Didi made moves that may serve as a guide for other Uber competitors on its way to building a juggernaut that gives customers more than 14 million rides each day. "It's an encouraging sign for local competitors that they can, in fact, compete and that local strategies are required for local markets," said Dane Anderson, a vice president at research firm Forrester. "For Southeast Asia, the key message they can take away is that they can compete with Uber and that Uber will have to prioritise as well."

Didi consolidated local competition, forming from a merger of China's top two ride-hailing firms, and it had the backing of Internet companies Alibaba and Tencent. Those connections enabled Didi customers to hail a ride and pay for it through Alipay, Alibaba's payment system, and social media platform WeChat, owned by Tencent. "Didi had a much bigger presence on China social media," said David Chao, general partner at DCM Ventures, which invests in China.

Uber eventually got backing from Chinese conglomerate Baidu, but by that time Didi had overtaken it. "Uber joined the party a little too late," Chao said. Didi also started its business focused on taxi-hailing, allowing it to overtake Uber China in its number of drivers, since Uber relied on privately owned cars in China, where vehicle ownership has historically been low. Didi has expanded to buses, chauffeurs and other services.

Other companies have played up their local knowledge. Ola recently acquired a local payments service Qarth, with connections to Indian banks, to expand the ways passengers can pay. Uber has been criticized for launching in China in early 2014 without fully understanding the local culture, business dynamics and consumers, such as its focus on private cars. "Uber was trying to import some of those ideas that might have worked well in other markets and adapt and move that stuff and apply it to China," said IHS Markit's Carlson. — Reuters

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# TRUMP CAN'T LET GO OF PERCEIVED SLIGHTS

**By Julie Pace** 

or Donald Trump, it's become a familiar pattern. The ■ Republican nominee can't let go of a perceived slight, no matter the potential damage to his presidential campaign or political reputation. Trump spent the days after winning the Republican nomination criticizing a US district court judge's Mexican heritage. The morning after accepting the Republican nomination at the party's convention, Trump re-litigated months-old grievances with primary rival Ted Cruz. Now, he's sparring with an American Muslim family whose son was killed in Iraq.

Republican leaders have urged Trump to drop his attacks on Khizr and Ghazala Khan, who appeared at last week's Democratic convention and harshly criticized the GOP nominee. It's not just the optics of picking a fight with a military family that has GOP officials eager for Trump to move on, but the timing of his attacks: Election Day is just three months away.

Those who have worked with Trump say that in private meetings, he can often appear amenable to putting a controversy aside. But the businessman can quickly be drawn back in by an interview, especially if he believes he's already answered the question, or if he grows irritated by commentary on cable television. "It's just who he is," said Stuart Jolly, a former campaign staffer and current political director for the pro-Trump Great America PAC.

Others who have worked with Trump say the only way to ensure he moves on is to wait for him to tire of an issue or get drawn into another matter. Newt Gingrich, the former House speaker who has advised Trump, said the candidate's inability to back away from a political land mine "makes him vulnerable". "His whole experience up until running for office was in a very combative New York media market," Gingrich said. "He's been doing it now for over 30 years. It's a very deeply held habit."

Khizr Kahn delivered an emotional address at last week's Democratic convention, with his wife standing by his side. The Pakistan-born Khan told the story of his son, US Army Capt Humayun Khan, who was posthumously

awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart after his death in 2004. Khan said that if Trump were president and enacted his proposed temporary ban on foreign Muslims coming to the US, a position Trump has backed away from in recent weeks, his son would have

never been allowed into the country. He also tioned

whether Trump had ever read the

constitution. Trump responded by implying Ghazala Khan's religion preventing her from speaking at the convention, though she later said talking publicly about her late son was still too difficult. On Monday, Trump tweeted that he was being "viciously

attacked" by Khizr Khan. Trump's unwillingness to let the matter subside sparked outrage Monday from a chorus of Republicans. Arizona Sen John McCain, a former prisoner of war, said Trump did not have "unfettered license to defame those who are the best among us".

Rep Mike Coffman, a vulnerable Republican in a com-

petitive Colorado district, said he was "deeply offended when Donald Trump fails to honor the sacrifices of all of our brave soldiers who were lost in that war". Missouri Sen Roy Blunt said the Khans "deserve to be heard and respected". "My advice to Donald Trump has been and will continue to be to focus on jobs and national security and stop responding to every criticism whether it's from a grieving family or Hillary

Clinton," Blunt said in a statement. However, none of the Republican lawmakers pulled back their support of Trump's White House campaign. In his first rally after a weekend of controversy, Trump spoke at length and took several questions at an event Monday in Columbus, Ohio - never once mentioning the Khans. But when asked about Khizr Khan on Fox News Channel's 'Hannity", Trump responded, "I guess it's part of my life. "His son died 12 years ago," Trump added. "If I were president, his son wouldn't have died, because I wouldn't have been in the war, if I was president back then."

Trump backers attending the Ohio rally dismissed the issue, underscoring how the businessman was able to survive numerous such firestorms in the GOP primaries. "I think the Democrats laid a trap for him," said Tom McClanahan, a 54-year-old from Johnston, Ohio. "I think they knew what they were doing when they asked that family to speak at the convention. They knew he'd respond." Dale Brown, a maintenance supervisor from Grove City, Ohio, whose son is in the Navy, said Democrats were blowing Trump's comments out of proportion and had "politicized this by asking that family to speak." But the real test for Trump isn't the opinion of the loyal supporters who attend his rallies. It's the broader general election audience, a far more diverse group still weighing Trump's readiness for the White House. — AP

### NEPALI WORKERS LEAVE VULNERABLE FAMILIES BEHIND

**By Rina Chandran** 

or Nabin Lama, leaving Nepal after his annual home leave to return to his construction job in Saudi Arabia is not easy. What makes the journey bearable - even enjoyable - is the can of beer he can drink on the flight from Kathmandu. As soon as the seatbelt sign dinged off on a flight to Mumbai - from where he and a couple of hundred other Nepalis would take a connecting flight to Jeddah - Lama rose to look for the stewardess. "Beer," he bellowed, waving to her as she made her way down the aisle with a tray of fruit juice and water.

"It's a tough life there. But at least we can earn something and help our family," said Lama, 24, one hand on his passport, a white sticker across its green cover identifying a Nepali recruitment agency and his job. "But we can't drink there. So we have a beer on the flight. It feels good," he said with a grin. Lama comes from one of the world's poorest countries. Ongoing political instability since a decade-long civil conflict ended in 2006 has discouraged investment, hampered growth and curbed job creation in Nepal, forcing hundreds of thousands to migrate overseas for work.

Most go to the Middle East, Malaysia and India, from where they send remittances which make up almost 30 percent of Nepal's annual gross domestic product, according to the labor ministry. Most migrants are in low-paid, unskilled jobs in construction, or work as security guards and domestic helpers. Many face labor abuses including long hours, unsafe conditions and withholding of their wages and passports, say activists. Many are trafficked, tricked into doing jobs that they did not sign up for, or under conditions and wages far worse than they were promised.

Their families are not that much better off. Elderly parents, as well as young women and children left behind in remote villages are themselves vulnerable to traffickers and racketeers, and struggle with everyday hardship. "There are hardly any young men left behind in some districts," said Nandita Baruah, deputy country representative at Asia Foundation, an international development organisation, in Kathmandu. Families left behind may be duped into sending their children with traffickers posing as aid workers, or even selling their kidneys in India for money,

she said. "Migration is increasing the economic and social vulnerability of the country: people left behind are exposed to the harsh economic realities, and it makes them take greater risks, like trusting a trafficker or a kidney tout," she said.

### **Zero Cost**

More than 3.8 million permits to work abroad were issued in the decade to 2015, representing about 14 percent of the current population, according to Nepal's labor ministry. This does not include the hundreds of thousands crossing the border into India, where they do not require a permit. Nepal is forecast by the World Bank to have received about \$6.6 billion in remittances in 2015. But the journey to an overseas job is fraught with challenges and usually leaves workers deep in debt.

Recruitment agencies that facilitate procuring a job and a work permit often charge 200,000 to 500,000 rupees (\$1,860 to\$4,660) per worker. That is several times the average income of about \$730. Fear of losing their job and not being able to pay back the money - usually borrowed from moneylenders, often underwritten by the family home, or from selling land - forces workers to tolerate harsh working conditions and low wages.

"Migration is important - most workers do well, earn a living, support their families," Baruah told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "But the very first journey of migration leads to indebtedness. And they are bonded to their employers because of the huge burden of debt," she said. The Nepali government introduced a "zero-cost" migration policy last year, which makes the employer and recruiter responsible for costs. But the law is applied unevenly.

After female domestic workers in the Gulf countries complained of abuse, Nepal in 2012 banned women below the age of 30 from going there as domestic helps. But many women produced fake papers to say they were older than 30, or were hired for other jobs. Nepal has since lowered the age limit to 26 years. In June Nepal banned its nationals from working in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria after 13 Nepali security guards were killed by a suicide bomber in Kabul. These measures to protect workers have had limited success. "We know that when labor-sending countries try to protect their citizens through such

bans, unscrupulous recruiters just use unregulated channels," said Meenakshi Ganguly, head of Human Rights Watch for South Asia. Instead, Nepal should monitor recruitment agencies, engage with host countries to enforce worker rights and ensure embassies provide emergency shelters and assistance, she said.

A spokesman for the labor ministry said Nepal aims to sign labor agreements with Saudi Arabia and Malaysia to improve workers' rights, similar to those already agreed with the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and South Korea. "These agreements ensure the rights of our workers, minimum pay and other benefits and are effective to protect their interests," Shiva Raj Sedai said.

### **Quake Effect**

The absence of working-age men was felt deeply in the days and weeks following twin earthquakes in Nepal last year which killed about 9,000 people, and damaged or destroyed more than 900,000 houses. Women tending to children and elderly relatives were often not in a position to go to relief camps, claim compensation, or rebuild their homes quickly, said Lily Thapa, founder of Women for Human Rights in Kathmandu. "Women whose husbands are working overseas are vulnerable and helpless, particularly during disasters," Thapa said. "There were many instances of sexual violence after the quakes directed at such women," she said.

Teaching skills and creating jobs at home will be key to keeping emigration in check, Baruah said. The government also needs to prepare for the return of these workers in the event of an economic downturn or anti-migrant laws in the host countries. There is already a slow trickle from the Middle East and Malaysia as jobs dry up because of lower oil prices. More than 10,000 Indians in Saudi Arabia who have been laid off are facing a "food crisis", Indian officials have said. "Imagine if the 1,500-1,700 men who leave each day from the Kathmandu airport start coming back," Baruah said. "Imagine what will happen when they come back to a country where there are no jobs." For Lama and his friends drinking beer on the flight, that is a distant prospect for now. "I have a contract for one year," he said. "After that, I will have to find another job somewhere." — Reuters

Kuwait 📤 Times WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016

### WALES REJECT HULL APPROACH FOR COLEMAN

LONDON: Hull's attempt to hire Chris Coleman as their new manager was scuppered yesterday when the Football Association of Wales rejected an approach from the Premier League club. Coleman has emerged as Hull's top choice to replace Steve Bruce, who surprisingly quit the KC Stadium last month despite leading the Tigers to promotion from the Championship last season. Wales boss Coleman bolstered his reputation by masterminding his country's surprise run to the Euro 2016 semi-finals. But Hull will have to look elsewhere for a new manager after the Welsh FA confirmed they wouldn't let Coleman leave prior to the start of the 2018 World Cup qualifying

> campaign. "The Football Association of Wales can confirm that it has received an official approach from Hull City FC for the services of manager Chris Coleman," said a statement on the official FAW website. "Following discussions amongst leading figures within the association the approach has been rejected." Hull have also been linked with former Watford and West Ham boss Gianfranco Zola, who was sacked by Qatari club Al-Arabi in June. Former Manchester United assistant manager Mike Phelan is currently in caretaker charge, with the Tigers' squad having headed to Austria on Tuesday for pre-season friendlies against Caykur Rizespor and Torino.

### PREMIER LEAGUE CLUBS' TRANSFER SPENDING £500M

LONDON: Premier League clubs have already splashed out £475 million (\$631 million, 562 million euros) since the transfer window reopened in July, according to business analysts Deloitte. Bolstered by the increased revenue from the Premier League's new £5.1 billion television deals, the 20 top-flight teams have been throwing money at a host of new signings and Deloitte say the spending could shatter the £1 billion mark for the first time in the pre-season window. The current figure of £475 million is slightly less than the £515 million spent by Premier League teams at the same stage in 2015, which led to an eventual £870 million outlay in the whole window. Leroy Sane's £37 million move to Manchester City is not included in the figures as it was only confirmed yesterday. And the spending figure would rise significantly if Manchester United complete their reported world record £100 million move for Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba. Chelsea, linked with a £65 million deal for Everton striker Romelu Lukaku, could also add to the rising transfer total. —AFP

### GUARDIOLA FACES BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN ENGLAND

LONDON: The Premier League will offer a tougher challenge to Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola despite his success in the La Liga and Bundesliga, Liverpool boss Juergen Klopp said. Guardiola, who succeed Manuel Pellegrini as City coach after spending three years as Bayern Munich boss, won 14 trophies at Barca before leading Bayern to three straight Bundesliga titles and two German Cups before his move to England. "The competition makes it really interesting. Winning the title in England is the biggest challenge of them all," Klopp told British media. "If you are three times in a row Spanish champions, three times in a row Bundesliga champions, then you think okay, let's try something else. If you are looking for the biggest challenge, then you need to go to England." City

have boosted their squad by adding five players to their ranks, including wingers Leroy Sane and Nolito and German midfielder Ilkay Guendogan after the club stumbled to a fourth-place finish last season. "It's not easy in Germany. If you want to be in front of Bayern Munich, you have to win all the other games and then a minimum of one against Bayern. They don't lose," the former Borussia Dortmund boss added.—Reuters





PANJSHIR: In this Sunday, July 17, 2016 photo, three foreign tourists kayak along the Panjshir River in Panjshir province, north of capital Kabul, Afghanistan. In Excited children and bemused police lined the banks of the fastflowing river on a recent sunny morning to watch a group of Europeans in brightly colored kayaks navigate the white water as a drone-mounted camera followed their progress like a manic mosquito. — AP



PANJSHIR: In this Sunday, July 17, 2016 photo, three foreign tourists kayak along the Panjshir River in Panjshir province, north of capital Kabul, Afghanistan.— AP

# AFGHAN'S EXTREME GEOGRAPHY ATTRACTS EXTREME SPORTS

PANJSHIR: On a recent sunny morning in northern Afghanistan, excited children and bemused policemen lined the banks of a fast-flowing river to watch a group of Europeans in multicolored kayaks navigate the white water. A drone-mounted camera also followed the kayakers' progress, buzzing and hovering above them like a

The boys, who were on their way to chool, squealed and raced along the rocks as they watched the unusual spectacle - no kayakers had ever come to the peaceful Panjshir Valley, some 140 kilometers (95 miles) north of the Afghan capital, Kabul.

But according to Callum Strong, a Scot who recently graduated with a geology degree from Edinburgh University, Panjshir River offers some of the best kayaking in the world. Together with three friends, he spends all his spare time and money travelling the globe in search of the best white water. Panjshir looked promising on the map - that Afghanistan is grappling with a 15-year insurgency was not going to deter them.

"It's extreme geography that attracts extreme sportsmen, not the fact that the place is at war," he told The Associated Press as he dragged his kayak out of the water following an invigorating three-hour paddle down the Panjshir River.

His three friends - Brit Joe Rea-Dickins, Scot James Smith and Austrian Kristof Stursa - are also recent graduates in their early 20s and amateur kayakers who met through their love of the sport. They funded the trip to Afghanistan themselves, flying to Kabul with their kayaks and then employing a local travel agent to help them transport their kit, organize permission from security services to travel and move safely through dangerous areas.

### **JOYS OF THE SPORT**

Then they spent 10 days paddling the length of the Panjshir River and introducing the local community to the sport. "Before I came here, I was worried as the only news you hear from Afghanistan is bad news," Strong said. "But I believe most places you go in the world, most people are good - and

the river here looked very good, so we wanted to come."

His friend Rea-Dickins was similarly enthusiastic, comparing Panjshir to the best places he's kayaked in northern Europe, India and Pakistan. "In terms of white water, this is as good as anywhere in the world," he said. One of the joys of the sport, he said, is that "it takes you to pretty interesting places, it gives you purpose, you can be in a beautiful environment for weeks, you go off beaten tracks and stay where you end up and you meet with local people."

Panjshir is considered one of the safest regions of Afghanistan. The roads are closed to outsiders, who must register with security forces and explain the reason for their visit to gain access. Many people come to enjoy the peace, as well as the pristine environment and the famous produce, including yoghurt, honey and lamb kebabs. Panjshir is also famous for precious stones especially rubies and emeralds- and as a smuggling route for millions of dollars' worth of lapis lazuli, a blue stone largely unique to Afghanistan, mostly destined for

Pakistan and China.

It is also the home of the so-called Lion of Panjshir, Ahmad Shah Massoud, a military leader who earned his moniker fighting Soviet forces and the Taliban and whose legendary status was cemented when he was killed by al-Qaeda sympathizers on September 9, 2001 - two days before the 9/11 attacks that sparked the US invasion and the Afghan war.

### **KAYAKING WORKSHOP**

The country's chief executive, Abdullah Abdullah, is also from Panjshir. His face beams from massive billboards alongside the portraits of Massoud and local jihadi leaders. Panjshir is a province that takes its war heroes seriously.

It could soon take kayaking seriously, too, if the efforts of the four enthusiasts find traction here. After a week of paddling, the four set up a kayaking workshop to teach interested locals. The Panjshir football team showed up to give it a try, arriving straight from training in their bright green-andwhite kit. "They are very good learners, a lot of the guys we have seen are very fit and strong. And they are used to swimming in this river, which is very powerful," Strong said. Strength and comfort in the water are both good starting points for learning how to stay afloat, and have fun, in a kayak.

While it might be many years before the emergence of Afghan kayaking clubs, Strong and his group are hoping that their visit will lay the foundations for others to follow and discover the beauty and power of the Panjshir River.

"We have paddled the river so we can tell other people the river is good and that when we were here, the political situation and security was good," he said. "If that prevails, then kayaking can grow here, and you might see more international teams come here to do this river."

Mohammad Zahir, a member of the Panjshir football team, was most excited by the possibility that kayaking could take him abroad. "I would love to reach the level of our friends who are here from other countries, so I could travel to other places for kayaking," he said. —AP

### FADING FERRARI FACE SUMMER OF INTROSPECTION

**HOCKENHEIM:** Ferrari head into Formula One's annual break facing a tall order to turn things around in time for the second half of a season that promised much but

has so far delivered little. Formula One's most successful team went into the season with ambitions of challenging dominant Mercedes for race wins and the championship, after rebounding from their first winless campaign in more than two decades with three wins last year. The Italian squad, revitalised by new management and the arrival of four-time champion Sebastian Vettel, was the only team to break Mercedes' stranglehold on the top of the podium in 2015.

But they head into the summer break, just past the halfway stage of a record 21-race season, still without a win and having dropped to third in the standings behind rivals Red Bull following Sunday's German Grand Prix.

"I have to say that they improved quite well," team principal Maurizio Arrivabene told reporters following the race in Hockenheim. "It doesn't mean we are going to surrender. During this peri-



Kimi Raikkonen

od we have to think and to react."

Ferrari started the year strongly, challenging for the win in the season-opener in Australia. But a serious title-tilt never materialised and as the season has worn on even the podiums, of which Ferrari scored eight in the first nine races, have dried up. The sudden departure of the team's highly regarded technical director James Allison in the build up to Sunday's race has only caused more upheaval and could deal their campaign a further blow.

Red Bull, meanwhile, have taken giant strides forward. The Milton Keynes-based outfit overturned what was a 37-point deficit into a 14-point advantage in the space of just four races with a doublepodium on Sunday, when the best Ferrari could manage was a fifth and sixth.

"We were just not fast enough," said Kimi Raikkonen, who won Ferrari's last world championship in 2007. "Everybody can see where we finished and it's obviously a bit painful for all of us. But this is how it is right now and we just have to work hard and improve." Ferrari's hopes are now pinned on a return to form in the second half.

Arrivabene identified the team's strugale to add crucial aerodynamic downforce to their car since May's Spanish Grand Prix as the reason for their slide. But even though the team knows what to fix, according to the Italian, they face the challenge of balancing development of this year's car with shifting focus onto their challenger for 2017 when the sport is set for sweeping rule changes. "I think the last couple of races have been harsh and tough for us but very, very useful," Vettel said. "It's not that easy to change overnight but there is a plan and I think the second half should be stronger in that regard." — Reuters

# GOLF AMATEUR TIFFANY HOPES TO SPARKLE

**HONG KONG:** Golf's Olympic return has been hit by a host of withdrawals but for Hong Kong amateur Tiffany Chan, reaching the Rio Games is a dream come true.

The 22-year-old booked her ticket by finishing 56th in the Olympic rankings, giving her the chance to compete against the leading lights of the women's game.

"I myself am really honoured to play in the Olympics as it is the highest stage any athletes could get to," Chan told AFP in Hong Kong. The university student is one of three amateurs to qualify for Rio, which will feature 60-strong men's and women's competitions as golf returns to the Games after a 112-year absence.

Top men's players like Jordan Spieth and Rory McIlroy have pulled out, with some citing concerns over the mosquito-borne Zika virus which can cause birth defects if it infects pregnant women. But few of the women golfers have voiced such concerns, and Chan said dropping out never even crossed her mind.

"I have no plans to set up a family now so I am not too worried, and I think it's a must to take part since I was given the chance," she said. Chan first encountered golf when her father, a building contractor, took her to a public range in a suburb of densely populated Hong Kong when she was six. Unlike many Asian families who spend big on their children's golf careers, Chan said her parents had no ambitions for her to become a top player. "It was more a family hang-out on weekends. We just paid HK\$6 dollars (\$0.77) per hour to play at a bay," she said.

Later, Chan was talent-spotted by officials of Hong Kong's junior golfer development programme, who sent her to compete in youth events overseas. With limited access to the financial hub's expensive golf clubs, she earned a scholarship to attend university in the United States, where she trains, "When I was younger there was not much opportunity for me to practise in real ranges. This is my weakness so I need to work harder," she said. Chan will face the world's best in Rio, including Lydia Ko from New Zealand and South Korea's Park In-Bee. She hopes to finish in the top 40, but said her main aim was just to "learn" from the professionals

around her. "There are 57 professionals. To enter

the Olympics as an amateur is already a difficult thing. I just want to learn through the Games," she said with a wide smile.

After university, Chan is planning to turn professional and embark on a career which she hopes will promote the sport in Hong Kong. "Not many people play golf in Hong Kong... (but) usually when there is an outstanding player then the sport could get a big boost," she said. — AFP



**Tiffany Chan** 



### SAUDI PRINCESS APPOINTED TO OVERSEE WOMEN'S SPORTS SECTOR

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia's Cabinet appointed a prominent princess to head a new department for women under the kingdom's General Authority for Sports in a move that could signal greater female access to sports.

The announcement, made after the weekly Cabinet session Monday evening, offered no details about Princess Reema bint Bandar's role. Physical education is not on the curriculum for Saudi girls in public schools and ultraconservative clerics shun women's exercise as "immodest." Women's teams are not part of the kingdom's federation that oversees sports and stadiums are male-only.

Even so, the kingdom is sending four female athletes to the Olympic games in Rio, marking the second time that Saudi women will participate in the Olympics. The General Authority for Sports' website lists no details about its activities or mission. A separate government portal shows the agency is responsible for issuing licenses to establish new sports centers and handles youth registration in sports. The sports authority could not be immediately reached for comment.

In a decree in May, King Salman ordered the General Presidency for Youth Welfare to be renamed the General Authority for Sports. The former body had sponsored cultural and sports activi-

In April last year, the king sacked the most senior woman in government, Nora al-Fayez, from her post as deputy education minister for girls. Shunned by religious ultraconservatives, she was strongy pushing to try to get physical education on the curriculum for girls in public

Bandar bin Sultan served as Saudi ambassador to Washington for more than two decades until 2005, is a graduate of George Washington University with a degree specializing in museum studies, Islamic art and architecture. In the kingdom, she is widely known for having served as chief executive officer of the upscale Harvey Nichols department store in the capital, Riyadh, which was among the first retailers to hire women as sales clerks.

Also this week, Saudi newspapers

Princess Reema, whose father Prince reported that a court in the Eastern Province has approved the appointment of the country's first female commercial arbitrator. It marks the first time a woman has been appointed to such a post. There are no female judges in Saudi Arabia and only a handful of women have been granted licenses to practice law. Arab News reported that lawyer Shaimaa Sadeq al-Jibran's appointment was challenged because she is a woman, but that the Administrative Appeals Court ultimately gave its approval. — AP



**AB de Villiers** 

### DE VILLIERS RULED OUT OF **NEW ZEALAND TEST SERIES**

**CAPE TOWN:** Skipper AB de Villiers has been ruled out of South Africa's two-test home series against New Zealand this month with an injured elbow and Faf du Plessis will take over the captaincy.

Fast bowler Morne Morkel has also been sidelined, with a bulging disc in his back, Cricket South Africa said in a statement yesterday. De Villiers will be out for six to eight weeks, it said.

"I'm naturally disappointed to miss the test series against New Zealand, particularly because I have not missed a test match through injury since my debut in 2004," De Villiers was quoted as saying.

"However, with an exciting summer of cricket ahead, it is obviously sensible to give my elbow time to heal properly."

Seamer Vernon Philander makes a return to the test squad for the first time in

10 months, while Dale Steyn has also been included after recovering from the shoulder and groin problems that plagued him in the Proteas' last two test series against India and England.

All-rounder Wayne Parnell is the only member of the 15-man squad who did not play in the most recent test series against the English at the start of the year.

The first test will be played in Durban from Aug. 19-23 and the second in Pretoria, starting just four days later.

### Squad:

Faf du Plessis (captain), Kyle Abbott, Hashim Amla, Temba Bavuma, Stephen Cook, Quinton de Kock, JP Duminy, Dean Elgar, Chris Morris, Wayne Parnell, Vernon Philander, Dane Piedt, Kagiso Rabada, Dale Steyn, Stiaan van Zyl. — Reuters

# FATHER MAY NOT GO WITH WOAKES

**BIRMINGHAM:** England all-rounder Chris Woakes hopes his current good form will last long enough to persuade his father to conquer his fear of flying.

The Warwickshire all-rounder heads into Wednesday's third Test at his Edgbaston home ground in arguably the best form of his career. His father, Roger, saw his son take 11 wickets in England's 75-run defeat in the first Test at Lord's and is set to be among the crowd when the hosts look to go 2-1 up in the four-match series at Edgbaston following their 330-run win in the second Test at Old Trafford.

But travelling overseas is a different story for Roger Woakes, although son Chris hopes that might change if he is selected

for England's 2017/18 tour of Australia. They (my parents) follow me as much as possible, (but) not overseas-my dad has never flown at all," said Woakes at an event staged by series sponsors Investec.

"He's never left the country, but (my par-

ents) drive all over the UK. "He's a little bit claustrophobic, so flying has always been a no-no. He doesn't get in lifts and things like that (either)." Woakes would be delighted if his father saw him in action in Australia, but thinks it unlikely. "I don't think I would (be able to persuade him) — unless he went on a boat," Woakes added.

"I'm sure he'd love to, but don't think he'd be able to. I'm sure he'll be happy sat on his sofa watching it on TV with a cup of tea. "(But) don't get me wrong-I'll ask the question if I'm in the Ashes squad."

Woakes's Test debut at The Oval at the conclusion the 2013 Ashes also presented his father with a problem..

"He always gets the stairs," Woakes explained. "I booked them a hotel by the river, and they put him on the 17th floor. "He was in his late 60s then, so he had to get moved-but they couldn't do it until the next day, so he was walking up and down 17 floors. He was knackered." — AFP

# S LANKA'S PRADEEP DOUBTFUL FOR TEST

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka suffered another injury setback ahead of the second test against Australia in Galle with seamer Nuwan Pradeep suffering a hamstring strain during practice, a cricket board official said yesterday.

Angelo Mathews' side are reeling from injuries to their fast bowlers with Dhammika Prasad and Dushmantha Chameera ruled out of the three-match series, while Suranga Lakmal was also absent from the opening test at Pallekele due to an ankle complaint.

Another paceman, Shaminda Eranga, was recently suspended for an illegal action. The 29-year-old Pradeep, who has played 21 tests, was the lone frontline paceman at Pallekele, which the hosts won by 106 runs to take a 1-0 lead against the world's top-ranked side in the longest format. The victory was a welcome one for Sri Lanka, who lost their two previous test series in New Zealand and England. The right-arm bowler, who took two wickets in the first innings of the series opener, suffered the injury during training on Monday. "He has a slight hamstring strain on his right leg. His fitness will be assessed tomorrow (Wednesday) morning," Sri Lanka team manager Charith Senanayake told Reuters. "He could be doubtful but we haven't taken a decision yet." Sri Lanka fielded three frontline spinners at Pallekele and were always likely to load their attack with slow bowlers for the second test. — Reuters

# MISBAH WANTS PAKISTAN TO PULL DOWN ENGLAND 'PILLARS'

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Hag believes knocking down England "pillars" Alastair Cook and Joe Root holds the key to his side's hopes of winning the third Test at Edgbaston. England levelled the four-match series at 1-1 last time out at Old Trafford. Between them, England captain Cook and vicecaptain Root made 506 runs for just twice out at Old Trafford in a second Test the hosts won by the huge margin of 330 runs.

But you have to go back to May 2015 for the last time another specialist England batsman made a Test hundred-discarded opener Adam Lyth's 107 against New Zealand at Headingley.

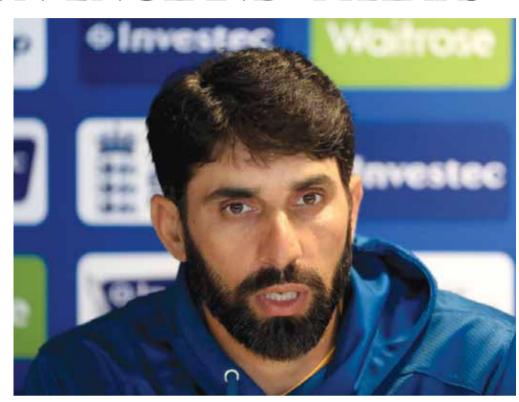
"In every team there are key players and at the moment those two are in really good form," said Misbah of Cook and Root at Edgbaston on Tuesday. "If you really have to put pressure on the opposition, it's important to get their main players out because those are the two pillars of their batting. "Psychologically, that can also give you an advantage and damage the opposition if you can get them early, because other (members of the England) batting line-up are struggling at the moment.

"That's really important for us to just get them (Cook and Root) early and put them (England) under pressure."

James Vince has yet to make a fifty in his seven career Test innings this season and lefthander Gary Ballance is also searching for a big score following his surprise recall for Pakistan's 75-run win in the series opener at Lord's.

"Throughout my time as captain there's always been something up for discussion and at the moment it's the middle order," said Cook. "Until the guys get good scores consistently that will be the case but they're very good players and they got picked because of outstanding form for their counties.

Turning to number four Vince, opening batsman Cook added: "I like the way he plays. He's got a couple of starts and the way he handled the whole situation in a different format in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a good indicator of how he can handle the pressure. He needs that score for his confidence and to get you guys (the press) off his back."



BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan's cricket captain Misbah ul-Haq speaks during a press conference at Edgbaston, Birmingham England yesterday. Pakistan will play England in their third test of their 4 match series starting today. — AP

Today's match will be the 500th Test played in England. By contrast, Pakistan have been unable to play international cricket at home since an armed attack on Sri Lanka's team bus in Lahore in 2009 made the country a 'no-go area' for major foreign sides.

Pakistan have since established a temporary 'home' in the UAE but Misbah said there was no substitute for playing in front of your own fans. "It can really hurt your overall development as a cricketing nation (not playing at home)", the 42-year-old veteran skipper explained. "Your youth can really be inspired if you are playing internationally back at home. Obviously, you can build more infrastructure. "It's one area where you can say we are really unlucky and we want international cricket back in Pakistan, just to help our youngsters and just to help cricket in Pakistan.

"It's really difficult for the Pakistan Cricket Board and it can really hurt them financially also. "You can see wherever the World Cups are, or international events, the whole scenario changes, it's like a fever in that country for that sport. That's what we have been really miss-

Asked if he felt it was safe for rival Test teams to tour Pakistan now, Misbah replied: "That (the security situation) has been improving a lot. 'The Pakistan government, the army, everybody is really working hard on that. Hopefully, it will be better in the coming future." —AFP



MANCHESTER: England's Ben Stokes, centre, holds is leg after a delivery and before going off injured during day four of the second test against Pakistan at Old Trafford, Manchester England. — AP

# ENGLAND RECALL FINN FOR THIRD PAKISTAN TEST

**BIRMINGHAM:** England have recalled fast bowler Steven Finn for the third Test against Pakistan at Edgbaston, captain Alastair Cook said yesterday.

Finn, who has taken 120 wickets in 33 Tests at an average of under 30 apiece, is set to replace the injured Ben Stokes. All-rounder Stokes has been ruled out after damaging his calf in England's 330-run win in the second Test at Old Trafford that levelled the four-match series at 1-1. Cook said there was still a slim chance England could play two spinners, by giving a home debut to leg-break bowler Adil Rashid in support of off-spinner Moeen Ali, if there was a marked change in pitch conditions between Tuesday and Wednesday's toss at Edgbaston.

But with rain falling from grey skies above Edgbaston on Tuesday, Cook indicated that England would likely go in with an attack of four

seamers plus Ali.

England also had the option of selecting Nottinghamshire quick Jake Ball, who made his Test debut in Pakistan's 75-run win in the series opener at Lord's — Finn's first wicketless Test.

Finn and Ball made way for James Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, and Stokes at Old Trafford. "Finny is coming in for Ben Stokes, and as we were," Cook told reporters at

Edgbaston yesterday. "Unless the pitch changes a lot from what I saw yesterday (Monday) — we still have the right to change-we'll be going with the four seamers and one spinner," opening batsman

"It was a tough call - as I found out at two o'clock (0100 GMT) this morning when I was wide awake thinking about it. "We've gone for a guy who's got a proven Test record, who's taken 120 wickets and has a knack of taking wickets," said Cook of Finn. Middlesex paceman Finn took a Test-best six for 79 against Australia at Edgbaston last year "He has good memories here of last year," said Cook. "He hasn't quite been at his best this year-there have been a few factors in that, (but) physically he's now better and has had a couple of things sorted out in the

"We all saw the other day down at Middlesex, playing Essex, that his pace is back up again." Cook added: "You could have argued for Jake, and telling him was a tough call, but we've gone for a guy who has a very good Test record-giving him another go." England team: Alastair Cook (capt), Alex Hales, Joe Root, James Vince, Gary Ballance, Jonny Bairstow (wkt), Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, Stuart Broad, Steven Finn, James Anderson. — AFP

# SCHALKE SIGN CHELSEA'S BABA ON LOAN

**BERLIN:** Schalke 04 has signed Ghana international left-back Abdul Rahman Baba on loan from Chelsea for the coming season, both clubs confirmed yesterday. Last season, Baba made 23 appearances for Chelsea, 19 of them starts, including his debut in the Champions League, but has been sent on loan by new Blues boss Antonio Conte to Schalke, who finished fifth in Germany's top flight last season.

"I spoke with the new Chelsea head

coach and he told me that I would probably not to play very often in his system," explained Baba on the Schalke website.

"I want to be on the pitch, so I told the management in London that I wanted to transfer. "I found a very good club in the form of Schalke 04 and I'm sure that I have made the right decision."

The 22-year-old spent the 2014/15 season with Augsburg, knows his way around German football after a stint with Greuther Fuerth and has played 51

Bundesliga games, plus 24 matches in Champions League. Germany's second tier. He worked with Schalke's head coach Markus Weinzierl while at Augsburg.

"Abdul is a strong attacking left back, one who I have a lot of faith in.

He will fit in well here, because of his excellent attitude," said Weinzierl. Baba signed a five-year contract with Chelsea in 2015 and has made a total of 15 Premier League appearances for the Blues, featuring four times in the

He was part of the Ghana side that reached the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations final, when his side lost to Ivory Coast on penalties. Having already trained with his new team-mates, Baba says he has quickly found his feet in Gelsenkirchen.

"The lads have warmly welcomed me. I have enjoyed my time with the squad so far. I noticed from the very first training session that Schalke have a strong team with a lot of quality," said Baba.

"I already know Markus from my time at Augsburg, we get along really well and he has a lot of confidence in me, which is an important thing for any player." The defender is relishing his return to Germany's top flight when Schalke play their first game of the season at Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday August 27. "Long balls are used a lot more often in the Premier League," said Baba. "A lot more value is placed on the technical aspects of the game in Germany." — AFP

### BAYERN OPEN DOOR TO SCHWEINSTEIGER RETURN

**BERLIN:** Bastian Schweinsteiger has been told there could be a place for him back at Bayern Munich in the wake of his fall from grace at Manchester United.

Schweinsteiger turned 32 on Monday, the same day his locker in United's firstteam dressing room was cleared out and he was ordered to train with the reserves by new United boss Jose Mourinho.

He is one of nine players told they are free to go on loan by Mourinho and are not in the United boss' plans. Schweinsteiger announced his international retirement last week after 12 years, 24 goals and 120 appearances in the famous white shirt.

At the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, he enhanced his reputation as his battling display in Germany's midfield helped beat Argentina in the final.

After winning eight Bundesliga titles with Bayern, as well as the German Cup seven times and the 2013 Champions League, he moved to Old Trafford in 2015. But his star has fallen after an injury-ravaged season in Manchester which yielded only 31 appearances, and Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge says the door is open for him to return. "Should he speak at some point about a desire to return, then we will discuss it with him," Rummenigge told magazine Sport Bild.

The imminent return of France's Paul Pogba to Old Trafford, and his own demotion, means Schweinsteiger's days in Manchester look numbered with two

years left on his United contract.

"No respect!" tweeted his brother Tobias Schweinsteiger, a former second division player and youth team coach at Bayern. His reported annual wage bill of £7.5 million (\$9.9m, 8.8m euros) might put off any potential employer.

The defensive midfielder has been linked to AC Milan and Inter Milan, as well as Paris Saint-Germain, while any Major League Soccer club would be delighted by the profile boost his arrival in the USA would bring.

And Schweinsteiger is too young to retire, according to his ex-Germany and Bayern team-mate Oliver Kahn. "I'm sure that with all his experience, Basti can still be the leader of a top team. He is definitely too young and too strong to retire," Kahn wrote on his Facebook page.

Schweinsteiger, who married tennis player Ana Ivanovic last month, is weighing up his options. Rummenigge says he does not expect Schweinsteiger to struggle to find a new employer and it seems he has a future with Bayern when he hangs up his boots for good.

"It's important to bind players who deserve it to the club," Bayern captain Philipp Lahm told magazine Sport Bild. "Basti knows everyone and everything here, he would be predestined to work in the team."

Bayern have a history of finding jobs for their chosen sons and Rummenigge has already said they will "discuss the matter in due course". — AFP



WEST BANK: Players of Hebron's Ahly al-Khalil football club celebrate with the trophy after beating Gaza's Khan Yunis during the second leg of their Palestinian Cup final yesterday in the West Bank city of Hebron. The winner of the match between teams from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, will be qualified for next season's AFC Cup, Asia's premier club football tournament. The match ended 1-1 and al-Ahli qualified for the Asian Cup. — AFP

# BRAZIL HOPING TO END US WOMEN'S GOLD RUSH

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** A dominant United States team face stiff competition from hosts Brazil for a fifth Olympic gold medal in six games when the women's football tournament kicks off Rio 2016 today.

The States' quest for a fourth consecutive gold begins against New Zealand in Belo Horizonte with both men's and women's tournaments spread across six cities which hosted the 2014 World Cup.

The world champions are without all-time leading international goalscorer Abby Wambach at a major tournament for the first time in over a decade after she retired following the World Cup

However, unlike the men's Olympic tournament, there are no age restrictions on the players that can be selected so the USA's English coach Jill Ellis can call upon World Player of the Year Carli Lloyd, as well as the experienced

Megan Rapinoe and star striker Alex Morgan. The USA are in need of a fast start as they face a huge clash with France on August 6 and end the opening stage of their campaign against Colombia in Manaus, nearly 3,000 kilometres away from Rio in the Amazonian jungle. Co-captain Becky Sauerbrunn admitted pre-

vious success makes the Americans heavy favourites to claim gold once more in the final at Rio's iconic Maracana stadium on August 19.

"We always look for that next challenge level of greatness," she told US Soccer's website. "People expect us to win, we know what it actually takes to win and that comes with a different level of accountability and sacrifice."

Brazil have never won a football gold medal at the Olympics and although the women's side won't have the same pressure and expectation as their male counterparts, there is belief they can go one better than extra-time defeats to the USA in the finals at the 2004 and 2008 games.

Five-time World Player of the Year Marta spearheads a Brazilian side that also contains veteran defender Formiga, who will compete in her sixth Olympics. "Although people say we don't have to go and win the gold, for me, as someone who has played at other Olympics, won two silvers and come close to the gold, I think we are obliged to win it," said striker

Cristiane. Brazil face a tough start at Rio's Olympic stadium on Wednesday against China, who qualified at the expense of 2012 silver medallists Japan and reached the World Cup quarter-finals in Canada last year.

Eccentric French coach Bruno Bini has aided because we constantly want to achieve that next the continued rise of women's football in China and caused a stir on the eve of the tournament by claiming that "Chinese women work harder and they complain much less," than the French side he led to the 2011 World Cup semi-finals.

> Chinese hopes will depend much on star striker Wang Shanshan and she backed Bini's unconventional methods. "Each day, he tells us something new. He usually encourages us with a motto, a poem," Wang told FIFA.com.

> "With his guidance the team unity is getting better and the spirit is going up." All 12 teams are in action yesterday as World Cup quarter-finalists Canada and Australia face off in Sao Paulo.

> Two-time world champions Germany take on Zimbabwe in the other game in Group F. The top two sides and two best third-placed teams from the three groups will progress to the quarterfinals. —AFP

## COACH BAUZA PLANS TO WOO MESSI BACK FOR ARGENTINA

Edgardo Bauza has set his mind to woo- isn't much time. My first squad won't ing Lionel Messi back from international have many changes but I want to talk retirement as he ponders his squad for with five or six of the leading players," next month's South American 2018 World Cup qualifiers. Bauza was named on Monday to replace Gerardo Martino, who resigned a month ago after steering Messi's side to two successive Copa America finals which ended in penalty shootout defeats to Chile.

The more recent of those results in the Copa America Centenario in the United States in June led to Messi deciding to quit the team. It was his fourth defeat in a major final with Argentina.

"I'm optimistic about Messi," Bauza said. "I hope the chat with him will help for him to carry on in the national team.

"I want to explain to Messi what my (tactical) idea is. The least of my worries is his position on the pitch," Bauza was quoted as saying in the Argentine daily La Nacion on Tuesday. "There's no need to convince Messi of anything, the plan is to talk about football," said Bauza, speaking in Brazil where he has coached Sao Paulo for eight months.

Bauza, who quit his job with Sao Paulo to accept the Argentina vacancy and will sign his contract in Buenos Aires on Friday, has only a couple of weeks to decide on his squad for qualifiers at home to Uruguay and away to Venezuela

**BUENOS AIRES:** Argentina's new coach in the first week of September. "There Bauza said, no doubt referring to the likes of Javier Mascherano, Angel Di Maria and Gonzalo Higuain.

> He also opened the door for Carlos Tevez, overlooked by Martino since a World Cup qualifier against Paraguay in Asuncion last October where he won his 76th cap. "I'm thinking of Tevez as I am about other players ... Tevez is a player good enough for the national team,"

> Bauza, a former central defender, rejected a tag as a defensive coach, saying: "I'm one of those who think that all (the team) have to defend. Football today is like that.

> "You can defend in your opponents" half if the pressure is high (up the field) but it's easier when you have players of the quality of the Argentina team. The options they offer you are many."

> Argentina are third in the 10-nation South American World Cup qualifying group with 11 points from six matches, two points behind leading pair Uruguay and Ecuador. The top four teams after 18 matches go through to the Russia finals while the fifth-placed team goes into an intercontinental playoff for one more berth. —Reuters



BUENOS AIRES: Argentina's Football Federation (AFA) acting president Armando Perez (2nd-R), speaks during a press conference at the AFA's headquarters in Buenos Aires. Argentina have named coach Edgardo Bauza to run the national team, media reports said Monday, as the nation seeks to regain its football prowess and convince superstar Lionel Messi to return. — AFP

# CITY CONFIRM SIGNING OF LEROY SANE FROM SCHALKE

**LONDON:** Germany winger Leroy Sane has signed a five-year deal for Manchester City, both the Premier League side and his now former Bundesliga club Schalke 04 confirmed yesterday. City tweeted a picture of Sane signing a contract, which is reportedly worth £37m (43m euros), plus add-ons, after he completed the medical examination in Manchester on Monday.

The 20-year-old said the prospect of playing under new City boss Pep Guardiola had helped persuade him to move to Eastlands. "One of the reasons I decided to join City was Pep Guardiola; he convinced me to come here and that I can continue to progress," Sane told City's website. "I know I will learn a lot under him and now I can take the next step in my career.

"I followed Pep at Barcelona and at Bayern where he achieved a lot and worked really well with young players. "I think he can make me a more complete player. I think I will need a bit of time to start with because it's another league and there's a different style of play but I think I can adapt very quickly."

If the £37m fee is confirmed, it will make Sane the most expensive German signing of all time. "We have given the green light for the transfer. Those in charge of Manchester City behaved professionally at all times. There were difficult, but fair discussions," said Schalke's director of sport Christian Heidel. Sane is a rising star in the Germany squad and has already posed for pictures with City fans in Manchester.

The reported transfer figure seems astronomical given that Sane has made just 47 Bundesliga appearances, scoring 11 goals and creating seven more, since his debut in Germany's top flight in April 2014. The fleet-footed forward made the last of his four international appearances for the world champions as a late replacement in last month's 2-0 defeat to hosts France in the Euro

2016 semi-finals. Guardiola is confident his new recruit, who scored eight goals in 33 Bundesliga games last season, is tailor-made for the unique demands of the Premier League.

"He is a special talent, and an exciting player that I think our supporters will enjoy watching," Guardiola said. "He has great technical ability, is comfortable on the ball and there is much to admire about the way he plays football. "He is fast, enjoys creating chances for others, works

hard for the team and scores goals, too. He also has a very positive attitude and will fit in well with our squad. "At 20, he is still developing as a player but he is already a member of the German national side and I think he will be a fantastic asset to our club." Sane's arrival in Manchester continues former Bayern Munich boss Guardiola's rebuilding of the City squad following the signings of Nolito, Ilkay Gundogan and Oleksandr Zinchenko. -—AFP



MAINZ: This is a Friday, Feb 12, 2016 file photo of Schalke's Leroy Sane during a German Bundesliga soccer match between FSV Mainz 05 and FC Schalke 04 in Mainz, Germany. Manchester City took its offseason spending close to \$100 million under new coach Pep Guardiola by signing Germany winger Leroy Sane from Schalke yesterday. —AP



## BENITEZ STAYS EN GARDE TO FIGHT FOR FAVELAS

Benitez balances the demands of her sport with her charity work in the favelas of Caracas and a career in politics, yet the 36-year-old has no intention of slowing down after this month's Rio Olympics.

The sabre specialist and former Venezuela sports minister is instead determined to inspire the next generation of fencers through her work with the underprivileged in the violent shanty towns of the country's capital.

"My first home was in Caracas's favelas," Benitez, who is making her fourth consecutive

Rio. "My work in Venezuela is based right there. For me it's neither dangerous nor complicated, I work the whole time in Venezuelan favelas and there are no problems if I help people.

"My foundation promotes our sport as we organise fencing exhibitions for the kids of the favelas... We also bring clothes and food.

"The sport is always good for the kids and the people who live in those conditions. I want them to look at all the good life that fencing can bring them."

The 2015 Pan American championship silver

**CARACAS:** Venezuelan fencer Alejandra appearance at an Olympics, told reporters in medallist, whose fencing career has spanned more than two decades, said she could not contemplate abandoning her sport, despite being urged to do so by the people around her. "Everyone tells me that I'm old, that I'm already 36 and I should retire from fencing, but I don't feel old and I want to go on competing," she added. "I've been 21 years in the world of fencing competitions but I haven't had enough yet." Benitez, who served as Venezuela's firstever female sports minister under President Nicolas Maduro in 2013, indicated she would also like to stay involved in politics and keep

fighting for the less fortunate members of her community.

"I always liked politics because there is even more combat than fencing," she said.

"I had been for five years a deputy of the Venezuelan congress, the National Assembly, and I worked on changing the law of sports in Venezuela. After this, Maduro called me to be the minister of sport.

"Even before getting into politics I had always tried to help my community and the children of Caracas, and the persons who are detained in prison."—Reuters



STOCKHOLM: In this Aug 24, 2013, file photo, Gwen Jorgensen, of the United States, carries the American flag as she wins the ITU World Triathlon elite race for women in Stockholm, Sweden. -—AP

## American Gwen Jorgensen big favorite in women's triathlon

**NEW YORK:** Gwen Jorgensen, the first American to win back-to-back world triathlon titles, could have been an accountant. She gave up on her Olympic dream as a teenager when she realized she couldn't swim fast enough and decided she'd go to college.

She spent three years on the swim team at Wisconsin, where she was an All-American and Big Ten track champion, and would parlay her master's degree and CPA into a job at Ernst & Young upon graduation.

Then she got a call from Barb Lindquist, at one time the world's top-ranked triathlete and a former Olympian. She told Jorgensen that she, too, could be a world-class triathlete if she took up biking and dedicated herself to the sport. Jorgensen thought back to her childhood dreams of being the next Amy Van Dyken or Brooke Bennett. "I was glued to the TV when they had Olympic trials on like they have now. It was just something that I really loved," Jorgensen said.

"But I came to the realization at a relatively young age, in high school, that I would never go to the Olympics in swimming. I just wasn't good enough. I wasn't making any national teams. I wasn't even making junior national teams. "So, I just thought I would never be an Olympian. And then when the USA Triathlon approached me, one of the first things they said was, 'You could be an Olympian.' And I was shocked. I basically laughed at them. I said, 'No, I tried than when I was younger and I

basically don't have what it takes." She gave it a shot in 2010 and realized Lindquist was right, she was a natural and her Olympic dream was back - even if triathlon as a sport wasn't that familiar to her. But she was hooked in no time and a few years later qualified for the London Games, where she was a

favorite. That's where the wheel came off. A flat tire doomed her to a 38th-place finish and fed her fire to make amends in Rio de Janeiro. "Every race is completely different and

that's something that I like about the sport, you go into the triathlon and you have no idea what could happen on race day and you have to be prepared for anything, which I think really makes it a hard race," Jorgensen said.

Throw in the massive hype, crowds and logistics at the Olympics and it's even more unpredictable. "Every race is different and the Olympics are more different," said Jorgensen, who is a heavy favorite in the women's race Aug. 20 at Copa Cabana Beach, where the men's race will be held Aug. 18. Jorgensen, who's from Waukesha, Wisconsin, has 17 career wins and 21 medals on the ITU World Triathlon Series circuit. The sport's two-time defending world champion, she had an unprecedented unbeaten streak stretching from May 2014 to April 2016 that produced a dozen consecutive first-place finishes. To ensure maximum energy and optimal condition for Brazil, Jorgensen eased up on her competition schedule this year and participated in races that were closer to her training base in Victoria-Gasteiz, Spain. "I have one goal this year and that is the Rio Olympics on Aug. 20," Jorgensen declared. Other things to know about triathlon at the Rio Games.

### **SPEED BUMP**

The 1,500-meter swim, a 24.9-mile bike ride and a 6.2-mile run on Copa Cabana Beach features a challenging hill that's sure to slow the competitors and could tucker them out.

"The course is really good. It's tough," said Jorgensen, who qualified for Rio by winning the triathlon test event on Aug. 2 on the course. "There's a big hill on the bike and I think that makes it an honest course and everyone is going to be tired. It's going to be interesting to see how quickly you run after ... that really hard bike ride."

### **ALL TIED UP**

A photo finish at the London Games led World Triathlon Series rankings. — AP

to Sweden's failed attempt to have the Court of Arbitration for Sport rule the women's triathlon a dead heat. CAS said the photo finish ruling was a "field of play" decision by the International Triathlon Union and couldn't be challenged.

That left Lisa Norden with a silver medal and Nicola Spirig of Switzerland with the gold. Spirig and Norden finished side by side and were given the same time at the end of the race, but officials ruled Spirig crossed the tape first.

### THE REST

Sarah True and Katie Zaferes join Jorgensen on the US team, which is by far the best in the world. Americans Greg Billington, Ben Kanute and Joe Maloy are longshots in the men's race, where Spain sports the world's top triathletes in Mario Mola and Fernando Alarza, currently 1-2 in the ITU



LONDON: This is a Sunday, July 29, 2012, file photo of Britain's Lizzie Armitstead holds the silver medal as she celebrates during the medal ceremony in the Women's Road Cycling race at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. —AP

### ARMITSTEAD WINS APPEAL AGAINST DOPING VIOLATIONS

**LONDON:** British cyclist Lizzie Armitstead won an appeal against an anti-doping violation, clearing the world road race champion to compete at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Armitstead missed three doping tests in a 12-month period, triggering a charge by U.K. Anti-Doping, a provisional suspension and the possibility of a two-year ban. She appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and a statement released on Armitstead's behalf on Monday said the first missed test - from August 2015 - was declared void by CAS because UKAD's doping control officer had failed to follow procedure. On Tuesday, UKAD confirmed the ruling by CAS. "We respect the outcome of the CAS hearing," said UKAD chief executive Nicole Sapstead, who added that the body was awaiting the written decision on why the violation was not upheld.

Armitstead said she has "always been and will always be a clean athlete and have been vocal in my anti-doping stance throughout my career." "I am pleased that CAS has accepted my position, having provided detailed information demonstrating the situation around my strikes," she said in

her statement. The 27-year-old Armitstead won a silver medal in the road race at the London Games in 2012 and is one of the favorites in Rio. She won gold at the road world championships in the United States in September.

Armitstead's first missed test came at a World Cup event in Sweden. The second was an administrative failure on Oct. 5 and the third was a missed test on June 9 following "an emergency change of plans due to a serious illness within her family." She was charged by UKAD with three whereabouts failures on July 11.

Sapstead said Armitstead "chose not to challenge the first and second Whereabouts Failures at the time they were asserted against her." "At the CAS hearing, Ms. Armitstead raised a defense in relation to the first Whereabouts Failure, which was accepted by the Panel," Sapstead said.

Armitstead did not dispute the last two faults at CAS. UKAD has a policy of not publicly disclosing provisional suspensions, or details of cases, until an anti-doping rule violation has deemed to have been committed. —AP

# IOC SLAMS ANTI-DOPING BODY AS GAMES LOOM

RIO DE JANEIRO: International Olympic Committee chief Thomas Bach yesterday demanded a sweeping overhaul of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) yesterday as Russian appeals against bans mounted just three days from the opening of the Rio Games.

Bach rejected the "nuclear option" of ordering a complete ban on Russian athletes over accusations of widespread state-organised doping. Two swimmers could be told yesterday whether their demand to be allowed to compete has been suc-

In a strongly-worded speech to the IOC, Bach called for WADA to be subjected to a thorough review, laying bare a growing rift between Olympic chiefs and the body responsible for leading the

global fight against doping. "Recent developments have shown that we need a full review of the WADA anti-doping system," Bach said. "The IOC is calling for a more robust and efficient anti-doping system. This requires clear responsibilities, more transparency, more independence and better worldwide harmonisation." A bombshell report by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren for WADA released last month accused Russia of organising state-backed doping with the sports ministry using secret services to evade drug testers and cover-up positive tests stretching back years.

### NO 'NUCLEAR OPTION'

Bach and the IOC came under fire after resisting calls to ban Russia completely from Rio. The IOC ordered individul federations to decide which Russians should be banned.

At least 117 competitors on a 387 Russian Olympic Committee entry list have been excluded. Bach said the "nuclear option" of a blanket ban was unacceptable. "The result is death and devastation. This is not what the Olympic movement stands for," Bach told delegates who voted overwhelming.

Members voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution backing the IOC's decision not to impose a blanket ban on Russia's athletes. Several delegates blasted WADA. Argentine IOC member Gerardo Werthein accused WADA of "grand-standing." "At times WADA has seemed to be more interested in publicity and self-promotion rather than doing its job as a regulator, acting with transparency, and looking after the best interest of clean athletes," Werthein told the meeting. Israeli member Alex Gilady meanwhile added: "I think it is not the reputation of the IOC which must be restored, but the reputation of WADA." WADA president Craig Reedie, who had called for a blanket ban on Russia, is to address the meeting today.

Russia's representative, Alexander Zhukov, suggested foreign governments had put pressure on the IOC to ban Russia. "We are witnessing direct interference of politics in sport; an attempt to influence decision making process for political means. The integrity of the Olympic family is all under attack," Zhukov said.

### **LEGAL IMBROGLIO**

The feud between the IOC and WADA came as the legal imbroglio triggered by the Russian scandal continued to dog the build-up to the games. The Court of Arbitration for Sport was expected to issue a ruling later Tuesday over whether Russian swimmers Vladimir Morozov and Nikita Lobintsev would be able to compete.

Representatives for Morozov and Lobintsev told Russian news agencies that both had been informed they would be allowed to swim in Rio.

"I can confirm that Lobintsev and Morozov are being allowed to compete in the Games," Lobintsev's agent, Andrei Mitkov, told the Interfax news agency.

In a separate drugs controversy, British cyclist Lizzie Armitstead has been cleared to race in the Olympics after winning an appeal against an antidoping rule violation.

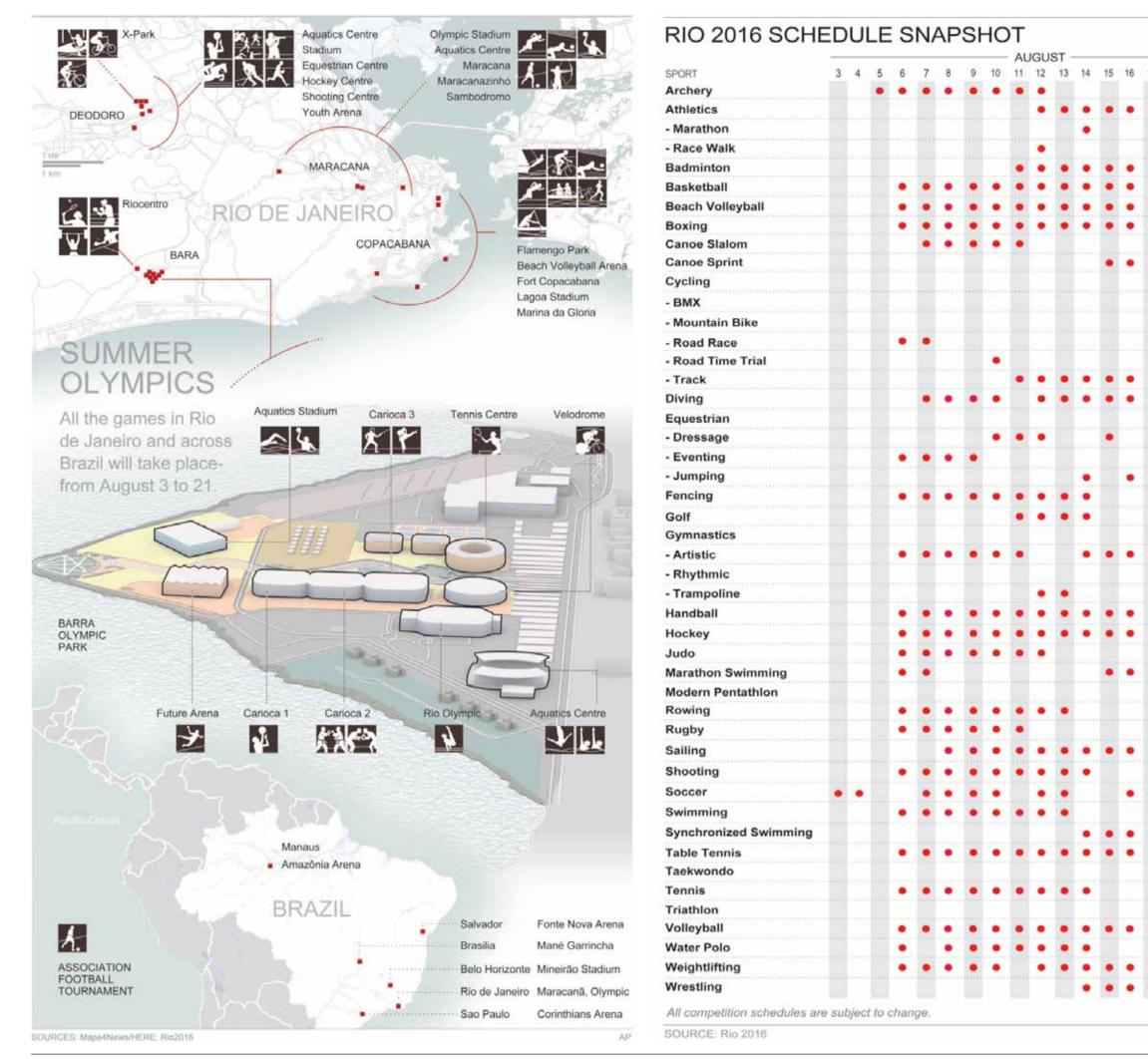
Armitstead faced a four-year ban after UK Anti-Doping found she had missed three tests in a 12month period. But CAS ruled the procedures surrounding her first whereabouts failure in 2015 had

not been followed correctly. Armitstead is seen as one of the favourites to win gold in Sunday's cycling race and is the reigning world champion. "I have always been and will always be a clean athlete and have been vocal in my anti-doping stance throughout my career," she said in a statement. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive member and current president of the World Anti-Doping Agency Britain's Sir Craig Reedie (R) watches the attendees as IOC executive member China's Yu Zaiqing raises his hand during a confidence vote during the 129th International Olympic Committee session, in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, ahead of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. —AFP





# 4 KENYAN-BORN RUNNERS JOIN ARMY, REPRESENT US AT RIO

FORT CARSON: Kenyan-born runner Hillary Bor won't be content with just wearing the red, white and blue at the Olympics. He's willing to protect his new country, too.

The sergeant in the US Army heads to Rio this month while his unit - which includes his older brother - is already deployed to Afghanistan. Bor stayed behind this time, but it could be his turn soon. That's the reality for Bor and three other runners of Kenyan descent who've taken a unique path to the Olympics through enlisting in the Army, earning U.S. citizenship, training with the military branch's World Class Athlete Program and making Team USA. They understand the risks. They've pledged allegiance to America - as soldiers to defend and now as runners hoping to bring home an Olympic medal. "I might be told tomorrow, 'Hey, pack your things, we're deploying.' I can't say, 'I have the Olympics coming up,' said Army specialist Paul Chelimo, who's from Iten, Kenva, and earned a spot in the 5,000 meters at US Trials in July. "Whatever happens from now to the Olympics, into the future, I'm here to follow the orders."

Simply the Army way of life for specialists Leonard Korir and Shadrack Kipchirchir, Chelimo and Bor. Korir hails from Iten, Kenya, and was a two-time NCAA champion at Iona

College before joining the Army in May 2015 as a motor transportation operator. He qualified in the 10,000 meters at trials.

Kipchirchir is from Eldoret, Kenya, and was an All-American at Oklahoma State University. He enlisted in June 2014 as a financial management technician. He's going in the 10,000. Bor, a 3,000-meter steeplechase runner, arrived from Eldoret as a teenager, running for lowa State and entering the military in July 2013. He's one of three Bor brothers in the Army - the other two following his lead.

Chelimo became a standout at University of North Carolina-Greensboro, before joining in May 2014. He balances his time between training and his duties as a water treatment specialist. "If you have a contract with a big shoe company, that's predictable - you know what's going to happen," Chelimo explained. "With the Army, you don't know."

### **WORLD CLASS**

All four are part of the Army's World Class Athlete Program, which formally began in 1997 and is designed to give soldier-athletes the support necessary to compete at the highest levels. The program - headquartered in Fort Carson, Colorado - includes a variety of sports, with more than a dozen soldier-athletes and

Olympics and Paralympics.

three coaches making the trip for the Rio

A number bolstered by the Kenyan-raised runners. "It's a pretty humbling moment to think that somebody would want to leave their country and come to yours and do so to the degree in which they would die for something they haven't even been a part of yet," said Army Capt. Matthew Hickey, who supervises the program. "WCAP provides a lot to the U.S. Army - we help train soldiers, help make more ready and resilient troops.

"However, if all hell broke loose, everybody in the US Army is a soldier first and expected to go deploy and defend the country." Bor was nearly sent to Afghanistan in February, when his unit needed either him or his brother to go.

His older brother, Julius, instantly volunteered. "It takes courage for someone to raise their hand and say, 'I'm going to fight for my country.' It's something I admire," Hillary Bor said. "He knew I had a chance to make the team." Growing up, Bor preferred soccer over running, which he didn't really even take seriously until after high school when his uncle, Barnaba Korir, a standout at Iowa State, enticed him to come to America and give college run-

Bor followed his uncle's lead to Ames, lowa. and in no time unlocked a talent for the steeplechase, a 3,000-meter race around the track that includes jumping over barriers and into water. Bor became a four-time All-American at Iowa State. After graduation, his running career seemed to hit a road block. So he took an assistant teaching position in New Mexico before joining the Army not so much as a path to Olympics - he didn't know about WCAP - but simply because, "I wanted to be American," he said. Later, his two older brothers followed his lead - Julius joining him at Fort Carson and Emmanuel at Fort Bliss, Texas. Bor's running career was rekindled through a timed two-mile run that's required for soldiers.

He finished in roughly 10 minutes. "Everyone was like, 'You should compete for the Army team," Bor said. Not as simple as that, though. First, he had to earn his place in WCAP by running a qualifying time. It took him nearly three years - and stepping up his training largely on his own - to earn inclusion.

A typical day for him went like this: Rise at dawn for training runs with an off-base coach, return to perform his Army tasks and train again at night. In May, Bor ran the necessary time to earn a spot in WCAP. And in July, he finished second at trials to secure his place in Rio.

Fittingly, Bor's first message was to his brother in Afghanistan. "This is not only for my brother, but for my whole unit," Bor said. "It's for every soldier that's deployed now." —AP



BEIJING: This file picture taken on August 25, 2015 shows China's Wang Jianan celebrating after winning the bronze medal in the final of the men's long jump athletics event at the 2015 IAAF World Championships at the "Bird's Nest" National Stadium in Beijing. China are sending their largest team to an overseas Olympics, but forecasters predict the 416 athletes will fail to match the country's greatest medal haul. — AFP

### CHINA SENDING BIGGEST TEAM BUT HOPES LIMITED

**BEIJING:** China are sending their largest team to an overseas Olympics, but forecasters predict the 416 athletes will fail to match the country's greatest medal haul.

Eight years after leading the world with 100 medals at Beijing 2008, China are expected to win 89 medals in Rio de Janeiro, according to a study from

Dartmouth College. Of those, 38 are predicted to be gold, behind an expected US tally of 48, said Camila Gonzales of Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business. In traditional strengths such as table tennis, badminton, weightlifting, shooting, gymnastics and diving, ageing or injured stars and fiercer competition have dampened expectations. Fans are pinning their hopes on figures such as Ma Long, the world's top-ranked table tennis player, and controversial star swimmer Sun Yang. The towering 1.98m Sun, 24, will be the most recognisable member of China's team after winning the 400m and 1500m freestyle at London 2012, but his current form is largely unknown after he missed the national championships in April with a foot injury. His biggest challenger could be Italy's Gregorio Paltrinieri, 21, who registered the second fastest swim in history-just three seconds behind Sun's 2012 world record — when winning the European Championship 1500m this year. Ma, who has dominated the ping-

pong rankings, was controversially omitted

by China's selectors for the 2012 Olympics singles. Ma finally won a global singles title at his fifth world championships last year, after a career that has raised questions about his mental resilience in showpiece finals.

### **GOLDEN HAT-TRICK BID**

Lin Dan, the 32-year-old badminton gold medallist in 2008 and 2012, looks to complete a golden hat-trick in his fourth and almost certainly final Olympics.

He will probably have to defeat his eternal rival Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia, who is back atop the world rankings after returning

from a doping ban last year. Lin beat Lee in both the Beijing and London Olympic finals but is in Rio drawn to meet him in the semi-final, with world number two Chen Long seeded to face Lin in what would be an all-China final. China have won the men's gymnastics team golds at both the last two Games, but will face a Japan line-up who won the world championships last year. In golf, Feng Shanshan and Lin Xiyu have strong medal hopes for the women while Wu Ashun and Li Haotong, who have both won on the European Tour in 2016, will fancy their chances of getting on the men's podium. On the track, the men's 4x100m team, who won silver at the 2015 World Championships in Beijing, aim to become the first Chinese team to reach the Olympic sprint relay final.—AFP



COLORADO: In this July 19, 2016 photo, Kenyan-born U.S. Army Sgt. Hillary Bor sits in the gym inside the US Army's World Class Athlete Program, at Fort Carson Army Base, outside Colorado Springs, Colo. Bor and three other runners of Kenyan descent have taken a unique path to the Olympics through enlisting in the Army, earning US citizenship, training with the military branch's World Class Athlete Program and making Team USA. —AP

Afghan's extreme geography attracts extreme sports



American Gwen
Jorgensen big
favorite in
women's triathlon



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016

COACH BAUZA PLANS TO WOO MESSI BACK FOR ARGENTINA

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ST PETERSBURG: Brad Miller #13 of the Tampa Bay Rays makes the throw to second base for the out on Cheslor Cuthbert of the Kansas City Royals to start off the double play by Lorenzo Cain to end the top of the sixth inning of a game on August 1, 2016 at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Florida. — AFP

# DUFFY HAS 16 KS IN 8 INNINGS, ROYALS BEAT RAYS

ST PETERSBURG: Danny Duffy pitched eight innings of one-hit ball and had a franchise-record 16 strikeouts to lead the Kansas City Royals to a 3-0 win over the Tampa Bay Rays on Monday night. Duffy (7-1) flirted with the Royals' first no-hitter in nearly 25 years before giving up a line-drive double to Desmond Jennings leading off the Tampa Bay eighth. Jennings came off the disabled list Monday after missing all of July with a strained hamstring. strained hamstring. Kendrys Morales' 18th home run, a towering shot over the center field wall off Rays starter Chris Archer (5-15), got the Royals on the scoreboard in the seventh. Kelvin Herrera pitched the ninth for his second save. Alcides Escobar and Lorenzo Cain drove in runs in the eighth for the Royals, who won for only the second time in 10 games.

### TWINS 12, INDIANS 5

Rookie Max Kepler had three two-run homers and six RBIs, leading Minnesota over Cleveland. The German-born Kepler homered off All-Star Danny Salazar in the first and third innings and hit another off Cody Anderson in the sixth. Kepler became the first Twin to homer three times in a game since Justin Morneau in 2007. He also had a single. Joe Mauer was 4 for 4 and homered in the eighth off Andrew Miller, who was making his first appearance with Cleveland after being acquired Sunday from the Yankees.

Jose Berrios (2-1) retired 15 straight after a three-run first inning. The rookie right-hander, recalled from Triple-A Rochester before the game, allowed four hits in six innings. Salazar (11-4) lost for the first time since May 22.

### CUBS 5, MARLINS 0

Kyle Hendricks allowed just seven hits in his second career shutout, providing Chicago's bullpen a needed breather. After a wild, 12-inning win a night earlier in which manager Joe Maddon used 22 players, Hendricks (10-7) threw 123 pitches and lowered his ERA to 2.22, third-best in the majors. He allowed three walks and struck out five. Anthony Rizzo finished a home run shy of the cycle and reached base five times, and Addison Russell had a two-run single in the first off wild Marlins starter Adam Conley (7-6).

### ASTROS 2, BLUE JAYS 1, 14 INNINGS

Carlos Correa hit an RBI double in the 14th inning off Scott Feldman hours after Feldman was traded from Houston to Toronto. Jose Altuve, who homered earlier in the game, opened the 14th with a single to shallow left field off Feldman (5-4), and Correa followed with his hit off the fence in right-center field. It gave Houston its ninth walkoff win this season, and 14th with its last at-bat. Michael Feliz (7-1) pitched a perfect 14th inning after

Chris Devenski pitched 4 1/3 perfect innings after entering the game in the ninth.

### YANKEES 6, METS 5, 10 INNINGS

Starlin Castro hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning and the Yankees hardly resembled a team resigned to fading away after selling off their stars at the trade deadline, rallying past the Mets in their Subway Series opener. Didi Gregorius hit a tying single with two outs in the eighth and new closer Dellin Betances worked out of a major iam for his first save this season. Hours after trading slugger Carlos Beltran and pitcher Ivan Nova before the nonwaiver deadline, the Yankees snapped a four-game slide. Wilmer Flores and rookie Matt Reynolds homered for the skidding Mets, who lost their fifth in six games as fans in the sellout crowd of 42,125 traded chants throughout the night following a hectic afternoon at Citi Field. Castro's RBI came off Seth Lugo (0-1). Adam Warren (1-0) got his first win since returning to the Yankees. Earlier in the day, the defending NL champions completed deals to land All-Star outfielder Jay Bruce and reacquire lefty Jon

### RED SOX 2, MARINERS 1

Mookie Betts homered to lead off the ninth inning, Craig Kimbrel got his 18th save in his return from knee surgery and Boston beat James Paxton and Seattle. Paxton held Boston to a run and four hits over eight innings before Betts hit his 22nd homer off closer Steve Cishek (2-6), who blew a three-run lead in the ninth inning Sunday against Chicago. Kimbrel made his first appearance since having surgery to repair a medial meniscus tear in his left knee. Junichi Tazawa (2-1) got the win with a scoreless eighth after Eduardo Rodriguez held Seattle to a run and three hits over 6 1/3 innings.

### NATIONALS 14, DIAMODNBACKS 1

Anthony Rendon drove in three runs, Daniel Murphy went 3 for 3 and Stephen Strasburg got his major league-leading 15th win. Strasburg (15-1) allowed a run and three hits in six innings, striking out six and walking two. He also had three hits and an RBI. Arizona starter Archie Bradley (4-7) gave up eight runs and 12 hits in 3 1/3 innings.

### PADRES 7, BREWERS 3

Yangervis Solarte drove in two runs, Travis Jankowski had three hits and two walks and San Diego beat Milwaukee. Carlos Villanueva (2-2) pitched 2 2/3 innings in relief of starter Jarred Cosart, allowing two runs and two hits. Villanueva was the first of four Padres relievers. Milwaukee's Jimmy Nelson (6-10) exited with four innings pitched and eight hits allowed. — AP

### SAUDI FEMALE RUNNER BREAKS BARRIERS IN RIO MARATHON

RIO DE JANEIRO: Pioneer Saudi sportswoman Sarah al-Attar has already raced at the Olympics, but now her campaign will become a marathon as she uses the Rio Games to break down barriers in the conservative king-

Attar turned heads in the head-to-toe outfit she patched together with her mother to race in the 800 metres at the 2012 London Games, where she was one of the first Saudi women Olympians.

This time Attar, now 23, will take on the gruelling 42 kilometer (26 mile) marathon race in Rio, where four Saudi women will take part. The women and seven Saudi men arrived in Rio on Monday, but were kept away from prying media.

Gender divisions are so sensitive that the Saudi Olympic Committee website did not name the women who will represent the country. Along with Attar, they are judoka Wujud Fahmi, fencer Lubna al-Omair and 100m runner Cariman Abu al-Jadail.

None qualified directly for their competition, but will take part with special invitations from the International Olympic Committee. Attar has no regrets and no doubts about running in London and Rio. "I was going for the women in Saudi Arabia, for all the young girls to have someone in the Olympics representing them, giving them a picture of something they could one day strive for," she said in a recent article for the Like The Wind runners' magazine.

Attar finished last in her 800 metres heat in London, more than half a minute behind her nearest rival. She still got a standing ovation when she crossed the line.

The Californian with Saudi-US nationality has never run under three hours in four attempts on the Boston marathon, but can no doubt expect a similar acclaim in Rio.

### CONSERVATIVE DRESS

Taking part in sport is not easy for Saudi women and finding women to go to the London Olympics was a challenge. Someone knew of the half-Saudi girl in California who liked running and so an invitation was made.

"My mom and I pieced together an outfit: a longsleeve shirt, full-length running tights, and a head cover we found online," Attar told Marie-Claire magazine. "I was proud to wear the uniform and liked that wearing the appropriate dress connected me to Saudi girls who want to run and have to be covered while they do it."

Since London, Attar has become a sponsored athlete training with elite women runners in Mammoth Lakes, California. Attar and her family have also noticed change in Saudi Arabia since the London Games.

Her father, Amer Attar, told the Washington Post how on a 2011 visit, when his daughter wanted to go on a run, he gave her a boyish "cap and warmup pants" and drove beside her. Last year, he saw men and women running together

in Jeddah. "I even saw a guy with his, I think, looked like his wife, and they were holding hands and running together. And she was wearing the abaya, and she was covered up, but they were actually running."

Still, the IOC has rejected a suggestion by a Saudi



LONDON: This file photo taken on Aug 8, 2012 shows Saudi Arabia's Sarah Al-Attar (right) competing in the women's 800m heats at the athletics event of the London 2012 Olympic Games in the capital. — AFP

Arabian official the conservative kingdom could jointly host the Olympics with neighbouring Bahrain, holding men's and women's events in separate states.

President Thomas Bach said "a commitment to 'non-discrimination' will be mandatory for all countries hoping to bid for the Olympics in the future".— AFP

### KUWAIT LOSES SWISS COURT CHALLENGE AGAINST IOC BAN

RIO DE JANEIRO: Kuwait has lost its Swiss court case against an International Olympic Committee (IOC) ban that will see the nation's athletes compete under the Olympic flag at the Rio Olympics, a source with direct knowledge of the decision said yesterday. The source told Reuters the Civil Court of the Canton of Vaud in Switzerland rejected Kuwait's case against the IOC, notifying the parties earlier yesterday.

Kuwait and the IOC have been at loggerheads over a new sports law that the Olympic body says will undermine the autonomy of sport in the country. Kuwait argues it will strengthen the independence of sports bodies. The court decision means Kuwait's nine athletes eligible to compete at the Rio Games in shooting, fencing and swimming, will do so as neutral athletes and will march into the Maracana stadium under the Olympic flag at Friday's opening ceremony.

The court also ordered Kuwait and its Public Authority for Sport (PAS) to pay the IOC about 10,000 euros (\$11,229.00) in fees and expenses. Kuwait has the right to appeal to the Swiss Federal court within 30 days of the decision. The ban, which was imposed in October, means the country's Olympic Committee, and consequently its athletes, are also not eligible for any funding from the IOC for the duration of the suspension and cannot take part in any IOC-linked event. — Reuters

Foiled coup costs Turkey economy 90 billion euro

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Australia cuts interest rate to record low 1.5%

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Japan approves new package to pump up growth

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## STOCKS DIP ON BANKS, OIL, JAPAN STIMULUS WOE

The state of the s

FRANKFURT: A pigeon flies away from a bridge in front of the towers of the banking district in Frankfurt, Germany. —AP

# STRESSED TIMES FOR EUROPE'S BANKS

### BANK STOCKS ACROSS EUROPE FAIL SHARPLY

**LONDON:** The results of recent stress tests of Europe's biggest banks should have reassured investors that the sector can withstand another crisis. A slump in share prices across the industry since the findings' publication on Friday suggests many have yet to be convinced. Yesterday, bank stocks across Europe - even those that were effectively given a clean bill of health by the European Banking Authority's tests - fell sharply for the second day running and weighed heavily on the wider market indexes.

The falls aren't just confined to Italy, where concerns over the health of the banking sector have been the most acute. Britain's Barclays PLC was down 3 percent while Germany's Commerzbank slid 6.4 percent and Italy's UniCredit fell another 5.1 percent. As a result, the main indexes in Europe were sharply lower, with Germany's DAX down 1.4 percent and France's CAC-40 falling 1.6 percent.

It's difficult to pin down a single reason why European banking stocks have taken such a battering this week. After all, Friday's stress tests into Europe's 51 biggest banks showed that only Italian bank Monte dei Paschi di Siena, or MPS, was severely underfunded. Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets in London, says the tests' findings failed to address many of the concerns investors have about the state of Europe's banks, including the rising costs they face for park-

ing their cash at the European Central Bank.

The ECB has in recent months been reducing its so-called deposit rate further below zero in the hope that banks opt to lend money rather than place it at the ECB. That rate is now minus 0.4 percent and many economists think it could be cut further in coming months as the ECB tries to encourage lending. "Skepticism that the EBA bank stress tests painted a far too rosy picture of the health of Europe's banks while paying no account of the current negative rate environment nor for that matter the fiscal health of Portuguese and Greek banks," Hewson said.

No banks from Portugal or Greece were assessed in the stress tests. And they are two countries still struggling with high debts and low growth, a backdrop that makes their banks susceptible to a new financial or economic crisis. Throughout Europe's debt crisis, it was clear that problems in one country can easily spill over to another. One country that saw a number of its banks assessed Friday was Italy. Italian banks have been worn down by some 360 billion euros (\$400 billion) in loans that won't be paid back in full as a result of years of crisis and subdued growth that's made it difficult for firms and households to service their debts.

The scale of the non-performing loans stands a little below 20 percent of the banks' total loan stock, a level that weighs on

their propensity and ability to lend. Given Italy's position as the euro-zone's third-largest economy, any major financial problems that put in doubt the state's own finances would create a new crisis for the currency bloc that could outweigh those of the past few years, notably in Greece. MPS, Italy's third-biggest lender, sought to get ahead of its poor result in the stress tests with a plan to offload a large chunk of its soured loans at a certain discount and a 5 billion euro (\$5.6 billion) capital increase.

The money injection from private sources avoids a potentially painful bailout for the Italian bank that under new EU rules would have imposed losses on creditors like bondholders, many of which are small savers in Italy. Though welcome, MPS' cash call has stoked expectations that other banks may have to do something similar and that has contributed to the wave of selling in stock markets this year, notably of Italian banks. "It's likely that the weakness in Italian banks in particular may be down to renewed fears that more recaps are needed in the sector," said Jim Reid a senior analyst at Deutsche Bank.

A related concern is that Italy's banks won't address their problems, partly because of the country's legal system, which makes foreclosure agreements far lengthier than elsewhere in Europe. And though the Italian government has acknowl-

edged the fragility of the banking system and introduced some modest reforms and legal changes, it may find it difficult to push the banks to shore up their finances given the new EU rules and the potential impact on savers. That's even more unappetizing for the government as it prepares for a referendum on political reforms and a possible election soon after.

As a result, the banks could just continue to stumble on, further hobbling an economy that's barely grown in years. "The real turning point for Italian banks will be when markets acknowledge that the stock of bad debts, also helped by the recent government initiatives, is on a downward trend and the banking system back in supporting the real economy," said Nicola Nobile, senior euro-zone economist at Oxford Economics.

Bank stocks have been under pressure for months, some more so than others. That was evident in the news that Deutsche Bank and Credit Suisse have been dropped from the Stoxx 50 index of leading European shares after their free-float market capitalization - outstanding shares that are traded times price - fell below limits set by the index rules. The two stocks fell further yesterday as their departure from the index means that funds that track top indexes readjust their investments. Deutsche Bank was down a further 3.6 percent, while Credit Suisse slumped 5.6 percent. —AP

# WEAK OIL AND GLOBAL BOURSES PULL DOWN GULF; EGYPT RISES

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Weak oil prices and global equity markets pulled down stocks in the Gulf yesterday, with some Saudi Arabian petrochemical shares and banks falling sharply, but Egypt edged up on the back of its currency's firmness in the unofficial market. The Saudi index sank 1.2 percent as petrochemical giant Saudi Basic Industries fell 1.5 percent and Saudi British Bank lost 2.7 percent.

But major retailer Jarir Marketing, which had dropped 18 percent from its June peak because of Saudi Arabia's economic slowdown, rebounded 2.5 percent. Dubai's index dropped 1.3 percent as Emaar Properties lost 1.6 percent, almost erasing its gain of the previous day after posting strong second-quarter earnings. Strong earnings from Abu Dhabi's Aldar Properties failed to boost that market, where the main index dropped 1.6 percent.

Aldar fell 2.1 percent after reporting a 9.7 percent rise in second-quarter net profit to 657.4 million dirhams (\$179 million), beating SICO Bahrain's forecast of 384.1 million. Abu Dhabi banking shares

were also very weak. Qatar outperformed, falling only 0.3 percent because of a 1.3 percent rise by Qatar National Bank, the market's biggest lender, to 154.50 riyals, its highest close since last November. But Vodafone Qatar, the most heavily traded stock, dropped 1.6 percent to 11.32 riyals after QNB Financial cut the stock to an 'underperform' rating, lowering its target price to 8.10 riyals from 9.30.

Egypt's index rose 0.6 percent as the Egyptian pound continued strengthening on the black market, suggesting short-term capital outflows may have eased or even halted on a net basis. Sentiment towards the pound has improved somewhat since last week's news that Egypt is negotiating an International Monetary Fund loan, although a devaluation of the official exchange rate is still widely expected. Oriental Weavers Carpet Co jumped 8.0 percent after reporting a second-quarter net profit of 178 million Egyptian pounds (\$20.05 million), up from 124 million pounds a year earlier. —Reuters

# LUFTHANSA WARNS EUROPEAN TERROR CREATING TURBULENCE

### GERMAN NEW CAR SALES DROP

FRANKFURT: German flag carrier Lufthansa warned yesterday that "horrific" terror attacks in Europe were having a "tangible impact" on business, with second-quarter profits down 17 percent. Net profits between April and June came in at 437 million euros (\$488 million), the group said, slightly below analysts' expectations, who had forecast a figure of 443 million euros."Horrific terror attacks are making people feel unsafe," chief executive Carsten Spohr said in a conference call with reporters yesterday.

"Because of repeated terror attacks in Europe and political and economic uncertainty, advance bookings, especially on long-haul flights to Europe, have fallen significantly," finance director Simone Menne said. The weak profits came despite the lower oil price, which resulted in a fuel cost boon of 597 million euros. For the full first half from January to June, Lufthansa's revenue slid 2.0 percent to 15 billion euros. Net profits took a 55 percent blow compared with the figure for the first half of

2015, falling to 429 million euros. Lufthansa said it expected full-year earnings stripping out costs for the year to come in below the previous year's.

Menne noted that the group had not benefited from the same one-off boosts

earnear to longest strike in the airline's history in
November 2015, Menne said. Lufthansa
d not had already said last month that the jitloosts tery atmosphere in Europe was hitting its

profits in 2016 after a compromise with



BARCELONA: Photo shows an airplane of the German airline Lufthansa landing at Barcelona's airport in El Prat de Llobregat. —AFP

in the second quarter this year as in 2015, when the group sold shares and enjoyed lower pension provisions due to changes in interest rates. But the group can look forward to a "positive effect" on operating

business and considered "a complete recovery as not likely anymore."

Meanwhile, new car registrations in Germany, a key indicator of consumer demand, suffered a sharp drop in July, official data showed yesterday. Almost 279,000 new cars took to the road in July 2016, down 3.9 percent compared with the same month last year, the federal transport authority KBA said. It was the first drop in new registrations after several months of growth. Over the seven months to July as a whole, new car registrations increased 5.4 percent compared with 2015's figures at just over two million.

Most German carmakers-which accounted for 64 percent of all registrations-saw falling numbers of new registrations in July. Volkswagen, the biggest German brand, continues to feel the effects of a diesel emissions scandal with registrations down 12.6 percent. Diesel vehicles overall saw a drop of 7.3 percent in new registrations. Meanwhile just 785 fully electric cars were registered in July, almost 20 percent fewer than the same month last year-despite a recently-introduced government program of cash incentives for buyers. —Agencies

# S KOREA SUSPENDS SALES OF MOST VOLKSWAGEN MODELS

### VW MULLS CHALLENGE, SAYS PENALTY IS 'MOST SEVERE

of most Volkswagen AG models in a fresh blow to the German automaker as it struggles to overcome the global repercussions of its emissionstest cheating scandal and rebuild its tattered image. The government revoked certification for 80 model variants of VW, Audi and Bentley vehicles, and fined Volkswagen 17.8 billion won (\$16.06 million) for allegedly forging documents on emissions or noise-level tests.

The move could slam the brakes on sales for Europe's biggest automaker in the Asian market, where its local unit had more than tripled revenue to 2.82 trillion won over the past five years before becoming mired in the emissions scandal. Volkswagen described the ruling as "most severe" and said it would consider a legal challenge. In all, 209,000 VW vehicles have been de-certified in South Korea, mainly over emissions-related problems, since November - or 68 percent of the

SEOUL: South Korea yesterday suspended sales vehicles the automaker had sold in the country since 2007, the environment ministry said.

> While South Korea is a relatively small market for Volkswagen, it is a major market for its luxury marques Audi and Bentley and one of the fastest-growing markets for all brands. It could take more than three months for the affected brands to be back on showroom floors, officials said. "It usually takes three months for vehicle certification, but this may take longer for Volkswagen, as we will take thorough steps," environment ministry director Hong Dong-gon told reporters. Any delay in recalls previously ordered over emissions test manipulation could be met with an order for VW to exchange those vehicles for other models, Hong added.

### Legal action

In a letter to customers posted on its South Korean homepage, Volkswagen said it would consider requesting an "injunction of execution". It also could take legal action against the government's decision "if this will help recover our company's business reputation and benefit our consumers, dealers and other partners," it added. Volkswagen voluntarily halted sales of most of its models in South Korea from July 25, ahead of the government's decision.

The company reported a 12 percent drop in quarterly profit at its main passenger car division last week, showing the challenges it still faces since admitting in September to using software to falsify pollution tests on some diesel cars. In addition to billions of dollars in costs related to the scandal, it is also tangled in legal action in the United States, Germany, South Korea and elsewhere. South Korea has taken a particularly tough line, with prosecutors raiding Volkswagen's Seoul offices and arresting an executive in June.— Reuters

# COUP COSTS TURKEY ECONOMY \$100 BN

**ISTANBUL:** The foiled coup attempt seeking to unseat the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has cost the Turkish economy 300 billion lira (\$100 billion/90 billion euro), the trade minister was quoted as saving vesterday. Customs and Commerce Minister Bulent Tufenkci was quoted as saying by the Hurriyet newspaper the heavy price tag may even go up but insisted that Turkey's economic fundamentals were solid. "Warplanes, helicopters, weapons, bombs, buildings: 300 billion lira. Maybe I am underestimating a bit," he said, referring to the heavy destruction on the night of the coup.

"It might go up even more," he said. But the minister warned that the entire picture should be seen in a medium-term context even if some investors had been put off in the short-term. "The putschists made Turkey seem like a third world country," he fumed. "They (investors) are not coming after the images revealed tanks were deployed on the streets, parliament was bombed," he said, adding that some foreign orders had been cancelled in the wake of the coup.

But Tufenkci said despite all this Turkey had managed to control the situation. "Had the coup taken place in another country, markets would not have opened earlier than in a week," he said. The coup took place on Friday July 15 but financial markets in Turkey opened as normal after the weekend. "The interest rates didn't rise extraordinarily. The stock exchange's losses have been limited. There's no need to revise growth or export figures. The nation has stood firm." The government has suspended annual leave of public sector personnel in the wake of the coup attempt, blamed by the government on supporters of US-based Islamic preacher Fethullah Gulen.

This measure has affected the tourism industry, already hit by foreigners staying away over security fears after a spate of attacks as well as a crisis with Russia. "Because of a ban on annual leave, one million (tourism) reservations had been cancelled," the minister said. The number of foreigners visiting Turkey dropped over 40 percent in June to its lowest level this year but there is optimism the Russians will come back after Ankara mended fences with Moscow. "From now on tourism will also rally," said Tufenkci. — AFP



ISTANBUL: A woman looks at to her mobile phone on a street near the Galata Tower, illuminated in Turkish flag colors at Galata district in Istanbul. — AFP

### ABK ENHANCES ONLINE BILL PAYMENT SERVICES



KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced last month the launch of its new online bill payment service, which is aimed to expand their consumers' online experiences, providing users with easy bill payment options and enabling the purchasing of US iTunes gift cards through eahli.com, offering instant usage of the digitally generated code with only a few clicks. The update to its online payment service currently runs a temporary promotion that includes a 10% cash back benefit for online banking consumers paying their bills to three of Kuwait's telecommunication providers namely: Ooredoo, Zain, and VIVA.

This benefit, as well as many other benefits aim to reflect on the newly introduced 'Simpler Banking' strategy, offering customers more convenience, security, and speed when paying bills and purchasing US iTunes cards. ABK's newly implemented online banking service is designed to help customers expand their banking and financial experiences on the web with a variety of online services and benefits ultimately adding to the customer's overall experience.

Hong Kong Dollar

### National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report At 02:00 PM Previous Day

# NBK

	Glot	oal Stock I	ndices			
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Chan	ge	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance
Dow Jones	18,432.24	18,404.51	-27.73	•	-0.15	5.62
NASDAQ	5,162.13	5,184.20	22.07	<b>A</b>	0.43	3.53
S&P 500	2,173.60	2,170.84	-2.76	V	-0.13	6.21
Financial Times	6,693.95	6,668.05	-25.90	•	-0.39	6.82
DAX	10,330.52	10,191.90	-138.62	•	-1.34	-5.13
CAC 40	4,409.17	4,348.72	-60.45	•	-1.37	-6.22
Swiss	8,127.20	8,053.69	-73.51	•	-0.90	-8.67
Nikkei 225	16,635.77	16,391.45	-244.32	•	-1.47	-13.88
Topix	1,321.83	1,300.20	-21.63	•	-1.64	-15.97
Hang Seng	21,891.37	22,129.14	237.77	<b>A</b>	1.09	0.98
Straits Times	2,892.52	2,856.67	-35.85	•	-1.24	-0.90

	MEI	NA Stock Ir	ndices			
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Char	nge	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	5,469.62	5,463.15	-6.47	•	-0.12	-2.66
Saudi Arabia	6,345.73	6,257.65	-88.08	•	-1.39	-8.19
Dubai	3,515.22	3,469.50	-45.72	•	-1.30	11.56
Abu Dhabi	4,580.15	4,507.35	-72.80	•	-1.59	6.34
Bahrain	1,161.39	1,161.80	0.41	<b>A</b>	0.04	-4.48
Qatar	10,680.50	10,650.86	-29.64	•	-0.28	2.41
Oman	5,860.70	5,856.28	-4.42	•	-0.08	8.41
Lebanon	1,153.18	1,151.01	-2.16	•	-0.19	-1.40
Jordan	2,118.18	2,128.48	10.30	<b>A</b>	0.49	-0.85
Egypt	7,930.14	7,971.36	41.22	<b>A</b>	0.52	13.19
Могоссо	9,859.95	9,866.50	6.55	<b>A</b>	0.07	10.47
Tunisia	5,342.74	5,333.36	-9.38	•	-0.18	5.96

Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.3170	3.2982	2.9471	2.4907	3.1857	335.62	4.3546
Saudi Riyal	0.08119		0.2678	0.2393	0.2022	0.2586	27.25	0.3535
US Dollar	0.30320	3.7345		0.8936	0.7552	0.9659	101.76	1.3203
Euro	0.33931	4.1793	1.1191		0.8455	1.0815	113.93	1.4778
Sterling Pound	0.40150	4.9452	1.3242	1.1827		1.2792	134.76	1.7483
Swiss Franc	0.31390	3.8663	1.0353	0.9246	0.7817		105.38	1.3669
Japanese Yen	0.00298	0.0367	0.0098	0.0088	0.0074	0.0095		0.0130
Australian Dollar	0.22964	2.8285	0.7574	0.6767	0.5720	0.7316	77.07	

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30320	3.7345	0.3742	3.6268	0.3831	3.6573	8.6800
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2982		12.3170	1.2342	11.9617	1.2636	12.0623	28.6280
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08119		0.1002	0.9712	0.1026	0.9793	2.3243
Bahraini Dinar	2.6723	0.81024	9.9797		9.6919	1.0238	9.7734	23.1955
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08360	1.0297	0.1032		0.1056	1.0084	2.3933
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.79140	9.7476	0.9767	9.4665		9.5461	22.6561
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08290	1.0211	0.1023	0.9917	0.1048		2.3733
Egyptian Pound	0.1152	0.03493	0.4302	0.0431	0.4178	0.0441	0.4213	

					2204000
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.44	1.63	1.94
US Dollar	0.44	0.49	0.76	1.12	1.44
Euro	-0.38	-0.36	-0.30	-0.19	-0.06
Sterling Pound	0.40	0.40	0.49	0.57	0.80
Swiss Franc	-0.81	-0.80	-0.75	-0.66	-0.51
Australian Dollar	1.81	1.79	1.61	1.55	1.50
Canadian Dollar	0.00	0.90	0.90	1.03	1.12

	Glo	bal Bond Yi	elds		
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-	Year
United States	0.70	1.10	1.55	2.	.30
Europe	-0.62	-0.49	-0.04	0.	.44
United Kingdom	0.19	0.37	0.80	1.	.64
		Commoditie	es		
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Char	nge	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	38.18	37.92	-0.26	•	-0.68	24.70
Brent	39.78	40.33	0.55	<b>A</b>	1.38	5.51
West Texas	40.10	40.00	-0.10	•	-0.25	7.41
Gold	1352.85	1357.10	4.25	<b>A</b>	0.31	21.55
Silver	20.40	20.67	0.27	<b>A</b>	1.32	32.11

Indian Rupee

Japanese Yen

Korean Won

Kenyan Shilling

Indonesian Rupiah

### **EXCHANGE RATES**

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

	<b>ASIAN COUNTRIE</b>
Japanese Yen	2.960
Indian Rupees	4.529
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Srilankan Rupees	2.078
Nepali Rupees	2.818
Singapore Dollar	226.290
Hongkong Dollar	38.998
Bangladesh Taka	3.857
Philippine Peso	6.444
Thai Baht	8.738

	GCC COUNTRIES
audi Riyal	80.723
atari Riyal	83.152
ni Riyal	786.253
ahraini Dinar	803.910
IAE Dirham	82.416

### **ARAB COUNTRIES** Egyptian Pound - Cash 30.750 Egyptian Pound - Transfer 34.462 Yemen Riyal/for 1000 1.215 Tunisian Dinar Jordanian Dinar 427.150 Lebanese Lira/for 1000 2.017 2.0157 Syrian Lira

Morocco Dirham

### **EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES** US Dollar Transfer 339.760 Sterling Pound

31.516

401.030

Canadian dollar	231,48
Turkish lira	101.61
Swiss Franc	314.50
Australian Dollar	229,48
US Dollar Buying	301.35
20 Gram 10 Gram 5 Gram	<b>GOLD</b> 271.550 138.700 70.190

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Воселисе	LACIDATOL C
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.650
Canadian Dollar	232.415
Sterling Pound	401.085
Euro	339.245
Swiss Frank	294.580
Bahrain Dinar	800.075
UAE Dirhams	82.630
Qatari Riyals	83.840
Saudi Riyals	81.430
Jordanian Dinar	426.460
Egyptian Pound	33.985
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.076
Indian Rupees	4.531
Pakistani Rupees	2.882
Bangladesh Taka	3.851
Philippines Pesso	6.435
Cyprus pound	159.500
Japanese Yen	3.915
Syrian Pound	2.400
Nepalese Rupees	3.815

Malaysian Ringgit	75.855
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.930
Thai Bhat	9.675
Turkish Lira	101.390

Bahrain Exchange Company				
CURRENCY	BUY Europe	SELL		
British Pound	0.393722	0.408722		
Czech Korune	0.004495	0.016495		
Danish Krone	0.041365	0.046365		
Euro	0.032150	0.0341150		
Norwegian Krone	0.031870	0.037070		
Romanian Leu	0.086745	0.086745		
Slovakia	0.009007	0.019007		
Swedish Krona	0.031320	0.036320		
Swiss Franc	0.305256	0.316256		
Turkish Lira	0.096819	0.107119		
	Australasia			
Australian Dollar	0.221624	0.233624		
New Zealand Dollar	0.211948	0.221448		
	America			
Canadian Dollar	0.226401	0.235401		
Georgina Lari	0.136578	0.136578		
US Dollars	0.298300	0.303000		
US Dollars Mint	0.298800	0.30300		
	Asia			
Bangladesh Taka	0.003384	0.003968		
Chinese Yuan	0.044074	0.047574		

0.036916

0.039666

	01000202	01000277
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072187	0.078187
Nepalese Rupee	0.002851	0.003021
Pakistan Rupee	0.002719	0.003009
Philippine Peso	0.006317	0.006617
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.220621	0.230621
South African Rand	0.015785	0.024285
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001655	0.002235
Taiwan	0.009299	0.009479
Thai Baht	0.008372	0.008922
	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.795553	0.804053
Egyptian Pound	0.025234	0.030352
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422358	0.431358
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019264	0.043264
Nigerian Naira	0.001246	0.001881
Omani Riyal	0.779035	0.784715
Qatar Riyal	0.082250	0.083700
Saudi Riyal	0.079553	0.080853
Syrian Pound	0.001281	0.001501
Tunisian Dinar	0.134032	0.142032
Turkish Lira	0.096819	0.107119
UAE Dirhams	0.080907	0.082607
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447

0.004346

0.000019

0.002878

0.003110

0.000262

0.004735

0.000025

0.003058

0.003110

0.000277

# ENGLISH HOME OWNERSHIP FALLS TO 30-YEAR LOW

**LONDON:** The widely-held English dream of buying your own home is under threat as rising costs have pushed ownership to the lowest level for 30 years, a new study revealed yesterday. More and more people are now forced to rent in the private sector, which is more expensive than a mortgage and can often be insecure, the Resolution Foundation said.

Research by the think tank found home ownership in England fell to 63.8 percent in February, a level last seen in 1986 and down from a peak of 70.8 percent in 2003. It is now lower than any other country in western Europe barring Germany, foundation analyst Stephen Clarke said, with affordability cited as the biggest barrier. The average firsttime buyer paid just under £30,000 for their new home in 1986, compared to £150,000 (\$198,500, 177,000 euros) now-and earnings have failed to

"This matters not just because of the frustration it brings for those unable to buy, but because of its impact on living standards too," Clarke wrote in a blog posting. "Housing costs have accounted for an increasing share of household income over recent decades." Property ownership has become something of a British national obsession since the 1980s, when then prime minister Margaret Thatcher allowed social housing tenants to buy their homes from the state at a reduced rate. The government's English Housing Survey report last month found that only one in ten renters said they preferred their current situation to buying-most were simply priced out.

Ministers have sought to help first-time buyers with a scheme that effectively lends them money for a deposit. Interest rates are also at a record low. But the percentage of people renting in the private sector-as opposed to the low-cost social sector-is up from 11 percent in 2003 to 19 percent in 2015. Private rent accounts on average 30 percent of income, while mortgages account for 23 percent, the foundation says. A study last month by Deloitte found Britain has the least affordable housing in Europe. Britons need to save almost 11 years to buy a new apartment, compared to 3.3 years in Germany and six to eight years in Ireland, Italy, Hungary, France and Poland.— AFP



LONDON: To Let signs stand next to a properties in west London yesterday. A new study has found that the proportion of people owning their homes in England has fallen to its lowest level in thirty years and that soaring prices have forced millions to abandon the dream of home ownership, with parts of northern and central England becoming increasingly unaffordable. — AP

### News

in brief

### Nestle to invest \$43 million in Philippines

MANILA: Swiss food giant Nestle said yesterday it would spend two billion pesos (\$43 million) in the Philippines on a plant to produce a key ingredient for its Milo beverage. Nestle Philippines chairman Jacques Reber said the plant, due to be completed in October 2017, would produce a malt extract currently imported from Singapore. Eventually the new plant will provide the local supply, possibly using Philippine-grown cassava which in turn will help Filipino farmers, Nestle said in a statement. Nestle already has five plants in the Philippines and has invested almost 14 billion pesos in the country over the last five years, the company said.

### **UAE's Aldar Properties** refinancing 1.8 bn dhs

ABU DHABI: Aldar Properties, the largest real estate firm in Abu Dhabi, has agreed with banks to refinance loans worth 1.8 billion dirhams (\$490.4 million) with longer maturities, its chief financial officer said yesterday. In February, Aldar said it planned to extend the lifespan of its 6 billion dirhams of total debt, which includes a \$750 million sukuk issue. Out of the 6 billion dirhams, bank loans constitute 3.2 billion dirhams, of which 1.8 billion dirhams is now being refinanced, Greg Fewer said. "This achieves a major objective for us this year to extend the duration of our loans and at attractive terms for five, seven and ten years on a bullet basis," he said. Under a bullet loan, the amount borrowed is repaid at the end of the term. The 1.8 billion dirhams of loans being refinanced were to mature at different points between December 2016 and 2018.

### **Pfizer beats Wall Street's** forecasts despite big drop

**NEW YORK:** Higher expenses offset a big jump in sales from an acquisition, as Pfizer Inc's second-quarter profit plunged 23 percent. The biggest US drugmaker still beat Wall Street's expectations. Pfizer yesterday reported net income of \$2.02 billion, or 33 cents per share, down from \$2.63 billion, or 42 cents per share, in 2015's second quarter. The New York-based company said earnings, adjusted for non-recurring costs and costs related to mergers and acquisitions, came to 64 cents per share. The average estimate of nine analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 62 cents per share. The maker of Viagra and the Prevnar 13 vaccine against pneumonia and other infections posted revenue of \$13.15 billion in the period, up 11 percent from a year earlier. Three analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$13 billion. Sales were boosted by last year's acquisition of sterile injectable drugmaker Hospira, as well as rising sales in emerging markets such as China and India.

### **Egypt studies 8 state-owned** companies for IPO or share

CAIRO: Egypt's Ministry of Investment will assess eight state-owned petroleum companies for their suitability for a possible listing on the Egyptian Stock Exchange or share issuances, Petroleum Minister Tarek El Molla said yesterday. The Egyptian presidency announced in January that Egypt would soon offer shares of "successful" state-owned companies and banks on the local bourse - its first public offering of government-owned firms since 2005, when it offered shares in Telecom Egypt, AMOC, and Sidi Kerir. "We sent the names of eight petroleum companies to the Ministry of Investment last week to be studied, paving the way to issuing some of their shares on the bourse or increasing their capital," El Molla said in a phone interview with Reuters. "Among the names we are studying are Middle East Oil Refinery (MIDOR) and the Egyptian Ethylene and Derivatives Company (ETHYDCO), and we are considering a capital increase for companies Alexandria Mineral Oils Co (AMOC), MIDOR, and Misr Fertilizers Production Company (MOPCO)."

# EURO HITS 5-WEEK HIGH

### Broadly negative tone for dollar continues

**LONDON:** The euro rose above \$1.12 for the first time in more than a month yesterday while a cut in Australian interest rates failed to weaken the Australian dollar as the fallout of poor GDP data continued to weigh on its US equivalent. The yen hit its strongest in three weeks, pushing past 102 yen per dollar for the first time since early July after Japan's cabinet approved a package of spending including 13.5 trillion yen in new fiscal meas-

The dollar has been sold steadily since surprisingly weak US second-quarter growth numbers last week, and dealers said even some improvement in US bond yields overnight had failed to turn that around. "Basically the dollar is just being sold," said Alvin Tan, a strategist with Societe Generale in London. "We have had a moderate dollar uptrend until the end of last week, but the combination of the dovish Fed (US Federal Reserve) and surprisingly weak second quarter numbers have caused some profit taking." The dollar index against a basket of six major currencies stood at 95.466, having fallen as low

as 95.384 last week when it posted its biggest fall in three months. Against the yen the dollar eased 0.6 percent to 101.76 yen. It was down 0.3 percent at \$1.1191 per euro, having traded as weak as \$1.1208 per euro. Weaker-than-expected US manufacturing data on Monday added to a new bout of gloom over global growth and nerves over the fate of banks in Europe were also high on the agenda as German banking shares fell.

Futures markets now price in less than a 40 percent chance of a rise in official US interest rates by December and the currency world's biggest banking player, Citi, said the largest flows in the past week had been into the euro and out of the dollar. In theory, worsened growth prospects should strengthen expectations of yet looser monetary policy in Europe and Japan and hence bode ill for the yen and the euro.

But while fiscal stimulus should also carry with it the risk of inflation and rising domestic share prices - factors that should weaken the yen - yesterday's moves look like an expression of doubts in markets that it will manage to stimulate growth at all. Crucially, the Bank of Japan last week looked far from ready to weigh in and support the government program with a crushing new round of yen printing - reflected in a rise in Japanese bond yields in the past few days. "There's quite a lot of skepticism in the market as to whether this fiscal pacakge can change anything," Tan said. "Japan has already tried this a number of times and everyone knows it's not really as big as the headline figure suggests."

If the Australian central bank had been looking for its own boost to exports by cutting interest rates and weakening the Aussie, it looked plain out of luck. After some initial losses after the Reserve Bank cut rates by a quarter point, the Australian currency was up 0.4 percent on the day at \$0.7561. "The market had already priced in the cut, so adverse moves against the pair were limited," said Tobias Davis, head of corporate treasury sales at Western Union in London. "I'm sure the RBA was hoping for a stronger reaction, aiming to keep the country's exports competitive."— Reuters



MUNICH: The logo of the German car manufacturer BMW is photographed at a BMWi Vision Future Interaction concept car in Munich, Germany. German automaker BMW released its second-quarter earnings yesterday. — AP

### BMW POWERS THROUGH SECOND QUARTER TOWARDS RECORD YEAR

FRANKFURT: A favorable world auto market helped German carmaker BMW to post profits 11 percent higher in the second quarter than the same period last year, results released yesterday showed. The Munich-based firm said that it had made 1.95 billion euros (\$2.2 billion) of profit on 25 billion euros of revenue.

Fuelled by strong results, BMW has "the financial headroom we need to pursue our work on future technologies such as electric mobility and automated driving," chairman Harald Krueger said. "We forecast slight increases, and hence new record figures, for sales volume and profit before tax in 2016," Krueger went on. BMW outdid predictions from analysts surveyed by Factset, who had been expecting profits of 1.69 billion euros.

Welcoming the results as "solid", analysts at DZ bank pointed to BMW's higher-than expected profitability on car sales as a key factor making it a "top pick" among German carmakers. But Deutsche Bank

analysts suggested that performance could fade in the second half of the year as the firm faces increased costs. Unit sales across BMW's three car brands-BMW, Mini, and Rolls Royce-hit 605,534 between April and June, a 5.7 percent increase on the same period in 2015. That brought underlying, or operating, profit to 2.7 billion euros-eight percent higher than the same period in 2015. Most of BMW's growth came from Europe and Asia, with unit sales up 11.2 percent and 7.3 percent. But unit sales in the Americas declined overall by 8 percent, with a double-digit drop of 10.2 percent in the important USA market. Growth was largely driven by increased orders for flagship models such as the BMW 7 series. The firm also said that electric models accounted for a larger proportion of vehicles sold. Customers in the Netherlands and Sweden were particularly keen, with electric cars accounting for double-digit proportions of BMW car sales in June in the two Western European nations. — AFP

### GERMAN'S COMMERZBANK WARNS OF FALLING PROFITS

FRANKFURT: Germany's second largest bank Commerzbank warned yesterday that its profits in 2016 would be lower than the previous year. "The interest rate environment and persistent customer caution in view of the geopolitical uncertainties will continue to weigh on income despite growth," the bank said in its second-quarter

Commerzbank has also been forced to ment of loans, with "ongoing difficult shipping markets"-where it has many borrowers-an important factor as global trade slows. The warning comes a week after preliminary second-quarter results showed that the bank's profits had slumped by almost a third compared with a year ago. A reduction in profit forecasts was "no big surprise given the challenging market environment," analysts at Equinet wrote.

But while low profitability remains a problem, "Commerzbank has successfully restructured its business in recent years and we see the bank well on its return to normality," they went on. Until now, the firm had set a target of a slight increase in profits over 2015's 1.05 billion euros (\$1.2 billion) - although it had been sending signals since early May that it might not achieve its ambition. Commerzbank's income last year allowed it to pay shareholders their first dividend since the 2008 financial crisis.

eight percent in early trading on the Frankfurt stock exchange, before recovering somewhat to post a 7.9 percent drop by midmorning. Investors had already been wary of the stock on Monday after results from European Banking Authority stress tests released Friday evening showed it trailing among 51 of the euro-zone's largest financial institutions. Commerzbank emerged from the "adverse" 2018 scenario run by the regulator with a core capital ratio of 7.4 percent-well below the average of 9.4 percent across the banks tested. — AFP



FRANKFURT: Photo shows the logo of German bank Commerzbank in front of the company's headquarters in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. — AFP

MUMBAI: Indian media representatives and railway workers gather near train coaches from Spanish manufacturer Talgo after their arrival at the Mumbai Central train terminal yesterday. The carriages arrived from country's capital New Delhi as a part of test run between the two cities. — AFP

## UK'S DIRECT LINE PROFIT BEATS OWN CONSENSUS, SHARES JUMP

Group, Britain's largest motor insurer, said its first-half profit was hurt by lower investment gains and the new Flood Re levy, but beat its own consensus estimates. Shares in the company jumped 7.8 percent to their highest since May 10 and recorded the biggest daily percentage gain ever. Direct Line, whose brands include Churchill, Green Flag and Privilege, said operating profit fell 5 percent to 316.9 million pounds (\$418.2 million) for the six months ended June 30, but was well above a company supplied consensus estimate of 263 million pounds.

Direct Line also said it would pay a special dividend of 10 pence per share and an interim dividend of 4.9 pence per share. The company said its combined operating ratio - the

**LONDON:** Direct Line Insurance sum of the loss, commission and expense ratios - from continuing operations was 89.6 percent. A number below 100 percent indicates a profit. Direct Line retained its forecast to achieve a full-year combined operating ratio from continuing operations between 93 percent and 95 percent, adding that if current trends continued, the ratio reported would be towards the lower end of the quidance.

> The company reported a levy of 24 million pounds from the Flood Re scheme, which was set up by the British government and industry to cut insurance costs for homes in flood-risk areas after severe flooding in recent years. On the new European capital rules for insurers that came in January 2016, Direct Line said its Solvency II capital ratio was 184 per

cent after dividends. Solvency II dictates the amount of capital an EU insurer must hold to reduce the risk of insolvency. The lower the ratio, the greater the chances of a company defaulting on its obligations.

Direct Line said gross written premiums from ongoing operations rose 3.9 percent to 1.61 billion pounds in the period, with a 2.5 percent rise in motor in-force policies. It was "business as usual" for day-to-day operations after Brexit, the insurer said, as it was a UK-based business that underwrites risks within the country. Direct Line said, however, that it was too early to quantify the impact on the wider economy, including asset prices. Shares in the company were up 7.5 percent at 381.9 pence at 0849 GMT, making them the top gainers on the FTSE 100 Index. — Reuters

# STOCKS DIP ON BANKS, OIL, JAPAN STIMULUS WOE

### **EUROPEAN SHARES HIT TWO-WEEK LOWS**

**LONDON:** European stocks fell to two-week lows yesterday, dragged down by banks, while the yen rose against the dollar and government bonds sold off after Japan's cabinet approved a fiscal stimulus package to revive the flagging economy. Oil fell again, with US crude dipping below \$40 a barrel as a supply glut weighed on prices. The pan-European STOXX 600 index fell 1.4 percent, hurt by a 3 percent fall to threeweek lows in banks.

They extended Monday's losses after Europe-wide stress tests on 51 European lenders cast doubts on the health of the sector. Credit Suisse fell 5.6 percent and Deutsche Bank 3.2 percent after index provider STOXX

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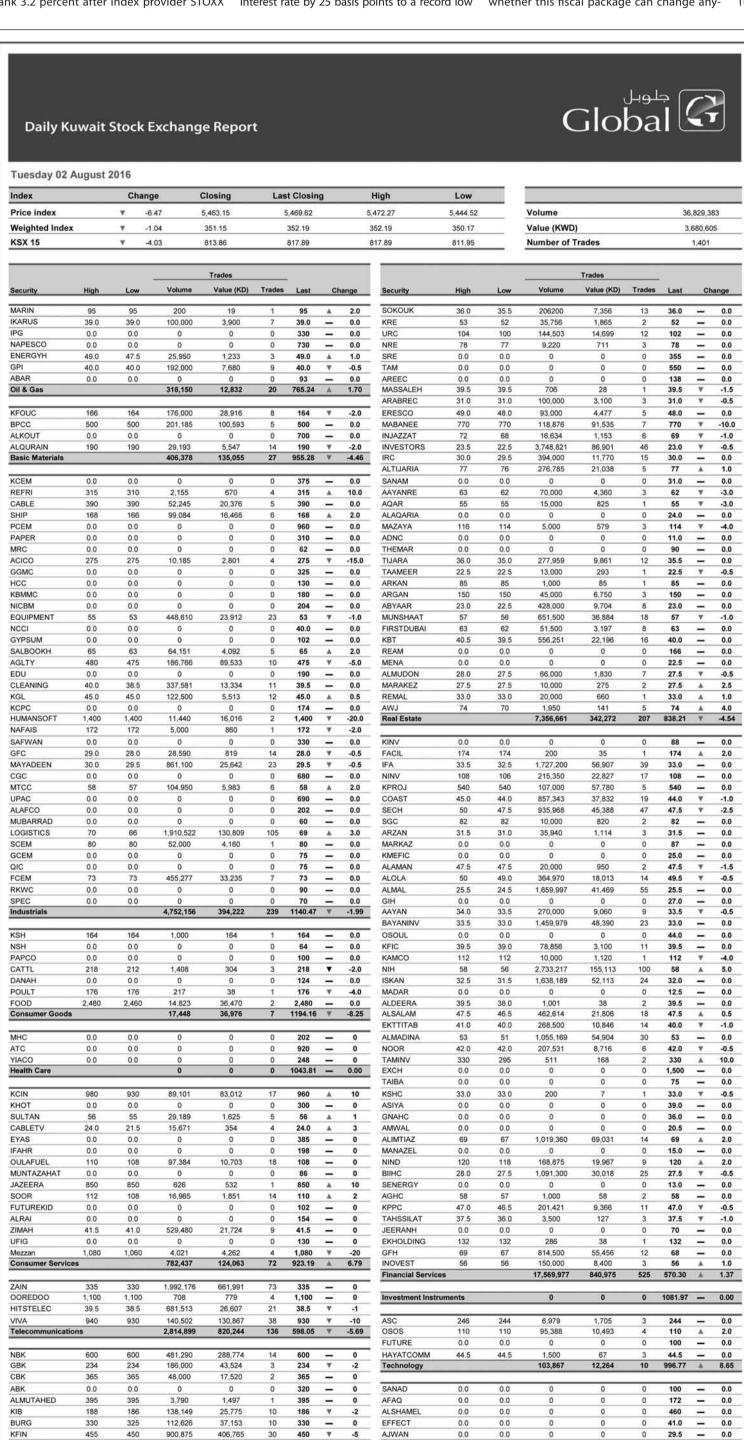
said the two banks would be dropped from Europe's STOXX Europe 50 index from next Monday. Germany's Commerzbank shares reached a record low, down more than 8 percent after it warned its earnings would fall this year because of customer caution and negative official interest rates.

Italy's Monte dei Paschi fell 6 percent and UniCredit 4 percent. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was down 0.4 percent, after the S&P 500 ended Monday 0.1 percent lower, despite reaching an intraday record high. Australian shares fell 0.8 percent after the Reserve Bank of Australia cut its main interest rate by 25 basis points to a record low

of 1.50 percent, as expected. Hong Kong trading was suspended as Typhoon Nida shut down most of the financial hub. Sliding oil prices and the stronger yen pushed Tokyo's Nikkei index down 1.5 percent.

The yen rose to its strongest in three weeks at 101.60 per dollar after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet approved yesterday 13.5 trillion yen (\$132.04 billion) in fiscal steps as part of efforts to revive Japan's economy. Last week, the Bank of Japan announced further easing steps, which disappointed investors who had hoped for more. "There's quite a lot of skepticism in the market as to whether this fiscal package can change anything. Japan has already tried this a number of times and everyone knows it's not really as big as the headline figure suggests," said Alvin Tan, a strategist at Societe Generale.

"What was exciting over the past month was the potential for monetary policy to act in coordination with the fiscal measures and we were definitely disappointed on that front last week. Coordination still seems a good way off." Japanese government bonds suffered their worst sell-off in more than three years on fears the BOJ would slow its bond-buying. That had a knock-on effect in the euro zone, where government bond yields rose across the board. German 10-year yields, the benchmark for borrowing costs in the bloc, rose 2.2 basis points to minus 0.13 percent. The dollar held near three-year lows after soft US economic data on Monday undermined the case for an early rate increase by the Federal Reserve. The dollar index against a basket of six major currencies fell 0.3 percent. It recorded its biggest decline in three months last week and has since struggled to recover. The Australian dollar fell as low as \$0.75 after the RBA decision, then recovered to trade up 0.3 percent at \$0.7560. Australian shares were 0.6 percent lower. US crude oil futures slipped back below \$40 a barrel. They fell to their lowest level since April on Monday on worries that a global oil glut is undercutting prices.— Reuters



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TOKYO: A man looks at an electronic stock in Tokyo. —AP	ndicator of a securities firm in
GOLD HITS	\$1,360

### PLATINUM HITS FRESH 14-MONTH HIGH

**LONDON:** Gold rose yesterday as European shares fell 1 percent and the dollar hit its lowest in over a month versus the euro, after last week's soft US growth data dented expectations for a near-term interest rate hike. Platinum group metals continued to shine, with platinum reaching its highest since May 2015 and palladium holding near the previous session's 14-month peak. Spot gold was up 0.5 percent at \$1,360.40 an ounce at 1205 GMT, while US gold futures for December delivery were up \$7.50 an ounce at \$1,367.10. "We had that poor US second-quarter GDP number which came out on Friday, and that seems to have given gold a bit of a leg-up," Societe Generale analyst Robin Bhar.

'That basically pushes back the likelihood of the next Fed rate increase, possibly now into 2017." Gold is highly sensitive to US interest rates, which lift the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion, while boosting the dollar, in which it is priced. European stocks fell to two-week lows yesterday, dragged down by banks, while the euro rose above \$1.12 for the first time in more than a month. The dollar has been sold steadily since surprisingly weak US second-quarter growth numbers last week.

The Federal Reserve should be cautious

on interest rate increases due to lingering risks to the US economy, New York Fed President William Dudley said on Monday, appearing to signal the chance of a hike by the end of the year was fading. A 28 percent rise in gold prices this year has largely been driven by a retreat in expectations that the Fed will soon hike US rates again, after lifting them for the first time in nearly a decade in December. Holdings of the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, SPDR Gold Shares, rose 5.9 tons on Monday, its biggest one-day inflow since

"While speculative financial investors are clearly withdrawing from gold, ETF investors are remaining loyal," Commerzbank said in a note. "They bought 8.4 tons of gold yesterday, which was the highest daily inflow in three weeks and the fourth consecutive daily inflow." Among other precious metals, platinum was 1 percent higher at \$1,168.25 an ounce yesterday, after touching a more than 14-month high of \$1,171.80 earlier in the day. Palladium was 0.5 percent higher at \$716.75 an ounce, after hitting a 13-month high of \$722.70 in the previous session. Silver was up 1.4 percent at \$20.68 an ounce. — Reuters

# **DIL EDGES HIGHER**

**LONDON:** Oil edged higher yesterday after falling by up to 10 percent in just one week, but investors remained concerned about oversupply weighing on prices. Global benchmark Brent crude was trading up 49 cents at \$42.63 a barrel at 1031 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was up 38 cents at \$40.44 a barrel, after briefly dipping below \$40. "There is much talk about the product glut replacing the oil glut, and this is a worrisome indicator for crude demand," said Frank Klumpp, oil analyst at Stuttgart-based Landesbank Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Global fuel inventories are brimming as refineries have churned out huge volumes of diesel, gasoline and jet fuel but the supply glut has diminished profit margins and demand has been unable to keep up with supply. Analysts said high crude and product production levels would continue to weigh on markets and that as a result, refiners were likely to reduce orders for new crude feedstocks, affecting demand for oil. "Weaker crude throughput at refineries will lower crude demand," BMI Research said.

Financial oil traders have taken note of the glut, with speculators taking on large volumes of bets that would profit from lower prices, known as shorts. "I see a strong build in shorts.

They are starting to reach excessive levels," said Hans van Cleef, ABN AMRO senior energy economist. US commercial crude inventories are expected to show a weekly fall after last week's unexpected rise in stocks broke a nine-week drawdown, according to a Reuters poll. Gasoline and distillate inventories are also expected to have fallen, the poll indicated. — Reuters

### MITSUBISHI SCANDAL PROBE FINDS UNREALISTIC GOALS, CONFLICTS

**TOKYO:** A group of lawyers asked by Mitsubishi Motors Corp to investigate mileage cheating at the Japanese automaker found a divided company that had set unrealistic goals, to which employees simply couldn't say, "No." The Tokyo-based automaker acknowledged in April it had systematically falsified mileage data on its eK wagon and eK Space minicars, also produced for Nissan Motor Co.

The investigative panel said yesterday such data falsifying went on for 25 years, and the wrongdoing was systematic, extensive and escalated with time. The probe, which included interviews with more than 150 people, found the company lacked a system for checking on the team assigned to improve mileage. The company said employees did not feel compelled to respect the law or fix the wrongdoing and each department was

concerned only with its own performance. "There was utterly no consciousness that the company must work as one to make and sell cars," the panel's 37-page

The government earlier found Mitsubishi had overstated mileage on its vehicles by up to 16 percent. Mitsubishi Motors, which makes the Outlander sport-utility vehicle and the i-MiEV electric car, struggled for years to win back consumer trust after an auto defects scandal in the early 2000s over cover-ups of problems such as failing brakes, faulty clutches and fuel tanks prone to falling off dating back to the 1970s.

Panel members, speaking at a news conference at the company's Tokyo headquarters, acknowledged their recommendations might not be followed, just as with past scandals. Shortly after the prob-



TOKYO: Vehicles are reflected in the mirror of the headquarters of Japan's auto maker Mitsubishi Motors in Tokyo. — AFP

lems were made public, Nissan announced it was taking a 34 percent stake in Mitsubishi to help its turnaround. The scandal surfaced after Nissan, which sold Mitsubishi minicars under its own brand, did its own tests and pointed out inconsistencies in data.

Mitsubishi has said it didn't lie about mileage on models sold overseas. The company is offering a cash rebate to customers in Japan who bought the vehicles for which it had reported inflated mileage, to make up for the extra gas. Mitsubishi Chairman Osamu Masuko, who helped engineer the Nissan deal, reiterated an apology and promised the company will penalize managers found responsible for the cheating. "We hope this will mark a new beginning for us as a manufacturer," he told reporters after the panel's findings were released. — AP

### AUSTRALIA CUTS INTEREST RATE TO A RECORD LOW 1.5 PERCENT

**ECONOMISTS FORECAST FURTHER CUTS AHEAD** 

**SYDNEY:** Australia's central bank dropped interest rates to a new record low yesterday after a recent run of soft inflation readings, with some economists forecasting further cuts ahead. The 25 basis point cut to 1.5 percent means the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has slashed rates by 300 basis points since November 2011 to support the economy as it transitions towards non-resources growth after a mining investment boom. "The board judged that prospects for sustainable growth in the economy, with inflation returning to target over time, would be improved by easing monetary policy at this meeting," bank governor Glenn Stevens said in a statement.

The decision follows official figures last month showing that consumer prices fell to a 17-year annual low of 1.0 percent in April-June, well off the RBA's inflation target of 2.0-3.0 percent. Treasurer Scott Morrison denied that the cut was a sign of a struggling economy, saying that Australia was posting 3.1 percent growth, while Stevens said it was unlikely to overheat the housing market. The majority of economists had forecast that the RBA, an inflation-targeting central bank, would cut interest rates, with 20 out of 25 surveyed by Bloomberg News predicting the move. The Australian dollar fell 0.4 percent to 75.09 US cents at 2.33pm in Sydney (0430 GMT), according to Bloomberg.

### More cuts expected

Commenting on the global economy, Stevens noted that the underlying pace of growth in Australia's largest trading partner China "appears to be moderating". Australia has been growing more strongly than most of the world's advanced economies but like most countries is struggling to kickstart inflation, with oil prices subdued and global trade tepid. Wages growth has also remained soft, while "labor market indicators continue to be somewhat mixed but are consistent with a modest pace of expansion in employment in the near term", Stevens said. "It's not that they've got a newly bearish view of the economy or that inflation was materially different from their expectations, it was more that they cut rates back in May and felt that they had room to do it further this month," National Australia Bank senior economist David de Garis said.

The rate cut is expected to take some time to feed through to possibly pushing up consumer prices, with the RBA's own forecasts in May expecting inflation to only lift towards the target band in late 2017 or in 2018. "We think that (low inflation) is going to persist for a while and we think that, on balance, the next few inflation prints are going to drive the RBA into more action, most likely in the first-half of next year," JP Morgan senior economist Ben Jarman said.

Leading Australian economist, Bill Evans of Westpac Bank, said the RBA was expected to sit on the sidelines and observe the next few growth and inflation readings before acting again, with uncertainty about the global economic environment also a key factor. "For us the real issue will be the environment in 2017 when the housing cycle will be in reverse; jobs growth may have cooled; global growth, particularly in this region, will have slowed further; and Australia's interest rates may still be attractive to international investors," Evans said in a note. — AFP



SYDNEY: A shopper looks at clothes in a store in Sydney. Australia's central bank cut interest rates to a new record-low yesterday in a widely expected decision after a recent run of soft inflation readings. — AFP

### SRI LANKA WITHDRAWS FREEHOLD LAND OFFER TO CHINESE COMPANY

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka said yesterday it was withdrawing permission for a Chinese company to buy the freehold to 20 hectares of land being reclaimed under a \$1.4 billion port project after India objected. Instead it will grant the state-owned construction company a 99year lease on the land next to the port in Colombo, under a new agreement. "India had a big concern about giving freehold land to China near the Colombo harbor," government spokesman Rajitha Senaratne told reporters.

"We have amended the agreement. There will be no freehold land but it will be on a 99-year lease." The government had put the project on hold pending a review of all the big-ticket agreements signed under the previous administration of Mahinda Rajapakse. The former president relied heavily on Chinese investment to rebuild the country's infrastructure after the end of the island's decades-long ethnic war in May 2009, a move which some say alienated India.

The Chinese-funded port was also controversial among environmentalists. Senaratne said the developers had agreed to drop a proposed Formula One track and increase public park space, and environmental safeguards would be put in place. The project is being funded by China Communications Construction Company and was launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in September 2014

during a visit to Colombo. Beijing has been accused of seeking to develop facilities around the Indian Ocean in a "string of pearls" strategy to counter the rise of rival India and secure its own economic

But Senaratne said the government had decided to go ahead with the project under new terms. Colombo would set up an offshore banking centre to compete with Dubai and Singapore, he said. The reclamation represents the biggestever single foreign investment in Sri Lanka. It will add 269 hectares (672 acres) of real estate in the congested capital, which has a population of over 650,000. Once completed, the Chinese will have 108 hectares (266 acres) on a 99-year lease for commercial development. Earlier, 20 hectares of that was to be on a freehold basis

Under the agreement, the Sri Lankan government will get 62 hectares (153 acres) and the rest will be public parks and access roads. China, the largest single lender to Sri Lanka, secured contracts to build roads, railways and ports under Rajapakse, who is under investigation over allegations of corruption during his decade in power. The administration of President Maithripala Sirisena says the terms negotiated by the previous government were unfavorable. But it has still decided to go ahead with many of the Chinese-funded projects. — AFP



TOKYO: Shoppers walk next to a clothing shop in Tokyo. Japan's Cabinet has approved a fresh economic stimulus package worth more than 28 trillion yen (\$275 billion) to help revive the country's stalling growth. — AP

# JAPANESE GOVT APPROVES \$130 BILLION FISCAL STEPS

### **BOJ DENIES CURBING STIMULUS**

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet approved 13.5 trillion yen (\$132 billion) in fiscal measures yesterday even as the central ank fought market speculation that it is prepa ing to put the brakes on monetary stimulus for the world's third-biggest economy.

The government's package includes 7.5 trillion yen in spending by the national and local governments, and earmarks 6 trillion yen from the Fiscal Investment and Loan Program, which is not included in the government's general budget.

But even before the announcement, Japanese government bonds saw their worst sell-off in more than three years as investors feared the Bank of Japan may ratchet back the pace of its aggressive government bond buying. The BOJ disappointed markets on Friday by keeping bond purchases steady, defying expectations it would hoover up more, and made traders even more nervous after announcing it would re-evaluate policies in September. Governor Haruhiko Kuroda declined to comment on the spike in JGB yields but said the planned review will not lead the BOJ to weaken its stimulus. "I don't think that would happen," Kuroda told reporters, when asked whether the promised "comprehensive review" might lead to reduced BOJ stimulus.

### **Concerted action**

Aso to discuss Abe's stimulus package. Kuroda shift toward his "second arrow" of fiscal policy government and BOJ efforts to defeat deflation. Yesterday morning, Abe said "We compiled today a strong economic package draft aimed at carrying out investment for the future." "With this package, we'll proceed to not just stimulate demand but also achieve sustainable economic growth led by private demand." The package's headline figure is 28.1 trillion yen, but it includes public-private partnerships and other amounts that are not direct government outlays and thus might not give an immediate boost to growth.

Abe last month ordered his government to craft a stimulus plan to revive an economy dogged by weak consumption, despite three years of his "Abenomics" mix of extremely accommodative monetary policy, flexible spending and structural reform promises. The BOJ's review has spooked investors, who are unsure how BOJ policy might change. The price of 10-year JGB futures closed down 0.91 point on Tuesday to 151.33, and has dropped 2.47 points in the last three sessions - the biggest three-day fall since May 2013. The expected appointment of Toshihiro Nikai, an advocate of big public works spending, to the No

2 post of Abe's ruling party in tandem with a cab-He spoke after meeting Finance Minister Taro inet reshuffle on Wednesday underscores Abe's amid concerns monetary easing is reaching limits. Precisely how the spending will be financed is unclear, although the government is considering issuing construction bonds when compiling a supplementary budget later this year. The stress on fiscal steps is raising doubts about Japan's ability to fix its already massive debt. The government estimates the stimulus would push up real gross domestic product by around 1.3 percent in the near term.

The package will be implemented over several years, officials added. SMBC Nikko Securities expects the package will push up real GDP growth by just 0.4 percentage point in the year ending March 2017 and 0.04 percentage point the next one. When public works spending and cash payouts fade late in the fiscal year ending March 2018, Japan "will likely face a fiscal cliff," said Koya Miyamae, senior economist at SMBC Nikko Securities. "To prevent a fiscal cliff, the government will likely repeat large-scale stimulus. Considering that a general election must be held by late 2018, direct government spending would become larger, which could further delay Japan's fiscal consolidation goal."— Reuters

# MYANMAR TOURISM BOOM SET TO BRING 7.5M VISITORS A YEAR

**YANGON:** Myanmar is hoping to lure 7.5 million tourists a year by 2019, an official said yesterday, as the impoverished former junta-ruled nation emerges as one of Southeast Asia's hot destinations. Travel to the once-cloistered country used to be reserved for the well-heeled and intrepid, prepared to endure the travails of a country under military rule with patchy electricity and limited communications.

But foreign tourists have flocked in since the country began opening up in 2011, with a celebrities such as pop stars Beyonce and Jay Z helping to popularize the message that the country is open for visitors.

This year Myanmar is on track to welcome 5.5 million tourists, nearly a million more than 2015, Tint Thwin, director-general of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism said. "We hope the number will grow to 7.5 million tourists per year within three years," he said on the sidelines of a major tourism conference in Yangon.

"We will try to find new destinations for tourists to visit and we will also support community-based tourism," he said in an effort to raise incomes in one of Asia's poorest countries. In comparison, neighboring Thailand-a regional tourism behemoth-received 30 million visitors last year, offering a tantalizing glimpse of the riches to be made. Curiosity in Myanmar's culture and natural beauty has surged in recent years in lockstep with the rollback of most international sanctions and the ascension of Aung San Suu Kyi's pro-democracy party to power. But

Hotels are expensive and often do not meet

the standards of more traveler-friendly countries like Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam. There have also been a number of incidents where tourist behavior has clashed with Myanmar's conservative culture. A Spanish tourist was deported last

leg in the Buddhist-majority country, while authorities are struggling to prevent the surging visitor numbers from damaging the vast Bagan temple site. Myanmar travel groups are also hoping to attract wealthier package tours to



YANGON: Visitors and devotees tour Myanmar's landmark Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. Myanmar is hoping to lure 7.5 million tourists a year by 2019, an official said yesterday, as the impoverished former junta-ruled nation emerges as one of Southeast Asia's hot destinations. — AFP

# BURGAN BANK GROUP REPORTS NET INCOME OF KD 17.1 M

announced yesterday its earnings for the second quarter and first half results for the financial year 2016. Burgan Bank Group reported net income of KD 17.1 million for the second quarter hence KD31.4 million for the first half of 2016. Earnings per share for the first half of the financial year 2016 stood at 12.8 Fils. Burgan Bank Group continues to register consistent growth in its leading indicators manifested by a solid growth in balance sheet and improved asset quality.

Loans and advances grew by 8% reaching KD 4.3 billion while customers deposits grew by 5% reaching 4.1 billion. Non-performing Assets ratio net of collateral drops to 1% with coverage ratio net of collaterals reaching 443%. Basel 3 Capital Adequacy Ratio stands at 16% at

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank Group the end of June 30, 2016. Majed Essa Al despite the sale of Jordan Kuwait Bank Ajeel, Chairman of Burgan Bank Group said: "Burgan Bank Group continues to navigate smartly amid the evident high economic and geopolitical volatilities thanks to the risk-savvy model we have managed to build through the previous years and the prudent actions that were taken by the management."

"The first six months of 2016 reported net income of KD 31.4 million also reflects solid performance when normalized for a like-to-like comparison (eliminating non-repetitive items) especially after the sale of Jordan Kuwait Bank for more efficient allocation of capital and for continuous growth. Therefore, Normalized net income mirrors 23% growth from the first half of 2015. A very solid true performance and growth and amid such volatilities. The leading indicators are pointing north." commented Al-Ajeel. "We started 2016 which can be classified as not ordinary year in terms of volatility with a prudent outlook. Nevertheless, we have managed to report good set of results in the first quarter with net income of KD14.3 million despite taking KD5 million in precautionary reserves. And once again, we report in the second quarter a good set of results with net income of KD17.1 million reflecting 20% growth from the first quarter despite also taking KD5 million in precautionary reserves.

The true solid performance is allowing us to take almost 17% of our earnings as precautionary reserves and out of prudence amid such economic back-



Majed Essa Al Ajeel, Chairman of **Burgan Bank Group** 

drop" Added Ajeel. "On behalf of the board, I take this opportunity to thank our customers and shareholders for their regulators; the Central Bank of Kuwait, for their support. I would also like to thank our executive management team for their leadership and the excellent execution of the corporate strategy, and to our staff for their continued support and commitment." concluded Al Ajeel.

The consolidated financials encompass the results of the Group's operations in Kuwait, and its share from its regional subsidiaries, namely Burgan Bank - Turkey, Gulf Bank Algeria, Bank of Baghdad, Tunis International Bank. Burgan Bank Group has one of the largest regional branch networks with more than 180 branches across Kuwait, Turkey, Algeria, Iraq, Tunis, Lebanon and representative offices in Dubai-United



TOKYO: A man looks at vehicles displayed in front of the headquarters of Japan's auto maker Honda Motor in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

# HONDA'S PROFIT DENTED

### AIRBAG CRISIS IMPACT FADES

**TOKYO:** Honda yesterday said quarterly net profit slipped from a year ago, despite the fading impact of an exploding airbag crisis at supplier Takata. The Japanese automaker blamed an income tax increase for its net profit in the April-June quarter slipping 6.1 percent to 174.6 billion yen (\$1.7 billion). However, the bottom line figure still beat market expectations owing to stronger sales in the United States and China, the world's biggest vehicle market.

Honda also said operating profit rose 11.5 percent as cost cuts helped offset a rally in the yen-which takes a bite out of exporters' profits-and temporary production shutdowns at factories in southern Japan. The region was hit by two strong earthquakes in April that left 49 dead and caused widespread damage. Some of the country's biggest firms, including Honda and rival Toyota, were hit by factory outages in the wake of the disaster. Last week. Japan's number-two automaker Nissan blamed the yen's surge and struggles in its home market for the first decline in April-June net profit in four years.

Toyota reports quarterly results this week. Japan's automakers have been sideswiped by the scandal at Takata, which is facing lawsuits, investigations and huge compensation costs over a defect that can send metal and plastic shrapnel from the airbag's inflator canister hurtling toward drivers and passengers when an airbag is

At least 13 people have died in accidents linked to the problems and scores more have been injured, while the crisis has sparked the recall of some 100 million airbags worldwide. The crisis has dragged on profits at Honda, which is Takata's biggest airbag customer.

The Civic sedan maker cited the parts scandal for a nearly 33 percent plunge in fiscal year to March net profit. Analysts said it may not be out of the woods yet. "Honda is expecting a recovery this fiscal year, but the future of the Takata recall issue is still uncertain," said Shigeru Matsumura, analyst at SMBC Friend Research Center. "Quality control costs remain Honda's top concern." Honda, also a major motorcycle producer, expects net profit in the current fiscal year to March 2017 to rise 13.2 percent to 390 billion yen. Revenue is forecast to fall 5.8 percent to 13.8 trillion yen. — AFP

### ETIHAD AIRWAYS' DREAMLINER LAUNCHES SHANGHAI SERVICES

ABU DHABI: A state-of-the-art Etihad Airways Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner touched down in Shanghai yesterday from Abu Dhabi on its first flight into China. The new Dreamliner features the airline's next-generation business and economy class cabins, and will operate with 299 seats, 28 in Business class and 271 in economy, representing a 14 per cent capacity increase on the route.

Flight EY862 from Abu Dhabi departed at 10.25pm yesterday from the Middle East arriving in Shanghai at 11.10am today. The inaugural flight from Shanghai (EY867) will depart again on 3 August at 00.30am, arriving back in Abu Dhabi at 6.15am the same day. To mark the event, guests were presented with commemorative certificates in Chinese and English, featuring Shanghai's iconic landmark, the Oriental Pearl Tower.

Peter Baumgartner, Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Airways, said: "Since launching flights between Shanghai and Abu Dhabi four years ago, we have experienced first-hand the huge growth of China's outbound tourism market and enjoyed strong demand from both business and leisure travelers." "The decision to upgrade to the Boeing 787 reflects the importance of Shanghai and China to the airline. Shanghai is a modern metropolis and a global economic, financial, trading and shipping centre, which underlines its importance within Etihad Airways' global network and supports the introduction of the new aircraft." Baumgartner continued: "The new Boeing 787 services will help to support the increasing demand for outbound tourism from Shanghai and its surrounding cities in Eastern China. The additional capacity will enable more Chinese business and leisure travelers to enjoy seamless one-stop connections over the Abu Dhabi hub to over 40 destinations across the Gulf region, Europe, Africa and South America."

China has recently surpassed the USA as the biggest business travel market in the world, according to the Global Business Travel Association, representing US\$291.2 billion spending on business travel in 2015. The Dreamliner will assist Etihad Airways' growing reputation amongst the business community in China, with the aircraft specifically catering

to the long-haul business market. The airline's world-renowned guest experience begins well before departure and lasts long after arrival. For example, its chauffeur service is available in over 30 cities globally including Beijing and Shanghai. At Terminal 3 in Abu Dhabi International Airport, guests pass through a dedicated premium check-in facility into the luxury of an exclusive Business Class Lounge, while a new flagship First Class Lounge & Spa opened at the end of May for first class guests and eligible Etihad Airways Partners

(EAP) Platinum Frequent Flyers. On the aircraft, the Business Studios offer direct aisle access, a fully-flat bed of up to 80.5 inches long, and an increase of 20 per cent in personal space. Upholstered in the finest Poltrona Frau leather, the Business Studio is equipped with an in-seat massage and pneumatic cushion control system which enables guests to adjust the firmness and comfort of their seat. Each Business Studio has an 18-inch personal touch-screen TV with noise-cancelling headsets.

Business guests also have access to three choices of main course on the menu, with a dine-on-demand option for travelers who wish to choose when to eat. Each business guest also receives a customized Etihad Airways LUXE amenity kit, inspired by some of the iconic cities on the airline's extensive global network. Passengers on board have access to a dedicated food and beverage manager, a multi-national crew and the airline's well known Flying Nannies, who provide assistance to parents

travelling with young children. For inflight entertainment, Etihad Airwavs currently operates the latest Panasonic eX3 IFE system on its flagship fleet of Boeing 787s and Airbus A380s. Guests can also enjoy mobile connectivity, access to onboard Wi-Fi and seven satellite channels of live TV on many aircraft. For economy passengers, the airline's Smart Seats provide enhanced comfort with a unique 'fixed wing' headrest, adjustable lumbar support, a seat width of approximately 19 inches and an 11.1" personal TV monitor on each seat. The aircraft has been designed for optimum long-haul travel with enhancements including humidity controls while air pressure levels are set to ensure a smoother flight allowing guests to arrive feeling fresher on arrival.

Shanghai is the seventh destination in the world to be served by Etihad Airways' B787-9 Dreamliner aircraft with the aircraft also deployed to Perth, Brisbane, Singapore, Washington DC, Zurich and D, sseldorf. Etihad Airways first launched a five-times-a-week two-class Airbus A330-200 services to Shanghai in March 2012. With a further 62 Boeing 787 Dreamliners scheduled for delivery over the next few years, the aircraft will become the mainstay of Etihad Airways' long-

# **CONSUMER SPENDING EXITS** 2 WITH STRONG MOMENTUM

Core PCE price index edges up 0.1%

WASHINGTON: US consumer spending rose more than expected in June as households bought a range of goods and services, suggesting consumption will likely remain strong after surging in the second quarter. Despite healthy consumer spending yesterday's report from the Commerce Department showed inflation still muted. This could see a cautious Federal Reserve keeping interest rates at current low levels for a while.

Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity, increased 0.4 percent in June after a similar gain in May. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast consumer spending advancing 0.3 percent. When adjusted for inflation, consumer spending rose 0.3 percent after climbing 0.2 percent in May. The dollar trimmed losses against the euro and yen after the data. Prices for US government debt also pared losses, while US stock futures were trading lower.

The June data was included in last week's second-quarter gross domestic product report, which showed that consumer spending rose at a 4.2 percent annual rate, the fastest in nearly two years. That jump accounted for almost all of the economy's 1.2 percent growth pace during the period. While the second quarter's robust pace of consumer spending will probably not be sustained, economists are optimistic that spending will remain solid, underpinned by steadily increasing wages as the labor market tightens, as well as rising house and stock market prices.

There was little sign of inflation in June. The personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index, excluding the volatile food and energy components, rose 0.1 percent in June after a 0.2 percent gain in May. In the 12 months through



CHICAGO: Consumers hold shopping bags as they walk along Michigan Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP

June the core PCE increased 1.6 percent. It has risen by the same margin since March. The core PCE is the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation measure and is running below the US central bank's 2 percent target.

Consumer spending in June was lifted by a 0.7 percent rise in purchases of non-durable goods. Spending on services increased 0.5 per-

cent, but outlays on long-lasting manufactured goods such as automobiles fell 0.3 percent. Spending increased despite personal income rising only 0.2 percent in June after a similar gain in May. Wages and salaries advanced 0.3 percent after rising 0.2 percent in May. With spending outpacing income, savings fell to \$732 billion, the lowest level since March 2015. — Reuters

# KUWAIT BUDGET KEEPS SPENDING UNCHANGED

### **NBK Economic Update**

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly recently approved the budget for the fiscal year 2016/17 (FY16/17) with an official deficit projection of KD 8.7billion, or 26% of GDP. The deficit, before the mandatory transfer to the Future Generations Fund (FGF), is likely to be significantly smaller as the price of oil for the fiscal year is expected to average above the \$35 per barrel assumed in the budget. We estimate a deficit of 13% of GDP, comparable to last year's.

The persistent budget deficit, a result of sustained low oil prices, will be partly financed by sovereign bond issuance; it has also triggered much needed fiscal and structural reform. The government budget projects a third consecutive year of revenue decline due to lower oil prices. Total revenues are seen 16% lower in FY16/17, at KD 10.2 billion. While the budget assumes slightly higher oil production of 2.8 million barrels per day, oil revenues are seen declining on a lower oil price assumption of \$35 per barrel, compared to last year's \$45.

With oil prices currently hovering around \$40 per barrel, we expect oil revenues to be around 35-40% higher than official projections, and to be mostly unchanged from the year before. Meanwhile, non-oil revenues are budgeted at KD 1.6 billion, up 11% from the previous year, though they remain a small share of total revenues. Government spending is projected to decline only slightly, on the heels of a year which saw overall spending cut

Allocated expenditures in the budget were reduced by 1.5% to KD 18.9 billion, though the two largest chapters, wages and salaries and miscellaneous & transfers, are to grow by 2.7% and 1.5%, respectively. Expenditures on goods and services and projects, maintenance and land purchases are set to decline by 14% and 13%, respectively.

Overall government capital spending is expected to maintain healthy levels despite the lower oil price environment. While the budget allocates KD 2.2 billion in projects, maintenance & land purchases and transportation & equipment, 8.4% lower than the previous year and the lowest level in six years, the figure does not include around KD 1 billion in additional onbudget development plan projects

FY15/16 FY16/17 KD bn KD bn % y/y -16.1 Revenues 12.2 10.2 10.8 -19.8Non-oil 1.5 1.6 11.2 Expenditures 19.2 18.9 -1.5 Wages & salaries 5.4 5.5 2.7 Goods & services 2.2 -13.90.3 0.4 23.5 Transportation & equipment Projects, maintenance & land purchases 1.8 -12.82.1 Miscellaneous & transfers 8.8 9.0 1.5 Surplus (deficit) before FGF -7.0 -8.7 24.0 Future Generations Fund (FGF) 1.2 1.0 -16.1Surplus (deficit) after FGF -9.7 18.0

Budget revenues and expenditures (official projections)

allocated for the year and included in miscellaneous expenditures & transfers. As a result, total on-budget capital spending is expected to rise by 2.7% to KD 3.3 billion, according to earlier announcements of the draft budget. The bulk of government development plan projects are offbudget and their spending pace is picking up. Those include projects in the oil sector and public-private partnerships (PPP). According to MEED Projects, the pace of awards of government projects has remained healthy, with KD 2.25 billion worth of projects awarded during the first half of 2016. Another KD 8.4 billion could be awarded before the end of the year.

The National Assembly approved financing part of the budget deficit by raising KD 5 billion in local and international bonds and sukuk during FY16/17. Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh said that the ministry will borrow KD 2 billion through dinar issuances in the local market. The ministry already raised KD 900 million

in government bonds and sukuk dur-Chart 1: Budget balance (% GDP, before FGF) 35 KD bn (LHS) 30 12 25 10 20 15 10 5 -4 10/11 11/12 12/13 13/14 14/15 15/16 16/17f Source: Ministry of Finance, Central Statistical Bureau, NBK estimates

ing the first four months of FY16/17. The ministry plans to borrow a further KD 3 billion from international markets, in instruments denominated in foreign currency. The rest of the deficit will be financed by withdrawals from the General Reserve Fund (GRF).

In March 2016, the government approved a reform plan in an effort to reduce the fiscal deficit and address other imbalances in the economy in the medium term. The plan includes significant cuts in subsidies, and the introduction of a corporate income tax and a value added tax (VAT). In a first step, the National Assembly (NA) approved increases in electricity tariffs to take effect in September 2017; electricity and water subsidies currently eat up over half the subsidy bill. While the step was a historic move, the NA approved a watered down version of the cuts which should still save

the budget around 1% of GDP. The government is also looking to introduce new taxes to boost nonoil revenues, though not before 2019. The government has proposed a 10% corporate income tax on local and foreign companies. The new tax is expected to replace existing taxes on corporate earnings in a measure that will broaden the tax base. Authorities are also preparing to introduce a 5% VAT in conjunction with other GCC countries. Both measures will require legislation and already appear to be behind schedule.



HOUSTON: In this Oct 8, 2015, file photo, Southwest Airlines CEO Gary Kelly speaks during a preview of the new international concourse at Houston Hobby Airport.—AP

# OUSTER OF SOUTHWEST CEO SOUGHT AFTER IT BREAKDOWN

DALLAS: Two major unions at Southwest Airlines are demanding that the carrier replace its CEO because of the technology outage that caused the airline to cancel or delay thousands of flights in July. Technology experts are questioning whether Southwest fell short in designing and testing its computer systems. A top Southwest executive told AP on Monday that the July 20 outage will cost the airline "into the tens of millions" of dollars - a huge increase in the original estimate of between \$5 million and \$10 million.

The company will recover many bookings that were lost while its website was down, said Robert Jordan, Southwest's executive vice president and chief commercial officer. But it will lose money from a "couple hundred thousand people" whose flights were canceled and from refunds to stranded passengers, he said. Jordan said the outage was the worst he could recall in his 28 years at Southwest, the nation's fourth-biggest airline. It has become a rallying point for unions who believe they deserve raises while Southwest Airlines Co. earns record profits.

The pilots' union said that its board voted 20-0 to ask that Chairman and CEO Gary Kelly and Chief Operating Officer Mike Van de Ven be removed. Union President Jon Weaks said the company had focused too much on controlling costs and buying back its own shares and not enough to upgrade "critically outdated IT infrastructure and flight operations". The leader of the mechanics' union, Louie Key, said the outage was the "final straw" on top of unsettled contract negotiations and other disappointments.

Southwest's senior vice president of labor relations, Randy Babbitt, said union demands were just part of the contract-bargaining process. "Their maneuvering is not about our leaders. It's not about 'IT infrastructure," Randy Babbitt said in a statement released by the company. "This is about the union's approach to contract discussions and its attempt to gain leverage in negotiations." Southwest officials blamed a faulty router for a July 20 outage that briefly grounded all flights. Southwest struggled for several more days with unusually high cancelations and delays.

The outage briefly caused Southwest to delay all departures and hold planes at their gates. Passengers couldn't check in for flights electronically, and customers couldn't book new flights. The outage lasted about 12 hours, but Southwest said that it canceled 2,300 flights - 12 percent of its schedule - over five days as it struggled to recover. Southwest did not say how many flights were delayed during that period, but tracking service FlightStats put the number at more than 8,000.

Independent experts in information technology said the outage was probably more complex than a single failed router. Routers connect networks and help sections communicate with each other, and networks are designed to avoid so-called single points of failure. "You can't blame the router. The router triggered a chain reaction that should not have happened," said Doron Pinhas, chief technology officer of Continuity Software Inc. He said it was likely that Southwest didn't test its system adequately to see what would happen when that part failed.

Lev Lesokhin, executive vice president of Cast, a software-analysis company, said Southwest's explanation "doesn't add up". "When you have an outage like this that lasts as long as this one did and takes as long to put back on track, that's typically a software issue," which is much more complex, he said. Jordan, the Southwest executive vice president, said that a Cisco router, one of about 2,000 in the airline's network, failed "in a very abnormal way." The router did not send messages to other parts of the network or connect with backup systems, he said.

Jordan said Southwest's routers are designed to last seven years but are replaced more frequently. He said the airline's network had plenty of redundancies built in, but that the company was still studying the outage. Oversight of computer systems "is primarily done by Southwest Airlines now," Jordan said, "and as we transition to a new data center over the next year, that will change" and mostly be handled by contractors. The decision to contract out much of the data center work was made long before last month's outage, he said. —AP

# HACKERS ACCESSED TELEGRAM MESSAGING ACCOUNTS IN IRAN

SAN FRANCISCO/WASHINGTON: Iranian hackers have compromised more than a dozen accounts on the Telegram instant messaging service and identified the phone numbers of 15 million Iranian users, the largest known breach of the encrypted communications system, cyber researchers told Reuters. The attacks, which took place this year and have not been previously reported, jeopardized the communications of activists, journalists and other people in sensitive positions in Iran, where Telegram is used by some 20 million people, said independent cyber researcher Collin Anderson and

hacking groups for three years.

Telegram promotes itself as an ultra secure instant messaging system because all data is encrypted from start to finish, known in the industry as end-to-end encryption. A number of other messaging services, including Facebook Inc's WhatsApp, say they have similar capabilities. Headquartered in Berlin, Telegram says it has 100 million active subscribers and is widely used in the Middle East, including by the Islamic State militant group, as well as in Central and Southeast Asia, and Latin America.

Amnesty International technologist Claudio

Guarnieri, who have been studying Iranian

Telegram's vulnerability, according to Anderson and Guarnieri, lies in its use of SMS text messages to activate new devices. When users want to log on to Telegram from a new phone, the company sends them authorization codes via SMS, which can be intercepted by the phone company and shared with the hackers, the researchers said. Armed with the codes, the hackers can add new devices to a person's Telegram account, enabling them to read chat histories as well as new messages. "We have over a dozen cases in which Telegram accounts have been compromised, through ways that sound like basically coordination with the cellphone company," Anderson said in an interview.

Telegram's reliance on SMS verification makes it vulnerable in any country where cellphone companies are owned or heavily influenced by the government, the researchers said. A spokesman for Telegram said customers can defend against such attacks by not just relying on SMS verification. Telegram allows - though it does not require - customers to create passwords, which can be reset with so-called "recov-

ery" emails. "If you have a strong Telegram password and your recovery email is secure, there's nothing an attacker can do," said Markus Ra, the spokesman. Iranian officials were not available to comment. Iran has in the past denied government links to hacking.

### Rocket Kitten

The Telegram hackers, the researchers said, belonged to a group known as Rocket Kitten, which used Persian-language references in their code and carried out "a common pattern of spearphishing campaigns reflecting the interests and activities of the Iranian security apparatus". Anderson and Guarnieri declined to comment on whether the hackers were employed by the Iranian government. Other cyber experts have said Rocket Kitten's attacks were similar to ones attributed to Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards.

The researchers said the Telegram victims included political activists involved in reformist movements and opposition organizations. They declined to name the targets, citing concerns for their safety. "We see instances in which people ... are targeted prior to their arrest," Anderson said. "We see a continuous alignment across these actions." The researchers said they also found evidence that the hackers took advantage of a programming interface built into Telegram to identify at least 15 million Iranian phone numbers with Telegram accounts registered to them, as well as the associated user IDs. That information could provide a map of the Iranian user base that could be useful for future attacks and investigations, they said.

"A systematic de-anonymization and classification of people who employ encryption tools (of some sort, at least) for an entire nation" has never been exposed before, Guarnieri said. Ra said Telegram has blocked similar "mapping" attempts in the past and was trying to improve its detection and blocking strategies. Cyber experts say Iranian hackers have become increasingly sophisticated, able to adapt to evolving social media habits. Rocket Kitten's targets included members of the Saudi royal family, Israeli nuclear scientists, NATO officials and Iranian dissidents, US-Israeli security firm Check Point said last November. —Reuters

# SNAPPING UP CHEAP SPY TOOLS, STATES 'MONITORING EVERYONE'

LIMA: It was a national scandal. Peru's then-vice president accused two domestic intelligence agents of staking her out. Then, a top congressman blamed the spy agency for a break-in at his office. News stories showed the agency had collected data on hundreds of influential Peruvians. Yet after last year's outrage, which forced out the prime minister and froze its intelligencegathering, the spy service went ahead with a \$22 million program capable of snooping on thousands of Peruvians at a time. Peru - a top cocaine-producing nation - joined the ranks of world governments that have added commercial spyware to their arsenals.

The purchase from Israeli-American company Verint Systems, chronicled in documents obtained by AP, offers a rare. behind-the-scenes look into how easy it is for a country to purchase and install off-the-shelf surveillance equipment. The software allows governments to intercept voice calls, text messages and emails. Except for blacklisted nations like Syria and North Korea, there is little to stop governments that routinely violate basic rights from obtaining the same socalled "lawful intercept" tools that have been sold to Western police and spy agencies. People tracked by the technology have been beaten, jailed and tortured, according to human rights groups.

Targets identified by the AP include a blogger in the repressive Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan, opposition activists in the war-ravaged African nation of South Sudan, and politicians and reporters in oil-rich Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean. "The status quo is completely unacceptable," said Marietje Schaake, a European Union lawmaker pushing for greater oversight. "The fact that this market is almost completely unregulated is very disturbing."

The Verint documents that AP obtained in Peru, including training manuals, contracts, invoices and emails, offer more detail than previously available on the inner workings of a highly secretive industry. "There is just so little reliable data on this," said Edin Omanovic, a researcher at Privacy International, a London-based advocacy group. "These commercial tools are being used in a strategic and offensive way in much the same way that military tools are used."

The scope and sophistication revealed in the Peru documents approximates, on a small scale, US and British surveillance programs catalogued in 2013 by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden. That trove showed how the US government collected the phone records of millions of Americans, few suspected of crimes. Even after some reforms, there is still much to be done in the US and abroad to rein in Big Brother, privacy advocates say.

Reached at Verint's corporate headquarters in Melville, New York, an assistant to CEO Dan Bodner said the company would have no comment. "We typically don't comment to reporters," said Barbara Costa. Verint and its main competitors hail from nations with wellfunded spy agencies, including the United States, Israel, Britain and Germany, and have operated with limited oversight. With more than \$1 billion in yearly sales, Verint is a major, longtime player in an industry whose secrecy makes its size difficult to quantify. Verint Systems Ltd., the subsidiary that sold the surveillance package to Peru, is based in Herzliya, Israel, outside Tel Aviv.

In regulatory filings, the parent corporation boasts upward of 10,000 customers in more than 180 countries, including most of the world's largest companies and US law-enforcement agencies. The company says its products help businesses run better and "make the world a safer place". In 2007, Verint provided Mexico with a US-funded, \$3 million surveillance platform aimed at fighting drug cartels.

aimed at righting drug cartels.

Surveillance sales account for about a third of its business. However, the company discloses little about those products, which it says collect and parse massive data sets to "detect, investigate and neutralize threats". It also does not identify its law enforcement and intelligence agency clients, but the AP independently confirmed through interviews and documents that it has sales in countries including Australia, Brazil, the United States, Mexico, Colombia and Switzerland.

About half of Verint's surveillance dealings are in the developing world, said analyst Jeff Kessler of Imperial Capital in New York. The Peru installation - known as Pisco, a nod to the local brandy - illustrates how the private surveillance industry has piggybacked on multibillion-dollar government research in the West. Many security experts who honed their skills in Israel's military have gone to work in the private sector, effectively putting their tech chops at the service of less sophisticated nations for a fraction of the cost.

Like spy tools wielded by larger nations, Pisco lets officials "intercept and monitor" satellite networks that carry voice and data traffic, potentially putting private communications of millions of Peruvians at risk. A software manual offers step-by-step instructions on how to intercept those communications with Verint equipment: Connect to a satellite, identify the callers, then "open a voice product" - their jargon for a phone call. Next on the flow chart: "Voice is heard."

'Pinpoint New Targets of Interest' licly abo

Since the early 2000s, Verint and top competitor Nice Systems have sold mass surveillance products to the secret police in Uzbekistan, according to extensive research by Mari Bastashevski for Privacy International. She found the companies also sold such systems to neighboring Kazakhstan, also a tightly governed nation. Israeli technicians from both companies have rotated in and out of Tashkent, the Uzbek capital, for tech support and maintenance, Bastashevski found. Nice Systems sold its surveillance business to Israeli defense heavyweight Elbit Systems last year.

That equipment has let Uzbek secret police quickly locate and arrest people who discuss sensitive information on the phone or via email, dissidents say. "The authorities' main weapon is people's fear," said Tulkin Karayev, a Swedenbased exile. "Freedom of speech, freedom of expression - all this is banned." Asked by the AP whether Nice Systems' sales had enabled political repression, Elbit spokeswoman Dalia Rosen would not comment. "We follow the leading standards of corporate governance and focus on ethical behavior in our business dealings," she said.

Over the past two decades, Uzbekistan has "imprisoned thousands to enforce repressive rule," Human Rights Watch reported last year. The licly about the matter.

Like the United States, most countries require court orders to use the technology. But where rule of law is weak, abuse is not uncommon. The Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago saw a government fall after a wiretapping scandal involving Verint-supplied equipment. In 2009, a total of 53 people, including politicians and journalists, were illegally monitored, according to a former senior security official who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal. The Verint equipment remains operative, though now a court order is needed to use it.

One piece of the Verint product mix that Trinidad and Tobago bought is Vantage Broadway. A promotional brochure published by Israel's defense ministry for a 2014 trade show in India describes it as data-analysis and pattern-seeking software. It pairs with a product called Reliant to "intercept, filter and analyze huge volumes of Internet, voice and satellite communication." The package Peru bought includes both Reliant and Vantage, documents show.

The little regulation that exists in the commercial mass-surveillance trade falls under a non-binding international arms export-control regime called the Wassenaar Arrangement. In December 2013, it was amended to add monitoring products like Reliant and Vantage and "attack-ware" that breaks into smart-

played recordings of him in intercepted phone conversations and showed him emails he had sent. He spoke to the AP on condition he not be identified, saying he fears for his life. Joseph Bakosoro, a former South Sudanese state governor who was also held without charge for four months, said his interrogators played for him a voicemail that had been left on his cellphone. They claimed it was evidence he backed rebels.

Bakosoro said the voicemail proved only that he was being bugged. His interrogators didn't hide that. "They told me they are monitoring me," he said. "They are monitoring my phone, and they are monitoring everyone, so whatever we say on the telephone, they are monitoring."

### 'Who Will Guard the Guards?'

Three years after Peru acquired the Verint package, it's not yet up and running, Carlos Basombrio, the incoming interior minister said just before taking office last week. "When it becomes operative, it will be used against organized crime (in coordination) with judges and prosecutors." Located in a three-story building next to the country's DINI spy agency, Pisco sits on a Lima military base off-limits to the public. It can track 5,000 individual targets and simultaneously record the communications of 300 people,



HERZLIYA, Israel: This July 28, 2016 photo shows the Verint offices.



LIMA, Peru: Pedestrians talk on their cellphones on Monday. —AP photos

price of dissent is arbitrary detention, forced labor and torture, the group said. A report submitted to the UN by three rights groups deemed torture by the secret police systematic, unpunished and encouraged.

Three years ago, metal worker Kudrat Rasulov reached out to Karayev from Uzbekistan via Facebook seeking advice on how he could help promote free expression in his country. The exile said he suggested that Rasulov, now 46, write critical commentary on local media reports. Rasulov's weekly reports were then published online under a pseudonym. Rasulov thought he was being careful. He created a new email account for every article he sent, and the two men discussed the articles over Skype. But after six months, Rasulov was arrested. He is serving an 8-year-prison contance for subversion.

sentence for subversion.

Karayev believes Rasulov was undone by surveillance, and Human Rights Watch agreed. The court's sentence found he was convicted based in part on his Skype communications and contact with Karayev, the group said in a report. "They were reading Skype. They were listening to his phone calls. That's the way they build their cases," said Steve Swerdlow, the report's

In Colombia, Verint has racked up millions in sales. As recently as 2015, US customs officials funded maintenance for a wiretapping system, according to government contracts. Nearly a decade ago, its products were abused by officials who were later sacked for illegal eavesdropping, senior police and prosecutors told the AP at the time, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak pub-

phones and computers and turns them into listening posts. The United States has not ratified the amendment; the federal Commerce Department proposed rules that raised objections in Silicon Valley. Israel says it is complying, and the European Union ratified the update. But Schaake, the EU lawmaker, said its 28 member states act independently and "technologies continue to be exported to countries that are known human rights violators."

Surveillance technology from Israel, meanwhile, is being used in South Sudan, where a 2 1/2-year-old civil war has claimed tens of thousands of lives, a panel of UN experts reported in January. UN and human rights groups say the government deploys it to track down, jail and torture dissidents and journalists. The ability of South Sudan's intelligence agency "to identify and illegally apprehend individuals has been significantly enhanced" through the acquisition of "additional communications interception equipment from Israel," the UN experts wrote.

They did not name the suppliers, and a government spokesman declined to discuss the issue. While there is no direct evidence that Verint is a supplier, an AP reporter confirmed the names of two company employees on a flight in May from Ethiopia to the South Sudanese capital of Juba. Typing on a laptop, one was working on a presentation that named the three telecoms that operate in the country. Verint did not respond to questions about whether it supplied surveillance technology to South Sudan.

An activist jailed for four months in Juba said his interrogators spoke openly about tapping his phone,

according to agency documents, with eight listening rooms and parabolic antennae affixed outside to capture satellite downlinks.

Control of Pisco was shifted to the national police after the spying scandal that crippled the intelligence agency. Verint sent Israeli personnel to train Peruvian operators, adding eight months of instruction at the host government's request, records show. One major eavesdropping tool has, however, been active in Peru since October. It can physically track any phone in real time using geolocation. Under a July 2015 decree, police can locate phones without a court order, but would need one to listen in.

Government officials wouldn't offer details on what software was being used to track cellphones. But two months before the decree, DINI officials said payment had been authorized for a Verint geolocation product called SkyLock. That software enables phonetracking within the country, and a premium version can pinpoint any mobile phone in most countries. All four Peruvian phone companies agreed to cooperate on geolocation, signing a pact with the government the details of which were not disclosed.

Civil libertarians consider warrantless geolocation a dangerous invasion of privacy, especially in a nation with pervasive public corruption. Peru's incoming congress is dominated by Fuerza Popular, a party associated with imprisoned former President Alberto Fujimori. He ran one of the most corrupt Latin American regimes in recent history. In July 2015, the Verint surveillance platform got caught in the chaos of Peruvian politics. —AP

### UK COURT RULES HEALTH SERVICE CAN FUND HIV PREVENTION DRUG

**LONDON:** Britain's state-funded health service is responsible for paying for an HIV-prevention drug that has been called a "game changer" in the fight against AIDS, a court ruled yesterday. The health service said it would appeal, which means the drug — which advocates say can prevent infection in people at high risk of contracting HIV— is still some way from becoming widely available in Britain. The National AIDS Trust charity argued that health authorities have an ethical

duty to fund pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, a daily treatment that greatly reduces the risk of becoming infected with HIV.

The National Health Service argued that it "does not have the legal power to commission PrEP," because preventative public health measures are the responsibility of local government. Judge Nicholas Green said there was a strong case for preventative treatment, "but one governmental body says it has no power to provide the service and local

authorities say they have no money."

The judge ruled that the health service "erred in deciding that it has no power or duty" to commission the treatment. "The power of NHS England includes commissioning for preventative purposes, and this includes for HIV-related drugs," Green said.

The NHS — which supplies free or subsidized prescription drugs to all Britons — could still decline to prescribe the drug if it decides it is not good value for money. It esti-

mates it would cost between 10 and 20 million pounds (\$13 million and \$26 million) a year to make it available to those at high HIV risk, including people with HIV-positive partners and those who have frequent sex without condoms. The health service said it would appeal Tuesday's ruling, but in the meantime would also review the case for PrEP, and would ask drug company Gilead — which markets the drug under the name Truvada — to lower its asking price. The NHS said that

"would clearly affect the likelihood that their drug could be commissioned." Some have argued that the drug might encourage highrisk, unprotected sexual behavior, but it has been endorsed by the US Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization.

Dr. Michael Brady, medical director of AIDS charity the Terrence Higgins Trust, said the drug was a "game changer" that would "significantly increase the momentum in our fight against the virus." — AP

### CHINA'S 'MOSQUITO FACTORY' AIMS TO WIPE OUT ZIKA, OTHER DISEASES

**GUANGZHOU:** Every week, scientists in southern China release 3 million bacteria-infected mosquitoes on a 3 km (two-mile) long island in a bid to wipe out diseases such as dengue, yellow fever and Zika.

The scientists inject mosquito eggs with wolbachia bacteria in a laboratory, then release infected male mosquitoes on the island on the outskirts of the city of Guangzhou. The bacteria, which occurs naturally in about 28 percent of wild mosquitoes, causes infected males to sterilize the females they mate with.



FLORIDA: This 2006 file photo provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a female Aedes aegypti mosquito in the process of acquiring a blood meal from a human host. The Aedes aegypti mosquito is behind the large outbreaks of Zika virus in Latin America and the Caribbean. — AP

"The aim is trying to suppress the mosquito density below the threshold which can cause disease transmission," said Zhiyong Xi, who is director of the Sun Yatsen University Centre of Vector Control for Tropical Diseases and pioneered the idea.

"There are hot spots," Xi said. "This technology can be used at the beginning to target the hot spots ... it will dramatically reduce disease transmission." Mosquitoborne diseases are responsible for more than one million deaths worldwide every

year and Zika has become a concern for athletes at this year's Olympic Games, which open in Rio de Janeiro on Friday.

Some athletes, including the top four ranked male golfers, have declined to take part. An outbreak of the Zika virus in Brazil last year has spread through the Americas and beyond, with China confirming its first case in February.

US health officials have concluded that Zika infections in pregnant women can cause microcephaly, a birth defect marked by small head size that can lead to severe developmental problems in babies. The World Health Organization has said there is strong scientific consensus that Zika can also cause Guillain-Barre, a rare neurological syndrome that causes temporary paralysis in adults.

Sun Yat-sen's Xi said that several countries had expressed interest in his experiments, especially Brazil and Mexico. In the laboratory, mosquito eggs are collected from breeding cages containing 5,000 females and 1,600 males and injected with the wolbachia bacteria. Xi's facility has the capacity to breed up to five million mosquitoes a week.

While a female mosquito that acquires wolbachia by mating is sterile, one that is infected by injection will produce wolbachia-infected offspring. Dengue, yellow fever and Zika are also suppressed in wolbachia-injected females, making it harder for the diseases to be transmitted to humans. Xi set up his 3,500 square metre (38,000 sq ft) "mosquito factory" in 2012 and releases the males into two residential areas on the outskirts of Guangzhou.

Xi said the mosquito population on the island has been reduced by more than 90 percent. One villager on the island, 66 year-old Liang Jintian, who has lived there for six decades, said the study was so effective he didn't have to sleep with a mosquito net any longer. "We used to have a lot of mosquitoes in the past. Back then some people were worried that if mosquitoes were released here, we would get even more mosquitoes," he said. "We have a lot less mosquitoes now compared to the past." — Ruters



HOLMDEL: Dr Wayne Aldredge, president of the American Academy of Periodontology, sits for a photo at his office in Holmdel, N.J. Aldredge acknowledges the weak scientific evidence and the brief duration of many studies on flossing, but says that the impact of floss might be clearer if researchers focused on patients at the highest risk of gum disease, such as diabetics and smokers. — AP

### MEDICAL BENEFITS OF DENTAL FLOSS UNPROVEN

**HOLMDEL:** It's one of the most universal recommendations in all of public health: Floss daily to prevent gum disease and cavities. Except there's little proof that flossing works.

Still, the federal government, dental organizations and manufacturers of floss have pushed the practice for decades. Dentists provide samples to their patients; the American Dental Association insists on its website that, "Flossing is an essential part of taking care of your teeth and gums."

The federal government has recommended flossing since 1979, first in a surgeon general's report and later in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans issued every five years. The guidelines must be based on scientific evidence, under the law.

Last year, the Associated Press asked the departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture for their evidence, and followed up with written requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

When the federal government issued its latest dietary guidelines this year, the flossing recommendation had been removed, without notice. In a letter to the AP, the government acknowledged the effectiveness of flossing had never been researched, as required.

The AP looked at the most rigorous research conducted over the past decade, focusing on 25 studies that generally compared the use of a toothbrush with the combination of toothbrushes and floss. The findings? The evidence for flossing is "weak, very unreliable," of "very low" quality, and carries "a

moderate to large potential for bias."
"The majority of available studies fail to

demonstrate that flossing is generally effective in plaque removal," said one review conducted last year. Another 2015 review cites "inconsistent/weak evidence" for flossing and a "lack of efficacy."

One study review in 2011 did credit floss with a slight reduction in gum inflammation which can sometimes develop over time into full-fledged gum disease. However, the reviewers ranked the evidence as "very unreliable." A commentary in a dental magazine stated that any benefit would be so minute it might not be noticed by users.

The two leading professional groups - the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Periodontology, for specialists in gum disease and implants - cited other studies as proof of their claims that flossing prevents buildup of gunk known as plaque, early gum inflammation called gingivitis, and tooth decay. However, most of these studies used outdated methods or tested few people. Some lasted only two weeks, far too brief for a cavity or dental disease to develop. One tested 25 people after only a single use of floss. Such research, like the reviewed studies, focused on warning signs like bleeding and inflammation, barely deal-

ing with gum disease or cavities.

Wayne Aldredge, president of the periodontists' group, acknowledged the weak scientific evidence and the brief duration of many studies. In an interview at his private practice in New Jersey, he said that the impact of floss might be clearer if researchers focused on patients at the highest risk of gum disease, such as diabetics and smokers. — AP



ST PETERSBURG: Florida Gov Rick Scott addresses the media during a round-table discussion about the Zika virus in St Petersburg, Fla, Monday. The CDC issued an advisory, Monday, that says pregnant women should not travel to the so-called Zika "transmission area" in Florida and pregnant women who live there should take steps to prevent mosquito bites. The advisory comes after 10 new infections of the Zika virus were reported in the same Miami neighborhood likely transmitted by local mosquitoes. — AP

# ZIKA OUTBREAK PROMPTS TRAVEL WARNING FOR AREA OF MIAMI

**MIAMI:** In a highly unusual travel warning, health officials advised pregnant women to avoid a part of Miami where mosquitoes are apparently transmitting Zika directly to humans.

Health officials last Friday announced that mosquitoes have apparently started spreading Zika on the US mainland, citing four cases they strongly believe were caused by bites. Ten more cases were announced Monday, even though Florida authorities have yet to find any mosquitoes actually carrying the virus.

Of the 14 people infected, two are women and 12 are men. Eight patients showed symptoms of Zika, which can include fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes. The others had no symptoms. The disease is often so mild that most people don't know they are infected. All 14 cases are thought to have occurred in Miami's Wynwood arts district, a trendy, fast-gentrifying neighborhood of warehouses, art galleries, restaurants and boutiques. Rosemary LeBranch was doing laundry in Wynwood when health officials came to her house a few days ago and took urine samples from her, her daughter and her father. Her father, Gabriel Jean, tested positive for Zika, she said Monday.

He had already spoken with a doctor and was advised to wear long shirts and pants outdoors. "He said nothing hurts; he doesn't have any pain. He doesn't feel anything," she said. More than 1,650 cases of Zika have been reported in US states. Nearly all have been the result of travel to a Zika-stricken country or sex with someone who was infected abroad, but now more than a dozen people have been infected in the US.

Florida health officials said they have tested more than 200 people in Miami-Dade and Broward counties since early July. An emergency response team from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will help Florida authorities investigate the outbreak, collect samples and control mosquitoes.

### AGGRESSIVE STRATEGIES

Scott asked for a CDC emergency team to help Florida combat Zika, which has been sweeping Latin America and the Caribbean in recent months and now may be gaining a long-dreaded foothold in the US. The White House said a team will be sent quickly.

"We will continue to keep our residents and visitors safe utilizing constant surveillance and aggressive strategies, such as increased mosquito spraying, that have allowed our state to fight similar viruses," Florida Gov. Rick Scott said in a statement Monday.

Government health officials warned pregnant women Monday to avoid the Zika-stricken part

of Miami and told couples who have been there recently to put off having children for at least two months, after the number of people feared infected through mosquito bites in the U.S. climbed to 14.

The CDC also said expectant mothers should get tested for the virus if they have visited the neighborhood since mid-June. Jordan Davison and Melissa Felix work for a cruise line and were enjoying their day off Monday looking at Wynwood's spray-painted murals.

"It's not like a big thing, right?" the 25-yearold Davidson said. "It's kind of freaky. There's so much going on we didn't know, didn't really think about it. ... I might wear bug spray going forward."

CDC officials said they could not remember another time in the 70-year history of the disease fighting agency when it told members of the public not to travel someplace in the US. Zika infections in pregnant women can cause severe brain-related birth defects, including

extremely small skulls. The global outbreak has led to more than 1,800 serious defects.

### VIRUS IN BLOOD AND URINE

The virus can linger in the blood and urine for weeks and has been found in sperm for months. As a result, the CDC said men and women who have recently been in the affected area should wait at least eight weeks before trying to conceive a child. And men who have had symptoms of Zika should wait at least six months, the CDC said. The travel warning covers an area of about one square mile in Wynwood to the east of Interstate 95 and south of I-195. It's large enough, health officials said, to provide a buffer around the suspected hot zone. The tropical mosquito that spreads Zika travels less than 200 yards in its lifetime.

Dr. Peter Hotez, a tropical medicine expert at the Baylor College of Medicine in Texas, said the CDC should be more cautious and expand the travel advisory to all of Miami-Dade County. "If you're pregnant or think you might be pregnant, avoid travel to Miami, and possibly elsewhere in South Florida," he said. "I'm guessing most

women who are pregnant are doing that. I don't think they're sitting around waiting for the CDC to split hairs and fine-tune it to a specific area."

CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden said the narrowly drawn warning was dictated by science and not by any concern for Florida's crucial tourism industry. He said it was based on the nation's ability to contain previous outbreaks of other diseases carried by the same mosquito.

"There wouldn't be a technical or scientific basis to give a broader recommendation," Frieden said. Speaking yesterday morning on ABC's "Good Morning America," Frieden said officials were finding it hard to eradicate the mosquito in the affected area.

"It could be that the mosquitoes there are

resistant to the insecticide being used," he said, adding that it could take weeks for federal and state officials to figure that out.

He also said mosquito control is difficult in that neighborhood. "This is an unusual neighborhood, or an emerging neighborhood," Frieden said. "It's mixed use. It has industrial, business and residential and that makes mosquito control very complex." — AP

### GOING TO THE RIO OLYMPICS? SOME HEALTH RISKS TO CONSIDER

**NEW YORK:** Traveling to the Olympics? Don't let illnesses meddle with your fun.

Roughly half a million people from around the world are expected to travel to the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. And while Zika is in the spotlight, there are other bugs and health problems that Olympic athletes and spectators should keep in mind. What's the biggest threat? Health experts say the most likely cause of death or serious harm to travelers everywhere is injuries

from car accident, falls, crime or other mishaps. But that's not what's on the minds of people headed to the Olympics, said Dr. Nicholas Van Sickels, associate director of Tulane University's travel medicine clinic in New Orleans.

"Zika is what brings them in the door," Van Sickels said of recent clinic visitors. A look at those health problems, and what athletes and travelers can do about them.

### HOW BIG A THREAT IS ZIKA?

The risk of getting sick from Zika is low, especially compared to other illnesses that a visitor to Rio might suffer. It's winter in Brazil; a time when mosquitoes that spread the virus are at a low ebb. But for mothers-to-be, the stakes are very high because an infection during pregnancy can cause serious birth defects. That's why pregnant women have been told to stay away.

### BUT HOW CAN I AVOID ZIKA?

The virus is mainly spread by tropical mosquitoes, though it also can be transmitted through sex. Travelers can protect themselves from mosquito bites by, among other things, wearing long sleeves and long pants and using insect repellents. Also, stay in places with air conditioning or that use window and door screens, the CDC suggests.

### WILL I KNOW IF I'M INFECTED?

You might not. Most infected people do not get sick, and those that do usually experience only mild symptoms, like fever, rash, red eyes, joint pain, that ends within a week. But some infected adults have developed a paralyzing

condition called Guillain-Barre syndrome.

The same mosquito spreads other tropical ill-

nesses, including chikungunya, which has been spreading in Brazil and other parts of South America in the last few years. It has some of the same symptoms as Zika, but the joint pain is often debilitating and can give people a stooped appearance - the name chikungunya comes from a word meaning "to become contorted." Like Zika, there is no vaccine or cure for it. There are vaccines or medicines for other mosquito-borne diseases seen in Brazil, including yellow fever, dengue fever and malaria. Those aren't considered much of a threat for Olympic visitors, though.

### WHAT ELSE COULD MAKE ME SICK?

If a traveler to the Olympics gets sick, it's most likely from drinking water or eating undercooked or unclean food, said Dr. Martin Cetron of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Food should be peeled, boiled or cooked. Avoid food from street vendors, and fruits and vegetables that have not been thoroughly washed, experts suggest. Drink bottled water or beverages. And maybe pack some medicine for diarrhea, Cetron said. Some swimming areas in Rio are contaminated with sewage, and the CDC advises avoiding swallowing mouthfuls of water and staying away from beaches with warning signs.

### ANYTHING ELSE?

It's flu season in the Southern Hemisphere, so expect that people in Rio may be sneezing or coughing and spreading flu germs. Flu and other respiratory illnesses are probably the second most common thing travelers to the Olympics will get, Cetron said. Wash your hands and drink lots of uncontaminated fluids, experts say.

### WHAT IF I GET SICK IN BRAZIL?

Eu me sinto doente. That's Portuguese for "I feel sick." Talk to a doctor or nurse if you feel very ill, especially if you have a fever, the CDC advised. The CDC website has information about finding medical care while abroad and also offers some health terms in Portuguese. Officials do not expect a lot of Olympic travelers to take Zika home with them. — AP

## HEALTH & SCIENCE



MUMBAI: In this June 29, 2016 photo, Indian Muslim woman Shagufta Sayyd, right, sits along with her mother Shama as they listen to Khawtoon Shiekh, an activist of Bhartiya Muslim Mahila Andolan, or the Indian Muslim Women's Movement, at their office in Mumbai, India. — AP Photos



MUMBAI: In this Feb. 21, 2016 photo, Indian Dawoodi Bohra women walk past others shopping for clothes in a Bohra neighborhood in Mumbai, India. The Dawoodi Bohras are an affluent trading community of about a million people concentrated mostly in Mumbai, but also seen across the United States and Europe. The community has a longstanding tradition of circumcising girls, known as khatna, going back to their roots in Yemen and its proximity to northern and northeastern Africa, where the practice is deeply entrenched.

# BATTLE WITHIN INDIAN MUSLIM SECT ON CIRCUMCISING GIRLS

**MUMBAI:** When Bilqis talks about having circumcised her daughter, she goes back and forth on how she feels - some-

times within the same sentence. The slender 50-year-old doctor defends what is widely known as female genital mutilation within her small, prosperous Shia Muslim sect in India, saying it's a mild version that amounts to "just a little nick. No harm done." Yet she also acknowledges regret and guilt at putting her daughter through a practice the United Nations calls a violation of girls' rights. "It's really nothing, it changes nothing," repeats Bilqis, who asks to be anonymous except for her religious name because of the personal nature of the subject. But she adds: "I have no doubt in my mind that it is not helpful. ... If I had a young daughter now there's no way I would have her circumcised."

The struggle within Bilgis and her Dawoodi Bohra community reflects a growing debate over the best way to address a custom that is proving stubbornly hard to eradicate. At least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of female genital cutting, according to the United Nations

- 70 million more than in 2014 because of increases in both population and reporting. And the U.N. predicts the number of victims will increase significantly over the next 15 years because of population growth.

Faced with this prospect, experts in the respected international Journal of Medical Ethics in February proposed permitting small female genital cuts that "uphold cultural and religious traditions without sacrificing the health and wellbeing of girls and young women." But this approach is already carried out in the Bohra community and is proving highly controversial.

"They always say it's just a nick and a touch, but there are incidents where things have gone horribly wrong," says Masooma Ranalvi, who broke the silence around female genital mutilation in her community last year with a series of online petitions that sought to ban it.

Ranalvi remembers when she was 7. her grandmother promised her candy and ice cream. Instead, she was taken to a dingy room in a back alley. Her dress held down. A sharp pain followed. She came home in tears.

### No laws

She did not understand what had happened until her 30s, when she read about female genital mutilation. India has no laws banning female circumcision, and Ranalvi says the letters she has sent to Dawoodi Bohra leaders have been ignored. The Dawoodi Bohras are an affluent trading community of about a million people concentrated mostly in Mumbai, but also seen across the United States and Europe. In the winding lanes of a Bohra neighborhood, observant men are distinguished by white and gold embroidered caps and beards. Women wear a long, colorful tunic down to their ankles, and a scarf over their hair.

The Bohras are known for their liberal attitude toward the education of women. Yet the community is also tightly controlled by an entirely male clergy, with headquarters in upscale Malabar Hill in southern Mumbai. Here, alongside the homes of Bollywood stars and billionaire business tycoons, sits the sprawling Saifee Mahal, the home of the religious head known as the Syedna.

When they reach puberty, Bohra boys and girls take an oath of loyalty to the Syedna, and he has a say in almost every aspect of their lives, including marriage and funerals. From Mumbai to New York. medical professionals receive the Syedna's blessings to perform circumcision for girls, known as khatna. The procedure goes back to the community's roots in Yemen and its proximity to northern and northeastern Africa, where the practice is deeply entrenched.

Circumcision has become a battleground for the two Bohra men vying for succession, the half-brother and the son of the former Syedna. The half-brother says it is time to end the practice. The son, whom most Dawoodi Bohras accept as their new leader, says the tradition must continue and notes that Bohra men are also circumcised. He declined to comment, but laid out some of his views in an earlier speech. "Our community is very pure compared to other people, and it's our duty to keep it that way,"

was pulled up and her legs and arms Syedna Muffadal Saifuddin said at a recent gathering in Mumbai. "Men have to do it, and even women have to do it."

Activists say the two cannot be compared, because there is enough scientific evidence to show that male circumcision has health benefits.

As the Dawoodi Bohras have traveled the world, they have taken the closely held ritual of circumcision with them. Alefiya, a 34-year-old social worker in the United States, remembers the khatna being done by her grandmother's sister in a cold basement in New York. It was awkward and painful, she says.

Alefiya, who asked for her full name not to be used for privacy, objects as much to the message sent as to the act itself. Older Dawoodi women call the clitoris "haraam ki boti" or sinful flesh - the flesh that can lead a woman astray.

### Horrible, disgusting

"It's horrible, it's disgusting, that these completely natural experiences are made to feel dirty," she says. "The guilt of sexuality is always on our heads. ... I'm not angry at my mother. I'm angry at the men who make these rules."

Bilqis, dressed in slim pants and a sleeveless blouse, comes across as the epitome of the modern Indian woman. She lives in a swanky high-rise apartment building with views of manicured gardens, a luxury in a city of matchbox homes. And she talks openly about her sex life, breaking a taboo that runs deep in Indian culture.

She grew up in an observant Bohra family in central India, the only girl among 10 brothers and cousins. Her father wanted them all to get a good education. It was almost drilled into her that she had to become a doctor.

It was a childhood more liberal than most girls in India can dream of. Her father never forced her to dress or behave a certain way. Her mother was a much more silent presence, but she never pushed her daughter toward traditional female roles either. Bilqis did not set foot in the kitchen.

"When I got married, I could barely boil an egg or make tea," she says. She was circumcised as a child, but has only the faintest memory of it. It was neither



NEW DELHI: In this Feb. 16, 2016 photo, Masooma Ranalvi, an activist who broke the silence around female genital mutilation in her Dawoodi Bohra community last year with a series of online petitions that sought to ban it, speaks during an interview with the Associated Press in New Delhi. India. Ranalvi remembers when she was seven, her grandmother promised her candy and ice cream. Instead, she was taken to a dingy room in a back alley where Khatna, circumcision of girls, was performed on her.

harmful nor traumatic for her, she says, and has not hurt her sex life.

As a doctor, however, she knows that the circumcision of a little girl - sometimes by midwives and older Bohra women in the community - can be traumatic. She remembers a time when a child came to her after being cut too deep, requiring blood vessels to be cauterized. She does not have religious sanction to actually perform circumcisions. But in the past she has given certificates of circumcision to non-Bohra women who wanted to marry men in her community, even though many had never had the procedure.

She tells her female patients that circumcision has no benefits and potential risks. Yet by the time they talk to her, with their mothers or mothers-in-law, they've usually made up their minds to go forward.

### No discussion or explanation

Fifteen years ago, she felt the same way. There was no nail-biting self-doubt or anxious buildup. She says she acted out of a sense of religious obligation. Bilqis told her daughter Sameena she would get a small injection. A nurse snipped off a tiny bit of skin. The girl did not cry, Bilqis says. She remembers

thinking "one social milestone passed. One responsibility dealt with."

Sameena, now 22, is a graduate student at an Ivy League school in America. She has not had sex, which is not unusual for women her age in India. But like her mother, she talks about it without the coyness or shyness of most young Indian women. Sameena is gradually coming to terms with the knowledge that she was circumcised at age 7. "It's a very clear memory," she says. "I remember thinking, why is this woman coming to me?"

There was no discussion or explanation of what had happened. Sameena says it didn't hurt, but the memory makes her uncomfortable, although she can't say exactly why.

The next time it came up was when she was 15 or 16, with other Dawoodi Bohra girls at school. "Ask your mom," they said. She did. Her mother told her it was something done in their community. Then, spurred in part by the increasing discussion around khatna in her community, Sameena began researching circumcision of Bohra women. First there was denial.

"How can they do this? We're educated women," she remembers thinking.C And then anger. She says many Bohras are misled to believe that Islam condones the procedure, when no other Muslim community in India practices female circumcision.

"Who the hell are you to control anyone's sexuality?" she says. "I was very, very pissed off." She confronted her mother, and told her she would never do such a thing to her own daughter. She accused her mother of hypocrisy. Yet her anger is with the community rather than her mother; both women describe their relationship as very close.

They agree that the custom should be abolished but differ on how. Bilqis fears that the few vocal activists speaking out may only drive it deeper underground. But Sameena does not want slow and silent change - she wants the religious leadership to come out against the practice. "It's not going to end by not talking about it. You have to keep bringing it up as something that should not be done," she says. "That's the only way to tackle it." — AP



Kuwait 🗻 Times 248 33 199















The Health Ministry recently launched a campaign on health awareness on various chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer, obesity etc in order to promote healthy lifestyles. Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabeya and Sebamed were among the companies who joined the campaign out of their belief that 'Prevention is much better than cure.'

### SPEECH BY SNR COL ZHANG, DEFENSE ATTACHE OF CHINESE EMBASSY

E General Khaled, distinguished guests, friends & colleagues, ladies & gentlemen: Asalamalicon!

This evening we are gathering here to celebrating the 89th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, PLA. First of all, as the Defense Attache of the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait, I'd like to extend my warmest welcome to all of you. The Chinese People's Liberation Army, PLA, was created by the Communist Party of China (CPC) in August 1, 1927. Since its founding, the PLA has played an important role in the modern history of China and has grown from a single service into modernized armed forces.

Entering the new stage, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee, the Central Military Commission (CMC) and Chairman Xi Jinping, the PLA is undergoing a strategy of reform and restructuring to build a strong armed force commensurate with China's international status, being in accordance with China's national security interests and capable of providing a guarantee for the realization of the Chinese dream of rejuvenating the Chinese nation. You may have noticed that last year in September China has separately announced to reduce its armed forces by 300,000 within the next few year.

The PLA has in recent years become a more prominent participant in the pursuit of international peace and security. With the growth of China's national strength, the PLA will gradually intensify its participation in such operations as international peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance, and do its utmost to shoulder more international responsibilities and obligations, provide more public security goods, and contribute more peace and common development.

According to the latest data, there are 2.880 Chinese peacekeepers at the moment carrying out UN peacekeeping missions around the world. Over the past 26 years, 31,000 Chinese military personnel have participated in 24 UN

peacekeeping operations and at least 13 Chinese soldiers have given their lives on the UN peacekeeping duty. China has contributed, among the permanent member staates of the UN Security Council, the largest number of troops to UN peacekeeping missions and the second largest share to the UN peacekeeping budget.

The Chinese Navy has, within the UN framework, sent 23 escort fleets to the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia and completed escort missions for more that 6,000 international vessels over the past seven years. During the period, the PLA Navy has also conducted emergency missions such as evacuation program in Libya, escort of transport vessels carrying Syrian chemical weapons in the Mediterranean and evacuation of Chinese and foreign nationals last year in Yemen.

### Ladies and gentlemen,

China has always pursued an independent foreign policy of peace and a national defence policy that is defensive in nature. China has followed the path of peaceful development and will unswervingly pursue this strategy. However, one cannot expect China to sacrifice its sovereignty for peace or development. Nanhai Zhudao (the South China Sea Islands) are China's inherent territory and China's sovereignty over Nahai Zhudao is established in the long course of history.

While firmly safeguarding its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, China adheres to the position of resolving disputes through negotiation and consultation by parties directly concerned and managing differences through rules and mechanisms. China is committed to maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea with the countries in the region and upholding the freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea enjoyed by other countries under international law. The Chinese military will firmly safeguard its national



sovereignty, security and maritime interests and rights, firmly safeguard regional peace and stability, and firmly deal with various kinds of

threats and challenges. Ladies and gentlemen,

Kuwait is the first Gulf Arabic country establishing diplomatic relations with China and this year 2016 witnesses the 45th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries. The traditional friendship between China and Kuwait has emerged stronger over time and has stood the test of changing international and regional climate. The military-to-military exchange and cooperation between China and Kuwait has been on the right track and we are confident to expect more bilateral events in the near future.

Here, I'd like to take the opportunity to express most sincere gratitude to my colleagues in Kuwait Ministry of Defence, General Staff and Kuwait Military Attache Association, my fellow countrymen and all our friends in Kuwait. It is only with your support and cooperation that we can make such an achievement. Finally, let's together wish the friendship between the two countries and the two militaries lasting forever.

Thank you very much!

# MCDONALD'S ANNUAL COCA-COLA GLASS PROMOTION IS BACK!

cDonald's Kuwait announced yesterday the return of its annual and eagerly-awaited Coca-Cola glass promotion, which comes back this year in the shape of the classic Coca-Cola can. The complimentary and unique glasses will be available with every purchase of any large extra value meal, and exclusively with orders placed through the McDelivery service (via phone, app or online) starting from July 28 and until August 28.

Making the campaign a little bit more special, this year's Coke glasses take inspiration from the 2016 Rio Olympics, adding a premium yet playful touch to your McDonald's meal. Customers will have the opportunity to collect all of the six vibrant colors available, which include Aqua, Salmon, Green, Pink, Purple and Charcoal.

Commenting on the new range of glasses, Sherif Coutry, Marketing Director at McDonald's Kuwait, said: "We at McDonald's Kuwait have enjoyed a successful relationship with our long-time partner, Coca-Cola. This campaign is testament to our long term, joint commitment to continue the tradition of spreading timeless happiness with the iconic Coca-Cola glass-



es. We are delighted to be launching this new edition to our Kuwait customers." For more information on the new Coca-Cola glass promotion, please visitwww.mcdonaldsarabia.com

# LAIF HOLDS 'ALL NATIONS NIGHT'





t was an awesome night on Friday at the National Evangelical Church of Kuwait (NECK) premises in Kuwait City as Christians from different denominations gather for the 'All Nations Night'. The power-packed program featured lots of activities including praise worship, bible teaching and other cultural displays. Different nationalities presented their songs in different languages. There were Christian representatives from US, Jamaica, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Malawi, Ivory Coast, India, Sri Lanka, Cameroon, Togo, Kenya, Egypt and The Philippines. The event was organized by the Life Abundant International Fountain Church (LAIF).









Sabah Hospital

**Amiri Hospital** 

**Chest Hospital** 

**Adan Hospital** 

**Ibn Sina Hospital** 

**Al-Razi Hospital** 

Kaizen center

Rawda

**Adaliya** 

Khaldiya

Kaifan

Shamiya

Shuwaikh

Nuzha

Qadsiya

Dasmah

Shaab

Qibla

Mirqab

Sharq

Salmiya

**Jabriya** 

Bayan

Mishref

Sabah

Jahra

W Hawally

**New Jahra** 

**West Jahra** 

South Jahra

**North Jahra** 

**North Jleeb** 

**Ardhiya** 

**Firdous** 

**Omariya** 

**N** Khaitan

**Fintas** 

**Bneid Al-Gar** 

**Ayoun Al-Qibla** 

**Maidan Hawally** 

**Abdullah Salem** 

**Industrial Shuwaikh** 

**Physiotherapy Hospital** 

**Maternity Hospital** 

**Farwaniya Hospital** 

**Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital** 

INFORMATION

For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128

**Hospitals** 

Clinics

24812000

22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

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25716707

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22518752

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24770319

24575755

24772608

24775066

24775992

24311795

24884079

24892674

24719048

24710044

23900322

### **PHARMACIES** ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan	Fahaeel Makka St	23915883
	Abu Halaifa	Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd	23715414
	Danat Al-Sultan	Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1	24575518
	Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 92	24566622
Capital	Ahlam	Fahad Al-Salem St	22436184
	Khaldiya Coop	Khaldiya Coop	24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa	Farwaniya Block 40	24734000
	Ferdous Coop	Ferdous Coop	24881201
	Modern Safwan	Old Kheitan Block 11	24726638
Hawally	Tariq	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25726265
	Hana	Salmiya-Amman St	25647075
	Ikhlas	Hawally-Beirut St	22625999
	Hawally & Rawdha	Hawally & Rawdha Coop	22564549
	Ghadeer	Jabriya-Block 1A	25340559
	Kindy	Jabriya-Block 3B	25326554
	Ibn Al-Nafis	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25721264
	Mishrif Coop	Mishrif Coop	25380581
	Salwa Coop	Salwa Coop	25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

no warnings or weather watches



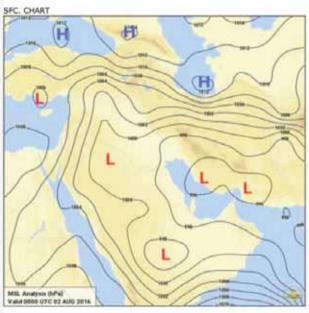
Chad

**Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours** 

### Max Temperature 51 °C

By Day: Very hot with moderate to fresh north westerly to northerly wind, with speed of 22 - 50 km/h causing raising dust. km/h causing raising dust.

By Night: Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h.



	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		*	※	*
Expected Weather	very hot + raising dust	very hot	Humid especially over coastal areas	Humid especially over coastal areas
Min Temp °C	33	28	28	30
Max Temp °C	50	47	47	48
Wind Direction	north westerly to northerly	north westerfy changing to south easterfy later on	north easterly becoming south easterly	northerly changing to south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	20 - 45	12 - 35	10 - 32	12 - 32

Kuwait Forecast		
Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	38	51
KUWAIT AIRPORT	31	51
ABDALY	34	50
BUBYAN	33	45
JAHRA	35	50
FAILAKA ISLAND	33	48
SALMIYAH	37	46
AHMADI	39	44
JAL ALIYAH	34	50
QAROH ISLAND	34	40
UMM AL-MARADEM	34	40
NUWAISIB	34	49
WAFRA	33	50
MANAGISH	32	50
SALMY	31	49
MUTRIBA	31	51
Recorded Yesterday	at Kuwait	Airport
Max Temp (°C)		51
Min Temp (°C)		30
Max Rei Hum (%)		26
Min Rel Hum (%)		05

Max Wind and Direc	Speed (km/h tion	) 5	7 N
TOTAL RA	UNFALL IN 24	HR 0	mm
N.	Sunrise	05:	09
0	Sunset	18	40
Prayer T	mes		
Fajr		03:41	
Sunrise		05:09	
Zuhr		11:54	
Acr		15:30	

Isha

18:40

20:04

Haiti

India

Iran

Iraq

Italy

Laos

Liberia

Lesotho

Libya

00231

00218

00266

Zambia

Zimbabwe

00260

00263

### **PRIVATE CLINICS**

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Four-Day Forecast

Ophthalmologists			
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444		
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222		
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171		
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999		
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700		
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223		
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223		
Ear, Nose & Throat	(ENT)		
<b>Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner</b>	24555050 Ext 510		
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660		
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478		
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996		
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988		
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166		
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426		
General Practition	ners		
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123		
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312		
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920		
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465		
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528		
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781		
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501		
Urologists			
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534		
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955		
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awad	li 22616660		
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120		

66703427

Soor Center

Tel: 2290-1677

Fax: 2290 1688

Dr. Leons Joseph

**Psychologists** 

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surgeons				
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272			
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700			
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60			
Family Doc	tor			
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581			
Psychiatris	ts			
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047			
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0			
Gynaecologists & Ol	ostetricians			
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581			
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321			
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539			
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406			
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272			
Dr. Salem soso	22618787			
General Surg	eons			
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044			
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 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			

info@soorcenter.com

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Paediatricians		
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898	
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300	
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444	
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099	
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514	
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100	
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282	
Dermatolog	у	
Dr. Mohammed Salam		
Bern University	23845955	
Dentists		
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581	
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2	
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444	
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557	
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755	
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111	
Neurologist	ts	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324	
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875	
Gastrologis	ts	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030	
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135	

Kaizen center

25716707

**Noor Clinic** 

23845955

	Endocrinologist				
_	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330			
	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888				
	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924				
	Physiotherapists & \	VD			
	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291				
	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288			
	Rheumatologists	:			
	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060				
	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290			
	Internist, Chest & Heart				
	DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210			
	Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667			
	Consultant Cardiolo				
		2611555-2622555			
	Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123				

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

### INTERNATIONAL **CALLS** Afghanistan 0093 Lithuania 00370 00355 00352 Albania Luxembourg 00853 00213 Macau Algeria Andorra 00376 Macedonia 00389 Angola 00244 Madagascar 00261 Anguilla 001264 0034 Majorca **Antiga** 001268 Malawi 00265 0054 Malaysia 0060 **Argentina Maldives** 00374 00960 Armenia Australia 0061 Mali 00223 **Austria** 0043 Malta 00356 00994 Marshall Islands 00692 Azerbaijan **Bahamas** 001242 Martinique 00596 00222 Bahrain 00973 Mauritania Bangladesh 00880 Mauritius 00230 **Barbados** 001246 Mayotte 00269 **Belarus** 00375 Mexico 0052 Belgium 0032 Micronesia 00691 **Belize** 00501 Moldova 00373 00229 00377 Benin Monaco 001441 Mongolia 00976 Bermuda **Bhutan** 00975 Montserrat 001664 **Bolivia** 00591 Morocco 00212 Bosnia 00387 00258 Mozambique **Botswana** 00267 Myanmar (Burma) 0095 0055 Brazil Namibia 00264 00673 00977 Brunei Nepal Bulgaria 00359 Netherlands 0031 **Burkina** 00226 Netherlands Antilles 00599 00257 **New Caledonia** Burundi 00687 **New Zealand** Cambodia 00855 0064 00237 Nicaragua Cameroon 00505 001 Nigar 00227 Canada Cape Verde 00238 Nigeria 00234 Cayman Islands 001345 00683 00236 00672 **Central African** Norfolk Island 00235 N. Ireland (UK) 0044 Chile 00850 0056 **North Korea** 0086 China Norway 0047 Colombia 0057 Oman 00968 Comoros 00269 **Pakistan** 0092 00242 Palau 00680 Congo **Cook Islands** 00682 **Panama** 00507 Costa Rica 00506 00675 Papua New Guinea Croatia 00385 00595 **Paraguay** Cuba 0053 0051 00357 **Philippines** 0063 **Cyprus** 0090392 0048 Cyprus (Northern) **Poland** Czech Republic 00420 **Portugal** 00351 0045 **Puerto Rico** 001787 Denmark 00246 Qata Diego Garcia 00974 Djibouti 00253 Romania 0040 **Dominica** 001767 **Russian Federation** 007 Dominican Republic 001809 Rwanda 00250 **Ecuador** 00593 Saint Helena 00290 0020 Saint Kitts 001869 Egypt El Salvador 00503 001758 Saint Lucia **Equatorial Guinea** 00240 Saint Vincent 001784 **Eritrea** 00291 Samoa US 00684 00372 00685 Estonia Samoa West 00251 00378 **Ethiopia** San Marino Falkland Islands 00500 Sao Tone 00239 **Faroe Islands** 00298 Saudi Arabia 00966 00679 Scotland (UK) 0044 **Finland** 00358 Senegal 00221 0033 00284 France Seychelles Sierra Leone French Guiana 00594 00232 French Polynesia 00689 Singapore 0065 00241 Slovakia 00421 Gabon 00220 00386 Gambia Slovenia 00995 Solomon Islands 00677 Georgia Germany 0049 00252 Somalia 00233 **South Africa** 0027 Ghana Gibraltar 00350 South Korea 0082 Greece 0030 Spain 0034 00299 Greenland Sri Lanka 0094 Grenada 001473 Sudan 00249 00590 Suriname 00597 Guadeloupe 001671 Swaziland 00268 Guam Guatemala 00502 Sweden 0046 00224 Switzerland 0041 00963 Guyana 00592 Syria 00509 Serbia 00381 00886 Holland (Netherlands) 0031 **Taiwan** 00255 00504 Tanzania Honduras **Hong Kong** 00852 Thailand 0066 0036 00228 Hungary Togo Ibiza (Spain) 0034 **Tonga** 00676 Iceland 00354 Tokelau 00690 0091 Trinidad 001868 Tunisia Indian Ocean 00873 00216 Indonesia 0062 Turkey 0090 0098 Tuvalu 00688 00256 00964 Uganda Ireland 00353 Ukraine 00380 0039 United Arab Emirates 00976 00225 **United Kingdom** 0044 **Ivory Coast** Jamaica 001876 Uruguay 00598 0081 USA 001 Japan Jordan 00962 Uzbekistan 00998 Kazakhstan 007 Vanuatu 00678 00254 00582 Venezuela Kenya Kiribati 00686 Vietnam 0084 Kuwait 00965 Virgin Islands UK 001284 00996 Virgin Islands US 001340 Kyrgyzstan 00856 Wales (UK) 0044 Latvia 00371 00967 Yemen Lebanon Yugoslavia 00961 00381

12:30 The Goldbergs

13:00 Community

# TV PROGRAMS

# BBC

Kuwait - Times

03:35 Spooks 04:30 Doctors 05:05 The Musketeers 06:00 Doctors 06:30 Doctors 07:00 Holby City 08:00 Death In Paradise

08:55 Call The Midwife 09:45 The Musketeers 10:40 Doctors 11:10 Doctors 11:40 Death In Paradise

12:35 Call The Midwife 13:20 The Musketeers 14:15 Doctors 14:45 Doctors 15:20 Death In Paradise

16:15 Call The Midwife 17:05 The Musketeers 18:00 Doctors 18:30 Eastenders 19:05 Death In Paradise

20:00 New Tricks 21:00 New Tricks 21:55 Ripper Street 22:50 Spooks 23:45 Doctors 00:15 Eastenders

00:45 New Tricks

01:40 New Tricks

02:35 Ripper Street

COMEDA ( ) LARTHED

03:00 Nathan For You 03:25 Nathan For You 03:50 Ridiculousness 04:15 Ridiculousness 04:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol

05:30 Tosh.0 05:55 Tosh.0 06:20 Lip Sync Battle 06:50 Lip Sync Battle 07:15 Catch A Contractor 08:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol 08:55 Nathan For You

09:20 Nathan For You 09:45 Ridiculousness 10:10 Ridiculousness 10:35 Key And Peele 11:00 Workaholics 11:25 Catch A Contractor 12:15 Nathan For You 12:40 Nathan For You 13:05 Ridiculousness

13:30 Ridiculousness

On Patrol 14:45 Lip Sync Battle 15:10 Lip Sync Battle 15:35 Catch A Contractor 16:30 Nathan For You 16:55 Nathan For You 17:20 Workaholics 17:50 Ridiculousness 18:15 Ridiculousness 18:39 Key And Peele

13:55 Disorderly Conduct: Video

19:03 Workaholics 19:27 Tattoo Disasters 19:50 Tattoo Disasters 20:13 Lip Sync Battle The Daily Show With Trevor 21:00

22:40 So You Think You'd Survive? 23:30 Fast N' Loud 00:20 Kindig Customs 01:10 Diamond River Hunters 02:00 Venom Hunters

02:50 So You Think You'd Survive? DISCOVERY

03:00 Discovery ID 09:00 Discovery ID Discovery ID 21:00 Discovery ID Discovery Science HD 03:00 Mega World

03:48 Mythbusters 04:36 You Can't Lick Your Elbow Prank Science 05:24 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 06:12 How Do They Do It? 06:36 Food Factory 07:00 How Do They Do It?

07:26 Mythbusters 08:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 09:02 Mega World 09:50 How Do They Do It? 10:14 Food Factory 10:38 You Can't Lick Your Elbow

11:02 Magic Of Science 11:26 Mythbusters 12:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 13:02 How Do They Do It? 13:26 Food Factory

13:50 Mega World 14:38 You Can't Lick Your Elbow Magic Of Science 15:26 Mythbusters16:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 17:02 Mega World 17:50 Mythbusters

18:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 19:30 Freaks Of Nature 19:55 Freaks Of Nature 20:20 How Do They Do It? 20:45 Food Factory 21:10 Mega Engineering

22:00 Freaks Of Nature 22:25 Freaks Of Nature 22:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 23:40 Mythbusters 00:30 How Do They Do It?

00:55 Food Factory 01:20 Freaks Of Nature Freaks Of Nature 02:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

03:15 The Hive 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A

Teenage Witch 04:10 Hank Zipze 04:35 Binny And The Ghost 05:00 Violetta

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster 03:20 Calimero 03:35 Zou 03:45 Loopdidoo 04:00 Art Attack 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster 04:35 Calimero

04:50 Zou 05:00 Loopdidoo Art Attack 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster 05:50 Calimero Zou

06:20 Loopdidoo 06:35 Art Attack The Hive 07:10 Zou 07:25 Loopdidoo Jungle Cubs 08:05 Sofia The First 08:30 Miles From Tomorrow 08:40 PJ Masks 09:10 Doc McStuffins

09:40 Doc McStuffins

Minnie's Bow-Toons 10:00 Sofia The First 10:30 Sofia The First The Lion Guard 11:30 Jake And The Never Land **Pirates** 

12:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 12:30 Gummi Bears 13:00 Sofia The First 13:30 Doc McStuffins The Lion Guard 14:00

Aladdin 14:55 Jake And The Never Land **Pirates** 15:05 Goldie & Bear 15:30 Miles From Tomorrow16:00 Doc McStuffins

Doc McStuffins 16:55 Sofia The First 17:25 Sofia The First The Lion Guard 18:15 Jake And The Never Land **Pirates** 18:45 Jake And The Neverland

Pirates 19:00 PJ Masks Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 20:00 Doc McStuffins 20:30 Sofia The First 21:00 PJ Masks 21:30 Aladdin 22:00 Jungle Cubs

22:50 Zou 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster 23:20 Calimero 23:35 Zou 23:50 Loopdidoo

Gummi Bears

00:30 Henry Hugglemonster 00:45 Calimero 01:00 Zou 01:15 Loopdidoo 01:30 Art Attack 02:00 Calimero



06:00 Boyster

02:15 Zou

02:30 Loopdidoo



### LAGGIES ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

07:20 Keeping Up With The 08:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 13:05 EJ NYC

03:40 In Search Of Aliens 04:30 Ancient Aliens 05:20 Hangar 1: The UFO Files 06:10 Ancient Discoveries 07:00 World War II: Lost Films 08:00 Ancient Discoveries 09:00 The Universe

10:00 In Search Of Aliens

14:05 EJ NYC 15:00 Just Jillian 03:45 Wild 24

08:20 America's National Parks 09:15 Wild Yellowstone: She Wolf 10:10 Ultimate Animal Countdown

11:00 Ancient Aliens
12:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files 12:00 Built For The Kill 12:55 Built For The Kill 13:00 World War II: Lost Films 13:50 Extreme Animal Babies 14:00 Ancient Discoveries15:00 The Universe 16:00 In Search Of Aliens

17:00 Ancient Aliens 18:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files 17:30 Predator Fails 18:25 Man V. Monster World War II: Lost Films 20:00 Ancient Discoveries

21:00 The Universe 21:00 Wild Kalahari 22:00 Vietnam: Lost Films 23:00 WWI: The First Modern War 00:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files 22:40 Man V. Monster

23:30 Built For The Kill 01:00 World War II: Lost Films **Built For The Kill** 02:00 Ancient Discoveries 02:50 The Universe



03:40 Shipping Wars 04:05 Shipping Wars 04:30 Pawn Stars 05:00 Outlaw Chronicles: Hells

Angels 06:00 Alone 06:50 Swamp People 07:40 Mountain Men 08:30 American Restoration 08:55 Shipping Wars 09:20 Shipping Wars

09:45 Leepu And Pitbull 10:35 Ice Road Truckers Hunting Hitler 12:15 American Pickers

13:05 Storage Wars 13:30 Storage Wars 13:55 Ax Men 14:45 Pawn Stars South Africa 15:10 Pawn Stars South Africa

15:35 Shipping Wars 16:00 Grave Trade 16:50 Mountain Men 17:40 Swamp People

21:25 Car Hunters

18:00 Keeping Up With The 18:30 Hunting Hitler Kardashians 19:20 American Pickers 19:00 E! News 20:10 Pawn Stars 20:00 Botched 20:35 Pawn Stars 21:00 Botched 21:00 Counting Cars: Best Of 22:00 Famously Single

21:50 American Restoration 00:00 LA Clippers Dance Squad 22:40 Time Team 00:55 Keeping Up With The 23:30 Counting Cars: Best Of Kardashians 23:55 Car Hunters 01:50 New Money 00:20 American Restoration 02:20 E! News 01:10 Counting Cars

06:00 Man Fire Food 06:30 Man Fire Food 07:00 Chopped 08:00 Barefoot Contessa 08:30 Barefoot Contessa 09:00 The Kitchen
10:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen

12:00 Guy's Big Bite 12:30 Guy's Big Bite

21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy 16:00 The Kitchen 22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse 18:00 Chopped

03:15 Giuliana & Bill 04:10 Giuliana & Bill 05:05 Giuliana & Bill 06:00 Fashion Bloggers 06:25 Keeping Up With The 03:00 Man Fire Food 03:30 Man Fire Food 04:00 Chopped 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games

10:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen 11:00 Chopped 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 14:00 Man Fire Food

17:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen 19:00 Guy's Grocery Games 20:00 Chopped 21:00 Kitchen Inferno 22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

04:40 America's National Parks 05:35 Mother Croc 06:30 Extreme Animal Babies

07:25 Wild 24

11:05 Man V. Monster

14:45 World's Deadliest Animals 15:40 America's National Parks 16:35 Wild Kalahari

19:20 World's Deadliest Animals 20:10 America's National Parks

01:10 Extreme Animal Babies 02:00 Tiger On The Run 02:50 World's Weirdest (2015)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL CO 03:50 Outsiders: Living Off The

04:45 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather 05:40 Explorer

06:35 Engineering Connections 07:30 Ultimate Survival Alaska 08:25 Alaska Fish Wars 09:20 Richard Hammond's Wildest

NAT GEO

20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 21:24 Breadwinners 21:48 Breadwinners 22:12 Sanjay And Craig

22:36 Sanjay And Craig 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants 23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants

23:48 Henry Danger 00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 00:36 Max & Shred 01:00 The Haunted Hathaways 01:24 Sanjay And Craig 01:48 Sanjay And Craig 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants

02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants

OM FIRST TIP COMEDY



19:00 True Colors 03:30 Black-Ish 04:00 The Goldbergs

04:30 The Tonight Show Starring

Jimmy Fallon 05:30 Community 06:00 George Lopez 06:30 Breaking In 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 08:00 The Goldbergs 08:30 Community

09:00 The Simpsons 09:30 The Grinder 10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 10:30 Breaking In 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

12:00 George Lopez

13:30 Breaking In 14:00 Black-Ish 14:30 The Grinder 15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 14:00 Ultimate Survival Alaska 15:30 Galavant 15:00 Engineering Connections 16:00 Last Man Standing 16:30 George Lopez 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 18:00 The Simpsons 18:30 Black-Ish 19:00 Engineering Connections 20:00 Science Of Stupid 19:00 Young & Hungry 19:30 Young & Hungry

Weather

10:15 Science Of Stupid

10:40 Science Of Stupid

12:05 Mega Factories

13:00 Alaska Fish Wars

16:00 Science Of Stupid

16:30 Science Of Stupid

18:00 Mega Factories

02:00 Mega Factories

02:55 Engineering Connections

nickelodeon HD

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

03:48 Henry Danger 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways

05:24 Henry Danger 05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn

06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants

06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 07:48 Winx Club

09:48 Henry Danger 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways

11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants 11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants

12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

14:36 Henry Danger 15:00 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants

15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants

18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 19:00 100 Things To Do Before

19:24 Game Shakers 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants

16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 16:36 The Loud House

05:00 Max & Shred

08:12 Harvey Beaks

09:00 Get Blake

11:00 Winx Club

13:00 Breadwinners

13:24 The Loud House

13:48 Harvey Beaks 14:12 Rabbids Invasion

17:00 Sanjay And Craig

17:24 Harvey Beaks

17:48 Breadwinners

18:12 Henry Danger

High School

Breadwinners

09:24 Rabbids Invasion

17:00 Cesar To The Rescue

11:10 Cesar To The Rescue

20:25 Science Of Stupid 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring 20:50 Cesar To The Rescue Jimmy Fallon 21:40 Mega Factories 21:00 Galavant 22:30 Engineering Connections 21:30 Last Man Standing 23:20 Explorer 00:10 Science Of Stupid 22:00 You're The Worst 22:30 Bordertown 00:35 Science Of Stupid 23:00 Web Therapy 01:00 Cesar To The Rescue

23:30 Late Night With Seth Mevers 00:30 Galavant 01:00 Last Man Standing

02:00 Bordertown 02:30 Web Therapy

**MA** MOVIES ACTION

04:00 Armored 06:00 Ladder 49 Robot Overlords 10:00 Jesse Stone: Lost In **Paradise** 

01:30 You're The Worst

12:00 Armored 14:00 Ladder 49 16:00 Unstoppable Robot Overlords

20:00 Edge Of Tomorrow 22:00 Four Brothers Act Of Valor

02:00 Backdraft OM MOVIES HE

COMEDY 04:00 Father Of The Bride 06:00 Chef 08:00 Grosse Pointe Blank 10:00 Father Of The Bride

12:00 Cas & Dylan 14:00 Father Of The Bride Part II 16:00 Grosse Pointe Blank 18:00 Julie And Julia

20:00 Laggies 22:00 A Night At The Roxbury 00:00 Hits 02:00 Julie And Julia

### OWN MOVIES HE

**FAMILY** 

03:00 First Kid 05:00 My Girl 2 07:00 Penguins Of Madagascar

09:00 Mars Needs Moms 11:00 A Bug's Life 13:00 101 Dalmatians 15:00 Pocahontas

17:00 Race To Witch Mountain 19:00 Homeward Bound: The 21:00 High School Musical 3:

Senior Year 23:00 Pocahontas 01:00 Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey

MOVIES.

05:00 Jack Strong 07:30 Blackfish 09:00 Paradise

Parkland 13:00 Fast Girls 17:00 Paradise

21:00 Every Day 23:00 Cocaine Cowboys: Reloaded

OM MOVIES HE

03:00 Drumline: A New Beat 05:00 Boychoir

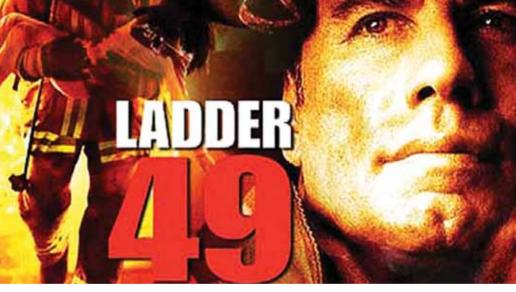
07:00 Penthouse North 09:00 The Grand Seduction 11:00 Miss You Already 13:00 Transcendence 15:00 A Birder's Guide To

Everything 17:00 Seventh Son 18:45 The Walk 21:00 Unfriended

23:00 The November Man 01:00 Taken 3



SEVENTH SON ON OSN MOVIES HD



### **LADDER 49 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION**

21:30 Jo Koy: Lights Out 22:18 Kyle Kinane: I Liked His Old

23:05 Underground With Dave Attell 23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 00:00 Tosh.0

00:25 Lip Sync Battle 01:15 Underground With Dave 01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor

02:05 Kyle Kinane: I Liked His Old



03:40 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop 04:05 Auction Hunters 04:30 Dallas Car Sharks How Stuff's Made 05:30 How Do They Do It? 06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier

Kindig Customs 07:40 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder 08:30 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition 08:55 Auction Hunters

09:20 Dallas Car Sharks 09:45 How Stuff's Made 10:10 How Do They Do It? Gold Divers 11:25 Yukon Men

Edition 13:30 Auction Hunters 13:55 Dallas Car Sharks 14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier 15:10 Kindia Customs

17:15 How Do They Do It? Diamond River Hunters 18:30 Venom Hunters 19:20 The Island With Bear Grylls

12:15 Outback Truckers 13:05 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop

Fast N' Loud 16:50 How Stuff's Made

Auction Hunters 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A 20:35 Dallas Car Sharks Teenage Witch 21:00 Diamond River Hunters 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Venom Hunters

05:45 The Hive 05:50 Mouk 06:00 Hank Zipzer 06:25 Jessie

06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 07:20 Dog With A Blog 07:45 Dog With A Blog 08:10 Bunk'd 08:35 Bunk'd

06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse

09:00 Hank Zipzer 09:25 Hank Zipzer 09:50 Jessie 10:15 Jessie 10:40 Disney's Descendants 12:45 Liv And Maddie

13:10 Liv And Maddie 13:35 Backstage 14:00 Backstage 14:25 Dog With A Blog 14:50 Dog With A Bloa 15:15 Hank Zipzer 15:40 Bunk'd

16:10 Gravity Falls 16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 17:00 Backstage 17:50 Girl Meets World 18:15 Liv And Maddie 18:40 Best Friends Whenever

16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse

19:05 Austin & Allv 19:30 Jessie 19:55 Violetta 20:45 Good Luck Charlie 21:10 H2O: Just Add Water 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water 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 00:00 Violetta 00:45 The Hive

06:10 Super Matrak 06:35 Super Matrak 07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova 07:25 K.C. Undercover

07:50 Supa Strikas 08:15 Phineas And Ferb 08:40 Camp Lakebottom 09:05 Disney Mickey Mouse 09:10 Gravity Falls 09:35 Lab Rats Rocket Monkeys 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man 10:50 Boyster

Boyster 11:45 Pair Of Kings 12:10 Pair Of Kings 12:35 Lab Rats 13:00 Lab Rats 13:30 Phineas And Ferb Phineas And Ferb 14:20 Kickin' It 14:45 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In

Unova 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse 15:15 Supa Strikas 15:40 Supa Strikas 16:05 Lab Bats 16:30 Pickle And Peanut Kirby Buckets 17:25 K.C. Undercover

17:50 Annedroids S3&4

18:40 K.C. Undercover

19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse Gravity Falls 19:35 Pickle And Peanut 20:00 Lab Rats 20:25 Supa Strikas 20:55 K.C. Undercover 21:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...

Gamer's Guide To Pretty..

16:00 Just Jillian

23:00 E! News

17:00 Keeping Up With The

14:30 Man Fire Food 15:00 Chopped Trisha's Southern Kitchen

23:00 Iron Chef America 00:00 Chopped 01:00 Kitchen Inferno

02:00 Swamp People 02:50 Mountain Men CHOICE 03:25 Grantchester

04:20 It's Not Rocket Science 05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples 06:10 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 07:05 Chopping Block 08:00 Grantchester 08:55 It's Not Rocket Science 09:50 Come Dine With Me Couples

12:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 13:25 Emmerdale 13:50 Coronation Street 14:20 Coronation Street 14:45 Come Dine With Me Couples 15:35 Chopping Block 16:30 Midsomer Murders 18:20 Emmerdale

18:45 Coronation Street

19:10 Coronation Street

10:40 The Chase

11:35 Chopping Block

19:35 Chopping Block 20:30 Midsomer Murders 22:50 Emmerdale 00:10 The Chase

22:20 Coronation Street 23:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 01:00 Emmerdale 01:30 Coronation Street 02:00 Coronation Street

02:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries

# CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait - Times

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016





# KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (28/07/2016 TO 03/08/2016)

				(20/07/20101000/2010)				
	SHAROIA-1				Special Show "THE LEGEND OF TARZAN"	7:30 PM	FINDING DORY	3:00 PM
	ALICETHROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	11:45 AM	FANAR-2		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	10:00 PM	FINDING DORY	5:15 PM
	THE CONJURING 2	2:00 PM	SUBMERGED	11:30 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:30 AM	FINDING DORY	7:30 PM
	KANGAR HOBINA	4:45 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:30 PM			LAMMA SHOFTAK (When I Saw You)	10:00 PM
	KANGAR HOBINA	7:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	3:45 PM	AVENUES-1		THE CONJURING 2	12:15 AM
ı	THE CONJURING 2	9:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	6:00 PM	FINDING DORY	11:45 AM		
	THE CONJURING 2	12:05 AM	ALICETHROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D	8:15 PM	KANGAR HOBINA	2:00 PM	AL-KOUT.1	
			THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	10:30 PM	DISHOOM -HINDI	4:15 PM	ALICETHROUGHTHE LOOKING GLASS	12:30 PM
	SHARQIA-2		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:45 AM	KANGAR HOBINA	7:00 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	2:45 PM
ı	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	1:00 PM			KANGAR HOBINA	9:15 PM	ALICETHROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	5:00 PM
ı	KANGAR HOBINA	1:30 PM	FANAR-3		KANGAR HOBINA	11:30 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	7:15 PM
ı	ALICETHROUGHTHE LOOKING GLASS	3:30 PM	FINDING DORY	12:15 PM			THE CONJURING 2	9:30 PM
ı	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:45 PM	SUBMERGED	2:30 PM	AVENUES-2		THE CONJURING 2	12:15 AM
ı	ALICETHROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	8:00 PM	SUBMERGED	4:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	12:30 PM	AL KOLITA	
ı	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	10:15 PM	FINDING DORY	6:45 PM	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES:	3:00 PM	AL-KOUT.2 JASON BOURNE	12:15 PM
ı	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:30 AM	SULTAN- HINDI	9:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	5:30 PM	JASON BOURNE JASON BOURNE	2:45 PM
			SUBMERGED	12:15 AM	ALICETHROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D-4DX	8:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	5:15 PM
	SHARQIA-3				THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	10:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	7:45 PM
	JASON BOURNE	12:15 PM	FANAR-4		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	1:00 AM	ABU SHANAB	10:15 PM
	JASON BOURNE	2:45 PM	ALICETHROUGHTHE LOOKING GLASS	12:00 PM			JASON BOURNE	12:30 AM
	FINDING DORY	5:15 PM	ALICETHROUGHTHE LOOKING GLASS	2:15 PM	AVENUES-3			
	JASON BOURNE	7:30 PM	ALICETHROUGHTHE LOOKING GLASS	4:45 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	11:45 AM	AL-KOUT.3	
	ABU SHANAB	10:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2	7:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2	2:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:45 PM
	JASON BOURNE	12:15 AM	THE CONJURING 2	9:45 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	4:45 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	3:00 PM
	MUHALAB-1		THE CONJURING 2	12:30 AM	THE CONJURING 2 THE CONJURING 2	7:00 PM 9:45 PM	FINDING DORY -3D	5:15 PM
	JASON BOURNE	12:15 PM	FANAR-5		THE CONJURING 2 THE CONJURING 2	9:45 PM 12:30 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	7:30 PM
ı	JASON BOURNE	3:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	11:30 AM	THE CONJORAING 2	12.30 AW	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	9:45 PM
ı	JASON BOURNE	5:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	2:00 PM	AVENUES-4		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:05 AM
ı	ABU SHANAB	8:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	4:30 PM	ALICETHROUGHTHE LOOKING GLASS	11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.4	
ı	JASON BOURNE	10:15 PM	JASON BOURNE	7:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	1:45 PM	SUBMERGED	12:15 PM
ı	JASON BOURNE	12:45 AM	JASON BOURNE	9:30 PM	FINDING DORY	4:30 PM	SUBMERGED	2:15 PM
ı	3.001100011112	12.137.111	JASON BOURNE	12:05 AM	ABU SHANAB	6:45 PM	SUBMERGED	4:15 PM
ı	MUHALAB-2				ABU SHANAB	9:15 PM	KANGAR HOBINA	6:15 PM
ı	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	11:30 AM	MARINA-1		NO MON		KANGAR HOBINA	8:15 PM
	FINDING DORY	2:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	12:30 PM	Special Show "THE CONJURING 2"	9:00 PM	SUBMERGED	10:45 PM
	FINDING DORY	4:15 PM	JASON BOURNE	3:00 PM	MON		SUBMERGED	12:45 AM
	THE CONJURING 2	6:30 PM	FINDING DORY	5:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	11:45 PM		
	THE CONJURING 2	9:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	7:45 PM			BAIRAQ-1	
	THE CONJURING 2	12:30 AM	JASON BOURNE	10:15 PM	360 °- 1		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	12:00 PM
			JASON BOURNE	12:45 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	12:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	2:15 PM
	MUHALAB-3				THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:00 PM	ALICETHROUGHTHE LOOKING GLASS -3D	4:30 PM
	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	12:30 PM	MARINA-2		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	5:30 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	6:45 PM 9:00 PM
	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	2:45 PM	THE CONJURING 2	11:30 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	8:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN  THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	11:30 PM
	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	5:15 PM	FINDING DORY	2:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	10:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	11.50 FW
	ALICE THROUGHTHE LOOKING GLASS	7:30 PM	THE CONJURING 2	4:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:00 AM	BAIRAQ-2	
	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	9:45 PM	ABU SHANAB	7:15 PM	240. 0		KANGAR HOBINA	12:30 PM
ı	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:05 AM	THE CONJURING 2	9:30 PM	360°-2	44.45.444	ALICETHROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	2:45 PM
	FANAR-1		THE CONJURING 2	12:15 AM	ALICETHROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	11:45 AM	FINDING DORY	5:00 PM
ı	THE CONJURING 2	12:15 PM	MARINA-3		NOW YOU SEE ME 2 SULTAN- HINDI	2:15 PM 5:00 PM	KANGAR HOBINA	7:15 PM
	KANGAR HOBINA	12:15 PM 3:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:45 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	5:00 PM 8:15 PM	ABU SHANAB	9:30 PM
ı	KANGAR HOBINA KANGAR HOBINA	5:00 PM	ALICETHROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	12:45 PM 3:00 PM	NOW YOU SEE ME 2	8:15 PM 11:30 PM	ALICETHROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	11:45 PM
	ABU SHANAB	7:15 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	5:15 PM	INOW TOO SEE INE 2	11:30 FIVI	24/240	
	KANGAR HOBINA	9:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	7:30 PM	360 ∘- 3		BAIRAQ-3	1.00 5: 1
ı	ABU SHANAB	9.50 PM 11:45 PM	NO FRI	7.50 FIVI	FINDING DORY	12:45 PM	JASON BOURNE	1:00 PM
I	ADD STATED	HASTIM	1101111			12.731101	KANGAR HOBINA	1:30 PM
- 1								

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mukil Arasan, holder of Indian Passport No. G9180281, resident at No: 19, R.O.B. main street, Hall Garden, Royepettai, Chennai - 14, India. Have changed my name from Mukil Arasan in future, I will be known as Abdul Rahman. (C 5197)

I have changed my name as Uppalapati Subbarayudu Raju, instead of Uppalapati Subbarayudu. Any objections please contact below address: Uppalapati Subbaraydu Raju, S/o Uppalapati Chengalraju, D/No: 3/74, Passport No: G3449557, Gangarajupuram (VI),

Gangarajupuram (VI), Raghavarajupuram (P.O), Rly Kodur (M), Kadapa (Dst), Andhra Pradesh, India. (C 5196) 2-8-2016

### SITUATION WANTED

Finance Professional: A well-qualified (MBA, CPA), Indian Finance Professional is looking for a change in job. 12 years of experience in Investment Banking, Real Estate & FMCG in the middle level position in Kuwait. Excellent communicator and adaptable. Please call 65094498.

1-8-2016

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:41
Shorook	05:09
Duhr:	11:54
Asr:	15:30
Maghrib:	18:39
Isha:	20:07



### Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

### **DIAL161** FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

	Arrival Flig	nts on Wednesday 3/8/2016		KAC	672	Dubai	14:05		Departure Flic	ghts on Wednesday 3/8/2016	5	ETD	9819	BRU	14:10
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10	IRC	6512	ABD	14:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50	JAD	302	Amman	00:25	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	JZR	257	Beirut	14:50	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC KNE	788 683	Jeddah Madinah	15:00	FDB JZR	072	Dubai	00:30	KAC	673	Dubai Bahrain	15:05
PGT ETH	858 620	Istanbul Addis Ababa	01:40 01:45	KNE	529	Madinah Jeddah	15:05 15:05	THY	502 773	Luxor Istanbul	01:15 01:40	GFA FDB	222 058	Bahrain Dubai	15:05 15:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
KKK	750	TZX	01:50	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55	SVA	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50	KKK	751	TZX	02:55	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	MSC	406	Sohag	03:30	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	TBM	6313	Mashhad	16:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
MSC	405	Sohag	02:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	THY	769	Istanbul	03:45	KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
THY	1404	AYT	02:30	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	KAC	417	Manila	03:55	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	JZR MSC	535	Cairo	16:20	RJA	645	Amman	03:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD OMA	305 643	Abu Dhabi Muscat	03:05 03:05	JZR	507 787	HRG Riyadh	16:30 16:45	OMA FDB	644 068	Muscat Dubai	04:05 04:05	ETD KAC	304 563	Abu Dhabi Amman	16:20 16:30
RJA	644	Amman	03:03	IRC	526	Mashhad	16:50	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04.03	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	KAC	562	Amman	16:55	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	SAW	705	Damascus	17:05	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20	TBM	6314	Mashhad	17:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30	CEB	019	Manila	04:50	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00	MSC	508	HRG	17:30
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	QTR JZR	1080	Doha	17:55	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00	IRC	527	Mashhad	17:50
THY KAC	770 412	Istanbul Manila/Bangkok	05:15 06:30	MSR	483 620	Istanbul Cairo	18:20 18:30	rja Qtr	643 1087	Amman Doha	06:25 06:30	SVA JZR	511 184	Riyadh Dubai	18:15 18:20
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45	SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	JZR	240	Amman	06:55	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	SYR	341	Damascus	18:45	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	KAC	742	Dammam	18:50	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	JZR	256	Beirut	07:30	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	BAW	156	London	08:25	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	SYR GFA	342	Damascus	19:45
KAC KAC	302 354	Mumbai BLR	07:50 08:00	KAC FDB	166 063	Paris/Rome Dubai	19:05 19:10	KAC KAC	511 539	Mashhad Sharm el-Sheikh	08:40 08:50	FDB	218 064	Bahrain Dubai	19:50 19:50
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	KAC	791	Madinah	08:55	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	KAC	117	New York	09:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	MSR	606	Luxor	19:30	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30	MSR	619	Alexandria	20:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	KAC	102	New York/London	19:55	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
IRC	6511	ABD	09:15	KNE	381	Taif	20:10	IRC	6522	Lamerd	10:05	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
QTR IRA	1070 665	Doha Shiraz	09:20 09:25	MEA OMA	402 647	Beirut Muscat	20:15 20:20	IRA QTR	664 1071	Shiraz Doha	10:25 10:35	KAC KAC	351 543	Kochi Cairo	21:00 21:00
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:40	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
FDB	055	Dubai	09:50	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	IRM	1189	Mashhad	10:55	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
CCE	345	Sohag	10:00	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	CCE	346	Sohag	11:10	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	JAD	309	Amman	21:20	KAC	175	Frankfurt/Geneva	11:15	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	KAC	561	Amman	11:20	FDB	5054	Dubai Abu Dhahi	21:55
JZR JZR	561 165	Sohag Dubai	11:25 11:50	THY	764 1082	Istanbul	21:30 21:55	GFA JZR	214 356	Bahrain Mashhad	11:35 11:40	ETD JAD	308 300	Abu Dhabi	21:55 22:00
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:50	QTR GFA	219	Doha Bahrain	21:55	AXB	350 890	Mangalore	11:40	ALK	230	Amman Colombo	22:20
ETD	9819	Abu Dhabi	12:10	KAC	564	Amman	22:05	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15	KAC	103	London	12:10	THY	1413	TZX	22:25
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	MSC	501	Alexandria	22:30	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	BBC	043	Dhaka	22:40	IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55	KAC	785 176	Jeddah Dubai	13:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
THY CLX	766 792	Istanbul Luxembourg	13:10 13:15	MSC RBG	403 555	Asyut Alexandria	23:10 23:15	JZR FDB	176 076	Dubai Dubai	13:10 13:10	ETD JZR	310 528	Abu Dhabi	23:05 23:15
IRC	6521	Lamerd	13:15	JAI	555 574	Mumbai	23:15	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10	QTR	528 1083	Asyut Doha	23:20
KAC	792	Madinah	13:45	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35	MSC	502	Alexandria	23:30
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55	KAC	203	Lahore	23:40
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	23:40	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	RBG	556	Alexandria	23:55

### **CROSSWORD 1331**

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71							72			73	74				
75				76		77			78				79		$\dagger$
80		T		81									82		

### **ACROSS**

- 1. X-ray picture of the kidneys and ureters after injection of a radiopaque dye.
- 4. Taken before a meal as an appetizer. 12. A flat wing-shaped process or wing-
- like part of an organism. 16. The framework of a bed.
- 17. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 18. Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
- 20. Inability to walk.
- 22. Expressing earnest entreaty.
- 25. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity.
- 26. Covered with paving material. 27. The supreme commander of a fleet.
- 30. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods. 31. Any of various edible seeds of plants of the family Leguminosae.
- 32. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools. 35. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
- 38. Be idle. 39. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of
- Jezebel (9th century BC). 40. A castrated tomcat.
- 44. Of or relating to the stomach and intestines.
- 45. The largest island of the central Ryukyu Islands.
- 49. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name Relafen).
- 50. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- 52. The capital of Morocco. 54. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- 55. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
- 57 An event resul misfortune.
- 59. Red pear-shaped tropical fruit with poisonous seeds.
- 61. A worker who oils engines or machin-
- 62. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 65. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or
- 66. An inclined surface or roadway that moves traffic from one level to another.
- 68. Agency of the United States government charged with mediating disputes between management and labor. 71. Cause to go crazy.
- 72. A state in northwestern North America.
- 73. Land received by fee tail v 1.
- 75. A loose sleeveless outer garment
- made from aba cloth. 76. Capable of being attained or accom-
- plished. 79. A beverage made by steeping tea
- leaves in water.
- 80. Thigh of a hog (usually smoked). 81. Bottom-livers having large eyes with
- metallic green luster. 82. The compass point midway between
- northeast and east.

### **DOWN**

1. Not elegant or graceful in expression. 2. Mexican revolutionary leader (1877-

- 3. Someone who plies a trade.
- 4. A port city in southwestern Iran.
- 5. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- 6. Any place of complete bliss and delight and peace.
- 7. A substance produced by the hypothalamus that is capable of accelerating the secretion of a given hormone by the anterior pituitary gland. 8. A strong emotion.
- 9. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
- 10. Not based on fact. 11. The month following January and pre-
- ceding March. 12. An associate degree in applied sci-
- 13. Set down according to a plan.
- 14. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- 19. Any of various hard resins from trees of the family Dipterocarpaceae and of the genus Agathis.
- 21. A genus of tropical American plants have sword-shaped leaves and a fleshy compound fruits composed of the fruits of several flowers (such as pineapples).
- 23. The vertical triangular wall between the sloping ends of gable roof.
- 24. Affect with wonder.
- 28. A special loved one. 29. The syllable naming the sixth (subme-
- diant) note of a major or minor scale in
- 33. Capital and largest city of Iraq. 34. The state of existing and being local-
- ized in space.
- 36. Found pleasant or attractive. 37. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
- 41. An awkward stupid person. 42. (the feminine of raja) A Hindu princess or the wife of a raia.
- 43. Trade name for an oral contraceptive
- containing estradiol and norgestrel. 46. A quantity of no importance.
- 47. That which weakens or causes a loss of strength.
- 48. Diverge from the expected. 51. (physics and chemistry) The smallest component of an element having the chemical properties of the element.
- 53. An active and efficient cause. 56. A hard medicated paste made of lard
- or oil mixed with wax or resin. 58. With mature or developed appear-
- ance. 60. Large swift fly the female of which
- sucks blood of various animals.
- 63. An amino acid that is found in the
- central nervous system. 64. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian
- mythology. 67. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and
- the Ivory Coast. 69. The right to take another's property if
- an obligation is not discharged.
- 70. (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue. 74. (meaning literally `born') Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a mar-
- ried woman. 77. A brittle silver-white metalloid element that is related to selenium and sulfur. 78. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.

### Yesterday's Solution

D	Α	M	A		С	A	L	P	A	С	K		M	0	Α
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### **STAR TRACK**

### Aries (March 21-April 19)

There are new ideas with regard to education and job possibilities. These are issues that you are very prone to want to talk about, especially today. Today a friend or relative may be returning to the education circle. Issues may need to be resolved regarding your own education. Do not hesitate to get outside information or professional opinion if you think further education is right for you. Your mind is full of practical ideas, especially related to your job or skills. You enjoy working with your mind and can usually find a solution to even the worst problems. Your skills in this regard make you an expert at solving problems and you set good examples for others. Ideas of unidentified flying objects gain your attention this evening, perhaps time travel.



### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are a solid supporter of others, especially when one can easily see that they are on the right path. You will help if called upon to do so, but you may have trouble staying focused. Future plans with a loved one may continue to flood your mind. Sometimes the whole joy of an experience is in the looking forward. It might be a smart thing if you were to allow yourself some time for work. Once you begin some problem solving in the workplace, others had better step aside. You have a stick-toitiveness that always finds you in the thick of things. This is a time to investigate ways in which to better your working position. It could be a good time to take risks and dare to be a little unconventional. A positive evening is in the forecast.



### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

A surge of independence, a need for freedom and an interest in trying new and different things may take hold this morning. Because you are able to handle difficulties more easily than in the past, you may have strong desires for some new kind of involvement. Careful-just when we think there are no more lions in the jungle, one may appear. In other words, go humbly through the next few days and enjoy the quiet times as creative times. You have a lot of energy to pour into anything you want to accomplish. Your increased self-confidence should bring you in touch with some rather interesting people and possibilities. Concentrate on securing business contacts. A new allergy or dental care program may be something for which you need to be attentive



### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Fate sends opportunity your way, especially if you listen to your instincts and give your natural sense of curiosity a free rein. Travel and education can help uncover some of the answers that will give you the power or advantage you seek-do not cut yourself off from such experiences. Mass communications can be financially rewarding in some ways-think about advertising, broadcasting, publishing, etc. Decisive action is the main order of this business day. This could have to do with how you respond to change and maintain your independence. A change of residence may be necessary in order to take advantage of new career opportunities. Your originality and eccentricity are strong ingredients for your success now.



### Leo (July 23-August 22)

The energies today indicate that you are bold enough to take the reins at most any desk. You find it easy to turn difficult situations into positive end results. Everything points to your taking charge and directing the day successfully for yourself and for those around you. You are a good teacher and leader and should feel a great deal of support for some new method or technique you have in mind. You are outgoing, overflowing and very generous so stop wondering why people flock around you to gain your attention. Politics could be considered this birth year; you could make a positive difference for many people. There could be some healing, especially for young people-you love to listen to the sound of young voices. Make a wish!



### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Ideas and communications are topics of interest this morning. Getting the facts and making sure that people get your message straight can make all the difference in the world. Through reading material or a television interview there may be some highlevel differences of opinion or outlook regarding fundamental religious or philosophical beliefs. This may have you pondering, or questioning some of your very personal ideas and beliefs. Someone you love may be highly emotional this afternoon. It might be a good idea to suggest a physical checkup and find some vitamin therapy. You and your mate will have clear and positive communications if you can bide your time and let the emotions settle. Choose to find the most positive flow of thought

### **Wordsearch Puzzle**

### Animals 6

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

ETTTLWTANEYHGITYO BTEBEEXBREPGTXWRC CDRKRKVPAMSIIXOAE RFGRRATKSZAOVBAGL OCEOIJTTAHHDOXBUO CFVZULNLPTAWIGIOT OBBDQABBIVBRQLNCN DWNKSAFXUAEGKALOA INFATWILDEBEESTOM LRERWRTGNOELEMAHC EHOTUUEPONCQTOLXE P S Z M R R A N A C O N D A W T M STEEGAYASMBOIBVNW QLZENIMREGULLHKQE

ALBATROSS ANACONDA ARMADILLO BADGER CHAMELEON COUGAR CROCODILE **EGRET** 

**ERMINE** FERRET **GIBBON** GULL **HYENA** LEMUR LOON MARTEN MONGOOSE OCELOT PHEASANT SHARK **SQUIRREL** VULTURE WILDEBEEST

### Libra (September 23-October 22)

Situations and people you thought you could rely on may test your problem-solving abilities. Talk things over, find out what is really happening and then you should be able to bring a difficult situation around to a positive ending. A feeling that things will work out correctly if left alone can be particularly misleading. Plans, decisions and problems prove easy to solve and may even turn lucky today. You feel successful and able to contend with difficulties. Good advice from a guide or older person may be in the forecast-a good day. You make your way now by using practical vision and common sense. This could be some kind of high-water mark for your career, recognition, etc. You may find that you enjoy your job or the responsibility it entails.



### **Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

This is a long dreamy time when you find it easy to lose yourself in one flight of fancy or another. This could be dangerous if you did not have control over your rational thinking. You may want to take on some form of exercise before eating at the noon hour today. This will help you get rid of the stress that you may occasionally find in your day. A light lunch is preferable today. You may become interested in some political or civic activity this afternoon. You are particularly sensitive to beauty and this afternoon favors buying art objects or other things of beauty. Purchases today are likely to be a good investment over the long run. Take time to play with young people this evening. A possible project for the family comes to your attention.



### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your goals stand in stark contrast to the goals of others now and an adjustment must be made. There is a need for compromise, for coming to an understanding. This is a time of decision, when small changes can have big effects later. Make the right choice and you have benefits; the wrong one or no choice at all does you no favors. This is a good day for practical ideas and planning about your work or vocation. You may receive some recognition or special attention regarding your particular skills and abilities. You will be appreciative in all the appropriate places but quite frankly, you itch to travel and may even have a family or friends meeting this evening to make some decisions on what a vacation might entail.



### **Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**

Goals and security needs are a focus in your life at this time and they tend to be at odds. Striking a rational but caring balance between setting goals and keeping within certain boundaries may take some consideration on your part. If you are planning a through-hike on the appalachian trail or any other adventure, packing for safety is the first consideration. Now is the time to act and decide; failure to do so can upset delicate psychological, physical and emotional balances. A clear-minded insight into your own plans and methods is available to you. Your efforts in any matter will be received with favor, especially by those at a distance. This may mean you will be learning and taking on new experiences that will add to your evolution.



### Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

A relative or friend may have some career choices to make at this time. You may not be able to give direction but you can encourage and boost this person's self-esteem. In your own profession you will jump to the needs of many. There could be a hidden link that will highlight your point of view and gain the results that you want regarding discussions in a meeting this afternoon. You will exhibit your abilities to be candid and direct-saving the emotions for study at a later time. Remember to use your mind and not your emotions. Your ambitions go hand in hand with communication and using the mind and the two should never be far apart. A family discussion relates to mov-

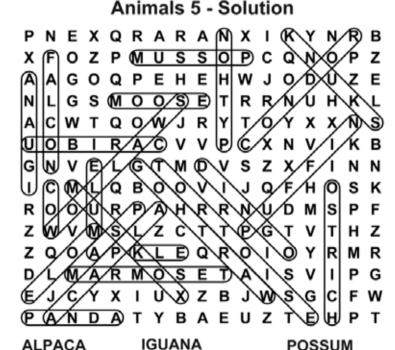


### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

ing, residence, domesticity, the possibility of a major purchase.

Your ambition and drive are strong. You are able to use good sense and make all the right decisions. There could be a change of job or an advancement of some sort within the workplace. This is a time to get ahead by taking action. Fresh insight comes to you through some news media source, giving you a whole new perspective. If you enjoy listening to ideas and reports from strange sources, it would be better to discuss the content among your non-working friends. This should prove to be a nice day that just flows along. You could feel real support and harmony at this time for circumstances and those around you. A family discussion begins and ends, not only passionately but positively. There is always new insight into those you love.

### Yesterday's Solution



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FALCON

MARMOSET MOLE MOOSE MULE MUSKOX OSTRICH PANDA

**POSSUM** PUFFIN **PYTHON** SKUNK **SWALLOW** TORTOISE WARTHOG

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### Yesterday's Solution

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den in Waukesha County, Wisconsin.



Photo provided by Dale Sievert shows moss growing in a pot in Sievert's gar- This undated photo provided by Dale Sievert shows moss growing in a small Moss growing in the snow in Sievert's garden in Waukesha County, Wisconsin.



# Moss can be a versatile and beautiful addition to any garden



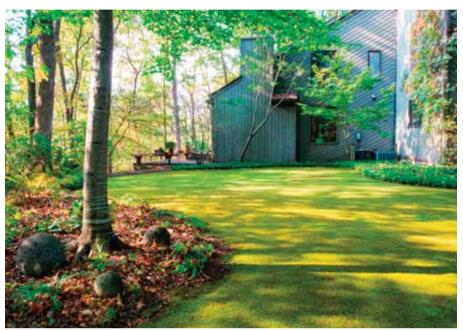
This undated photo provided by Dale Sievert shows moss growing in a small private garden, on rock below tree, in Japan. — AP photos

Paul Moore, who owned a garden center in Tennessee for over 30 years, can't count the number of times people asked him how to kill moss. He and other experts, however, say moss deserves more respect, as a versatile and beautiful addition to any garden. "It's stunning in the winter when everything else is dormant and dull. It's like a little emerald island," says Moore, who's got an entire moss lawn. "It changes with atmospheric conditions - it's ever-changing." And it looks better than his grass lawn did in Nashville's hot dry summers, he says.

Moss provides a variety of shapes and textures, and can work in everything from a container to a whole lawn, like Moore's. "Mosses offer year-round green," says Annie Martin, author of "The Magical World of Moss Gardening" (Timber Press, 2016). It thrives in a surprising range of climates; she once harvested some moss off a hot tin roof in June and found it to be a species that also grows in

Some lessons on how to garden with moss can be found in Japan, where it is more valued. Dale Sievert has created Japanese-style gardens at his home in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and for public gardens in Wisconsin and Chicago. But this type of formal garden with great expanses of moss wasn't actually what he found most interesting when he visited Japan. Rather, it was how often moss was used in private gardens along city streets, in front of businesses and homes - just a couple square feet in a planter, or the space between a sidewalk and a building.

"That's how they garden with moss, in these little tiny spots," he says. So, he says,



This undated photo provided by J Paul Moore shows part of his moss yard in Nashville,

start small. One possibility: Instead of using mulch, plant moss to cover the ground under a perennial that's bare at the bottom and bigger on top. Or start even smaller: in a flowerpot. Sievert has about 300 containers planted with moss, where they thrive even in the

### 'Take your shoes off'

Another way to start is to encourage moss where it's already growing in your yard. That's

what Moore did when he decided to give up trying to grow grass in an area where it refused to thrive. Within two or three years, the moss had covered about 5,000 square feet. "The first thing people ask is, can you walk on it? What does it feel like on your bare feet?" he says. "I say, 'Take your shoes off!" Although heavy traffic will wear it down, and you wouldn't want kids or dogs roughhous-

ing on it, moss actually likes to be walked on. If you want to encourage moss to spread,

remove weeds and grass, provide moisture and keep it clear of debris; don't let leaves and sticks pile up. You can also move it around to where you want it: Mosses don't grow from seed, but they do spread from any part of the plant. "They can grow from a leaf or a stem or rhizoid," says Martin. "Just cut them up or tear them up."

You can also buy moss to plant. Martin sells many species online from her moss nursery. "I have mats that roll out like a green carpet," she says. "They're great for people who don't have patience." Moss will go dormant if it's not watered, but uses less water than most other garden plants. Unlike them, it has no roots. The root-like structures you see when you pull up a clump of moss are called rhizoids. "Their only purpose is to hold it to the surface," says Martin. Since moss takes in water and nutrients through its leaves instead of through roots, several light waterings are better than a long drench. This also means that planting is easy: You don't need to dig holes or improve soil.

"You can use nutrient-poor soil where nothing else will grow and do nothing to prep it in advance except clear the debris away," Martin says. Another advantage: Moss doesn't need fertilizer or pesticides. The same substances that keep moss from freezing in winter also taste bad to insects. But to its fans, moss' best feature is its unique charm. "When you talk about moss to anybody, they smile. It's like the plant equivalent of a teddy bear," says Moore. "It conjures up elves in the



This file photo taken on April 27, 2009 shows actor Michael Douglas arriving with his son Cameron Douglas for the world premiere of 'Ghosts of Girlfriends Past' at the Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood, California. — AFP

# Michael Douglas's son leaves prison after 7 years

■he eldest son of actor Michael Douglas has been released from prison after serving seven years for drug trafficking, and is now in a halfway house in New York, US media reported on Monday. Cameron Douglas, 37, was sentenced in 2010 to five years in prison for possession and sale of methamphetamine. His sentence was extended by two years in solitary confinement after he admitted smuggling drugs into the prison. Cameron, Michael Douglas's son with his first wife Diandra Luker, was originally set to be released in 2018 but is currently living at a rehabilitation center in New York, EOnline and ABC News reported. Cameron Douglas now plans to write a tell-all book describing his life as heir to one of the most respected Hollywood dynasties and how drugs led him

to prison, according to the New York Post's

gossip section "Page Six." The Oscar-winning actor visited his son in prison regularly. He criticized the US penal system when accepting an Emmy Award for playing the role of the pianist Liberace in the TV movie "Behind the Candelabra" in 2013. "At first I was certainly disappointed with my son, but I've reached a point now where I'm disappointed with the system," he said. "If you happen to have a slip, they punish you. In my son's case, he has spent almost two years in solitary confinement." The actor's representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment from AFP. — AFP

# Kanye West hints at possible collaboration

### with **Drake**

anye West has teased the possibility of collaborating on an album with Drake. The hip-hop superstars appeared together during a performance at OVO Fest in Drake's native Toronto on Monday. At one point during the show, video shows West asking the crowd if they were "ready for this album" before pointing toward Drake as he entered the stage.

Both Drake and West have mentioned the possibility of working with one another previously. The rappers also appeared together during a concert in West's hometown of Chicago last week. — AP



**Kanye West and Drake** 

# Kesha drops sex abuse lawsuit against Dr Luke to focus on music

op star Kesha has dropped her sexual abuse lawsuit in California against record producer Dr Luke, saying she wants to focus on getting back to her music. The "Tik Tok" singer, who has not released an album for four years, will continue her fight in the New York courts to get out of a multi-album recording deal with Sony Music and Dr Luke, her attorney, Daniel Petrocelli, said in a statement. "Kesha has dismissed her California action without prejudice while she pursues her appeal and other legal claims in the New York courts," he said. "Kesha is focused on getting back to work and has delivered 28 new songs

to the record label." The 29-year old singer filed a lawsuit in California in 2014 accusing Dr Luke, one of the music industry's most successful producers, of rape and emotional abuse during the early stages of her career. Dr Luke, whose real name is Lukasz Gottwald, has repeatedly denied the claims and has countersued for defamation. But the denial earlier this year by a New York

judge of Kesha's bid to extricate herself from her recording contract sparked an emotional #FreeKesha campaign on social media that earned support from leading stars such as Taylor Swift, Adele and Lady Gaga. Kesha is appealing the New York ruling and in April she released her first single in three years. Last week, she started a US tour.

On Monday she thanked fans for their support. "My fight continues. I need to get my music out," she wrote on her Instagram account. "I have so much to say. This lawsuit is so heavy on my once free spirit, and I can only pray to one day feel that happiness again." Dr Luke's attorney, Christine Lepera, said in a statement the accusations against him were "false and meritless" and that Kesha's decision to dismiss the sex abuse claims in California came "because she has no chance of winning them." — Reuters



In this file photo, Kesha appears on stage at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas. — AP

# Winfrey picks Whitehead novel for book club

prah Winfrey has a new book club pick, Colson Whitehead's "The Underground Railroad," a historical novel that imagines the network of safe houses and passages that helped slaves escape to free territory is an actual train. Winfrey told The Associated Press during a recent telephone interview that she knew from the first sentence that she would want to share her passion with her audience, an impulse she has relied on with uncommon success for 20 years. "I was blown away by it," Winfrey said. "Blown away' is an often-used expression, but with this book it was to the point of sometimes putting it down and saying, 'I can't read anymore. I don't want to turn the page. I want to know what happens, but I don't want to know what happens."

"The Underground Railroad" was scheduled to come out in September, but after learning of Winfrey's decision, Doubleday moved up the release date to Tuesday and more than doubled the announced first printing, from 75,000 to 200,000. An interview with Whitehead appears in the September issue of Winfrey's magazine, "O," which comes out next week. Winfrey's website, Oprah.com, will include a reading guide and Winfrey's comments, and "Underground Railroad" will be featured on the social media site Goodreads (Goodreads.com/OprahsBookClub).

### **National Book Critics Circle award**

Whitehead, 46, is the author of highly regarded novels

such as "The Intuitionist" and "John Henry Days," and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle award. In "The Underground Railroad," his sixth novel, he imagines that the network of safe houses and passages that enabled slaves to reach free territory is an actual train. The book was already highly anticipated, with the trade publication Kirkus Reviews calling it "startlingly original" and praising Whitehead for examining "race mythology and history with rousing audacity and razor-sharp ingenuity." Winfrey said the novel was so vivid she double-checked her history books to

make sure the rail system didn't exist. During a recent telephone interview, Whitehead said that he

swore out loud - while on a plane - when he learned his book had joined Winfrey's pantheon of favorites. "I was in high school when her show became national," he said. "She was an ambassador from black America and, obviously, a huge presence." Winfrey started her club in 1996 with Jacquelyn Mitchard's "The Deep End of the Ocean," and laughs as she recalls her early doubts that you could use a television show to talk about a novel. Her choices would sell hundreds of thousands of copies, and sometimes millions, but Winfrey originally saw the club as an extension of what she did in person, when she handed out copies of Alice Walker's "The Color Purple" to passers-by near where her program was taped in Chicago.—AP





# Justin Bieber has taunted Taylor Swift on Instagram

The 22-year-old singer posted a picture of himself on a video call with Taylor's ex Calvin Harris and Kanye West, who she is embroiled in a public feud with, and captioned the image: "Taylor swift what up (sic)." Both Calvin and Kanye are smiling in the picture and no doubt all three had plenty to talk about. Taylor, 26, reportedly was not impressed with Justin's on/off relationship with her best pal Selena Gomez, 24, from 2011 to 2014 and it has been claimed that she urged Selena to dump him. And Calvin, 32, would have had plenty to say after his bitter break-up with Taylor in May and her subsequent new relationship with Tom Hiddleston. He also recently slammed his former lover in a lengthy Twitter rant after it emerged she had secretly written his song 'This Is What You Came For', blasting her and her team for "going out of their way to try and make ME look bad at this stage." He added: "I figure if you're happy in your new relationship you should focus on that instead of trying to tear your ex bf down for something to do. "I know you're off tour and

you need someone new to try and bury like Katy [Perry] ETC but I'm not that guy, sorry. I won't allow it. Please focus on the positive aspects of YOUR life because you've earned a great one. God bless everyone have a beautiful day." Kanye has recently been involved in a huge public spat with Taylor over his controversial single 'Famous', after she claimed she didn't give him permission to sing about her. However, his wife Kim Kardashian West decided to leak a series of videos on Snapchat which featured the rapper on the phone to Taylor discussing the controversial lyrics and she appeared to give it the goahead. However, his wife Kim Kardashian West decided to leak a series of videos on Snapchat which featured the rapper on the phone to Taylor discussing the controversial lyrics and she appeared to give it the go-ahead. The 34-yearold singer revealed her sons Jayden, nine, and Preston, 10, have gotten her into the hugely popular mobile augmented reality game and they now play it together all the time. Speaking on 'Rove and Sam' on Australia's 2DayFM, she

said: "We do that a lot. "[My kids] are addicted to it, they're constantly talking about it, and I'm like, 'Well you know what, it's summer we have nothing to do today, let's go Britney is not the only star to become obsessed with the game, Justin Bieber recently joined dozens of other people in New York's Central Park as they His manager Scooter Braun posted a video of Justin as he ran into a huge swarm of people and everyone could be heard yelling about the rare Gyarados creature as they tried to capture him. Scooter wrote: "This is amazing. @justinbieber and @alfredoflores in nyc. He finished the post with lots of crying laughing emojis. John Mayer recently spent \$99.99 for 14,500 PokeCoins, while Tyga was Budapest airport. And Lily Allen revealed how she had become obsessed with it and had even been hunting for them at the Church of Scientology Celebrity Center in Hollywood. Lily has been sharing her new passion with her fans on her Twitter page, The mum-of-two said the game was "pure escapism".

# Adele was torn between two outfits for Glastonbury performance

dele was torn between two outfits for her performance at Glastonbury festival. The annual music extravaganza just 48 hours before gracing the Pyramid stage at the annual music extravaganza, which saw her headline on June 25. Speaking about styling the power house for her 90 minute gig, the creative director of the luxury French fashion house, Clare Waight Keller, said: "[I] fitted the dresses on her on the Thursday before. I was at her house and she was going between two looks, before deciding that [the one she wore] was 'more Glastonbury.' "When she had the dresses on she twirled around asking us what we thought. She's so cool, such a big personality, I love her." And the creative mastermind has revealed the designer label's bohemian vibe is perfect for festivals, and was what Adele most wanted to channel in her black maxi embroidered dress at Glastonbury. She explained to the Telegraph.co.uk: "There's always been that bohemia spirit. You can be who you want to be for that weekend and do things that you wouldn't normally do. "The history of festivals is about this very sense of spontaneity and sense of freedom. I think the fact that there have been so many English designers has [also] seeped in a bit to the culture [of the house]. There's a feeling that these long flow-y dresses which might be worn for evening dress for some people, can also be something you can fly around a festival in." Meanwhile, the mother of one - who has son Angelo with her partner Simon Konecki - has revealed playing at Glastonbury was "the best moment of my life". Speaking previously, the 'Hello' hitmaker said: "Oh my God, this is the best moment of my life. Glastonbury means the world to me, I'm not even lying. "I have always wanted to do this but I've been too scared."



# Jonas brothers try not to date the same women

oe and Nick Jonas check in with each other to make sure they don't date the same women. Between them the famous siblings have dated some of the world's most beautiful women, including Kate Hudson, Lily Collins, Olivia Culpo, Demi Lovato and Gigi Hadid but Joe says they never date the same women because they run it by the other brother first. Speaking to hashtag Legend magazine, Joe, 26, said: "We're pretty supportive of each other. There might be a rare occasion where we've got to make sure, 'Hey, you haven't dated this person, have you?" And he hasn't ruled out the possibility of the pair reuniting with older brother Kevin, 28, to reform The Jonas Brothers band. He said: "One day it will make sense to do something together again but, right now, we're still focused on our individual careers and that's what's really important to us." Nick, 23, and Joe recently moved in together and while they are both on the road a great deal with their individual music careers, Joe loves getting to spend time with Nick when he can. He said: "It's pretty awesome. You know, I would say it's nice because we are both so busy that we're never at home at the same time. We can actually enjoy our space and not feel crowded, which I think is really nice. I

think there are times, if you're around your siblings too much, that they drive you crazy. But Nick and I get along, we like spending time with each other, although I like to take control of the interior decorating stuff. I'm actually really glad that he's let me take the reins on that." However, Joe is having a blast with his new DNCE bandmates and revealed how he and Cole Whittle once got left behind in Toronto after partying with a cheerleading squad. He said: "Me and Cole have had a pretty crazy night one or two times where we stayed up all night. Once we were in Toronto, partying and hanging out with a cheerleading squad, and we got left behind by our tour bus, which was pretty amazing. So, five in the morning, the tour bus just took off without us. We were literally at the border back to the United States. We were just sitting on the street in the freezing cold in the middle of December waiting. We called the bus driver and he was like, 'What do you mean? I already left. You weren't there on time.' The bus eventually came back for us, but it took about an hour. We were drunk and happy enough to just hang out and Cole kept pointing at the CN Tower and calling it the space noodle."

# Will Smith refused to let Margot Robbie tattoo him

the set of 'Suicide Squad' with a tattoo gun and offered to ink her costars, including Will, 47, and Cara Delevingne, 23, but he was not impressed. He told Entertainment Tonight: "I'm a grown-ass man. Margot comes bounding into work with all of her 24-year-old glory like, 'Guys! Guys! I got a tattoo gun! I got a tattoo gun! We're all getting tattoos!' I was like, 'No, we're not."' And Margot admits her tattoo skills leave a lot to be desired. She said: "Picture what a four-year-old would draw and stick it on your fridge. That's kind of one of my tattoos. "I tattooed Cara's toes and she tattooed mine as well," Meanwhile, Will revealed what he loves most about 'Suicide Squad' is that it is a celebration of "diversity" because of the eclectic cast and characters. He said: "What I love about working with this group, it's a rainbow. It's all races, creeds and colours. It's the diversity that this country is supposed to be about." Praising director David Ayer's work on the project, he added: "I've made a lot of movies, and some of them you can't even count as movies. David Ayer said some-

thing that was really interesting: He said it's not a movie of good versus evil, it's a movie of bad versus evil, and this is one of the baddest casts in the whole damn world right here." 'Suicide Squad' follows the group of incarcerated baddies as they are assembled to form a special black ops team to carry out a highly dangerous mission for a secret US government agency. The world premiere took place in New York City on Monday and the Warner Bros. Pictures movie hits cinemas on August 5.



# German heavy metal festival bans bags amid security fears

eavy metal fans planning to attend this year's Wacken Open Air festival in Germany might want to travel light. Organizers say rucksacks and bags are banned from the main festival grounds this year for security reasons. Safety concerns have increased at

public events across Germany since a suicide bomber blew himself up outside a music festival in Ansbach last month, injuring 15 people. Wacken spokeswoman Anna Lorenz said yesterday that checking rucksacks would slow security checks too much. But festival-goers will be able to take in waist packs, and larger bags are still allowed at camping sites nearby. The Aug 4-6 festival, held in a small village northwest of Hamburg, is expected to draw 75,000 people this year. The over 120 acts include Iron Maiden, Saxon and Blind Guardian.



# Price and Hayler to renew their wedding vows

atie Price and Kieran Hayler will renew their wedding vows. The couple have got their marriage back on track after Kieran was caught cheating with two of Katie's close pals and after Katie dressed up in a wedding dress during filming for her new reality TV show, 'Katie Price's Pony Club', Kieran admitted a vow renewal ceremony is on the cards. In a Q & A with Tony Cowell for TLC, he said: "Do you really think that would be the end of mine and Kate's vow renewal? I can imagine there will be another in the distant future! You know she loves a wedding dress, and she's not scared to say so. Even when we were filming she was on 'Loose Women' in a wedding dress, she just loves it! It's probably guite nice for some of the other husbands to see their wives back in Wedding dresses, I'm sure it's a lovely thing as a woman. Kieran also revealed that while he initially found taking part in a reality TV show "strange", he would be willing to work on another if Katie wanted him to. He said: "For me, I have never done it before so it was very strange to have a camera put in your face for a lot of the time, but I was more than happy to, everyone knows it's what Kate loves and it's what she does best. For me, it was more whether or not we would get private time alone and with the kids; and we were given that. I couldn't fault it. It was perfect. "Look whatever Kate wants to do, I will do, I'm her husband and that's part of my role." Former stripper Kieran, 29, also admitted he doesn't miss his grueling workouts to maintain the perfect physique. He said: "I had to have an amazing body, that's what the women paid for. "Now I am happy at home and comfortable, I don't want to go the gym six times a week and have an immaculate diet. I'm so happy now I can eat whatever I want.' "I'm not in bad shape. But I'm happier now spending time with the kids - I don't want to be stuck in the gym!" The new six-part series will follow Katie as

prised of her daughter Princess, nine, son Junior, 11, and four of their friends to guide the novice riders as they take on the elitist world of pony clubs. And Kieran admitted his and 38-year-old Katie's son Jett, who turns three later this month, is already an experienced rider. He said: "Jett already is! He has his own pony, he's on lead reigns, and he loves the horses, and insists on feeding them every night. He's going to follow in his mum's footsteps definitely!" 'Katie Price's Pony Club' airs on Thursdays from August 18, at 9pm on TLC.



GOSSIP



# Zayn Malik on why he left One Direction

Jayn Malik has more "freedom" to wear what he wants since leaving One Direction. The 23-year-old singer songwriter has admitted he is able to wear "whatever" now he has embarked on a solo music career, which allows him to be more "creative" and experimental with his ensemble and have a say in what garments he wants to wear. Speaking to Elle magazine about how his style has changed since he ditched his fellow band members, including Harry Styles, Liam Payne, Louis Tomlinson and Niall Horan, he said: "Since leaving One Direction I've been

given the freedom to be able to wear whatever I want and that's made it more interesting. More creative. I can say I want to wear metal arms and it'll happen." And the dark haired hunk has revealed he does not like to use social media and refrains from using his phone to take selfies. He explained: "As much as social networking is a big thing now, there's something to be said about having something real, if I had a choice I would take the camera off everyone's iPhone and make sure we didn't have Twitter or Facebook. It affects art form. There's something to be said about living in the moment. I try to keep my phone for calls." Meanwhile the 'PillowTalk' hitmaker - who is currently dating supermodel Gigi Hadid and have allegedly moved in to a Los Angeles home together - has revealed the pair are compatible because their career paths are similar. He said: "She's super intelligent, I think that's why it works so well. And we do the same type of job so we get that with each other. "I have a lot of respect for women because of them. They are so strong, powerful and do everything them-

# Ellie Kemper has given birth

■he 36-year-old actress and her husband Michael Koman - who got married four years ago after a few years of dating - recently welcomed their first child together, PEOPLE reports. No other details have been revealed. Ellie announced her pregnancy during a taping of 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon' in April, but up until that point had kept her bump and exciting news under wraps. She told the host: "I have big news, I'm pregnant!" before pointing towards her pretty floral dress. The funnyman immediately leaned over and said, "Hi baby" before gifting her with a pot of Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Ellie kept her pregnancy hidden from her co-stars while shooting 'Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt' but did confide in producer Tina Fey as soon as she found out. She said: "We had a table read, and my character is supposed to be on a rollercoaster ... "It was still very early on, but I felt like a pregnant lady on a rollercoaster was not ideal so I had to tell my boss, Tina Fey. She knows every secret. I told her before I told my mom." After telling Tina, the pair decided to conceal her pregnancy by telling everyone on set she had suffered a back injury so couldn't go on the rollercoaster - but Ellie found the lie harder to pull off than she expected. She admitted: "I could not act like I had a back injury. "I'm an actress, presumably. It was so [hard]. Someone asked, 'What's wrong?' and words escaped me. I'm like, 'I sprained my spine.' You can't sprain your spine! You can't do that! "I kept forgetting I had [a back injury] so I kept doing things someone with a back injury can't do. They'd say 'Lunch!' and I'd like leap up and do cartwheels to catering. You're not supposed to do that!"



# Kylie's limited edition birthday collection already is sold out

ylie Jenner's birthday make-up collection sold out in five minutes. The 18-year-old beauty mogul - who launched a limited edition Kylie Cosmetics make-up along the collection sold out in matte lip kits featuring her popular glosses Dolce, Exposed, Candy, KoKo, Kristen, and her new maroon limited edition collection to mark her 19th birthday on Monday has revealed the recent addition to her line sold out in under 10 minutes. The brunette beauty shared the news on her Snapchat as she counted down to the live unveil on her estore. She said: "Oh my god we just 150,000 thousand people on my site with one minute to go. "180,000 people on the site "Oh my god 200,000 people and we haven't been up for one minute. "300,000 people are on my site right now. In five minutes and 300,000 people are on my site." And the brunette beauty took a still shot of just a black screen, with the caption: "Wow thank u guys ... everything else is sold out (sic)." The teen entrepreneur's new release included two cream eye shadows infused with gold, dark

shade Leo, as well as new lip gloss Poppin'. And the 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star - who turns 19 on August 10 - has revealed the launch of the new products saw her website attract the largest amount of customers "ever". She said: "I think this is the most we have ever had. This is crazy. "I want to cry!! Thank u guys so much!!" However, the television personality has admitted she will be restocking her company over the next 10 days. She said: "We have a good amount of quantity so don't get upset if we sell out, I will be restocking within the next 10

# Horan slams fan for taking photo of him sleeping

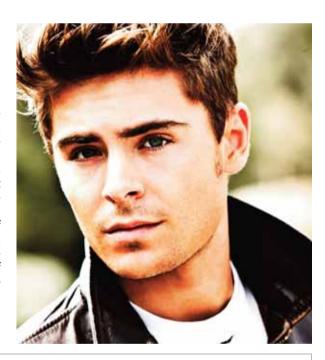
iall Horan has slammed a fan for taking a picture of him while he was asleep on a plane. The One Direction singer was flying from London to Chicago to see his friend Ellie Goulding perform at the Lollapalooza music festival, when he met the fan, who snapped a picture of him sleeping after he declined a selfie. The fan shared the picture on social media and wrote: "And to sum up the perfect European adventure, I sat directly next to Niall from One Direction for 9 hours on my flight home from London last night. He was sick and asked for no selfies, but here is a pic I snapped when he was sleeping lol he was so friendly. "Talked about Ireland, LSE, Iolla and more. Not a British Duke...But an Irish popstar will do. Thanks for treating me so well Europe! (sic)." Niall, 22, was furious when he found out about the picture and shared the post on Twitter with the words, "I think this thing is unreal. I mean if you can't sleep on a plane without people taking photos of you, what can u do (sic)." Meanwhile, Simon Cowell recently hinted that Niall is set to announce a solo deal with Sony soon. Simon - who guided Niall and his One Direction bandmates to fame after discovering them on the UK version of 'X Factor' - showered praise on the singer and revealed that a big announcement is coming. He said: "I think they're all gonna do great. Niall is the most loyal. We are expecting to announce something soon with him. I've always known he's loyal." Singer John Newman also revealed that he has been working on new material with Niall. He said: "I was having a text back and forth with Niall Horan the other night about some ideas, which is cool."



# Zac Efron: I can't date

🜉 ac Efron says he will never be able to date anyone. than the positives. He added to The Times newspaper: " The 'Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising' star doesn't think he will ever go on a "dictionary definition" date with a girl as it would take a very long time to "dispel whatever people think" about him. He said: "Dating is something I'll never be able to do. As in the dictionary definition of dating, because one way or another I've impacted that person's life and they'll soon see it. A date has to be very long to dispel whatever people think about me." However, that's not to say Zac hasn't tried the more modern methods of dating, including signing up to the dating app Tinder, but claims he was rejected because nobody believed it was actually him. He said: "Amazingly, when I signed up for Tinder, nobody swiped me! They thought it was fake. That never happened. Aha-ha." And the 28-year-old actor also admitted he "lost his mind" because of the internet as he would focus on the negative things people said rather

lost my mind because of the internet. I'd read 30 positive things and one bad thing, then I'd focus on that bad thing. It drove me crazy." Meanwhile, Zac previously revealed he used to Google himself every morning. He said: "What I found is structure. That led me to a balance of opposites. You get out of life what you put in. "There was a moment when my morning routine was, like, get up and Google yourself. But that stopped, dramatically and instantly, probably three years ago. I saw that viewing yourself through other people's pictures is not living your own life. "I wasn't really being myself. A lot of my hobbies had gone out the window. I couldn't skateboard or surf for fear of being followed. Crossing the line of fear is what leads to



# Leto brings Fallon a gift from The Joker

ared Leto presented Jimmy Fallon with a live snake on the 'Tonight' show on Monday. The 44-year-old actor refused to break character while filming 'Suicide Squad' as The Joker and bombarded his costars with gifts including a dead pig, live rat, used condoms and bullets, and took things a step further by terrifying the talk show host while promoting the upcoming movie. He stepped out on stage clutching a gift-wrapped box and said: "The Joker is a big giver of gifts, and he was thinking of you and wanted to pass on this gift especially for you." Jimmy apprehensively took the box and said: "I've read about things and I've heard about things, I heard the Joker gave people rats and things before... This is a gift from the Joker? That's very nice." The presenter struggled to open the box but once he got the lid off he screamed and recoiled. He said: "It's real! Dude, what is this? He got me a snake!" As the tiny reptile slowly inched out of the

box, Jimmy yelled again and said: "Oh no! Snake, get down! Joker... Snake! Get down. Oh no, no, no no..." He then quickly backed away from his desk as the serpent got free of the box, and urged his guest to rescue it and move it away. Jared picked up the snake and held it out towards the talk show host, who ran away and implored the 30 Seconds to Mars frontman to "please put it in the box". Jimmy finally admitted: "Thank you Jared, that's very, very nice [but] I'm afraid of snakes a little bit." Jared then handed Jimmy a note, supposedly from his alter ego. The presenter read: "Dear sweet Jimmy, enjoy my snake, it's long and skinny and easy to take." As Jared put the snake back in the box, Jimmy admitted he was thankful not to have been one of the cast members of the movie on the receiving end of his other gruesome gifts. He said: "I'm so glad I saw the movie and didn't have to act in it with you."

# Fergie jokes that Kim and Kanye's feud with Swift is a publicity

ergie hopes Kim Kardashian West and her husband Kanye West can find a way to "make up" with Taylor Swift. The 41year-old singer recently got embroiled in the drama following Kim's decision to leak a recorded conversation between her rap superstar spouse and Taylor which confirmed she knew about his controversial song 'Famous' - which features lyrics where he calls the 'Shake It Off' hitmaker a bitch and says they might have sex - before he released it. Fergie made a throwaway comment that it could all just be a big publicity stunt, a theory she insists was just a joke, but she genuinely hopes the trio can become friends again because likes all of them, In an interview with UK radio station Capital, she said: "Oh my gosh, the other day I was doing this interview and I was completely joking and I said something about, 'Oh maybe it's all part of a plan, that they're gonna be at the MTV Awards and perform together, you know, whatever. I was just completely joking, it was just like a random thought. It's, like, exploded as if this was my conspiracy theory - no, I was just joking.

It's just my humour and I was trying to deflect the drama, if you will. I don't know, maybe it was wishful thinking. But I mean, I've just known them all a really long time, and I hope they find a way to make up." Kim recently starred in Fergie's racy video for her new single 'M.I.L.F. \$' along with other lingerie-clad hot moms Chrissy Teigen, Alessandra Ambrosio, Ciara, Gemma Ward, Tara Lynn, Devon Aoki, Angela Lindvall, Isabeli Fontana, Amber Valletta and Natasha Poly. Fergie - who has two-year-old son Axl with husband Josh Duhamel - admits mother-of-two Kim, 35, was a "trouper" on set to pose in high heels for hours on end and was happy to be drenched in milk. The Black Eyed Peas star spilled: "Oh Kim was such a trouper. She was so professional. She worked long hours. I don't know how she stood on those 7-inch heels, whatever those were, 17-inch heels ... I don't know." Fergie was speaking on Roman Kemp on Capital which is broadcast Monday to Thursday 7pm-10pm and on Sundays from 9am to 12pm. — Bang Showbiz





An ethnic Tibetan model wears a traditional costume and fine jewelry during a fashion show at a local government sponsored festival in Yushu, in the northwestern Chinese province of Qinghai. The festival held since the 1990s lasts for around five days. It was suspended for several years following a 2010 earthquake in Yushu which killed some 2,700 people. — AFP photos



An ethnic Tibetan model wears a traditional costume and fine jewelry during a fashion show at a local government sponsored festival in Yushu.

# Traditional Costume and Jewelry festival in Yushu



Ethnic Tibetan models wear traditional costumes and fine jewelry during a fashion show at a local government sponsored festival in Yushu.



An ethnic Tibetan model wears a traditional costume and fine jewelry during a fashion show at a local government sponsored festival in Yushu.



An ethnic Tibetan woman wears a traditional belt at a local government sponsored festival in Yushu.



Ethnic Tibetan models wear traditional costumes and fine jewelry during a An ethnic Tibetan man wears traditional boots. fashion show at a local government sponsored festival in Yushu.





An ethnic Tibetan man wears a traditional costume and jewelry.



An ethnic Tibetan man wears a traditional costume and a ring.



An ethnic Tibetan man wears a traditional costume and a dagger.



An ethnic Tibetan woman poses for a photo.

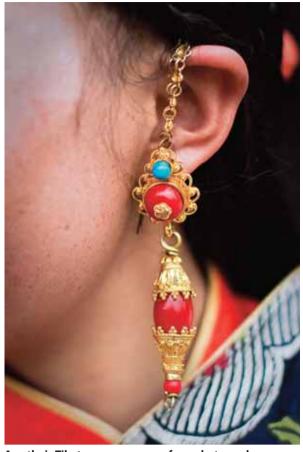
### FASHION



An ethnic Tibetan model wears a traditional costume and fine jewelry.



An ethnic Tibetan model wears a traditional costume and fine jewelry.



An ethnic Tibetan woman poses for a photo as she wears a traditional ear ring.



An ethnic Tibetan woman wears a traditional costume.



An ethnic Tibetan woman wears a traditional hat.



An ethnic Tibetan boy wears a traditional head band.



An ethnic Tibetan woman poses for a photo as she wears a traditional costume and jewelry.



An ethnic Tibetan woman wears a traditional costume and fine jewelry.





An ethnic Tibetan man wears a traditional costume and 
Ethnic Tibetan models wear traditional costumes and fine jewelry.



## **ICONIC** ropes in Varun Dhawan as the brand ambassador

CONIC, the youngest fashion destination from the stable of retail conglomerate Landmark Group has signed a two year endorsement deal with Bollywood's shining young star Varun Dhawan. Extremely popular with women for his fresh looks and boy next door image and with men for his chiseled body and style statements Varun has managed to win hearts in a short span of his career. Riding high on the release of Dishoom, Varun talking on his association with ICONIC, said, "The Middle East is a huge supporter of Bollywood and I have received immense love when it comes to my movies. An association with ICONIC, a trendy fashion destination stems from my passion for fashion coupled with a keen sense to stay in the hearts of the Arab world for a long time to come."

Raza Beig, CEO, Splash and ICONIC, said "An achiever at a very young age, we at ICONIC are proud to partner with the hot and charismatic Varun Dhawan. Both Varun and ICONIC are rapidly growing brand names in their own spaces and hence a perfect fit for each other. Varun is a contemporary fashion icon with a clean, classic and current style and ICONIC offers a similar kind of fashion for its discerning audience.

With the Region being at the forefront of fashion and ICONIC being a local retailer we work with the most suited talent, which essentially puts us firmly on the global fashion scene," further added Raza. The first campaign featuring Varun Dhawan with a leggy model will release across the GCC on September 1. ICONIC is located at The Avenues, The Mall, Level 1, Salam Mall -Salmiya and Sama Mall- Fintas.



# Tissot welcomes its lady ambassadors on the Tour de France

s official timekeeper, Tissot was delighted to welcome its ambassadors Deepika Padukone and Liu Yi Fei on the Tour de France to celebrate the final stage in Paris. They were able to bear witness to one of the most important moments of the Tour as the riders went passed the mythical Arc de Triumph and passed on Les Champs-Elysees to finally reach the last finish line.

The leading Indian actress, who just received an award at the IIFA (International Indian Film Academy), and the very talented Chinese Actress and Singer, Liu Yi Fei, were welcomed by Francois Thiebaud, President of Tissot at the Tour de France Village of Chantilly, with the likes of Christian

Prudhomme, Director of the Tour de France and Bernard Hinault, five time Tour de France Champion before heading to the finish line.

This magnificent and idyllic venue presented the perfect setting to receive such personalities. Tissot and its ambassadors shared a wonderful time while witnessing the charm of the Tour de France, which is the amazing scenery it presents to the world along the way. It is a time that they will remember, as it goes down in history with the crowning of the 2016 Tour de France Champion following 21 rough stages timed by Tissot.

# Limes Cimes Control of Control of

German heavy metal festival bans bags amid security fears

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016







Palestinian women try on dresses designed by Palestinian American fashion designer Rami Kashou.



Palestinian American fashion designer Rami Kashou helps a Paestinian woman to try on



Palestinian American fashion designer Rami Kashou helps a Palestinian woman to try on one of his designs.



Palestinian American fashion designer Rami Kashou helps a Palestinian woman to try on



Rami Kashou helps a Palestinian woman to try on one of his designs.

# Palestinian designer for rich and famous pops up in W Bank

Rami Kashou's designs are worn by Hollywood stars and royalty but for the past few days he has been back home in the occupied West Bank rather than London, Paris or New York. As on most days, Yasser Arafat Square in central Ramallah was crowded with pedestrians, taxis with screaming horns and fruit sellers lugging their goods on carts. But tucked behind a nondescript door another world beckoned: one of burgundy walls and floor-length mirrors, as Kashou hosted a three-day pop-up fashion shop.

A handful of women of all ages browsed the elegant designs, occasionally trying on clothes under the watchful eyes of Kashou, who rushed to dispense fashion advice when needed. The US-based fashion designer has a list of celebrity clients including Hollywood actress Jessica Alba, reality TV star Kim Kardashian and Queen Rania of Jordan. But Kashou, who is 40 and was born in Jerusalem, has now made copies for Palestinian women of his creations that they would otherwise only see in magazines. He left for the United States in 1996 and now lives in New York. "I was away for a long time," the bearded, shaven-headed Kashou, dressed in black, told AFP in the store. "I usually come to visit my family, (but) this is the first time I brought my designs here."

### Project Runway

Kashou shot to fame in 2008 when he appeared on the fourth season of the "Project Runway" reality television. He reached the finals, coming second to Christian Siriano, who designed the dress worn by US First Lady Michelle Obama as she addressed the Democratic National Convention last week. Kashou said the show opened doors for him in America and elsewhere. "I benefited a lot. It was a big advert, especially for me as a Palestinian designer," he said. "And the Arab world became aware of me." He is now developing his brand in Arab countries.

In Ramallah, the Palestinian political capital in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, he showed off

his unique style of dresses, including one resembling a bouquet of flowers with a pink and red collar, which he said was inspired by a trip to Puerto Rico. The garments, including a magenta cocktail dress designed for supermodel Heidi Klum, feature a range of exquisite fabrics such as chiffon, georgette, lame and silk.

it." A single Rami Kashou dress can cost several thousand dollars, a sum impossible to imagine for the vast majority of Palestinians, where the unemployment rate is around 27 percent and one in five of those in work makes less than \$380 a month. Does the designer who has made it big in America really see opportunities in the



Palestinian women and their daughters choose dresses designed by designer Rami Kashou.

Suha Hussein, 32, inspected herself in the mirror as she tried on a sleek black Moroccanstyle dress with beads engraved around the neck, based on an original made for Queen Rania. "I feel proud because we have such a talent and he is still interested in returning to his country," she said. Turning to the dress, she smiled: "I hope it isn't too expensive, so I can buy

Palestinian territories? "There is an important market here," he said. "It is extremely important to study the market to know the customers and their needs." "And it is wedding season, women here want glamour."—AFP



Palestinian American fashion designer Rami Kashou smiles as a Palestinian woman chooses one of his designs.