

Performance by Italian musicians launches Summer Cultural Festival



India's 'Iron Lady' ends hunger strike to enter politics



Pogba completes world record return to Man United



Doping war as US swimmer beats tainted Russian to gold



## GOVT MULLS COMPENSATING CITIZENS AFTER PETROL HIKE

CABINET STICKS TO DECISION, BUT VOWS NO 'HARM' TO KUWAITIS



Min 32°  
Max 48°  
High Tide 04:18 & 16:40  
Low Tide 10:50 & 22:43



150 FILS  
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40 PAGES

### BUDGET DEFICIT AFTER 16 YEARS OF SURPLUSES

KUWAIT: Lower oil prices have pushed Kuwait into a rare budget deficit, ending 16 straight years of surpluses for the state, the finance minister said. The OPEC member recorded a budget shortfall of KD 4.6 billion (\$15.3 billion) in the fiscal year which ended on March 31, Anas Al-Saleh said in a statement carried by the KUNA news agency late Monday. It was the first shortfall since the fiscal year to March 1999.

Revenues dropped by 45 percent to \$45.2 billion while spending was cut by 14.8 percent to \$60.5 billion, the minister said. Oil income was \$40.1 billion, a slump of 46.3 percent from the previous year, he said. Oil accounted for 89 percent of total revenues, down from 95 percent in previous years.

Saleh told parliament last month that Kuwait plans to tap international debt markets through bond issues to finance the deficit. He said the state would borrow up to \$10 billion in US-denominated bonds from international markets, in both conventional and (Islamic) sukuk issuance. The ministry will borrow another \$6.6 billion in both conventional and Islamic instruments from the domestic market, Saleh said.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (left) and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem are seen during a meeting yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The government yesterday agreed to consider demands by MPs to compensate Kuwaiti citizens after a hike in petrol prices due to take effect next month. This came during a meeting attended by HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, four ministers and about 17 MPs to discuss ways to compensate citizens for the petrol hike. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said the meeting was positive and MPs insisted that the best solution to the problem is for the government to implement the study of the Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee, which calls for compensating citizens financially for the hike.

Ghanem said that the Assembly is insisting to implement the financial committee's study, which agrees to liberalize petrol prices but compensating citizens. He said the government and the Assembly agree on the main goals of the price hike but differ on the mechanisms, adding that the Assembly is prepared to face the economic situation but not at the cost of citizens. The speaker said that no time limit was given for the government to respond to the Assembly's proposals, but added that the Assembly will study the matter in the next term starting early October.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah said the government team explained to MPs the reasons for the decision and the expected results, but insisted it will not allow any harm on citizens.

Continued on Page 13

## KUWAIT, FRANCE SEAL CHOPPER SALE

30 MILITARY HELICOPTERS TO BE SUPPLIED IN €1BN DEAL

### News

in brief

#### Leak but no fire at Ahmadi oilfield

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Company yesterday reported an oil leak during drilling at its Ahmadi oilfield, but a spokesman said there was no fire. Spokesman Emad Sultan said specialized teams were dealing with the spill. "There was no fire as a result of the leak and we are still trying to bring it (the leak) under control," Sultan said. Kuwait is a major member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), pumping around 3 million barrels per day. Kuwait Oil Company said the leak at Ahmadi oilfield had no impact on output. The company said the spill struck at its BWD-133 drilling rig.

#### US approves \$1.15bn military sales to Saudis

WASHINGTON: The US State Department has approved the potential sale of more than 130 Abrams battle tanks, 20 armored recovery vehicles and other equipment, worth about \$1.15 billion, to Saudi Arabia, the Pentagon said yesterday. The US Defense Security Cooperation Agency, which oversees foreign arms sales, said that General Dynamics will be the principal contractor for the sale, adding it would contribute to US national security by improving the security of a regional partner. "This sale will increase the Royal Saudi Land Force's (RSLF) interoperability with US forces and conveys US commitment to Saudi Arabia's security and armed forces modernization," the agency said.

PARIS: France will supply 30 military helicopters to Kuwait in a deal worth over one billion euros (\$1.1 billion) that French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian signed yesterday. The agreement to buy the versatile Airbus Caracal helicopters is part of a €2.5 billion package of deals that the two countries agreed in Oct 2015. France has given Kuwait military support since the 1990 invasion of the country by Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces. The two countries are also fighting together in the international coalition against the Islamic State jihadist group.

"With this deal, Kuwait further strength-

ens the strategic partnership which has bound together our two countries for several decades, while we are currently engaged side-by-side in the fight against Daesh in Iraq and Syria," Le Drian said in a statement, using the Arabic term for Islamic State. Kuwait's army will use 24 of the helicopters mainly for search and rescue missions and for transport purposes, but they are also fitted with machine guns allowing them to offer ground troops cover from the air. The Kuwait National Guard will operate the remaining six helicopters. Airbus confirmed the order in a statement. — Agencies



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah shakes hands with French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian after signing an agreement for France to supply 30 military helicopters to Kuwait in a deal worth over one billion euros. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Independent Olympian, Kuwait's Abdulaziz Alshatti, competes against Hungary's Andras Redli during their men's individual epee qualifying bout as part of the fencing event of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games yesterday at the Carioca Arena 3. — AFP

### FLAMBOYANT KUWAITI FENCER KNOCKED OUT IN EARLY LOSS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Kuwait's Abdulaziz Alshatti, the lone independent fencer in the Rio Olympics, was knocked out yesterday after an early loss. Kuwait's Olympic Committee was suspended by the IOC in 2015 for "undue government interference". Because of that the ban, Alshatti's only chance to earn a trip to Rio was a last-chance Asian qualifying event in April

in which only the winner advanced. Alshatti took first in a stunning result.

But he couldn't match that performance in Brazil. Alshatti had the backing of a small crowd that appeared to sympathize with his plight. But Hungary's Andras Redli survived a furious late rally from the hard-charging and flamboyant Kuwaiti, winning 14-13 in epee. — AP

## PUTIN, ERDOGAN PLEDGE RESET AFTER RIFT

SAINT PETERSBURG: Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday promised to reinvigorate ties after their first meeting since Ankara shot down a Russian warplane last November. Erdogan's visit to Putin's hometown of Saint Petersburg is also his first foreign trip since the failed coup against him last month that sparked a purge of opponents and cast a shadow over Turkey's relations with the West.

"We lived through a very complicated moment in the relations between our states and we very much want, and I feel our Turkish friends want, to overcome the difficulties," Putin told journalists at a joint press conference after the encounter. The Kremlin leader insisted it would take "painstaking work" and "some time" to return to previous trade levels as Russia looks to roll back a series of economic sanctions against Ankara, but both sides said they wanted to restart major energy projects hit by the crisis.

Erdogan said that he hoped Russian-Turkish relations would become "more robust" and stressed how important it was that Putin offered his support after the coup. "We will bring our relations back to the old level and even beyond, both sides are determined and have the necessary will," he said. The shooting down of a Russian fighter jet by a Turkish F-16 over the Syrian border last fall saw a furious Putin slap economic sanctions on Turkey and launch a blistering war of words with Erdogan that seemed to irrevocably damage burgeoning ties.

But in a shock reversal late June, Putin accepted a letter expressing regret over the incident from Erdogan as an apology and quickly rolled back a ban on the sale of package holidays to Turkey and signaled Moscow would end measures against Turkish food imports and construction firms. Now in the wake of the failed July 15 coup attempt, there are fears in Western capitals that NATO-member Turkey

could draw even closer to Moscow - with Erdogan bluntly making it clear he feels let down by the United States and the European Union. Putin was one of the first foreign leaders to phone Erdogan offering support after the coup attempt and shares none of the scruples of EU leaders about the ensuing crackdown.

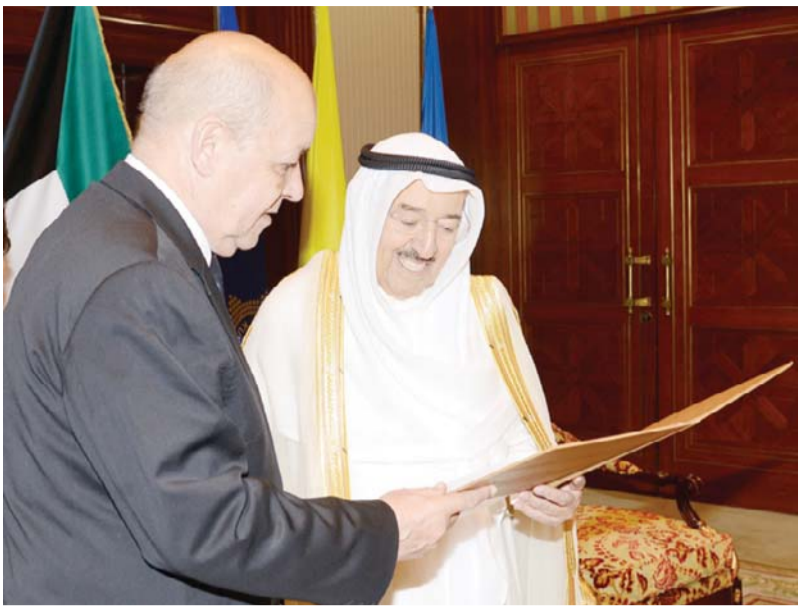
Relations between Turkey and Russia - two powers vying for influence in the strategic Black Sea region and Middle East - have historically not been straightforward. Yet before the plane downing crisis, Moscow and Ankara managed to prevent disputes on Syria and Ukraine harming strategic cooperation on issues like the TurkStream gas pipeline to Europe and a Russian-built nuclear power station in Turkey. Those projects were all put on ice with trade between the two countries falling 43 percent in January-May this year to \$6.1 billion and Turkey's tourism industry seeing visitor numbers from Russia fall by 93 percent.

Continued on Page 13



ST PETERSBURG, Russia: Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan shake hands at a news conference after their talks at the Konstantin palace yesterday. — AP





**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah reads a letter from French President Francois Hollande, presented by French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the new ambassador of Comoros Al-Arif Sayed Hassan. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos**



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the new ambassador of Bangladesh S M Abul Kalam.**

## AMIR RECEIVES LETTER FROM FRENCH PRESIDENT ON TIES AMIR RECEIVES NEW AMBASSADORS' CREDENTIALS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has received a written letter from French President Francois Hollande on the bilateral ties, means of promoting cooperation in all fields and the issues of mutual interest.

This came when His Highness the Amir received yesterday the visiting French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian at Seif Palace. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Dhaifallah Sharar. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah and the visiting French Minister. The meeting was attended by Undersecretary of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikhha Etemad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Chief of General Staff of the Army Lieutenant General Mohammed Al-Kheder, and Deputy Chief of staff of the Army General Sheikh Abdullah Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

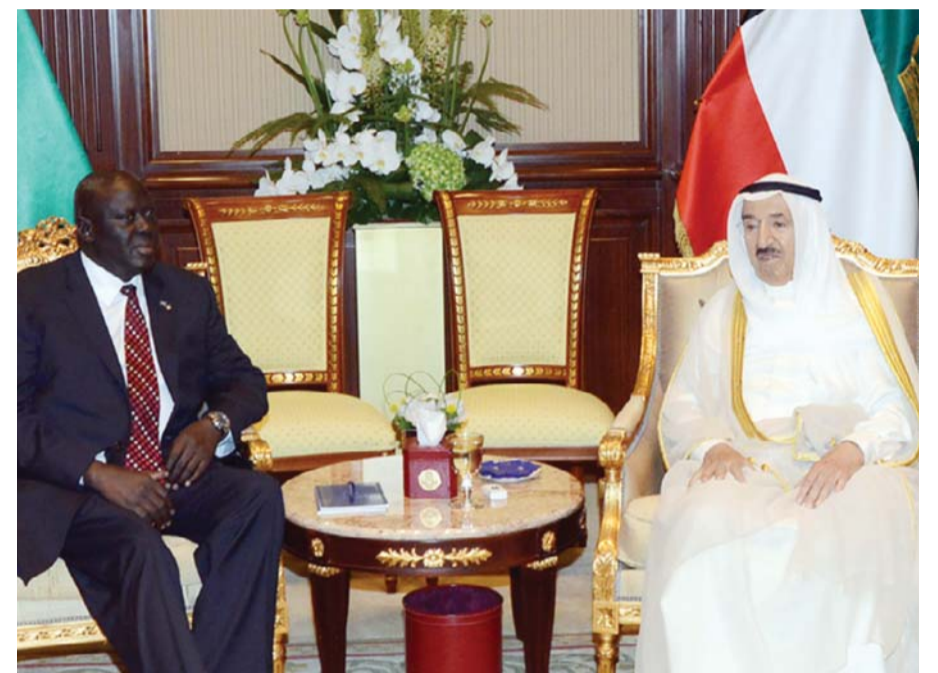
### New ambassadors

In other news, a celebration was held on the occasion of His Highness the Amir's reception of credentials of new ambassadors to Kuwait. The new ambassadors are Republic of Comoros's Al-Arif Sayed Hassan, Bangladesh's S M Abul Kalam, Vatican's Francisco Montecillo and Germany's Karlfried Bergner, as well as the envoy of South Sudan.

The ceremonies were attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Dhaifallah Sharar, head of His Highness Amir's Office Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad, Assistant Undersecretary of Amiri Protocol Affairs Majed Yussef Al-Majed and acting Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocols Affairs Ambassador Nasser Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi. Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah separately received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. —KUNA



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem.**



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with South Sudan's ambassador to Kuwait.**



**His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.**



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the new ambassador of Vatican Francisco Montecillo.**



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the new ambassador of Germany Karlfried Bergner.**

## NATIONAL GUARD DEPUTY CHIEF, FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER EYE CLOSER COOPERATION

**KUWAIT:** Promoting security and military cooperation was the focus of a meeting between Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and visiting French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian yesterday.

During the meeting, Sheikh Mishal stressed the need to cope up with modern military technology to meet aspirations and achieve development in accordance with

the 2020 strategic goals of the National Guard, the KNG said in a press statement.

Meanwhile, the French minister reiterated the deep-rooted relations between Kuwait and France that are based on mutual respect and continued consultation. He said both countries are sharing values and principles pertaining to democracy and human rights. He expressed his happiness for cooperating with the KNG so as to exchange expertise and achieve the development goals.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Kheder and his deputy Lieutenant General Sheikh Abdullah Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhla, acting undersecretary of the National Guard Faleh Shuja' Faleh and a number of officials of both sides were also present in the meeting. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** French Minister of Defense Jean-Yves Le Drian decorates Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Kheder with the French Legion of Honor of the Commander Rank. — KUNA

## FRENCH MINISTER HONORS TOP KUWAITI ARMY COMMANDERS

**KUWAIT:** The visiting French Minister of Defense Jean-Yves Le Drian yesterday decorated the Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Kheder, with the French Legion of Honor of the Commander Rank and the Kuwaiti Army Chief of joint Operations Colonel Mohammed Al-Kanderi with the same medal of the Chevalier Rank, according to the Ministry of Defense.

The honoring of the top Kuwaiti military chiefs came on sidelines of signing a major deal between Kuwait

and Paris, according to which the country would receive up to 30 French-made military helicopters, equipped with sophisticated equipment and missiles, backing up the national armed forces in combat operations. The Ministry of Defense added that the granting of the French medals to the Kuwaiti commanders came within the framework of the distinctive cooperation between the States of Kuwait and France at the defense level, as well as in recognition of the two chiefs' great and fruitful efforts and work in the army operations. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah presents a memento to French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian. — KUNA





KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, officials and young divers take a group photo during the 28th diving expedition ceremony yesterday. — KUNA photos

## CROWN PRINCE ATTENDS 28TH DIVING EXPEDITION CEREMONY

### HIS HIGHNESS ASSERTS IMPORTANCE OF HONORING HERITAGE



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah arrives to the venue.

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attended at Bayan Palace yesterday the ceremony for the 28th diving expedition, an event which was patronized by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The event was organized by Kuwait Sea Sport Club from July 28th to August 4th.

At Bayan Palace, His Highness the Crown Prince was received by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Director General of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Director General of the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Chairman of Kuwait Sea Sport Club Fahad Al-Fahad, and the expedition's participants.

In his speech to the event, His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed greetings from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah to the ceremony's attendees. He said that His Highness the Amir was very proud of the participants who did their best to make the journey a success.

"It is important to carry on the traditions of our forefathers and remind the young people of Kuwait of their heritage", said His Highness

Sheikh Nawaf. He affirmed that the expedition will continue to inspire Kuwaiti and GCC youths for years to come, thanking those who took part in the event. His Highness thanked the Ministry of Information, PAS, PAY, the Kuwait Sea Sport Club, as well as other bodies and officials for their efforts in making the expedition a success.

Meanwhile, Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah congratulated His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince on the successful end of the trip which signified the struggles and triumphs of Kuwait's old generation. Notions of national pride, sacrifice, and dedication always highlighted the previous diving expeditions and the tradition carries on, said the minister who thanked all organizers of the event for their strong efforts.

In the meantime, Chairman of the Kuwait Sea Sport Club Fahad Al-Fahad thanked the Kuwaiti leadership for its generous sponsorship of the event which aimed at reminding the youth of the glorious past. He stressed that participants, through the hardships experienced during the trip, had developed strong national values which they would hopefully carry on during their daily lives.

The official thanked all who participated in the organization of the expedition, hoping that the event would continue in the future.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivers his speech.

After the speeches, a number of youth briefed the ceremony on the adventures of the 28th diving expedition through a slideshow. His Highness the Crown Prince received a present from the organizers and participants of the trip. — KUNA



Young divers show His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah pictures taken from the journey.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is honored during the event.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah views pearls collected during the journey.



## KUWAITI SHRIMP RETURNS TO THE MARKET IN AUGUST

**KUWAIT:** The month of August signifies the return of Kuwaiti shrimp to the market after six months of its absence, based on a decision by the Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish

Resources (PAAAFR). PAAAFR organizes fishing operations with the goal of maintaining Kuwait's stock of shrimp. Kuwait's water is home to 11 types of shrimp. The four types that are common-

ly traded are Um Naeerah, which is big in size; Shahamiyah is in high demand for consumption; Um Shuwaikah is small in size; and Malsah resembles Shahamiyah, but is smaller in size. —KUNA



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KUWAIT: Italian musicians perform the String Quartet in E minor by Giuseppe Verdi on Monday, during the opening ceremony of the Summer Cultural Festival organized by the National Council for Culture, Art and Letters (NCCAL) at the Abdhussain Abdulredha theatre in Salmiya. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# SUMMER CULTURAL FESTIVAL KICKS OFF

**KUWAIT:** The National Council for Culture, Art and Letters (NCCAL) launched Monday the Summer Cultural Festival which would include a host of activities during the remaining summer vacation. The festival, launched with a performance by an Italian band on Abdhussain Abdulredha Theater in Salmiya, asserts His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's call for allowing the youth meet their aspirations, NCCAL Acting Secretary General Mohammad Al-Asousi said in an opening speech.

Asousi said the festival's activities aimed at boosting the cultural, literature, technical and scientific skills of the youths. The youths, said, were the future of the country and would ultimately contribute to the development of the nation, he said.

Kuwait, like the advanced nations, is providing all types of support for the youths to enable them contribute to development, he added. The political leadership of Kuwait, he said, was keen on utilizing proper investment in youths to promote national identity and national unity, thus confront intellectual and cultural challenges. — KUNA



NCCAL Acting Secretary General Mohammad Al-Asousi honors a member of the Italian band.







**KUWAIT:** This photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows people arrested inside a fake domestic help office yesterday.

## SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF NEW PASSPORTS AVAILABLE TO COVER DEMAND: OFFICIAL

### FAKE DOMESTIC HELP OFFICES BUSTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Passports Affairs Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah said the necessary amount of blank passports are now available to cover issuance or renewal of citizens' passports during the current and coming periods, and delays have ended for good.

said the department continues processing citizens' passports on a daily basis during official hours. Sheikh Mazen said all passports will be handed over at the start of next week and there will not be any pile up, adding that as for any new application, the passport will be ready within one week from the date of application. He asked citizens to renew their passports at the service centers, as this service has been resumed there as before.



**Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah**

He ordered, based on instructions by Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and follow up by Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahd, to process transactions quickly and remove any obstacles, as employees are doing their best to hand over the passports as quickly as possible.

Sheikh Mazen appreciated the citizens' understanding of the delay in issuing passports lately due to pressures of the summer season coinciding with the hajj season. He

**Fake offices**  
The Ministry of Interior's relations and security information said residency affairs detectives received tips about fake domestic help offices that carry out work through social media, and monitored several of them using these means and made agreements with those wanting domestic help. Six persons of various nationalities who are in violation of the residency law were arrested. One is a Bangladeshi, while the others include a South African, two Gambians and a Senegalese.

**Gate burning**  
Capital detectives solved the mystery behind the burning of a gate of the Palace of Justice. Operations received a call on Friday about an unidentified person burning the gate, prompting detectives to act. The department said as detectives came closer to arresting the suspect, he gave himself up to the Capital prosecution. He is a citizen named Raed Yacoub, born in 1972, and discharged from the military. He was also found to be an ex-convict in drugs cases, and involved in an arson case at a government building before. The suspect was sent to concerned authorities.

## CAMPAIGN SPREADS AWARENESS ON SKIN CANCER

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Chairman of Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) Campaign Dr Khalid Ahmad Al-Saleh said the campaign is keen on continuing to spread awareness against various tumors, and the hot summer weather and the scorching heat calls for explaining its dangers to the public. He said CAN organizes lectures by dermatologists at various government and private bodies as well as NGOs, because continued exposure to sunrays, especially at midday without precautions such as the use of sunscreen, hats and umbrellas may lead to sunburns and the possibility of skin cancer, in addition to ageing skin, wrinkles and spots.

Saleh said skin cancer in the most widespread because it can affect anyone and at any age, and among the risks of getting it is direct exposure to sunrays for a long time. Because this type of cancer is treatable if discovered early, awareness of the risks factors will reduce the number of cases, because Gulf countries have

high temperatures and sunrays remain strong for a long time.

The Municipality has rejected the proposal of members of the municipal council with regards to allowing owners of investment real estate to open an office to manage their property by adding a commercial license for them, be it an establishment or company. It pointed to the conditions and specifications list for investment buildings, which says it is possible to have an office of the real estate owner on the upper floors of the building which will not be licensed commercially, and that it is allowed to have one office for all buildings.

Jahra municipality issued a warning to four mobile trailers that belong to hajj campaigns in the area between Andalus and Nahda at the start of the week because of a lack of valid licenses. Informed sources at the municipality said some of the campaigns violate laws and regulations and do not renew licenses for their temporary buildings. It said the deposit is KD 500 and will be returned if conditions in the contract are met.

## NO SUPPORT TO KUWAITI ATHLETES COMPETING UNDER OLYMPIC FLAG

PAS VOWS TO CONTINUE SPORTS REFORMS SOON

**KUWAIT:** The Public Authority for Sports (PAS) stated that it would work on a package of measures to continue sports reforms in the foreseeable future. In a press statement, the PAS said that the measures would focus on removing obstacles facing the Kuwaiti sports. It lauded the cabinet's statement on Monday which called for continuing reforms of the sports sector to defend Kuwait's standing in international sports events.

PAS voiced its respect of the Olympic Charter which allows qualified athletes to compete as Independent Olympic Athletes (IOA) under the Olympic flag, but it would offer no support to any athlete who participates in international sports events under any flag other than the national one.

It, however, expressed discontent over the absence of Kuwaiti athletes from the currently held Rio Olympic Games due to the International Olympic Committee's



decision to ban Kuwait participation in international events. It emphasized the fairness of the Kuwaiti sports cause and the right of Kuwaiti athlete to play under the flag of their country. PAS vowed to do all in power to overcome challenges and develop Kuwait sports movement. — KUNA

# OPERATIONAL RISK SIGNIFICANT THREAT FACING ANY FINANCIAL BODY: GOVERNOR

PROACTIVE ROLE NEEDED TO ASSURE CYBER RESILIENCY IN BANKING SYSTEMS

**KUWAIT:** Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel said yesterday that operational risk is one of the most significant risks faced by any financial institution, as evidenced by the major losses of the financial services industry experienced over the past few decades which were prompted by a series of operational failures.

The current risk profile of financial institutions is shaped not only by the recent global financial crises and the effect it has had on regulatory practices, but also by the various operational mishaps that have occurred resulting from initial flaws in a world of rapidly developing technology, the Governor said in an editorial published by the 'International Financial Law Review (IFLR) Euromoney plc' dubbed 'IFLR Global Operational Risk Review 2016.'

He went on to say that operational risk definitions as they apply specifically to cyber risk need to be continually updated by the Basel Committee for Banking Supervision to take account of the dynamics and ever-increasing complexity of interconnected global markets.

### Cyber threats

For financial institutions, the risk of cyber threats disrupting core operations is a matter of grave concern, he added, pointing out that financial institutions maintain massive amounts of data which, in turn, require support in the form of complex technology which in certain circumstances may provide an easy target for cyber-attacks aimed at defrauding, theft, etc.

Additionally, the practice of outsourcing operations for the development of computer and communications technology within pay-



**Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel**

ment systems and the banking sector has in some cases meant that their development has been at a faster pace than the regulatory framework in which they operate, he said, adding that as these systems evolve quickly with the use of new technologies, cyber security emerges as a potentially serious operational risk.

"We, as regulators, cannot afford to have trust in our banking institutions and payments systems lost, and the potential disruption caused to the financial system as a result of cyber-attacks should receive significant attention - in line with that of confronting other issues that may threaten financial stability." "Therefore, we need to

focus on how best to address and secure potential risks of this nature and play an active role in protecting the safety, security and efficiency of the financial system as a whole," he clarified.

### Proactive role

Regulators need to focus on how best to address this emerging risk and play a proactive role in assuring cyber resiliency in banking and payment systems. Given the importance of making payments available to enable smooth functioning of an economy, investment in technology to ensure a cyber-resilient and risk-less security system must become a national priority, focused on timely detection, limiting destruction as well as rapid remediation of damaged resources, the Governor said.

He noted that considering the evolving nature of cyber threats, a financial institution's response must be on an ongoing basis in order to adopt an institution-wide approach to cyber security that goes beyond just the IT Department.

Regardless of future regulations and government actions on cyber security, financial institutions should be working constantly to establish a governance framework for cyber risk that engages the Board of Directors as well as management. Furthermore, timely exchange of intelligence on such matters between peer institutions, regulators, and law enforcement agencies becomes essential in assuring that there is an appropriate global policy response to address this problem.

Irrespective of location cyber threats have no borders - and neither the geography nor the size of an institution make it immune to this type of risk, he concluded. — KUNA

# ALL APARTMENTS MUST HAVE WATER METERS: MINISTRY

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) has decided that every apartment in Kuwait must have its own water meter to avoid problems that lead to cuts because of disputes between the building's owner and residents. Sources said this comes after a comprehensive study, and will make the consumers pay for the amount of water they use. This will also pave the way for MEW to install smart meters at a later stage, this providing an easier way for the ministry to charge consumers under new tariffs. MEW had already announced placing a tender to install smart meters for electricity at apartment buildings.

Last April, the parliament passed a bill allowing the government to hike electricity and water

charges for expatriates after completely excluding Kuwaiti citizens. The application of the new charges will not take effect before September 2017.

According to the law, the hike in electricity and water tariffs applies to apartment buildings (expatriates only), the commercial sector, industrial and agricultural sectors and government offices. It applies after one year on commercial activities which will be charged a flat rate of 25 fils per kilowatt. On government offices, it applies after 18 months and after 21 months on industrial and agricultural activities.

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

- 1- Five fils per kilowatt for the first 1,000 kilowatts.
- 2- 10 fils per kilowatt for between 1,000 and

2,000 kW.  
3- 15 fils per kilowatt for consumption above 2,000 kW.

The consumption is calculated on a monthly basis. Current average monthly charges for a medium-size apartment is around KD 5-7. But under the new charges, the monthly bill in summer months, when air-conditioning does not stop, could easily hit above KD 50 depending on consumption. In summer months (May-September) the monthly consumption of medium-sized apartments is roughly around 3,000 kW. This means the bill will be KD 30. If consumption rises to 4,000 kW, the bill will be KD 45 and so on. In winter months, the rate will remain around KD 5 or slightly above that, also depending on consumption.



## KFH ORGANIZES TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NEW RECRUITS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) held a comprehensive training program for 21 new female recruits in an attempt to improve their proficiency in banking transactions and financial services to better serve clients and cater for their aspirations at KFH's ladies branches.

The one-month program encompassed training courses and workshops on banking products, such as; banking cards, bank accounts, deposits, letters of guarantee, and KFH services. In addition, the program tackled training courses on sharia basics, counterfeiting and fraud, GFS Ethix, not to mention the call center; its equipment, role, and the services it renders.

Moreover, the program witnessed presentations of the female recruits who demonstrated their proposals of developing a service or a product.

These proposals undergo assessments and review by members of high level panel of KFH managers and chiefs.

Such training programs contribute to raise the bar of employees, enrich their banking knowledge and put them on track to be well equipped and prepared to assume the responsibility of serving clients and encounter any obstacle and challenge according to the highest international standards of excellence service quality. — KUNA

## KFAED PROVIDES KD 15 MILLION LOAN TO MALDIVES

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has announced that it signed a loan agreement with the Maldives, worth KD 15 million (\$51 million), to finance the project of expanding and improving Ibrahim Nasser International Airport there.

The project aims to support social and economic development in the Maldives based on promoting tourism through the expansion and development of the airport's terminals, the fund said in a press statement yesterday. By this move, the airport is expected to receive up to 7.3 million passengers annually, it added.

The Maldives' Finance and Treasury Minister Ahmad Munawar and KFAED's Deputy Director General Hesham Al-Woqaian signed the loan agreement. It is the 12th loan provided to the Maldives, estimated at KD 24.5 million, to finance different projects. The fund also offered 8 technical aid estimated at KD 1.39 million for feasibility studies of some projects, in addition to a grant of \$two million by the State of Kuwait to buttress efforts aiming to maintain food security in the Muslim countries. — KUNA

## AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH BOLOGNA UNIVERSITY RECTOR

**ROME:** Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Khaled Al-Sabah met with the Rector of University of Bologna, Francesco Ubertini, to discuss joining hands to propel the educational and scientific advancement of Kuwait University, and strengthen the academic ties between the two countries.

In a statement yesterday, the Kuwaiti embassy stated that the ambassador expressed his enthusiasm that Kuwait will learn from the prestigious academic heritage of University of Bologna that dates back to 1088, making it the oldest university in Europe.

The research, organizational, educational, and scientific structures of University of Bologna, which has served it well for hundreds of years, will influence Kuwait

University's structure moving forward.

Ubertini expressed his desire and keenness on building strong ties with Kuwait University and other Arab universities, hoping to positively influence their educational structures.

Ubertini praised Kuwait's accomplishments, especially its educational accomplishments, and commended its ongoing pursuit to deepen and better its educational institutions.

Ubertini encourages Kuwaiti youth to pursue an education as he believes that is the key factor in the progression of any country. The ambassador in turn expressed his gratitude to Ubertini for welcoming him at Bologna University and welcoming the delegation from Kuwait University. — KUNA

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Crime

Report

COUPLE ARRESTED IN COMPROMISING POSITION

**KUWAIT:** A citizen and his girlfriend were arrested after they were seen in a car in a compromising position. Police received complaints from people in Bayan, so police went to the scene and arrested them. But the girl did not like it, retorting: "What is wrong with you? He is my fiancé!" Both were detained at Bayan police station, charged with committing indecent acts in public.

Financial disputes

An Egyptian man ended financial disputes with his compatriot by hitting his head with a sharp object before escaping. Police received a call about an man who was bleeding from the head in Jleeb Al-Shuyukh. The man was taken to hospital. Detectives are working on the case.

Bad blood

Two friends met in a diwaniya in Adan and recalled old differences, which made them angry and they exchanged blows. One of them then pulled a knife and stabbed the other in the arm. The injured man was taken to Adan Hospital, and later lodged a complaint. Detectives are looking for the suspect.

Environment police

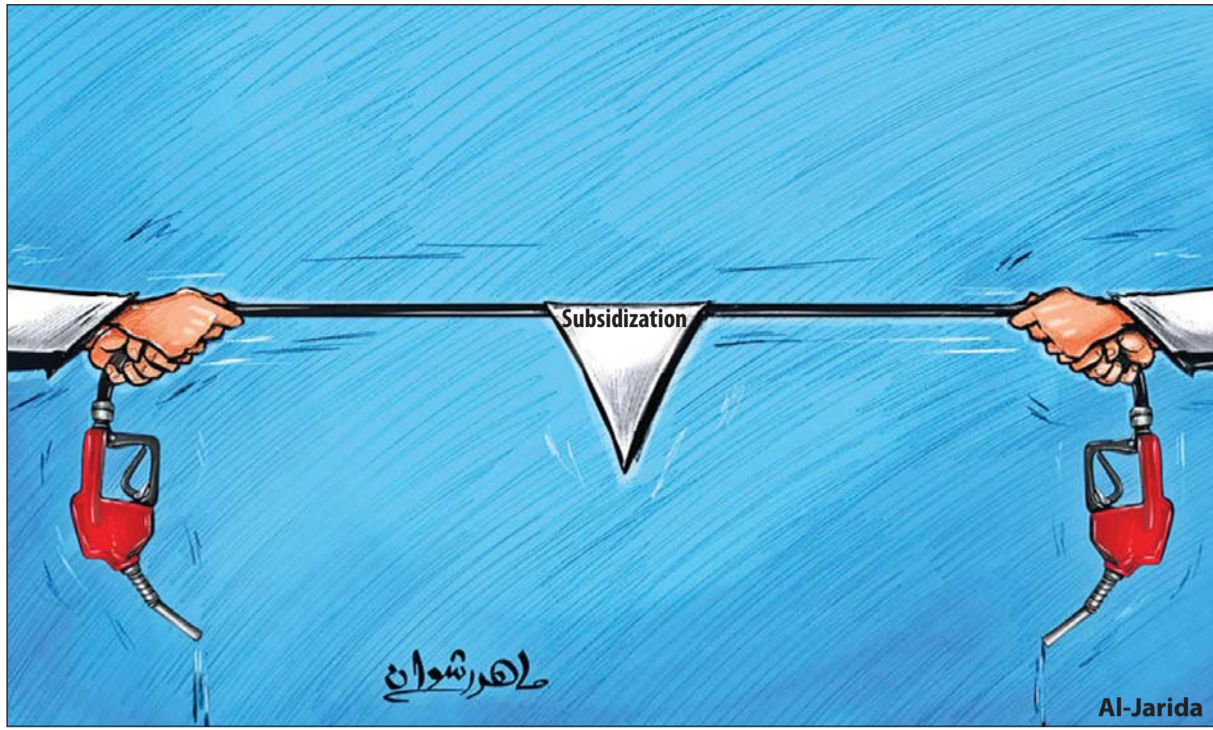
Several persons at Kuwait International Airport were smoking in places where smoking is not allowed, so they were caught by environment police. Citations were issued to the smokers and they were warned not to repeat such violations.

Drunk driver caught

A drunken citizen lost control of his car and ended up stuck on a pavement. A police patrol noticed the car and when they checked it, they found the driver in an abnormal condition with a liquor bottle in his hand. A security source said the driver told policemen he thought there was a turn but found himself on the pavement. Policemen arrested the man, who will face legal action.

Drug arrests

A police patrol in Salam approached a vehicle parked in front of a fast food restaurant and saw two men and a woman, all citizens, with a bag of drugs (containing Lyrica, Xanax, Serquel and Vallium). Police also noticed a bottle suspected of containing liquor on the backseat. The trio was arrested and will be sent to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD). Meanwhile, 71 wanted persons and violators were arrested during a security campaign in Jleeb Al-Shuyukh, along with 14 wanted over debts, 14 with expired residency permits, six for prostitution, one on felony charges, one loose laborer, two over drugs and one over liquor. All were sent to concerned authorities. —Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



القلم

Al-Qabas

END CORRUPTION FIRST

By Iqbal Al-Ahmad

**A**fter gasoline prices were hiked, opponents claimed that uprooting corruption first will save manifold of what will be gained by higher petrol prices. It is possible, through rationalizing treatment abroad, to save millions of dinars in the state budget by "activating" the conscience of officials, stop wasta and punish those who take advantage of their posts, along with those who deal with them among the decision makers.

Treatment abroad, which costs the country KD 300 million as announced, can be reduced significantly, if it only covers cases that actually deserve to travel. With this large amount

*With this large amount of KD 300 million, it is possible to build the largest and most prestigious hospitals in Kuwait*

of KD 300 million, it is possible to build the largest and most prestigious hospitals in Kuwait, that can be the largest in the region to treat all cases.

If the government wanted to eradicate all the wastage in the treatment abroad to benefit this member of parliament and that official, then it will be able to do this for sure, because it is the decision maker. This can only happen if it is serious in this regard, and this is what I hope for along with the entire Kuwaiti population. If you want to silence opponents of any rationalization move you intend to make, then convince them that you are serious in fighting corruption, and that you started on this road, along with all that proves this.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

القلم

Al-Qabas

COEXISTING WITH CORRUPTION

By Fawziya Abul

**A**ccording to Tunisian media, there is a big argument about the economic reconciliation and investment law, which will be among the priorities of the parliament during the delicate circumstances the first Arab Spring country is going through. The proposal came with an initiative from the presidency in July 2015, and its opponents quickly said that it is a reconciliation with the symbols of corruption, men who contributed to looting the country's wealth during the former regime which the revolution erupted against, and that accountability must come first, then reconciliation. An activist said, "we are for reconciliation, but we are against all what may equate normalization with corruption."

Meanwhile, supporters of the project believed it will push the deteriorating economy forward, and contribute to rescuing the financial and developmental situation, and that reconciliation is a strategic option to boost national unity. It seems that all scenarios will remain open if the proposal is passed or struck down. It was notable that the Tunisian Judges Association called for its withdrawal due to its "violation of the constitution, requirements of transitional justice and legal defects", and considered that "it creates a forgiving precedence related to crimes of financial corruption and violation of public funds". The judges association went so far as to say that the proposal "does not encourage nor motivate strengthening of the judicial role in deterring such crimes".

In truth, when the judiciary objects to a very important

proposal, it means there are serious fears from the results of its approval and implementation. Even in Egypt, there is a heated debate with regards to reconciliation with businessmen. Opponents of the reconciliation believe that there are suspicions of corruption and violations of public funds, but opposition there was not strong and heated as the case is in Tunisia, and most judges did not reject this reconciliation proposal. It seems there are fears in Tunisia that some remaining symbols from Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's regime may benefit from the practices, intentions and legislations that leaders of the current stage are overlooking.

There are multiple differences between parties and powers participating in the Tunisian authority, while matters in Egypt took a different turn after President AbdelFattah Al-Sisi was able to grasp most powers, meaning that there is a lot of confusion and lack of opposition to many decisions of economic, financial and developmental nature. But the mega projects Sisi promised to launch like the Suez Canal and others "changed" the attention to this issue.

Generally, fighting corruption in the Arab Spring countries was among the most important goals of the revolutions, and if this page is turned without accountability and bearing responsibility, then it will be a disappointment for the masses and rejection of the youth sacrifices. This forgiveness and lack of accountability will lead to a repeat of the corruption phenomenon in all its shapes, because of the lack of a deterrent.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: The Marina Crescent, a favorite tourist destination in Kuwait. —KUNA





**Philippines govt to overhaul inhumane, overcrowded jails**

**UN GAZA EMPLOYEE ACCUSED OF 'AIDING HAMAS'**

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**MANIPUR:** Indian political activist Irom Sharmila licks honey from her hand to break her fast in Imphal, north-eastern Indian state of Manipur, India yesterday. One of India's most prominent political activists ended a 16-year hunger strike yesterday, licking honey from her hand and declaring 'I will never forget this moment.' \_ AP

**INDIA'S 'IRON LADY' ENDS 16-YEAR HUNGER STRIKE**  
 'IRON LADY OF MANIPUR' SHARMILA EYES POLITICS

**GUWAHATI:** An Indian rights activist who has waged what is thought to be the world's longest hunger strike ended her 16-year fast yesterday after vowing to continue her struggle by standing for election in her home state. Irom Sharmila, dubbed the "Iron Lady of Manipur" for her unwavering protest against alleged rights abuses by security forces in the insurgency-hit northeast Indian state, was released on bail after she promised a court she would end her fast.

The 44-year-old had been held in judicial custody on charges of attempting suicide—still a criminal offence in India—and confined to a hospital where she was force-fed through a nasal tube. Speaking to journalists outside the court in the Manipur capital Imphal, she said her long campaign had not worked. "I went on a fast for about 16 years thinking I could change the system, but I now realise that this will not yield any result."

"So I decided to end my fast and join politics and then fight for the cause that I undertook this mission for—justice," she told journalists, speaking in her native Meitei language. Irom is campaigning for the repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which covers large parts of the northeast and the restive state of Kashmir. It gives Indian forces sweeping powers to search, enter property and shoot on sight, and has been criticized as a cover for human rights abuses. The Indian government says security forces need the powers to help them battle multiple rebel groups whose long-standing demands range from secession to greater autonomy and land rights.

**Frail but determined**

Amnesty International India campaigner Abhirr VP called Irom's hunger strike "a testament to her passion for

human rights, and her belief that a draconian law like the AFSPA has no place in any society". Irom began her fast on November 2, 2000 after allegedly witnessing the killing of 10 people by the army at a bus stop near her home. Two weeks ago she surprised supporters by declaring she would end it to stand as an independent candidate in state elections to be held next year. "My fight so far has been all alone and so I have decided to wage a war against the (AFSPA) act democratically by becoming a lawmaker instead of continuing with my fast," she told reporters at the time.

Yesterday she appeared frail but determined as she spoke to reporters, the plastic tubing still taped to her nose. After the hearing she was taken back to the hospital where she has spent much of the past 16 years to complete the legal formalities of her bail. Magistrate Lamkhanpau Tonsing said she was being released after submitting bail of 10,000 rupees (\$150) and a written pledge to stop her fast. It is not clear whether she will return to the family home—she has said she would like to marry her fiancée, a British national of Indian origin who she met after starting her fast.

Doctors have said she will need medical help to begin eating again. Amnesty International declared her a Prisoner of Conscience in 2013 and she has received several prestigious international prizes, including a lifetime achievement award from the Asian Human Rights Commission. But support in her home state has waned in recent years. Irom's brother Singhajit told journalists she would either contest the election as an independent candidate or form a new party to "fight for the causes of the people of Manipur". — AFP

**5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT 'IRON LADY'**

**NEW DELHI:** Indian human rights activist Irom Sharmila ended a 16-year hunger strike—thought to be the world's longest—yesterday to stand for election. Here are five things to know about the woman known as the "Iron Lady of Manipur".

**Who is Irom Sharmila?**

The 44-year-old poet and activist was born in a small village in the remote and insurgency-racked northeast Indian state of Manipur. She belongs to the Meitei ethnic group who dominate Manipur. She began fasting in 2000 after allegedly witnessing the army kill 10 people at a bus stop near her home. She has been held in judicial custody almost ever since, and has spent much of the last 16 years confined to a hospital ward.

**What is hunger strike about?**

She is campaigning for the repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Manipur, a remote and impoverished Indian state that is home to a number of separatist insurgent groups. The controversial act allows India's security forces to shoot on sight and arrest anybody without a warrant and is in force in Indian-administered Kashmir and across much of the northeast. Last month the Supreme Court ordered an investigation into the use of "excessive and retaliatory" force by police and the military in Manipur.

**How has she been kept alive?**

She has been force-fed via a nasal drip in hospital. Images taken when she emerges from hospital to make one of her frequent court appearances in Manipur show her looking emaciated and frail, with plastic tubes taped to her nose. — AFP

**INDIA POLITICIAN HANGS HIMSELF**

**GUWAHATI:** The former chief minister of a remote Indian region disputed with China was found dead and hanging from a ceiling fan yesterday, police and officials said, after a court ruled last month that his appointment had been illegal. The Supreme Court ruling dealt a blow to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitions of expanding in the northeast, where his Bharatiya Janata Party scored its first state election victory in the region with a win in Assam in May.

Kalikhho Pul, 47, until July the chief minister of the north-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, had suffered from depression and was upset over the judgment, his aides told media. "He has committed suicide," Nabam Tuki, a senior lawmaker of the opposition Congress party said in the capital of the vast but sparsely populated region bordering China. Pul's family discovered the body in his bedroom at the chief minister's residence. Media said he had left a diary, which police were examining. A politician with Congress since 1995, Pul became chief minister in February after rebelling against the party.

He was put in charge by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's federal government, which had imposed direct rule in the state to end a political crisis. But the Supreme Court held illegal the imposition of president's rule, as it is called in India, ordering that the dislodged Congress should return to power immediately, forcing Pul from office. China claims more than 90,000 sq km (35,000 sq miles) of territory disputed by India in the eastern sector of the Himalayas. Much of that forms the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China calls South Tibet. India says China occupies 38,000 square km (14,600 sq miles) of its territory on the Aksai Chin plateau in the west. — Reuters

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## UN GAZA EMPLOYEE ACCUSED OF 'AIDING HAMAS'

**JERUSALEM:** Israel said yesterday it had arrested and charged a United Nations employee for allegedly aiding Islamist movement Hamas, in the second such case involving a humanitarian worker in a week. Engineer Waheed Borsh, who has worked for the UN Development Program (UNDP) since 2003, was arrested on July 16 and indicted in a civilian court in Israel yesterday, a government statement said.

Hamas, which has run the Gaza Strip since 2007, denied the allegations. The statement said 38-year-old Borsh, from Jabaliya in northern Gaza, had been recruited by "a senior member of the Hamas terrorist organization to redirect his work for UNDP to serve Hamas' military interests". It said he had confessed to a number of charges, including helping to build a jetty in the northern Gaza Strip, with UNDP funding, that was later used by Hamas' naval forces.

In 2015 he allegedly persuaded managers to focus on rebuilding houses in areas where Hamas members lived, after the group put pressure on him. No figures

were provided on how much aid money he is alleged to have diverted. Hamas said in a statement that the allegations were "incorrect and baseless". It said they were part of a wider Israeli effort "to tighten the siege of the Gaza Strip by prosecuting international relief organizations." The Israeli government said that Borsh admitted during the investigation that "other Palestinians who work for aid organizations are also working for Hamas".

### 'Systematic exploitation'

"This is not an isolated case, but rather a troubling trend of the systematic exploitation by Hamas terrorists of UN organizations," the Israeli ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, said in a separate statement. The formal charge sheet was not publicly available. UNDP said that it would respond to the allegations soon. It comes days after the Gaza head of US-based NGO World Vision was charged with passing millions of dollars of international aid money to Hamas.

According to the Shin Bet internal security agency, Mohammed Al-Halabi diverted



**GAZA:** Khalil El-Halabi, 63, the father of Mohammed, Gaza director of the international charity World Vision, who is detained and accused by Israeli security of diverting funds to Hamas that exceed its total budget, poses while sitting at his family house in Gaza City. — AP

\$7.2 million (6.5 million euros) each year since 2010 to Hamas and its military wing, though his charge sheet does not specify an amount. Halabi is also accused of recruiting an individual from another international NGO, Save the Children, to Hamas. World Vision International yesterday questioned the allegations, suggesting the numbers may have been exaggerated.

Its president Kevin Jenkins said in a statement the organization was conducting an investigation into the allegations but "have not seen any of the evidence". "World Vision's cumulative operating budget in Gaza for the past ten years was approximately \$22.5 million, which makes the alleged amount of up to \$50 million being diverted hard to reconcile," the statement read. Since 2008, Israel has fought three wars in Gaza with Hamas, which is branded a terrorist organization by Israel, the United States and the European Union. More than three quarters of the population of the Strip, which Israel has blockaded for a decade, are reliant on some form of aid, according to the United Nations. — AFP

## RUSSIA-TURKEY FEUD: FROM JET DOWNING TO MAKING UP

**MOSCOW:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin yesterday held their first meeting since the two leaders began healing a bitter feud over Ankara's downing of a Russian warplane. Here is a timeline of the crisis that slammed the brakes on burgeoning ties between the two strategically important nations and set Erdogan and Putin against each other:

### Russian jet downed

A Turkish military jet blasts a Russian warplane out of the sky over the Turkey-Syria border on November 24, 2015. One pilot is killed, reportedly shot dead by rebel fighters as he parachutes to earth inside Syria. A Russian soldier dies in a successful rescue operation to rescue the second pilot. NATO-member Turkey insists the Russian plane-part of Moscow's bombing campaign to back up Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad was one of two jets that had strayed into Turkish airspace for some 17 seconds despite repeated warnings. Moscow is adamant that its aircraft did not cross the Syrian border and a furious Putin labels the incident a "stab in the back" by "the accomplices of terrorists".

### Russia strikes back

Moscow fires back by announcing a raft of economic sanctions against Ankara on November 28, including banning a range of Turkish food imports and halting the sale of package holidays and charter flights to the country. The retaliatory measures target Turkey's key tourism, agricultural and construction sectors and send growing trade between the two nations plummeting. Talks on the major TurkStream gas pipeline project are also suspended and work on a Russian-built nuclear plant in Turkey thrown into doubt.

### War of words

Meanwhile the war of words between Putin and Erdogan-two strongmen whose macho leadership styles have helped bring

them together-rages on as Moscow demands Ankara apologize. Russia accuses Erdogan of profiting from the illegal oil trade with Islamic State jihadists, claims the Turkish leader slams as "slander". Putin snubs an offer from Erdogan to meet during climate talks in Paris after refusing to take his calls, and cancels a summit in December.

### Erdogan writes to Putin

After seven months of feuding Erdogan sends Putin a letter on June 27 in which he expresses his condolences over the jet downing and calls for a return to friendlier ties. The Kremlin says the message constitutes an apology and the two leaders two days later hold their first phone conversation since the start of the crisis. Turkish newspaper Hurriyet has reported that the letter was published after both sides secretly agreed to restore ties and hammered out the wording following mediation by figures including Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and a prominent Turkish businessman.

### Putin starts to lift sanctions

After talking to Erdogan, Putin-whose country's own economy is mired in recession due to Western sanctions over Ukraine and low oil prices-immediately announces an end to the package tour ban and orders his ministers to begin lifting the charter flight freeze and normalizing trade ties with Ankara. The move brings relief to Turkey's hard-hit tourism industry that has seen the number of Russian visitors nosedive dramatically.

### Coup call

In a sign that ties are warming, Putin is one of the first international leaders to call Erdogan and offer his support after the failed coup against the Turkish president on July 15. Ankara welcomes the Kremlin leader's backing as the fallout from the coup attempt sees Erdogan launch a purge of opponents that strains ties with the West. — AFP



**ISTANBUL:** A man jumps into the Bosphorus waterway in front of the Kuleli military high school, on the shores of the Bosphorus strait in Istanbul. With its twin pointed towers and brilliant white facade stretching along the Bosphorus, the Kuleli Military High School is one of the most striking late Ottoman sights in Istanbul, a symbol of power and continuity. After several officers working at the school were implicated in the July 15 coup attempt, the school will not continue in its current form as the authorities seek to flush out all influence of the Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen who is blamed for the putsch. — AFP

## TURKEY SAYS RISING ANTI-AMERICANISM CAN BE CALMED BY GULEN EXTRADITION

### 16,000 PEOPLE FORMALLY ARRESTED OVER COUP ATTEMPT

**ISTANBUL:** Anti-American sentiment among Turks is on the rise and can only be calmed by the United States extraditing the Muslim cleric Ankara accuses of orchestrating last month's failed coup, Turkey's justice minister said yesterday. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan blames Fethullah Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in rural Pennsylvania since 1999, and his followers for the July 15 coup, in which more than 240 people were killed and nearly 2,200 wounded.

Turkey has launched a series of mass purges of suspected Gulen supporters in its armed forces, other state institutions, universities, schools and the media since the abortive coup, prompting Western concerns for the stability of a key NATO ally. Erdogan, who was visiting Russia yesterday, has criticized the United States and the European Union for showing what he says is a lack of solidarity with Turkey over the coup and of caring more for the rights of people he views as traitors.

"There is a serious anti-American feeling in Turkey, and this is turning into hatred," Justice Minister Bekir Bozdogan said in an interview with state-run Anadolu Agency, broadcast live on Turkish television channels. "It is in the hands of the United States to stop this anti-American feeling leading to hatred." Responding to Turkey's demand for Gulen's extradition, US President Barack Obama has said Ankara must first provide clear evidence of wrongdoing.

Last week a State Department spokesman said Washington was evaluating new documents it had received. The 75-year-old Gulen, who built up a network of schools, charities and businesses in Turkey and abroad over decades, denies any involvement in the coup and has condemned it. He has also accused Erdogan of using the coup to amass greater powers.

### 'Political decision'

"Whether the US extradites Gulen or not this will be a political decision," Bozdogan said. "If he is not extradited, Turkey will have been sacrificed for a terrorist." A recent opinion poll showed two thirds of Turks agree with their president that Gulen was behind the coup plot. Turkey has been holding almost daily mass rallies since July 15 in support of democracy and the government and against the plotters. Authorities have suspended, detained or put under investigation tens of thousands of people in the armed forces, the judiciary, civil service and elsewhere since the coup, in which a faction of the military commandeered warplanes, helicopters and tanks in an attempt to topple the government.

Yesterday Bozdogan put the number of people now formally arrested awaiting trial at 16,000, adding that a further 6,000 detainees were still being processed. Another 7,668 people are under investigation but have not been detained, he said. Since the abortive putsch, pro-government papers have been awash with conspiracy theories accusing the United States and the CIA of being

the masterminds. Turkish officials privately said such reports do not reflect Ankara's formal stance.

One paper said the attempted power grab was financed by the CIA and directed by a retired US army general using a cell in Afghanistan while another claims CIA agents used an island hotel off Istanbul as a nerve center for the plot. Echoing Erdogan's criticism of the West, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim on Tuesday repeated a pledge to bring Gulen back to Turkey. "That terrorist leader will come to Turkey and pay for what he did. We will hold him accountable for the blood of our martyrs and veterans," Yildirim told a meeting of his ruling Islamist-rooted AK Party in parliament. "That religious, impudent, lying, bloody murdering nothing will be surely held accountable."

NATO member Turkey hosts American troops and warplanes at its Incirlik Air Base, an important staging area for the US-led fight against Islamic State militants in neighboring Iraq and Syria. The chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Joseph Dunford tried to soothe strained ties with Turkey during a visit to Incirlik and Ankara just over a week ago. In Ankara he inspected the damage inflicted by the plotters' fighter jets on

the Turkish parliament building.

US Secretary of State John Kerry is expected to visit Turkey on Aug 24. Turkish authorities have said the country's intelligence service has cracked into several smartphone messaging apps that Gulen's followers used to communicate with each other in the years ahead of the coup attempt and was able to trace tens of thousands of people from the group. A senior Turkish official said Turkey's intelligence agency has identified at least 56,000 operatives of Gulen's network after cracked a little-known smartphone messaging app called ByLock, which he said the group began using in 2014. By this year, Turkish intelligence were able to map their network.

"Our assessment is that 150,000 unique operatives used ByLock to communicate with others," the official said. The group had also used another app called Eagle which could be disguised as other popular instant messaging apps such as Whatsapp and Tango, he added. "We assess that Eagle was used by operatives to share various operational details as well as during the planning stage of the July 15 coup attempt," the official said, adding that the Gulen network continued to use Eagle. — Reuters



**BANGKOK:** Gamers play Pokemon Go on their mobile phones outside a shopping mall in Bangkok yesterday. Pokemon Go's debut in Thailand has alarmed the country's generals, prompting the kingdom's junta chief to warn youngsters against playing too much and the army to ban the game from barracks. — AFP

## THAILAND'S JUNTA UNEASY ABOUT POKEMON GO CRAZE

**BANGKOK:** Pokemon Go's debut in Thailand has alarmed the country's generals, prompting the kingdom's junta chief to warn youngsters against playing too much and the army to ban the game from barracks. The mobile app was made available in Thailand on Saturday, delighting many in a country where Japanese subcultures have a significant following.

But the game—which encourages users to hit the pavements in search of digital monsters—has sparked safety concerns partly because Bangkok's streets are notoriously pedestrian-unfriendly. "That walking culture is not like Japan and there are limited pavements," government spokesman Sansern Kaewkumnerd told reporters yesterday. He said Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha, who seized power in 2014, "does not want to ban the game".

But the premier has urged players to know "their limits... and use their time wisely," Sansern added. "The game could harm players with things like loss of money, their job, their education as well as the relationships they have with the people around them," he said. He added that parents should advise their children to be "self-disciplined" and use their time well. His comments came as Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan

said the game was banned inside military barracks and government security agencies.

A barracks in the northern city of Khon Kaen hoisted a sign warning Pokemon Go players they faced up to three years in jail if they trespassed onto military property, Channel 3 television showed. Even when a pedestrian's eyes are firmly fixed ahead Bangkok's streets can be a veritable obstacle course. Pavements are patchy and those that exist are littered with hurdles from street vendors and fire hydrants to potholes and tangled wiring. Thailand's Public Health Ministry said the game should be welcomed for encouraging people to exercise but warned users to be careful near "roads, swimming pools, rivers and canals".

Local media has been filled in recent days with stories of hundreds of players glued to their phones outside parks and malls. Some have even taken to using motorbike taxis and cars to get a head start as they navigate the traffic-choked city in their search for Pokemon. Giorgio Taraschi, an Italian living in Bangkok, said he was lightly struck on Monday night by a man driving a car while playing the game. "Gotta catch 'em all... including the occasional Italian," he joked on Facebook, using the game's tagline. — AFP

## FEARS MOUNT FOR CIVILIANS; BATTLE FOR ALEPPO LOOMS

**BEIRUT:** The United Nations has called for urgent aid access to Syria's Aleppo as regime forces and rebel fighters prepare for an all-out battle for control of the devastated city. Fears are growing for trapped civilians ahead of what is expected to be a major battle for Aleppo, Syria's second city and a focal point of the country's five-year civil war. Rebel factions and President Bashar Al-Assad's regime have sent hundreds of reinforcements to Aleppo in anticipation of the fighting, after opposition forces broke a government siege at the weekend and vowed to capture the entire city. Hundreds of thousands of civilians remain inside the city, once Syria's main economic hub, and UN officials have sounded the alarm over trapped residents.

The UN's top humanitarian official in Syria, Yacoub El Hillo, and regional coordinator Kevin Kennedy said in a statement late on Monday that medical and food stocks "are running dangerously low" in Aleppo.

They appealed for a full-fledged ceasefire or weekly 48-hour "humanitarian pauses" to reach those in need. UNICEF said children and families in Aleppo were facing "a catastrophic situation", with up to two million people without running water for four days after fighting damaged electricity networks needed to pump supplies. "These cuts are coming amid a heatwave, putting children at a grave risk of waterborne dis-

eases," Hanaa Singer, UNICEF's representative in Syria, said in a statement.

### 'Children in serious danger'

"Getting clean water running again cannot wait for the fighting to stop. Children's lives are in serious danger." Aleppo has been divided between a rebel-held east and regime-controlled west since fighting erupted in the city in mid-2012. The UN says two million people in the city are at risk, including up to 275,000 people in east Aleppo. Other estimates put the total number of civilians in the city at about 1.5 million, with 250,000 in the eastern districts. The recent flare-up in fighting began in late June as government forces closed in on the Castello Road, the last route into rebel-held parts of the city. The road was severed in mid-July, beginning a roughly three-week siege of eastern districts until opposition fighters broke through regime territory on Saturday.

The push saw a coalition of rebels, Islamists, and jihadists cut off the regime's own main access road on the southern edges of the city. The offensives have left residents across the city reeling from skyrocketing prices and food shortages and afraid of further violence. Each side has used newly acquired territory to bring food and other supplies into neighborhoods they control, but the roads are still not safe for civilians to use. — AFP



## CRISTINA AND CO: LATIN FIRST LADIES AND PRESIDENTS



**BUENOS AIRES:** Former Argentine President (2007-2015) Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner participates in a rally at the huge Villa 31 shantytown in downtown Buenos Aires, on August 8, 2016. The rally celebrates the launching of a community television channel made possible by a law promulgated during her government. —AFP

**BUENOS AIRES:** Like "Evita" before her, Cristina Kirchner stepped from her husband's shadow to make a mark on Argentine politics one of several powerful women in the macho Latin American political world. "I am not Evita, nor Hillary" Clinton, Kirchner, who is widely known just as "Cristina," once said. She spoke when she was a senator and first lady of Argentina ahead of the 2007 presidential election that brought her to office as the successor to her husband, Nestor.

In one sense she was right. Kirchner, 63, has been arguably more divisive than either the erstwhile Argentina leftist heroine or even Bill Clinton's wife, now running for US president. "I have some things in common with Hillary. We have both been senators, lawyers and wives of presidents, but not much more," Kirchner said. "I don't want to be compared to Hillary or Evita or anyone. The best thing you can be is yourself." Kirchner says she has contended with a sexist political culture and media who often belittled her political decisions as bouts of womanly "hysteria."

After being elected to succeed her husband, Kirchner pushed on with his left-wing social policies. "He always told me that people would demand much more of me" than of him when he was elected in 2003 in the wake

of a financial crisis, she said in a televised interview last week. "We were in such a bad state in 2003 that they never demanded things of him that they later demanded of my government," she said. Like other Latin American leftist leaders, for her supporters Kirchner was a heroine of the poor. But to her rivals, she was an irresponsible populist. "In my case there was another aspect, the feminine aspect," she said. "That weighed heavily in Argentina, where in some areas there is still misogyny about women in power."

### Dilma

"Cristina says that after so many decades as a deputy and a senator, she got used to fighting to be listened to in places where it was hard to be heard," said Sandra Russo, author of an official biography of Kirchner, published in 2011. "She has a very high mental threshold." Kirchner compared her treatment in the media with another recent Latin American female leftist head of state, Dilma Rousseff of Brazil. On the front page of a magazine, Kirchner said, "they portrayed me as hysterical and crazy. They did the same with Dilma. We are both women." Like Kirchner, Rousseff has succumbed to scandal. She has been suspended from office to face an impeachment trial over

alleged financial irregularities in what she has called a "coup" by her rivals. In Argentina, meanwhile, the courts are also going after Kirchner over alleged corruption, in what she has branded a politically motivated campaign. Her conservative successor, Mauricio Macri, is busy unwinding her social welfare policies and protectionist trade measures.

### Rosario

Latin America has seen 10 women presidents in the past four decades. Among them, socialist Michelle Bachelet is serving her second term as president of Chile. In Peru, Keiko Fujimori narrowly lost a presidential election in June. She served as first lady during the leadership of her now-jailed father Alberto Fujimori. In Nicaragua, President Daniel Ortega, 70, this week put his wife, Rosario Murillo, down as his vice-presidential running mate as he runs for re-election in a November 6 vote. Murillo, 65, is currently a government minister and the main spokesperson for Ortega's leftist administration. Many see her as the real power in the country over the past decade. She is a mother of 10 and a well-known poet in her country. Ortega is widely expected to win a third consecutive term from 2017 to 2022, given the fragmented opposition. —AFP

## US AIR STRIKES SHOW LIMITS ON THE LIBYA INTERVENTION

WEST RISKS BEING SEEN TO TAKE SIDES BETWEEN FACTIONS

**TUNIS:** While US jets and drones are pounding Islamic State in the Libyan city of Sirte, Western powers are unlikely to expand their military involvement rapidly, anxious to avoid exacerbating factional divisions as the government they support struggles to establish itself. The United Nations-backed government asked for the US air strikes which began on Aug 1, but it has still not made a long-awaited request for broader security help - including a possible easing of an international arms embargo on the factions which emerged during and after the 2011 overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi.

"They know that the international community is ready to help with train-

ing and advice, but specific requests are not emerging yet," said a Western diplomatic source. Forces aligned to the Government of National Accord (GNA), which set up in Tripoli four months ago, have battled for weeks to remove Islamic State fighters from Sirte, the jihadist group's former North African stronghold.

Now US "Operation Odyssey Lightning" is targeting tanks, armed pick-up trucks and fighting positions in the slowly shrinking area of Sirte that Islamic State still holds, easing the passage for Libyan ground forces. However, the GNA has moved slowly to formulate its own security strategy and seek more foreign help, handicapped by internal political splits, a lack of capacity, and sensitivity to criticism that it is dependent on external support. Discussion of a 5,000-strong Italian-led

peacekeeping mission has fizzled out, and foreign ground intervention has been limited to small-scale special forces deployments.

Coastguard training is being planned, but programs to train and equip national security and police forces have yet to be developed. One request that is expected sooner or later is for exemptions to the UN arms embargo. World powers said in May they were ready to consider this to help the GNA combat Islamic State, but much depends on its ability to show that arms will not end up in the wrong hands, from a Western point of view.

Among the likely recipients would be fighters from the city of Misrata, which

Islamic State, also known as ISIS. However, some people see a risk of renewed conflict between loose alliances of armed groups that fought for control of Tripoli in 2014. The fear is that the Misrata brigades will end up fighting forces loyal to Khalifa Haftar, a military commander based in eastern Libya.

Haftar and his allies have so far loudly rejected the GNA, and foreign powers intervening anywhere in Libya risk being seen to take sides among the local factions. "The challenge for the West will always be to surgically fight ISIS whenever that implies not getting dragged into Libya's civil war," said Mattia Toaldo, a Libya expert at the European Council on Foreign Relations. The limited foreign involvement so far has met with a mixed reception locally. While the United States and Britain are popular around Misrata, France is out of favor there. French Special Forces have been operating for months in the eastern city of Benghazi, where fighters loyal to Haftar have been battling opponents including Islamic State.

After three French soldiers were killed last month in a helicopter crash south of Benghazi, confirming their presence, there were protests in Misrata and Tripoli, and the GNA summoned the French ambassador. However, the US strikes against Islamic State - both in Sirte and in the western city of Sabratha in February - have provoked few protests. Libyan militants returning from fighting in the Syrian civil war helped to implant Islamic State in the country in 2014, but the group has struggled to win support or hold territory, with most local people regarding it as a malign import dependent on foreign fighters.

The GNA-backed forces wonder why the US strikes did not come sooner. "We just want this fight to end, we'll take any help we can get," said one commander on the Sirte front line. But that openness does not extend to the idea of foreign boots on the ground, or broader efforts to end the security vacuum that allowed Islamic State to gain a foothold. "The need for outside help with training is certainly recognized at senior political level," the diplomat said. But in discussions about a peacekeeping force, the Libyan position was very clear - nothing like the 'Green Zone', the secure international area of Baghdad, would be acceptable. Even for training, "any visible presence on the streets would be difficult," said the diplomat. —Reuters

lies roughly midway between Tripoli and Sirte.

They have backed the GNA, providing security in Tripoli and leading the battle against Islamic State in Sirte, Gaddafi's home town. However, the loyalty of Libya's armed factions has been fickle in the past and the GNA's leadership, or Presidential Council, has yet to form a unified military command structure. "Only regular units under the command of the Presidential Council will get an exemption from the arms embargo," UN Libya envoy Martin Kobler said. "The Presidential Council has to be accepted as the Supreme Commander of the army. The question is does it really have control over the Misrata forces? Maybe yes, maybe no."

### Loud rejection

The Misrata brigades say they will return home after securing Sirte from

## NO END IN SIGHT AS ANTI-IS CAMPAIGN ENTERS 3RD YEAR

**WASHINGTON:** The US-led military effort against the Islamic State group started exactly two years ago, aimed at halting the jihadists as they swept across Iraq, leaving a trail of human butchery and destruction in their wake. It was supposed to have been a swift and narrow campaign that would help local forces deal a "lasting defeat" to IS jihadists. But billions of dollars and more than 14,000 air strikes later, such assertions are buckling, and the campaign highlights the limits of fighting a war mainly from the skies. "I think we are looking at decades of effort," said Charles Lister, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute. "We are fighting a losing battle if we expect to completely destroy (IS) altogether."

Nearly half of the territory once held by the IS group in Iraq has been liberated, as well as about 20 percent of its claim in neighboring Syria. Experts foresee the eventual collapse of the group's self-declared "caliphate," but the jihadists are fighting back by calling on followers

to launch attacks across the globe. Just this year, IS has claimed a string of horrific attacks including in France, Belgium, Turkey, Baghdad and the United States. "This is an organization that has very successfully morphed back into a traditional terrorist organization that then steadily rebuilds its capabilities," Lister said.

### US boots on the ground

When President Barack Obama launched air strikes in Iraq in August 2014, officials stressed US involvement would not be sustained for the long term. And Obama, elected on a promise of ending America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, vowed ground troops would not be dragged back into another conflict. He has repeatedly insisted that while the United States can provide support and air strikes, the war has to be won by local forces-not Americans.

Still, about 6,500 coalition troops-mostly American-have deployed in the anti-IS fight. Most are in Iraq,

though some special operations forces are working with Kurdish and Arab fighters in war-torn Syria, where a civil war and Russian strikes in support of President Bashar Al-Assad have further complicated the picture. "The few people of us who were watching this group develop from 2010 to 2014 knew very well that this was going to be a very long-term battle, and the idea that no US troops were going to be involved was just a fantasy," Lister said.

Though the United States claims more than 60 countries are part of its coalition, in reality America and just a few stalwart partners are carrying out almost all the work. Within weeks of the first strikes in Iraq, the coalition campaign spread to Syria. The fight later expanded to Afghanistan and, last week, the Pentagon quietly started an air campaign in the IS group's Libyan stronghold of Sirte. That campaign is supposed to last "weeks, not months," according to the Pentagon. —AFP



**SIRTE:** A military vehicle used by fighters from the pro-government forces loyal to Libya's Government of National Unity (GNA) is seen near ammunition casing in Sirte during an operation against jihadists of the Islamic State (IS) group. —AFP

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### Loud rejection

The Misrata brigades say they will return home after securing Sirte from

## 50 SENIOR REPUBLICAN NATIONAL SECURITY OFFICIALS REJECT TRUMP

**WASHINGTON:** Fifty senior Republican national security officials have issued a stinging rejection of their party's White House nominee Donald Trump, warning he would be "the most reckless president in American history" if elected. The group, some of whom already announced they would not vote for Trump, included former homeland security chiefs, intelligence directors, senior presidential advisors and a former US trade representative. They served under Republican presidents from Richard Nixon to George W Bush. "We are convinced that he would be a dangerous president and would put at risk our country's national security and well-being," they wrote in a statement published in The New York Times on Monday.

Their disavowal of the Republican presidential candidate was followed by another setback for Trump, when influential US Senator Susan Collins said yesterday he was "unworthy" of America's highest elective office, and will not receive her support. "I will not be voting for Donald Trump for president. This is not a decision I make lightly, for I am a lifelong Republican. But Donald Trump does not reflect historical Republican values nor the inclusive approach to governing that is critical to healing the divisions in our country," Collins wrote in an op-ed article appearing in Tuesday's Washington Post.

While the US security experts did not say they would vote for Democrat Hillary Clinton-indeed they expressed

"doubts" about her-they were clear in stating that "none of us will vote for Donald Trump." They essentially declared the brash billionaire unfit for office, echoing Clinton's criticism by saying that Trump "lacks the character, values, and experience to be president" and displays "alarming ignorance of basic facts" of international politics.

The New York real estate mogul also has shown no willingness to learn about foreign affairs or national security threats, "acts impetuously" and lacks self control, the statement said. "He is unable or unwilling to separate truth from falsehood," the group wrote, saying Trump possesses a set of "dangerous qualities" that should disqualify him from the presidency. "We are convinced that in the Oval Office, he would be the most reckless president in American history."

They warned that the political neophyte's "erratic behavior" has alarmed America's closest allies, adding that he fails to recognize the indispensable nature of such diplomatic relationships. The signatories include Tom Ridge and Michael Chertoff, the first and second homeland security secretaries under president George W Bush, former director of National Intelligence John Negroponte and Bush-era CIA director Michael Hayden. Also in the group are former US Trade Representative and World Bank president Robert Zoellick and Eric Edelman, former national security advisor to vice president Dick Cheney. —AFP

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## NAGASAKI MARKS 71ST ATOMIC BOMBING ANNIVERSARY

**TOKYO:** The Japanese city of Nagasaki yesterday marked 71 years since its destruction by a US atomic bomb, with its mayor lauding a visit by US President Barack Obama to Hiroshima earlier this year. A bell tolled as thousands of people, including ageing survivors and relatives of victims, observed a minute's silence at 11:02 am, the exact moment of the blast.

Some 74,000 people died in the initial explosion, while thousands of others perished months or years later from radiation sickness. The attack came three days after the US dropped the first ever atomic bomb on Hiroshima, which ultimately killed 140,000 people.

Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue lauded Obama's landmark May visit to Hiroshima as the first ever by a sitting US president.

"Knowing the facts becomes the start-

ing point for thinking about a future free of nuclear weapons," Taue said, calling on other world leaders to visit his city.

Local officials and those who survived the bombing called for strict adherence to Japan's post-war tradition of pacifism and were critical of the Japanese government. "The government of Japan, while advocating nuclear weapons abolition, still relies on nuclear deterrence," the mayor said, calling it a "contradictory state of affairs".

Toyokazu Ihara, 80, who survived the Nagasaki bombing, used his address to call for abolition of nuclear weapons and world peace.

"Nagasaki must be the last," he said, concluding his Japanese remarks with an English sentence intended for global citizens. Hiroshima mayor Kazumi Matsui on



**NAGASAKI:** People offer silent prayers for victims during a memorial ceremony to mark the anniversary of the atomic bombing, at the Peace Memorial Park in Nagasaki, western Japan yesterday. — AFP

Saturday marked the commemoration of the bombing of his city, also citing Obama's visit. He said the visit was proof of the "absolute evil" of nuclear weapons.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in his address in Nagasaki, called on world leaders to honor the global Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"We must not allow a repeat of the horrible experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that happened 71 years ago," Abe said. Abe has moved to extend the scope of Japan's military and deepen the nation's alliance with Washington in the face of threats from China's expanding military strength and unpredictable North Korea. North Korea last week test fired a ballistic missile that landed in waters off Japan's coast for the first time. — AFP

### News

in brief

#### Iraq parliament lifts Speaker's immunity

**BAGHDAD:** Iraq's parliament yesterday voted to lift the immunity of its speaker and two lawmakers to allow for corruption allegations to be investigated. Speaker Salim Al-Juburi said in a statement that he had agreed to submit the lifting of his own immunity to a parliamentary vote. A majority of the 237 members in attendance subsequently voted to lift parliamentary immunity for Juburi and two others MPs, Mohammed al-Karbuli and Taleb Al-Maamari, a parliamentary official said. Juburi then testified before a judiciary commission in response to corruption allegations Defense Minister Khaled Al-Obeidi made publicly earlier this month, judiciary spokesman Abdelsattar Bayraqdar said in a statement. Juburi has denied the accusations against him, which Obeidi made while appearing in parliament to answer graft allegations he said were brought in retribution for his rejection of corruption. Corruption is widespread in Iraq's government, from senior officials to low-level functionaries, and while Iraqis have repeatedly demonstrated for change in the past year, little in the way of real reform has taken place.

#### MH370 plunged into ocean at high speed

**SYDNEY:** MH370 plunged into the ocean at high speed up to 20,000 feet a minute-reinforcing analysis that the missing Malaysia Airlines jet crashed in the current search zone, a report said yesterday. The Boeing 777 disappeared on March 8, 2014 en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people onboard. An extensive underwater hunt in the southern Indian Ocean has not yet found the crash site, fuelling speculation it may be outside the current search zone, particularly if someone was at the controls at the end of the flight. A manned plane could have been glided down, allowing it to enter the water outside the 120,000 square kilometer area being searched, some experts have suggested. But extensive testing by aircraft manufacturer Boeing and new Australian defense department data analysis both suggest that regardless of the possible actions of one or both of the pilots-the jet dove into the ocean at high speed, The Australian reported.

#### US delivers \$50 m worth of assistance to Lebanon

**BEIRUT:** The United States has delivered \$50 million worth of military assistance to Lebanon's army to help it battle against Muslim extremists near the border with Syria. US Ambassador to Lebanon Elizabeth H Richard told reporters at Beirut's port that the latest assistance is in "an entire ship full of military equipment." A US Embassy statement said the shipment includes 50 armored Humvees, 40 Howitzers and over 1,000 tons of ammunition. The US has been speeding up delivery of ammunition to help Lebanon's military combat jihadi groups near the border with Syria. In March, Washington delivered three Huey II helicopters, raising to 10 the number of such US-made aircraft in Lebanon's fleet Washington has provided more than \$1 billion in military assistance to Lebanon since 2006.

#### Iran to auction property of a death row tycoon

**TEHRAN:** Iran said yesterday it would auction off property owned by billionaire Babak Zanjani, who was sentenced to death for corruption earlier this year. A number of luxury villas and apartments, shops and other properties will be sold, reported the Mizan Online newspaper, which is close to the judiciary. Bidders must make their offers in sealed envelopes by August 20, it added. Zanjani, 41, was sentenced to death for fraud and other financial crimes in March after a lengthy trial during which he was accused of fraudulently pocketing \$2.8 billion. He rose to prominence after the international community imposed sanctions on the Islamic republic's banks as punishment over its nuclear program.

#### Mali says 5 soldiers missing after attack

**BAMAKO:** At least five Malian soldiers have gone missing after an attack in the central Mopti region, where armed Islamic extremists are active, a military source said yesterday. The assailants struck "one of our positions on Monday between the locations of Tenenkou and Sevare. We have no news of five of our soldiers," said the source, reached at the defense ministry. The source blamed the attack on Ansar Dine, a mainly Tuareg group that early in 2012 seized control of northern desert territory with two other movements, including Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). The jihadists were ousted from major northern towns in a French-led military operation in 2013, but still launch attacks from desert hideouts.

#### Sudan rebels sign AU-brokered deal

**KHARTOUM:** Prominent Sudanese rebel groups said yesterday they have signed a roadmap brokered by African Union mediators to end deadly conflicts in Sudan's strife-torn Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan regions. Tens of thousands of people have been killed and millions displaced over the years in the three regions as ethnic minority groups rebelled against President Omar Al-Bashir's Arab-dominated government. While Khartoum representatives signed the roadmap at a previous round of talks in March in Addis Ababa, prominent rebel groups refused to come on board at the time. But on Monday they signed it in the Ethiopian capital.

## PAKISTAN LAWYERS GO ON STRIKE AFTER DOZENS KILLED IN ATTACK

### QUETTA ATTACK KILLS DOZENS OF LAWYERS

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistani lawyers staged a nationwide strike yesterday after dozens of colleagues were slain in a suicide bombing that killed 74 people at a hospital in the southwestern city of Quetta. Medical staff said up to 60 of those killed in Monday's bombing at a government hospital were lawyers who had gathered to mourn the assassination earlier that day of the president of the Baluchistan Bar Association, Bilal Anwar Kasi. Yesterday morning, four of over one hundred people wounded, including two more lawyers, died in hospital, taking the toll to 74, said Abdul Rehman, the medical superintendent at the Civil Hospital Quetta.

Shops, businesses, schools and universities in the city and several other towns in the southern province of Baluchistan remained closed as the government announced three days of mourning. Islamic State was one of two Islamist militant groups to claim responsibility for the atrocity, although officials and analysts said they had doubts over whether the Middle East-based movement was behind the blast. It was the deadliest militant attack in Pakistan this year and the latest in a string of strikes on lawyers, seen by some militants as an extension of the state and so legitimate targets.

"How weak and pathetic are these people who target hospitals, where women and children, where patients, go to get treatment?" Ashtar Ausaf Ali, Pakistan's attorney general, said yesterday at a protest outside the Supreme Court in the capital Islamabad.

Supreme Court Bar President Ali Zafar called for the government to do more to protect lawyers. "Lawyers are relatively more vocal against militancy and they are fighting cases against people accused of terrorism, so it would make sense that they are being targeted," said Ali Malik, a Lahore-based lawyer.

"An attack on lawyers makes a mockery of the law enforcement agencies, it undermines the promises of the state against terrorists and breeds fear among vulnerable citizens."



**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistani lawyers shout slogans against the killing of their colleagues a day after suicide bombing at the Civil Hospital in Quetta, during a protest in Islamabad yesterday. — AFP

#### Doubts over claims

The bombing in Quetta, the provincial capital of Baluchistan province, was initially claimed by Jamaat-ur-Ahrar, a faction of the Pakistani Taleban that is fighting to overthrow the government and impose strict Islamic law. Later, however, Islamic State said one of its fighters carried out the attack, in what would mark an escalation in the ability of the group, or its regional offshoots, to strike in Pakistan. "A martyr from the Islamic State detonated his explosive belt at a gathering of justice ministry employees and Pakistani policemen in the city of Quetta," Islamic State's Amaq news agency reported.

Some Pakistani analysts were sceptical. "The ISIS claim seems very unconvincing," said Intiaz Gul, director of the Center for Research and Security Studies in Islamabad. "The claim of responsibility by

Jamaat-ur-Ahrar is more credible," said Muhammad Amir Rana, head of the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies. He noted that Jamaat had sworn loyalty to Islamic State's Middle East leadership in 2014, but later switched back to the Taleban. "Every time they have carried out an attack, they have taken responsibility independently (of Islamic State)," Rana said.

It remains unclear what ties, if any, Jamaat has to Islamic State, whose leadership is a rival to both the Taleban and Al-Qaeda over claims to represent the true Islamic Caliphate. In September 2014, Jamaat-ur-Ahrar rejected the Pakistani Taleban during a leadership struggle and swore allegiance to Islamic State, also known as Daesh. By March 2015, the group was again swearing loyalty to the main Pakistani Taleban. The reason for its return

to the fold remains murky, but Jamaat also never specifically disavowed Islamic State. Only last week, Jamaat was added to the United States' list of global terrorists, triggering sanctions.

Baluchistan, which borders Afghanistan, is home to many militant groups, most notably sectarian outfits who have launched a campaign of suicide bombings and assassinations of ethnic Hazaras - Persian-speaking Shiites who mostly emigrated from Afghanistan and are a small minority of the Shiite population in Sunni-majority Pakistan. "Many groups based in Baluchistan have an anti-Shiite agenda, so they find ideological linkages with ISIS," said a military official who was based in Quetta until 2015. "But is ISIS present there to a degree that they can carry out this kind of well-planned, pre-meditated attack? I don't think that is possible." — Reuters

## AMBASSADOR TELLS UK: KEEP YOUR DOOR OPEN TO CHINA

**LONDON:** China has cautioned Britain against closing the door to Chinese money and said relations were at a crucial juncture after Prime Minister Theresa May delayed signing off on a \$24 billion nuclear power project. In China's sternest warning to date over May's surprise decision to review the building of Britain's first nuclear plant in decades, Beijing's ambassador to London said that Britain could face power shortages unless May approved the Franco-Chinese deal. "The China-UK relationship is at a crucial historical juncture. Mutual trust should be treasured even more," Liu Xiaoming wrote in the Financial Times. "I hope the UK will keep its door open to China and that the British government will continue to support Hinkley Point - and come to a decision as soon as possible so that the project can proceed smoothly."

The comments signal deep frustration in Beijing at May's move to delay, her most striking corporate intervention since winning power in the political turmoil which followed Britain's June 23 referendum to leave the European Union. Her decision indicates a much more cautious view of Chinese investment and a willingness to take a tough line with EU allies such as French President Francois Hollande. Cast as the jewel illustrating a new "Golden Era" of relations between China and Britain, the Hinkley financing deal was signed in Downing Street during a state visit to Britain by President Xi Jinping last year.

#### Golden era?

Under plans drawn up by former Prime Minister David Cameron, French utility EDF and China General Nuclear Power Corp would fund the cost of building two Areactor European Pressurized Water Reactors at the Hinkley C nuclear plant in Somerset, in southern England. Britain has committed to pay a minimum price for the power generated by the plant for 35 years, though critics said London had agreed to pay far too much.

Hinkley is seen as the frontrunner to closer ties with China on nuclear issues, paving the way for tens of billions of dollars of investment and another two nuclear power plants with Chinese involvement. Cameron raised some eyebrows with allies by pitching Britain as the pre-eminent gateway to the West for investment from China and made London the biggest

international trading centre for offshore yuan outside China. Britain is currently discussing an agreement for landmark financial services links, including a London-Shanghai stock connection.

In the comment published in the Financial Times yesterday, China's ambassador said Hinkley was not "some whimsical idea or rushed decision" and pointedly said that Chinese investment had flowed because both countries "respected and trusted each other." "If Britain's openness is a condition for bilateral co-operation, then mutual trust is the very foundation on which this is built," said Liu. Once Britain exits from the EU, London would need to clinch a new trade deal with China, whose \$11.3 trillion economy is currently more than four times as big as Britain's at \$2.4 trillion. Liu said Chinese companies had invested more in the United Kingdom than in Germany, France and Italy combined over the past five years.

#### Natural concerns

Since May won the top job, Britain has repeatedly said that it values its relationship with China and that it was natural for the incoming government to want to look at the plans in detail. "This decision is about a huge infrastructure project and it's right that the new government carefully considers it," a government spokesman said. "We co-operate with China on a broad range of areas from the global economy to international issues and we will continue to seek a strong relationship with China." But Nick Timothy, May's influential joint chief of staff, also said last year that security experts were worried the state-owned Chinese group would have access to computer systems that could allow it to shut down Britain's energy production.

"Rational concerns about national security are being swept to one side because of the desperate desire for Chinese trade and investment," Timothy wrote in October 2015 in a column for a conservative news and comment website. China was buying British silence on human rights, Timothy said, and stated that British security services thought China's spies were working against UK interests. "No amount of trade and investment should justify allowing a hostile state easy access to the country's critical national infrastructure," he said. A final decision on Hinkley is due in September. — Reuters

## XI'S HERE TO STAY: JINPING TIPPED TO OUTSTAY TERM

**BEIJING:** Already China's most powerful leader in decades, President Xi Jinping will probably seek to extend his term to more than 10 years, analysts say, the first Communist Party chief to do so since Deng Xiaoping. The ruling party's leaders have reportedly gathered at their secretive annual Beidaihe retreat on the northern Chinese coast, where discussions are expected to focus on the composition of its next all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee (PSC).

The 19th Party Congress, slated for next year, will decide a new PSC line-up, traditionally seen as indicating Xi's most likely successor after he steps down, due in 2022. But Xi has thus far delayed anointing an heir. And while Chinese Communist leaders have often maintained influence after their official retirement, scholars and analysts increasingly believe Xi will try to stay in office beyond his standard term. "A lot of analysts now see it as a given" that Xi will seek to stay party general secretary, the country's most powerful post, said Christopher K Johnson, a former CIA analyst and now China specialist at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Willy Lam, expert on politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said there was a 60 to 70 percent chance that Xi would refuse to give up the role. Doing so would violate the unofficial rule set by Deng Xiaoping, who led China from 1978-1989, that general secretaries stay in office no longer than 10 years. That principle has helped smooth transfers of power within the party since the 1990s. As well as ensuring regular renewal at the top, and opportunities for different Communist Party factions to dominate at different times, the concept also seeks to prevent the emergence of a despot.

#### 'No heir apparent'

China's constitution sets term limits for presidents and ministers, but there is no such rule for the party secretary. Analysts say if Xi's close ally Wang Qishan, a PSC cadre who is due to retire, is allowed a sec-

ond term it could establish a precedent for the party chief. Xi has made his enduring ambition clear by installing himself as chairman of most of the powerful new groups within the party, said Victor Shih, professor at the University of California, San Diego. Doing so "increases the threshold for anyone to replace him," he said.



**Chinese President Xi Jinping**

"Moreover, there is no heir apparent now." Xi has already smashed several unwritten party rules since ascending to general secretary in 2012, Johnson noted. His anti-corruption drive felled the once hugely powerful security chief Zhou Yongkang, breaking the tacit understanding that former top leaders were immune to such campaigns-and giving him an incentive to stay in power. More time as president could allow Xi to follow through on long-promised reforms and bolster his more assertive foreign policy in the South China Sea, experts say. Xi's allies could argue a longer term would let him pursue his ambitious targets of national rejuvenation and doubling 2010 per capita income by 2020, in time for the 100th anniversary of the party's founding. — AFP



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# INDIAN COLD PILLS FUEL MYANMAR NARCOTICS BOOM

## METHAMPHETAMINE IS ASIA'S 'NUMBER ONE DRUG THREAT'

**TAMU:** Five years ago, when cold pills first trickled across Myanmar's untamed border with India, many local officials were baffled. Where was this medicine going, and why were smugglers so interested in it? Today, the cross-border trickle has become a torrent and everyone knows why the Indian-made pills are so valuable: They are bound for secret laboratories in lawless eastern Myanmar that churn out most of mainland Southeast Asia's methamphetamine, or "meth".

Cold pills contain pseudoephedrine, the main ingredient of meth, a highly addictive drug whose ever-soaring popularity is rattling governments across Asia. In recent months the Philippines has elected a president on a platform of harsh action against drug dealers, Indonesia has resumed executions of drug traffickers after a year-long hiatus and Thailand is wrestling with a soaring prison population. Myanmar's current boom in meth production would be impossible without a recent surge in pseudoephedrine smuggled from India's huge and ill-regulated pharmaceuticals sector, say police and narcotics experts.

The uninterrupted flow of the drug is highlighting a disconnect between countries in tackling a meth epidemic that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) calls Asia's "number one drug threat." "It's big, big business," said Ye Htut, a former advisor to Myanmar's ex-President Thein Sein. He attributed a property boom in Kalay, the largest town in this otherwise impoverished region, to the profits made from smuggling pseudoephedrine.

Meth is sold in pill form as "ya ba", a Thai name meaning "crazy medicine", or as a more potent, crystalline substance known as "crystal meth", "ice" or "shabu". Each Indian cold pill can make one "ya ba" and costs only a few

cents to produce. By the time it has crossed the border and reached Mandalay - Myanmar's northern capital and a major smuggling hub - the pill's value has increased roughly tenfold. Across mainland Southeast Asia, the UNODC estimates the meth trade was worth about \$15 billion in 2013.

### Cross-border route

The rugged and ethnically diverse region straddling the Indian border ranks among Myanmar's poorest, with no industry and modest infrastructure. Its main road is a two-lane highway linked by rickety bridges and plied by ox carts. It is here that Myanmar police have been finding thousands of the cold pills, hidden in rice sacks, packed into truck chassis or spilling from the luggage of cross-border bus passengers. In one bust here in mid-June, police intercepted a car carrying more than 60 kg (130 lbs) of Indian pseudoephedrine - enough to make more than a million "ya ba" pills.

Global demand for methamphetamine has created "new precursor chemical entrepreneurs in India," said the US State Department in a 2015 report. Experts believe many criminals who once smuggled drugs now prefer precursors, which offer high profits but much lighter penalties. Myanmar police say China is also a major supplier of pseudoephedrine. But with tighter controls there, and with greater demand for the chemical as meth use booms, drug producers have increasingly turned to India.

Pseudoephedrine is a controlled substance in India requiring all handlers to register with the authorities. In practice, the trade is poorly monitored, with Indian officials complaining of weak intelligence-sharing between government agencies and



**LAHAL, Myanmar:** Naga tribes people gather in Lahal township in the remote Sagaing region nearly two years before the town and nearby areas were hit by disease that left many children dead. — AFP

rare prosecutions of offenders. Raw pseudoephedrine is made in a handful of Indian factories, then moved through a network of wholesalers, drug makers, distributors and drugstores. It gets pilfered at every point along the way, say experts.

In a statement to Reuters, India's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) said seizures had dropped after the country's narcotics laws were changed in 2013 to define pseudoephedrine as controlled. And indeed, police in Kalay and Tamu, Myanmar's two main districts bordering India, seized only 400 kg of pseudoephedrine last year, down from more than 3.5 tons in 2013. But that may well be because smugglers have found novel ways

to avoid detection. "It's highly likely that traffickers have just shifted approach," said Jeremy Douglas, the UNODC's Asia-Pacific head. Tamu district alone had more than 80 unofficial crossing points along its 125-km border with India, said Douglas, making it almost impossible to monitor. The Indian Embassy in Yangon did not respond to a request for comment on the problem.

### Drug problem

Already the world's second-largest producer, after Afghanistan, of opium and its derivative heroin, Myanmar is now also reporting record-breaking seizures of meth. In May, police intercepted a truck in northern Myanmar carrying 21 million ya ba pills

worth an estimated \$35 million. The booming drugs trade poses a challenge to the fledgling government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Rapid urbanization in the commercial capital Yangon is creating the kind of slums that have fuelled the increase in meth abuse in countries such as Thailand and the Philippines. Health experts are braced for an explosion in domestic meth use. Meanwhile, police in Mandalay, a transit point between the western frontier with India and the rebel-dominated eastern borderlands, say they are still making record seizures of Indian-made pseudoephedrine.

Greater regional integration, aided by Indian and Myanmar road-building programs, promised to boost both trade and trafficking, said the UNODC's Douglas. "India and Myanmar are cooperating to some extent but they're not doing a lot of joint operations or intelligence-sharing," he said. Myanmar police said most large drug and precursor shipments were smuggled through Moreh, the Indian border town opposite Tamu. They have arrested scores of couriers or "mules", but said they needed India's help to arrest the ringleaders.

An Indian man suspected of arranging a large pseudoephedrine shipment in 2013 sought refuge on the other side of the border, said Tamu police Chief Major Soe Naing. "Cooperation with India is quite weak so we haven't been able to catch him," he said. The NCB said Myanmar had not presented evidence that smuggling kingpins were hiding in India, or even that the pseudoephedrine it had seized was Indian-made. "It is coming from other countries too," said a top NCB official, who asked not to be named because he wasn't authorized to speak to journalists. — Reuters



**MANILA:** Inmates sleep inside the Quezon City jail in Manila. — AFP photos



**MANILA:** Inmates cook their food inside the Quezon City jail in Manila.

# PHILIPPINES GOVT TO OVERHAUL INHUMANE, OVERCROWDED JAILS

## CONGESTION MADE WORSE BY PRESIDENT'S DRUG WAR

**MANILA:** Philippine officials said yesterday the government would build new jails to address severe congestion made worse by President Rodrigo Duterte's drug war, describing conditions as "inhumane" and "unacceptable". AFP photographs of Quezon City Jail, where thousands of inmates take turns to sleep on an open-air basketball court and a staircase, were an "eye-opener" for authorities to hasten the construction of a new facility, according to vice mayor Joy Belmonte.

Quezon City officials Monday signed an agreement to donate land to the national government for a new prison. The facility in the northern district of Manila would replace the jail built six decades ago for 800 inmates but now houses almost 4,000. "The photos are really unacceptable. Seeing inmates sleep on top of each other because of the lack of space, I feel it's a violation of human rights, an urgent matter that must be addressed," Belmonte said. "It's good that this is exposed before the international reading public as an eye-

opener," added the vice mayor, who said she had heard reports of overcrowding before but visited the facility for the first time in July with an AFP photographer.

Human Rights Watch criticized the conditions last week, saying it was "straight out of Dante's 'Purgatory'", referring to the 13th century Italian writer's description of the realm where souls await judgment. Interior Secretary Ismael Sueno said the government would allocate funds to build new jails, with 80 percent of new detainees accused of drug-related crimes resulting from Duterte's crackdown.

Duterte, who took office on June 30, ordered a bloody war on crime that has left 889 people dead since the May elections, according to the country's largest broadcaster ABS-CBN. Police have reported arresting more than 5,000 people for drugs offences as part of the campaign. Sueno said his department was also planning the construction of more rehabilitation centers. "(President Duterte) is really concerned not just about arrests but also the rehabilita-

tion of drug addicts," the minister said.

Even before Duterte's presidency, the Philippine penal system was ranked as the third most congested in the world, according to the University of London's Institute for Criminal Policy Research. In Quezon City, the government is working with the International Committee of the Red Cross to finalize the design for a new facility that can house 6,000 inmates by 2019. "It's a modern facility and we want it to be on par with other jails in Southeast Asia," Xavier Solda of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology said.

### Top judge rebuffed

Meanwhile, President Rodrigo Duterte warned the Philippines' top judge yesterday to let him pursue a deadly anti-crime campaign that has left hundreds of suspects dead, suggesting otherwise he would impose "martial law". Supreme Court chief justice Lourdes Sereno criticized Monday Duterte's public shaming of seven lower court judges for alleged involvement in the

narcotics trade, adding that one of the judges was murdered eight years ago. "Go ahead and try to stop me. Would you rather that I declared martial law?" Duterte said in a speech to soldiers during a visit to a military camp in the southern Philippines.

"Let's not kid each other ma'am, and do not force the issue," Duterte warned Sereno. "You do not warn me. I warn you. I can order everyone in the executive department not to honor you," he added. "Please do not create a confrontation, a constitutional war. We will all lose," the president added. Sereno had told Duterte in a letter that it was her sole responsibility to impose punishment on judicial "misfits", and that publicly naming them, even without charges filed against them, had put their lives in danger. "To safeguard the role of the judges as the protector of constitutional rights, I would caution them very strongly against 'surrendering' or making themselves physically accountable to any police officer in the absence of any... warrant of arrest," she added. — Agencies

# FOREIGN FACEBOOK LOVE REVIVES CAMBODIA PM 'CLICK FARM' ROW

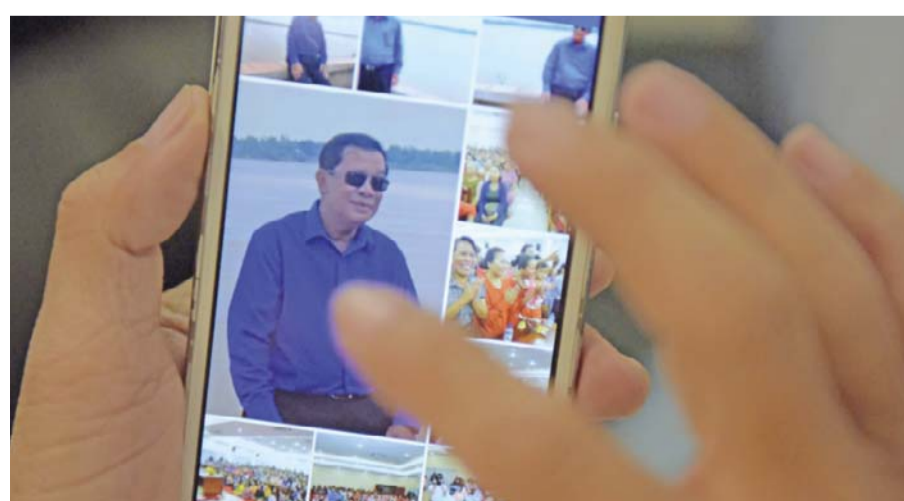
**PHNOM PENH:** With its regular live broadcasts, routine tirades and daily-often curiously intimate-photo posts, the Facebook page of Cambodian strongman Hun Sen has won a remarkable five million fans. But a surge of "likes" from countries including India and the Philippines has reignited allegations that his digital adoration is purchased from so-called "click farms". The 64-year-old prime minister, a once self-confessed tech dinosaur who tolerates little dissent, has embraced Facebook with gusto in the last year after opponents used the platform to reach out to younger voters.

He has vowed to remain prime minister until he is 74 with the next elections due in 2018. To do so he will need the support of Cambodia's youth-a huge, tech-savvy demographic who voted in droves for the opposition at the last polls, wearied by the endemic corruption, rights abuses and political repression seen as the hallmarks of Hun Sen's rule. With loyalists controlling nearly all of Cambodia's mainstream media outlets, Hun Sen was initially wary of social media. But in the last year he has embraced the digital sphere-while ramping up prosecutions against people for online comments.

His slick page now documents everything from live broadcasts of speeches and meetings with villagers, to more personal moments like the premier kicking back in a white bathrobe or sporting a wet, see-through singlet at the beach. But that success has been dogged by allegations that a significant chunk of fans come from "click farms"-networks of fake and real users controlled by digital middlemen who sell likes. In recent months, opposition groups, local media, analysts and even many of Hun Sen's own Facebook followers have all remarked on the unusual and erratic surges in likes his page receives.

### Nearly half of likes foreign

An AFP analysis of Hun Sen's Facebook followers over the last six months using data from SocialBakers.com shows two periods when overseas likes have dramatically spiked-the most recent in the last three weeks. Only 55 percent of Hun Sen's five million Facebook followers now come from inside Cambodia. Many of the likes originate in countries notorious for hosting click farms such as India, Indonesia and the Philippines.



**PHNOM PENH:** A Cambodian man browses through his smartphone displaying photos of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on the leader's Facebook page. — AFP

In contrast, 82 percent of followers for Sam Rainsy-the country's most prominent opposition politician-are Cambodian. That has led Rainsy, who currently lives in self-exile in France, to accuse Hun Sen of buying friends. "In his deceitful but childish logic, Hun Sen needs to push his popularity on Facebook in order to justify his repressive policies," he said by email. India now accounts for the largest chunk of overseas love for Hun Sen's page-some 562,000 fans,

or 11.4 percent, dwarfing even neighboring Thailand where there is a huge diaspora of Cambodian workers.

In March and April, Indian likes tripled from 175,000 to 517,000. Then from early May the rate of likes dipped slightly, only to once more rebound between July 4 and August 1 taking the number from 512,000 to 560,000. Similar patterns have taken place this year with fans from the Philippines and Indonesia. — AFP

## News

in brief

### ID mix-up leaves a dead man walking

**BEIJING:** A Chinese man applying for a certificate of no criminal record had his request denied when police told him he was in fact dead, having been executed a decade ago for kidnapping, a report said. The man, a resident of the southern metropolis of Guangzhou surnamed Chen, requested the document to apply for a job. "The police told me that... I had already committed the crime of kidnapping and the death sentence penalty had already been carried out, so I was technically speaking already dead," he said, according to Guangdong Radio and Television's verified social media account. The mix-up was the result of his having the same name and identification card number as a criminal executed in 2006. Chen, 45, said that he had lived a perfectly normal life until he applied for the background check, even receiving entry-exit permits for Hong Kong and Macau without any trouble. Police called him last week to explain the unusual situation, and finally issued him with his certificate last Friday.

### Woman charged with biting off officer's ear

**SALEM:** A Massachusetts woman charged with biting off a portion of a rookie police officer's ear during her arrest outside a Salem bar has been held without bail. Emma Wiley pleaded not guilty Monday in to charges including mayhem, assault and battery causing serious bodily injury, assault and battery on a police officer and resisting arrest. Prosecutors say Patrolwoman Jessica Rondinelli responded to reports of a fight outside a city bar at about 1 am Sunday. The police report says while Rondinelli was putting the 19-year-old Wiley in a cruiser, Wiley bit off a piece of the officer's ear. Doctors were unable to re-attach it. Wiley's attorney said his client is a Salem State University student who suffers from depression, anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Rondinelli's first police shift was July 1.

### Chinese tourist kills woman at luxury Kenya safari lodge

**NAIROBI:** A Chinese tourist stabbed a woman to death and seriously wounded her husband after demanding they vacate a table at a luxury Kenyan safari lodge, police said yesterday. The incident occurred at Keekorok Lodge in Masai Mara, a large game reserve in southwestern Kenya, where the couple-also Chinese-were having dinner. The assailant, identified as Lee Changqin, is said to have demanded that they leave their table, prompting an argument, before he stabbed them both in the chest. Rift Valley county police Chief Gideon Kibunjah said the tourist was arrested and undergoing interrogation before being arraigned in court. "The woman died while undergoing treatment in hospital while her husband is still in hospital," Kibunjah said by telephone. "The man is in custody."

### An intruder tried to climb Buckingham Palace fence

**LONDON:** London police say an intruder tried to climb a security fence at Buckingham Palace, but did not gain access to landmark building. The Metropolitan Police say officers monitoring CCTV cameras saw the 22-year-old from Croydon and arrested him yesterday inside a security perimeter on suspicion of trespassing on a protected site. Police say he had been drinking, was not armed and was detained without using stun guns. The breach is not believed to be terrorism related. Several intruders have breached security at the queen's London residence over the years - including a man convicted of murder who climbed a wall in May while Queen Elizabeth II was at home. Buckingham Palace declined to comment on the intruder, but the royal family was not there at the time.

### Octogenarian Polish temptress drugged and swindled suitors

**WARSAW:** Polish authorities have arrested an 80-year-old woman who allegedly drugged and then robbed a string of senior citizen suitors she met through newspaper lonely hearts adverts. During dinner, the predatory pensioner sprinkled lorazepam-a drug prescribed to treat anxiety but which induces sleep-onto her victim's food, a regional court in Brzesko, southern Poland, heard. In one case, she stole 8,000 zloty (1,800 euros, \$2,000) in jewelry, electronics and cash from a 78-year-old who had invited her to his home in the nearby village of Szczurow, the online edition of the Polska Times reported yesterday.





A picture taken on Monday shows the Transocean Winner oil rig after it ran aground at Dalmore on the Isle of Lewis in northern Britain during a storm. — AFP

## EXECUTED IRAN NUKE SCIENTIST UNFAIRLY TRIED: MOTHER

DUBAI/WASHINGTON: Iranian security forces may have pressured nuclear scientist Shahram Amiri, hanged last week for spying for the United States, to admit to crimes he did not commit, his mother said in an interview this week. Amiri leapt to the global spotlight in 2010 when he claimed first that U.S. agents had abducted him and then that he was in the United States of his own free will. The same year, he returned to Iran where he was welcomed as a hero but then detained and tried on charges that he divulged nuclear secrets.

"When I was saying goodbye to him before his execution, he told me not to be sad as he had done nothing wrong," Marzieh Amiri told Reuters in a telephone interview. "He asked me to tell everyone that he was innocent. He was saying his conscience was clear," she

said. Her son's closed-door trial was unfair and he was not properly represented, she said. She did not know the full name of the lawyer, who as a result could not be reached for comment.

"They should have held a public trial," she said. "I am not angry with the government or the Supreme Leader (of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei). I am angry with extremist security forces who were on his case, trying to prove he was a spy and who maybe forced him to confess to things he hadn't done." Iranian judiciary officials could not be reached for comment. Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, spokesman for Iran's judiciary, told reporters Amiri received a fair trial and the case followed standard judicial procedure. "He ... had contacted Iran's number one enemy, America, and had given our

most secret and vital information to them," Mohseni Ejei said on Sunday, according to the state broadcaster.

### 'I am an Iranian'

In June 2010, Iranian state television showed Amiri, then 32, saying in a video he was in Arizona after US and Saudi intelligence forces kidnapped him a year earlier during a religious pilgrimage abroad. In a second video soon afterwards, Amiri said he was in the United States voluntarily and wanted to dispel "rumors" that had been spread about him. "I am an Iranian, and I have taken no step against my homeland," he said. As a young man with a talent for electronics in the Iranian city of Kermanshah, Amiri would tote his toolbox to friends' houses and fix their broken appliances, his mother said. He won a coveted scholarship from the defense ministry to further his studies and eventually became a researcher in radiation safety at the defense ministry-affiliated Malek Ashtar University of Technology, visiting sites associated with Iran's nuclear program. According to a US official involved in the case, the Central Intelligence Agency recruited Amiri in Iran and helped extract him using the pilgrimage.

But US officials had doubts about the depth of Amiri's knowledge and access to the most sensitive

information. Amiri was questioned, given a new identity and a home in Arizona, and paid around \$5 million, the officials said. However he began telling his handlers he missed his young son and wanted to return to Iran, though they warned he likely would face imprisonment or worse and might never see his son. Arriving in Tehran in July 2010, he was greeted by his son, reporters and Iran's deputy foreign minister. Someone placed a wreath around his neck and he flashed a "V" for victory while clutching his son.

### Clear Conscience

Marzieh Amiri said her son was free on his return and even took a vacation in Iran with his family. "But one day they suddenly arrested him ... When we followed up, (the security forces) said, 'It's for his own protection. He is our guest.'" He was held in isolation in Tehran, his mother said. His wife filed for divorce, and he became nervous and suffered from high blood pressure. "His loneliness was killing him," she said, adding she visited him once or twice a month. "He told me he prefers to die as he could not tolerate the isolation anymore." Last week, officials brought his corpse to Kermanshah. Rope marks on his neck indicated he had been hanged, his mother said. — Reuters

## BUDGET DEFICIT AFTER 16 YEARS OF SURPLUSES

Continued from Page 1

In previous years, Kuwait built up a sovereign wealth fund worth around \$600 billion that is invested mostly in the United States, Europe and Asia. Kuwait is projecting a deficit of \$28.9 billion in the current fiscal year which began on April 1. As part of efforts to reduce the shortfall, the Cabinet last week decided to raise the

price of petrol by up to 83 percent, the first increase in almost two decades. Last year, it raised the prices of diesel and kerosene. It has also decided to lift electricity and water charges on foreign residents. The ratings agency Moody's said late Monday that the fuel price reforms will boost Kuwait's credit ratings because they will lower current expenditures and bolster government finances. — AFP

## GOVT MULLS COMPENSATING CITIZENS AFTER...

Continued from Page 1

He said the government told MPs that it was time for Kuwait to follow the steps taken by other Gulf states, because Kuwait is the last member of the six GCC states to take the petrol hike decision, while other states took it several months ago.

The minister said the government heard proposals by MPs, particularly the financial committee proposal, to an amount of fuel free of charge and another amount at subsidized prices to citizens, adding that the government is keen to cooperate with the Assembly regarding the issue. He however stated that the government

would go ahead with the new price rises.

MP Abdullah Maayouf said lawmakers presented proposals to the government, mainly the financial committee's study, which can achieve reforms, rationalization and not harm citizens. He said the lawmakers told the government that the hike decision represents an embarrassment for them and the Assembly before the Kuwaiti voters. MP Humoud Al-Hamdan said lawmakers urged the government to prevent any increase in the prices of commodities as a result of the petrol price hike, and the government team said they will prevent any price rises. He expected that the government will respond to proposals by MPs before the hike decision becomes effective on Sept 1.

## PUTIN, ERDOGAN PLEDGE RESET AFTER RIFT

Continued from Page 1

Now with Russia mired in economic crisis due to Western sanctions over Ukraine and low oil prices along with Turkey's outlook flagging, both men want to get business started again. Erdogan said that he now wanted to see the TurkStream project "done as fast as possible", while Putin said construction could start "in the nearest future". The Turkish leader also insisted that the two sides were once again targeting a very ambitious trade turnover of \$100 billion by 2024.

The earlier uptick in relations between Turkey and Russia was built on a macho friendship between Putin and Erdogan, two combative leaders in their early 60s credited with restoring confidence to their nations in the wake of financial crises but also criticized for clamping down on human rights. But after such a bitter dispute -

which saw Putin accuse Erdogan of stabbing Russia in the back and profiting from an illegal oil trade with the Islamic State group - it will take a lot for the pair to reheat relations.

The two strongmen leaders conspicuously skirted one major issue dividing them and that lay at the heart of their falling out - the war in Syria. Putin and Erdogan said they would start discussing the conflict after the press conference but the Russian leader insisted both sides were committed to finding a peaceful solution. Russia is flying a bombing campaign in support of President Bashar Al-Assad while Turkey is fiercely opposed to the Syrian leader. Erdogan insisted in an interview with Russian media ahead of the talks that Assad must still go - a position opposed by Putin - but said that the conflict could now become the focus for renewed cooperation between the two sides. —AFP

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## Focus

SOUTH AFRICA'S ANC  
SOUL-SEARCHES AFTER  
VOTE HEMORRHAGE

By Susan Njanji

The ruling African National Congress' historic losses in South Africa's local elections were called into question the leadership of President Jacob Zuma as head of the continent's most industrialized nation. The ANC last week suffered what analysts called a "savagely indictment", garnering less than 54 percent of ballots cast - an eight-point drop from the last local poll in 2011 and its worst showing since the fall of white-minority rule in 1994.

Of the country's six most populous cities, the ANC won an outright majority in only one: Durban, Zuma's traditional stronghold. But it suffered embarrassingly in the capital Pretoria where it came second to the main opposition Democratic Alliance, which also scored big in Nelson Mandela Bay, a southern municipality named after the country's iconic late leader. The election was largely seen as a referendum on Zuma's rule, but it also highlighted the declining popularity of the party that led South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle.

And as Mandela's party reels from weak leadership and political divisions, some in the ANC admit that all is not well. "There is something wrong on a national level that we are not paying attention to," the party's Secretary General Gwede Mantashe said at the weekend.

## 'Big Trouble'

Analysts say the party leadership has been stubborn in refusing to rein in its controversial president. Zuma, who has three more years to serve out his term, has been dogged by scandal throughout his presidency. Last month, South Africa's highest court ruled he pay back \$500,000 of public funds spent upgrading his private Nkandla residence with facilities including a chicken coop and a swimming pool. The ANC has staunchly defended him.

But after the poor showing at the polls, the party would be "much more open to a change of leadership than they would have been one week ago," said Richard Calland, a political analyst at the University of Cape Town. "Urgent steps must be taken (to) tackle the elephant in the room. It is clear that President Jacob Zuma has become a huge liability," wrote columnist Onkgopotse Tabane in the Business Day newspaper on Monday.

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa - an anti-apartheid heavyweight - is the presumed frontrunner to replace Zuma should he be forced out before the end of his term. "Where we have shown areas of weakness, we are going to get better and improve - that's who we are," the unionist-turned-businessman said last week as the poor results poured in. Critics say urban and middle class voters have begun to tire of the continuous controversy surrounding 74-year-old Zuma, and warn of a serious backlash if the ANC fails to act fast. "The ANC is in big trouble," analyst Koffi Kouakou told AFP. "The only way to perhaps attempt to save the ANC is by having President Zuma resign and having the team that surrounds him cleaned up. If not, the ANC is in real big trouble in the long term."

But Zuma, who has thus far survived every curveball thrown his direction, may not be on his way out just yet. "I don't think he is likely to go without a fight," said Calland. "It's more likely he will survive until the end of next year," Calland said - when the ANC may vote to recall him at its next national elective congress.

In the meantime at least two rival ANC camps will start wrangling to succeed Zuma - one in support of Ramaphosa, and the other backing Zuma's ex-wife and outgoing chairwoman of the African Union Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. Meanwhile, "political uncertainty will drive continued policy confusion in the mining, energy, power, private security, and agriculture sectors, while frustrating cost-cutting measures," said EXX Africa. A downgrade of South Africa's debt by at least one credit ratings agency to junk status "is almost inevitable this year," the intelligence company warned. —AFP

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## ATATURK REVIVAL A SYMBOL OF FRAGILE UNITY

By Asli Kandemir and Daren Butler

After years of being gradually eclipsed as President Tayyip Erdogan forges a "new Turkey" with Islam firmly at its heart, the secular republic's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk has, for now at least, made a comeback in the wake of a failed coup. At a rally of more than a million people in Istanbul on Sunday, Erdogan drew a parallel between the spirit of the young officer who founded modern Turkey in 1923 and the civilians who took to the streets on July 15 to try to stop rogue soldiers in tanks and helicopters from seizing power.

"The belief that helped war veteran Mustafa Kemal start and win the war of independence was running through all Turkey's cities on July 15," Erdogan told the Istanbul rally, portraits of himself and Ataturk blowing in the breeze on either side of the huge stage. From a leader bent on raising a "pious generation", it seemed a major gesture of conciliation, an attempt to bridge a deep divide in Turkish society reaching back to 1923, when Ataturk forged the secular republic from the ruins of an Ottoman theocracy and banished Islam from public life.

Since the failed coup, Ataturk's portrait has been hung from the headquarters of the ruling AK Party, founded by Erdogan and rooted in political Islam, and its leaders have repeatedly invoked him - a revered figure for the country's secularists - as a symbol of unity. Kemal Kilicdaroglu, leader of the main opposition CHP, the party of Ataturk, told Sunday's rally a "door of compromise" had been opened in the nation of almost 80 million and that a new Turkey had been ushered in in the wake of the coup.

But for all the euphoria, sustaining such a spirit of cooperation would mean overcoming deep division over the direction of a nation with a secular constitution but overwhelmingly Muslim population. "This is a limited consensus. It's a very basic agreement that democracy is better than a military junta and that we all want justice. Nobody expects anyone to forget where they stood on July 14," said a senior government official.

Engin Altay, a senior CHP lawmaker, said the AK Party appeared to be invoking Ataturk to try to quell an atmosphere of "pessimism and panic" after the coup attempt and said it was

an open question whether the spirit of unity would last. "It depends on whether, after emerging from this trauma, the AK Party can adopt a compromise policy without becoming drunk on, or poisoned by, power. If it fails to do so and says 'we got power from the people and will do whatever we say', they will again slam the state against the wall," he told Reuters.

## 'Marriage of Convenience'

Erdogan has cautiously pushed a conservative Islamist agenda since the AKP came to power in 2002. Opponents see in his promotion of religious education, tighter laws on alcohol, and strictures on daily life an attempt to undermine the country's secular foundations. Ataturk's presence has gradually been felt less, having for decades loomed large, his piercing blue eyes staring from posters, his statue in pride of place in schools, public buildings and town squares. The CHP was in uproar in 2013 over the removal of his silhouette and the Turkish Republic abbreviation from state medals and some public buildings.

But the coup bid, which Erdogan says was staged by the followers of US-based Turkish cleric Fethullah Gulen, has provided a common enemy. Secularists loathe Gulen's religious movement, whose members have assumed prominent positions in the state bureaucracy, and are pleased to see it under attack. More than 60,000 people in the military, judiciary, civil service and education have been detained, suspended or placed under investigation over alleged links to Gulen since the coup.

The government may be forced as a result to work more with its secularist opponents, commonly known as Kemalists, as it replaces purged officials, particularly in the military, which for decades saw itself as the guardian of the secular order. "This requires the government to recalibrate its relations with Kemalism ... which it has demonized throughout its 14-year rule," said Gonul Tol, director of the Washington-based Middle East Institute's Center for Turkish Studies. "The military will have to accept working under an Islamist government while the government will have to respect the Kemalist core of the military," she said. "But I don't think this marriage of convenience will last. Once the government has enough loyal personnel ... the Kemalists will be discarded."

## Historic Opportunity

A return to the founding principles of the modern republic could help ease divisions in a country that has become increasingly polarised in recent years. But in Erdogan's references to Ataturk, some see political opportunism rather than a sincere attempt to bridge an ideological rift. "The switch is the result of strategic necessity rather than personal choice," said Deniz Ulke Aribogon, international relations professor at Istanbul University. "This brutal coup attempt created an opportunity for Erdogan to become the president of the whole country ... We have to wait and see what comes next," she said.

Erdogan's core supporters see him as the champion of the pious Anatolian masses, a strongman restoring religion to the center of public life after decades of rule by what they see as Western-facing Kemalist elites. He has been careful in his choice of words, referring to Ataturk simply as Mustafa Kemal, his name as a military officer when he led the Turkish National Movement to victory in the war of independence after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire. Ataturk, "Father of the Turks", was bestowed on him a decade later, after he introduced reforms replacing Arabic with Latin script and promoting Western dress and women's rights. Some in conservative religious circles have already questioned the references to him, criticizing what they say legitimizes a secularist ideology they battled for decades. "All they've done is feed the idea that the ideology of Ataturk is the only foundation for legitimacy in politics and that other movements are illegitimate," wrote columnist Hakan Albayrak in the conservative Karar newspaper, criticizing those who hung Ataturk's image on the AKP building.

Parts of the crowd booed as Kilicdaroglu spoke at Sunday's rally, dismissing his call that politics should now be kept out of the mosques, as well as the courthouses and barracks. His presence on the stage alongside Erdogan would have been unthinkable three weeks ago. It could yet cost the CHP some supporters, who remain suspicious of Erdogan's motivation. "I don't find this situation sincere at all. They can't even say the word Ataturk. For now, it suits them. If it suited them, tomorrow they would start insulting him," said Burcu Ural, a cafe owner in Istanbul's bohemian Beyoglu district. —Reuters

## HOLY COWS, HINDU CRUSADERS CLOUD MODI REFORM

By Rupam Jain and Tom Lasseter

Two miles down the road from the white marble walls of the fabled Taj Mahal, a heavyset man crouches in the dirt of a cow shed and explains how the future of India belongs to him. Digvijay Nath Tiwari is commander of a vigilante group that claims 5,000 members in the northern city of Agra, and which cultivates informants, swarms shop owners, ambushes trucks at night and metes out extra-judicial violence, all for one cause: Protecting the holy cow, an animal held sacred by Hindu beliefs.

Across the country, hardline Hindu groups have made headlines after being captured on video insulting and beating men they accuse of involvement in cow slaughter. "Retaliation is important at times," said Tiwari, as he sat with 17 men squeezed around a straw mat on the shed floor. His cell phone contained photographs of stick-wielding men rushing to the aid of fallen cattle. Local police say they cannot stop Tiwari's actions, laying the blame partly on lax laws. The "gau rakshaks", or cow protectors, are inflaming tensions among India's religions and castes. They risk undermining Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to focus on economic advancement, even as the right-wing Hindu nationalist forces that got him elected promote their own agenda. The implications reach far beyond the winding alleyways of Agra. Social and religious stability are key to future assumptions of prosperity in India, currently the world's fastest expanding major economy.

"India will remain one of the strongest growth stories in the region," a Goldman Sachs strategist said in April, echoing the sentiment of many foreign investors. Yet such outlooks built on macro-analysis risk missing a ground

truth: If the rightwing groups empowered by Modi's rise do not stop antagonizing minorities, then the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) plans for nurturing that growth will not easily come to pass.

## Changing Focus

Cow slaughter is illegal in most of India, an overwhelmingly Hindu nation. However, it had long been tolerated under the Congress party, which ruled the country for most of its independent history and prides itself on protecting Muslims and lower castes who ply the meat and leather trade. Now the Hindu nationalist BJP is in power, and that is changing as vigilante groups gain prominence. And Modi, while saying he's concerned, has been either unwilling or unable to halt their more extreme actions.

The prime minister was trained and nurtured by hardline Hindu organizations that were instrumental in his rise from the son of a train station tea seller to leader of the world's biggest democracy. Once at the helm, however, he has focused on more pragmatic and inclusive economic issues: Spurring growth and creating enough jobs for a rapidly expanding workforce. These initiatives could be derailed by a narrower, Hindu nationalist agenda aimed at protecting symbols made sacrosanct by religious texts and countering a perceived threat of foreign influences.

In a speech on Saturday night in New Delhi, Modi lashed out at the cow protectors. "I feel so angry at times. Some people who are engaged in anti-social activities for the whole night wear the mask of 'gau rakshaks' in the day," he said. A senior aide to Modi, who is approaching the halfway mark of his five-year tenure, said at the end of July that while the leader is aware of the social and economic implications, "we cannot

do much to stop cow protection forces ... cow protection is integral to our core support base."

## Dalits Feel Under Siege

The violence of cow vigilante groups this year, some of it caught in disturbing videos on the Internet, has unsettled minority groups. One clip from the western state of Gujarat shows four men, shirtless, tied to a bumper being whipped with rods. The victims were Dalits, or Indians at the bottom of the caste hierarchy who traditionally take away cow carcasses which can then be used for leather. In another, from the northern state of Haryana, two people are made to sit on the road and eat a concoction including cow dung. They were reportedly Muslims, and the footage was taken during Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting.

While the BJP does not bank on the support of many Muslims, it does want to secure the votes of the Dalits, a caste formerly known as untouchables. Together, the two groups account for about 30 percent of India's population, a major consideration with important state elections due next year and a national ballot set for 2019. Chandra Bhan Prasad, a prominent Dalit writer and adviser to the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, compared the violence to that of Ku Klux Klan racism in the United States. "It's like India's version of KKK - the past was great so long as these blacks were under our thumb, society was beautiful. So, how to control these Dalits?"

## 'Cow Not Just an Animal'

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the nation's umbrella rightwing Hindu organization which helped create the BJP, does not appear willing to tackle cow protection forces, blaming outlaws for causing the trouble. "The

cow is not just an animal. We have an emotional and religious attachment to it and we want to make it the center of our economic activity," said a senior RSS leader in New Delhi, who asked not to be named so he could speak more frankly. "Vigilantes are instructed to follow the rules and they are a disciplined force. We admire their work."

Champat Rai, a leader of the Hindu activist Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), or World Hindu Council, a group formed by RSS leadership which oversees cow groups, was more direct. "I am a cow patriot and want to free cows from the slavery of Muslim butchers," he said. "It's better we shed our blood to save the blood of cows." In Agra, some 220 km, south of New Delhi, there has already been bloodshed, and the threat of more to come.

One prominent Dalit businessmen in the city, H K Pippal, said recently at his shoe factory that he had a plan should the cow protection gang try to interfere with his operations and the cow leather it uses. "I am very powerful, my workers could kill them," Tiwari, the cow group leader, blames the butchers for much of the problem. "It's not just that the butchers get beaten," he said. "They attack us and threaten to kill us. It is a serious clash." Tiwari acknowledged having four criminal cases pending against him, but said he was innocent in all of them.

In February this year, the vice president of the VHP in Agra, who was also a senior member of Tiwari's group, was surrounded by a group of five Muslims while walking from a temple to his furniture shop, according to a police report. The men had previously been targeted by the cow protectors for allegedly dealing in beef, according to Tiwari. One of them boasted: "You think that you are a big leader, we'll teach you a lesson today," said the police report. —Reuters



### ANDRE AYEW JOINS WEST HAM FROM SWANSEA

**PARIS:** Ghana midfielder Andre Ayew has joined West Ham United on a club record three-years deal from their Premier League rivals Swansea, the London outfit said on Monday. The former Marseille winger and son of one-time African player of the year Adebisi Pele, joined the Hammers for a fee of £20.5million (24 million euros). "I am very proud and happy to be at this magnificent Club," the 26-year-old told West Ham's website. "The Club have a lot of ambition and have a great manager. They want to become a bigger Club every year and with the new Stadium and a new training ground, you can feel they are moving onto another level and I want to be part of this project," he said. Ayew scored 60 times in over 200 appearances at French outfit Marseille before joining Swansea last season. Playing a key role in their 2014 World Cup campaign, Ayew has extensive international experience with Ghana. —AFP



### WOMEN'S RUGBY PLAYER ACCEPTS OLYMPIC MARRIAGE PROPOSAL

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Brazilian women's rugby player Isadora Cerullo melted hearts when she accepted a marriage proposal from her girlfriend at the medals ceremony for the first Olympic rugby sevens competition on Monday. Television cameras and photographers captured the moment that Marjorie Enya, a manager at the Deodoro stadium in Rio where the competition was played, took the microphone to pop the question to Cerullo on the pitch. A tearful Cerullo accepted and, with no ring, 28-year-old Enya tied a ribbon to her finger. Cerullo, 25, was a member of the Brazilian squad at narrowly missed out on reaching the knockout rounds of the competition, which was won by Australia. Many of the defeated players, however, watched the medals ceremony taking place. — Reuters

### JAPAN SHOCK KIWIS AS SONNY OUT OF OLYMPICS

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Japan stunned New Zealand 14-12 in their opening match of the Olympic rugby sevens yesterday as All Blacks star Sonny Bill Williams sustained a tournament-ending achilles tendon injury. The opening pool match upset was an echo of Japan's famous victory over South Africa in the 15-a-side World Cup in Brighton, the biggest shock the sport has ever seen. "It's unbelievable, you never see a minnow team come here and beat a team supposed to be a gold medal contender. I'm still shocked, to be honest," said Japan's New Zealand-born playmaker Lomano Lemeki. There was worse news to come for New Zealand with news that Williams had been ruled out with a partial achilles rupture and replaced in the 12-man squad by Sione Molia. At a sun-kissed Deodoro Stadium, with massive support for the underdogs, Truya Goto squeezed past Rieko Ioane's tackle to dot down in the corner to open Japan's account. Their lead was short-lived, however, as Gillies Kaka exchanged passes with Akira Ioane before putting in skipper Scott Curry. —AFP



### MLB results/standings

Toronto 7, Tampa Bay 5; San Francisco 8, Miami 7 (14 innings); Atlanta 4, Milwaukee 3 (12 innings); Minnesota 3, Houston 1; St. Louis 5, Cincinnati 4; Texas 4, Colorado 3; Oakland 3, Baltimore 2; Seattle 3, Detroit 0; LA Dodgers 9, Philadelphia 4.

#### American League

##### Eastern Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	63	48	.568	-
Toronto	64	49	.566	-
Boston	60	50	.545	2.5
NY Yankees	56	55	.505	7
Tampa Bay	45	66	.405	18

##### Central Division

Cleveland	62	47	.569	-
Detroit	61	51	.545	2.5
Chicago White Sox	53	58	.477	10
Kansas City	53	58	.477	10
Minnesota	46	66	.411	17.5

##### Western Division

Texas	66	47	.584	-
Seattle	58	53	.523	7
Houston	57	55	.509	8.5
LA Angels	49	62	.441	16
Oakland	49	63	.438	16.5

#### National League

##### Eastern Division

Washington	66	45	.595	-
Miami	59	53	.527	7.5
NY Mets	57	54	.514	9
Philadelphia	52	62	.456	15.5
Atlanta	42	70	.375	24.5

##### Central Division

Chicago Cubs	69	41	.627	-
St. Louis	59	53	.527	11
Pittsburgh	55	54	.505	13.5
Milwaukee	49	61	.445	20
Cincinnati	45	66	.405	24.5

##### Western Division

San Francisco	64	48	.571	-
LA Dodgers	63	49	.563	1
Colorado	55	57	.491	9
San Diego	48	63	.432	15.5
Arizona	45	66	.405	18.5



SEATTLE: Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Michael Fulmer tosses the ball to first after fielding the grounder from Seattle Mariners' Robinson Cano, left, to end the third inning of a baseball game, Monday. —AP

# IWAKUMA TOSSES GEM, MARINERS BEAT TIGERS

**SEATTLE:** Right-hander Hisashi Iwakuma outduelled rookie Michael Fulmer to lead Seattle to a shutout win over Detroit. Iwakuma (13-7) threw seven scoreless innings, allowing just five hits, before new Mariners reliever Arquimedes Caminero and rookie closer Edwin Diaz finished off the win. Diaz, who replaced Steve Cishek as closer last week, now has five saves in as many chances as Seattle (58-53) won for the sixth time in seven games.

#### CARDINALS 5, REDS 4

The St. Louis Cardinals scored five runs in the bottom of the ninth to beat the Cincinnati Reds 5-4 at Busch Stadium, the two-out rally capped when Yadier Molina was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded from Ross Ohlendorf. Molina started the inning with a leadoff single but Tony Cingrani (2-4) retired the next two hitters.

Tommy Pham then walked, and pinch hitter Kolten Wong was plunked by a pitch to fill the bases. Matt Carpenter singled home two runs and Stephen Piscotty lined a single to left to drive in a third run. After Matt Holliday drew a four-pitch walk, Ohlendorf relieved Cingrani. Ohlendorf issued a game-tying walk to Brandon Moss on a 3-2 pitch, setting the stage for the walk-off hit by pitch. Braves 4, Brewers 3 (12 innings) Gordon Beckham's sacrifice fly in the 12th inning gave Atlanta a victory over Milwaukee at Miller Park. The Braves loaded the bases against Brewers right-hander Carlos Torres (2-2) to open the 12th and Beckham followed by popping a fly ball to deep center that scored Matt Kemp. Brewers center fielder Keon Broxton dropped the ball, allowing Beckham to reach keeping the bases loaded with nobody out.

#### BLUE JAYS 7, RAYS 5

Devon Travis drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning with his fourth hit of the game, Jose Bautista followed with a two-run double and Toronto defeated Tampa Bay. Edwin Encarnacion added three RBIs and a solo home run for the Blue Jays (64-49) who had lost their two previous games. Brad Miller had two doubles and two RBIs for the Rays (45-66). Bautista also had three RBIs.

#### TWINS 3, ASTROS 1

Tyler Duffey pitched six innings of one-run ball, leading Minnesota to a win over Houston at Target Field. Duffey (7-8) allowed just four hits and struck out eight while walking one in earning his second consecutive win. The right-hander had allowed at least five runs in three consecu-

tive starts entering the night and at least four in four straight.

#### RANGERS 4, ROCKIES 3

Mitch Moreland lined a double into the right-field corner with two outs in the ninth, completing a three-run uprising and giving Texas a win over Colorado. Rockies closer Carlos Estevez (2-7) blew a save for the second straight start and gave way to left-hander Boone Logan, who had held left-handed hitters to an average of .141 (11-for-78) with 27 strikeouts before Moreland connected.

#### GIANTS 8, MARLINS 7 (14 INNINGS)

Brandon Crawford stroked a franchise-record seven hits, including a go-ahead RBI in the 14th inning, as the San Francisco Giants beat the Miami Marlins 8-7 at Marlins Park. Crawford became the sixth player in baseball history to get seven-plus hits in a

game and the first since Rennie Stennett on Sept. 16, 1975 for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

#### ATHLETICS 3, ORIOLES 2

Kendall Graveman pitched seven strong innings, Stephen Vogt hit his ninth home run of the season and Oakland defeated Baltimore in the opener of a four-game series. Graveman (8-7) allowed one run on six hits, struck out four and walked none as he beat the Orioles for the first time in four career starts.

#### DODGERS 9, PHILLIES 4

Corey Seager homered twice and set a club record for homers in a season by a Los Angeles shortstop, leading Los Angeles to a victory over Philadelphia before 48,370 at Dodger Stadium. Seager, who now has a club-leading 21 home runs, broke Hanley Ramirez's 2013 mark of 19. —Reuters



# LEXUS TASTES SUCCESS ONCE AGAIN WITH SECOND PLACE FINISH FOR DENSO KOBELCO SARD

**KUWAIT:** The No 39 Denso Kobelco Sard Lexus RC F driven by Heikki Kovalainen and Kohei Hirate came a creditable second in Round 4 of the 2016 Autobacs Super GT to make it yet another podium finish for Lexus in the GT 500 class. The No. 38 Zent Cerumo RC F driven by Yuji Tachikawa and Hiroaki Ishiura finished third to make it two podium finishes for Lexus. The No. 6 WAKO'S 4CR RC F came in fourth followed by the No. 19 WedsSport ADVAN RC F thereby making it a very successful race for Lexus with 4 positions in the top 5. The race

took place recently at the Sportsland SUGO (Miyagi Prefecture) in Japan.

At the start of the race, the No. 6 WAKO'S 4CR RC F (Andrea Caldarelli) was in pole position. However, Andrea lost the lead when his car became involved in a collision in the sixth lap. By lap 16, the No. 38 Zent Cerumo RC F moved into the lead, and approaching it from behind was the No 39 Denso Kobelco Sard RC F (Heikki Kovalainen) that had been moving up steadily from its 8th-position grid start. However, the Lexus RC F cars lost their grip on

the lead soon afterwards.

Midway through the race, the No 39 Denso Kobelco Sard RC F (Kohei Hirate) had made its way into second place. As the race entered the 72nd lap with not much time remaining, the gap narrowed even more between the top five cars. On the 76th lap, in the midst of this battle, the No 38 Zent Cerumo RC F succeeded in passing the No 39 Denso Kobelco Sard RC F. There were five laps remaining and it looked as if the battle for the lead was intensifying. However, on the last turn of that 76th lap, one

of the competitor cars crashed. For this reason, the Red Flag was displayed to control the race, and the decision was made to end the race as of the running order of the 74th lap. As a result, the 2nd place went to the No. 39 Denso Kobelco Sard RC F and the third spot on the podium went to the No 38 Zent Cerumo RC F. Places 2nd to 5th all went to LEXUS RC F cars. Round 5 of the 2016 championship now takes place in Fuji on August 6-7, 2016.

According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa

Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation. "It was an impressive performance by the Lexus RCF powered teams who have come up with great performances to stamp their class on the 2016 season. For Lexus, motorsports has played a vital role in giving us significant insights into our cars and their performance in extreme conditions, thereby helping us make ever better cars. We sincerely appreciate the support of our fans who have backed our racing initiatives over the years."



## ARTHUR WANTS 'EXEMPLARY' PAKISTAN TO COMPLETE ENGLAND 'MISSION'

**LONDON:** Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur hopes his side's hard work on and off the field will be rewarded when they face England in the fourth Test at The Oval.

The tourists are currently 2-1 down in the four-match campaign following a 141-run defeat last time out at Edgbaston. But while recent results may have been disappointing, this tour has not been dogged by the controversy that afflicted Pakistan's last two trips to England.

In 2006, Pakistan became the first side to forfeit a Test when they refused to return to the field at The Oval after being penalised five runs for ball-tam-

pering. And in 2010, the Lord's Test was overshadowed by a spot-fixing scandal that led to five-year bans and jail terms for three Pakistan players, including Mohammad Amir—now back in the squad. By contrast this trip, where Pakistan won the first Test at Lord's by 75 runs, has not yet witnessed any major flashpoints. "It will be mission accomplished if we can get out of this Test match at 2-2, that will be a hugely successful tour," said Arthur at The Oval yesterday.

"I certainly think off the field, we have made a lot of friends," the South African added. "I think the way the boys have

conducted themselves through these last two months has been exemplary. They've been brilliant in behaviour, both on and off the field, and they've been a credit to Pakistan."

Pakistan were far more competitive at Edgbaston than they had been during a 330-run reverse in the second Test at Old Trafford. They had a lead of more than 100 runs on first innings and were well on their way to saving the game at 69 for one at lunch, before a dramatic collapse shortly before tea saw them lose four wickets for one run.

Arthur, asked if it would be hard to pick up his players ahead of Thursday's

start in south London said: "No, not at all. I spoke pretty frankly about the Old Trafford Test match. I thought we were very good (at Edgbaston). I do think we competed exceptionally well, certainly through three-and-a-half days at Edgbaston."

The South African added: "I'm really happy with our all-round performance, particularly with the bat. We got some partnerships going which were fantastic. Second innings, England got through us. I certainly did not feel that we ever rolled over there. We were in the contest for most of that game."

England took the third Test away

from Pakistan thanks to a second-innings century stand between Jonny Bairstow (83) and Moeen Ali (86 not out). "I said to the boys, we were probably one wicket away there from breaking through," said Arthur. "If we could have knocked Bairstow over or Moeen early, it certainly would have put a totally different perspective on the game," he added.

"We hate losing, of course we do, but we lost with a lot of credibility at Edgbaston and that puts us in a really good space to come back particularly hard here," the former Australia coach insisted. —AFP

## WINDIES AXE SAMMY, NAME BRATHWAITE T20 CAPTAIN

**FLORIDA:** West Indies have axed two-time World Twenty20 winning captain Darren Sammy and put fellow all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite in charge for two matches against India this month in Florida.

Sammy, who led West Indies to their second World Twenty20 title earlier this year despite struggling for form, could not find a place in the 13-member squad for the matches at Central Broward Regional Park, Fort Lauderdale on Aug. 27 and 28. "With regards to Sammy's omission from the squad, the chairman (of selectors) noted that the named-squad was selected purely on players' performances," the West Indies Cricket Board said in a statement.

Chairman of selectors Courtney Browne thanked Sammy, 32, for his contribution and expected Brathwaite, who blasted four successive sixes off a Ben Stokes over in the April 3 World Twenty20 final in Kolkata, would prove an inspiring captain. "Brathwaite is one of the most talented players in the T20 format of the game and his humble and committed approach to the game can inspire young and upcoming players," he added. Squad: Andre Fletcher, Andre Russell, Carlos Brathwaite, Chris Gayle, Dwayne Bravo, Evin Lewis, Jason Holder, Johnson Charles, Kieron Pollard, Lendl Simmons, Marlon Samuels, Samuel Badree, Sunil Narine. — Reuters

## PAKISTAN RECALL GUL FOR IRELAND, ENGLAND ODIS

**LAHORE:** Pakistan yesterday recalled pacer Umar Gul after a 15-month lay-off in the squad for the two one-day internationals in Ireland and five in England starting later this month. The 32-year-old last played a one-day match in Dhaka against Bangladesh in April 2015 before being discarded over his lack of form and fitness. He has 173 one-day wickets from 126 matches in a storied career, marred by recent injury problems.

Azhar Ali will lead the side which has uncapped 22-year-old allrounder Hasan Ali, but there was no place for opener Ahmed Shehzad and middle-order batsman Umar Akmal. Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan last week said both players were axed from the initial squad of 31 because of discipline issues. Umar has not played for Pakistan since the 2015 World Cup held in Australia and New Zealand.

"This squad is a blend of youth and experience and the selectors hoped it will do well," said chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq. "We have included some young players like Ali to build the team for the future."

Ali took 200 wickets in eight matches for Pakistan's second team on the England tour that ended earlier this month. Pakistan has lost the last three of its four one-day series, sliding to as low as ninth in the limited overs rankings.

Pakistan will play the final Test against England at The Oval starting Thursday before leaving for Ireland, where they play two one-day internationals in Dublin on August 18 and 20. Pakistan will then play five one-day internationals against England

in Southampton (August 24), Lord's (August 27), Nottingham (August 30), Leeds (September 1) and Cardiff (September 4).

Pakistan also face England in the only Twenty20 international at Old Trafford on September 7, the squad for which will be named at a later date.

Squad: Azhar Ali (captain), Sharjeel Khan, Sami Aslam, Mohammad Hafeez, Babar Azam, Shoaib Malik, Sarfraz Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Amir, Wahab Riaz, Hasan Ali, Umar Gul, Imad Wasim, Yasir Shah, Mohammad Nawaz.

\* Meanwhile, Former Australia captain Michael Clarke was given an honorary life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) yesterday.

Clarke retired from international cricket last year after establishing himself as one of Australia's finest batsmen with 8,643 runs in 115 Tests. The 35-year-old follows in the footsteps of former Australia team-mates Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath and Ricky Ponting, who are also life members of the MCC. Clarke scored 416 runs in five Test matches at the MCC's historic Lord's home. "This is a fantastic honour and I am delighted to become an MCC honorary life member," Clarke said.

"MCC is the most prestigious cricket club in the world and to be invited to become a member is a great privilege. "Lord's has always been a very special place to play cricket, and I've got some great memories of playing there so I'm really looking forward to coming back as a member of MCC." —AFP



**BULAWAYO:** Zimbabwe bowler Michael Chinouya (L) in action during the fourth day of the second test in a series of two matches where New Zealand lead hosts Zimbabwe 1-0 at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo, yesterday. — AFP

## N ZEALAND EYE VICTORY AFTER LATE WICKETS

**BULAWAYO:** Seamers Trent Boult and Tim Southee struck late to leave New Zealand needing seven Zimbabwe wickets on the final day of the second test after setting their hosts an unlikely victory target of 387 runs yesterday.

Zimbabwe closed day four at the Queens Sports Club in desperate trouble on 58 for three after New Zealand had smashed a quick-fire 166 for two declared in 36 overs in their second innings.

Craig Ervine and nightwatchman Donald Tiripano will resume in the morning having yet to get off the mark after Zimbabwe lost their top three before the close.

Chamu Chibhabha (21) edged seamer Neil Wagner to Martin Guptill at third slip before Tino Mawoyo (35) was trapped lbw by Boult in the penultimate over.

It got worse for the hosts when two balls later Southee produced a superb in-swing to have Sikandar Raza (0) leg before as well.

Survival will be top of the agenda for Zimbabwe on an excellent batting wicket but they must find a way to counter the prodigious swing of the New Zealand seamers.

Zimbabwe were 305 for six overnight in their first innings and lost their remaining four wickets for 57, including anchor Ervine for 146, his maiden test century, as he picked out Wagner at long-off off the bowling of spinner Ish Sodhi.

The latter was the pick of the visitors' attack with 4-60 as New Zealand chose not to enforce the follow-on having been in the field for 143.4 overs. They rather pushed for quick runs in their second innings but slipped to 26 for two before

captain Kane Williamson (67 not out) and Ross Taylor (68 not out) shared an unbeaten third wicket-wicket stand of 140.

The declaration came four overs after tea,

leaving the tourists a minimum of 116 overs to bowl out their hosts. New Zealand lead the two-match series 1-0 after an innings and 117-run victory in the first test. — Reuters

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day in the second and final Test between Zimbabwe and New Zealand yesterday in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

<b>New Zealand 1st innings 582</b> for 4 decl (T. Latham 136, R. Taylor 124no, K. Williamson 113, M. Guptill 87, B. Watling 83no)	T. Latham c Moor b Tiripano 11
<b>Zimbabwe 1st innings</b> (Overnight: 305-6)	K. Williamson not out 68
T. Mawoyo b Southee 26	R. Taylor not out 67
C. Chibhabha c Williamson b Santner 60	Extras (lb-4 w-3) 7
S. Raza c Williamson b Wagner 3	Total (for 2 wickets declared, 36 overs) 166
C. Ervine c Wagner b Sodhi 146	Fall of wickets: 1-24 T. Latham, 2-26 M. Guptill
P. Masvaure b Santner 2	Did not bat: H. Nicholls, M. Santner, B. Watling, I. Sodhi, T. Southee, N. Wagner, T. Boult.
S. Williams lbw b Sodhi 16	Bowling: M. Chinouya 9-2-45-1 (w-2), D. Tiripano 6-1-14-1 (w-1), C. Chibhabha 3-0-22-0, G. Cremer 11-0-59-0, J. Nyumbu 7-0-22-0.
P. Moor c Guptill b Sodhi 71	
G. Cremer lbw b Boult 8	<b>Zimbabwe 2nd innings (Target: 387 runs)</b>
D. Tiripano lbw b Wagner 3	T. Mawoyo lbw b Boult 35
J. Nyumbu c Santner b Sodhi 8	C. Chibhabha c Guptill b Wagner 21
M. Chinouya not out 0	S. Raza lbw b Southee 0
Extras (b-12 lb-6 nb-1) 19	D. Tiripano not out 0
Total (all out, 143.4 overs) 362	Extras (b-1 lb-1) 2
Fall of wickets: 1-65 T. Mawoyo, 2-83 S. Raza, 3-107 C. Chibhabha, 4-115 P. Masvaure, 5-147 S. Williams, 6-295 P. Moor, 7-319 G. Cremer, 8-327 D. Tiripano, 9-352 J. Nyumbu, 10-362 C. Ervine	Total (for 3 wickets, 25.2 overs) 58
Bowling: T. Southee 28-14-73-1, T. Boult 27-13-45-1, M. Santner 35-8-105-2, N. Wagner 31-8-61-2 (nb-1), I. Sodhi 21-4-9-60-4, M. Guptill 1-1-0-0.	Fall of wickets: 1-45 C. Chibhabha, 2-58 T. Mawoyo, 3-58 S. Raza
<b>New Zealand 2nd innings</b>	To bat: C. Ervine, P. Masvaure, S. Williams, P. Moor, G. Cremer, J. Nyumbu, M. Chinouya.
M. Guptill c Nyumbu b Chinouya 13	Bowling: T. Southee 6-2-3-18-1, T. Boult 6-2-11-1, N. Wagner 8-3-21-1, M. Santner 5-2-6-0.



**LONDON:** Pakistan's cricket team players laugh while playing football during a training session at the Oval in London, yesterday, ahead of the 4th Cricket Test match between England and Pakistan. — AP

## RIO THIEVES STRIKE FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** In the chaotic world of Rio criminality, it is an old trick that is winning the gold medal. A blonde woman distracts the victim while an accomplice grabs the bag of cameras, computers or valuables. A second partner in crime sends the victim the wrong way if he or she gives chase.

This textbook larceny is being played out each day on the beachside cafes along Ipanema. Pickpockets also ply Copacabana and there is also a more dangerous version. Sometimes the attacker just takes out a knife and puts it to the throat of his victim.

Around the Olympics, thefts and muggings have become the talk of the town. A government minister, athletes and coaches and press photographers have all fallen victim. The danger lurks from the Rio media village to stadiums, and the cafes on the upscale seafont Ipanema district. The 'Cariocas', as the inhabitants of Rio are known, have long got used to the threat of crime, whether theft or murderous muggings. It has been a shock to the Olympic influx and the government estimates that 500,000 people will visit Brazil for the Games.

Even on the night of the opening cere-

mony, two people were fatally shot near the Maracana stadium where it was held.

Australian photographer Brett Costello is one of a growing press band to have suffered. The News Corp. journalist lost tens of thousands of dollars worth of equipment in an Ipanema coffee shop and then saw the thief two days later wearing his Olympic jacket with accreditation number.

"I knew my number, you know, the vests have the number. If a guy walks in with a jacket that's stolen from me two days before, there's got to be something going on, don't you reckon?" he told The Australian newspaper. Security video of the theft showed he was caught in the blonde woman sting.

The Agence France-Presse (AFP) news agency, which has 700 square metres (7,500 sq feet) for its 180 accredited Olympic staff in Rio, has suffered several thefts. Security film has shown a man and a woman leaving the office pulling a case full of lenses and an official photographer's jacket. "There is a security problem," said Eric Baradat, AFP's photo chief at the Games. "Some people get onto the sites and into official buses without accreditation." —AFP



**ST LUCIA:** West Indies' wicketkeeper Shane Dorwich, left, celebrates with teammate Jermaine Blackwood taking the wicket of India's Shikhar Dhawan on day one of their third cricket Test match at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in Gros Islet, St. Lucia, yesterday. — AP



## ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE ALL STARS HUNT DOWN LEICESTER

**LONDON:** Jaw-dropping new broadcast deals totalling 8.3 billion pounds (\$10.9 billion, 9.8 billion euros) have enabled the English Premier League to assemble a dazzling galaxy of stars for the 2016-17 season. Jose Mourinho will have Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Paul Pogba at his disposal at Manchester United, while Pep Guardiola has authorised a splurge of over 100 million pounds since becoming Manchester City manager. With Chelsea and Liverpool also spending big and Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur looking to build on positive campaigns, Leicester City's odds of repeating May's fairytale title success are only 33-1.

Claudio Ranieri's men famously defied odds of 5,000-1 to win the title in May, but he has warned: "We know very well we are the champions, but we are the underdogs."

"There are six big teams who want to win. They want to kill us." England's 20 elite clubs took a month to break through the 500 million pounds barrier

in transfer spending and they are tipped to surpass the one billion pounds mark by the time the window closes on August 31. The beginning of the Guardiola era at City, who finished fourth last season, has heralded a rejuvenation of the League Cup holders' playing squad.

Young talents such as Leroy Sane and Gabriel Jesus have arrived for combined fees exceeding 100 million pounds. Everton centre-back John Stones could yet follow. While Guardiola's arrival at the Etihad Stadium has been in the pipeline for years, his former El Clasico sparring partner Mourinho has alighted across town at Old Trafford with a degree of haste.

### MOURINHO REBUILDS

After two years of stagnation under Louis van Gaal, for whom FA Cup success came too late to save his job, United's board has tasked Mourinho with the responsibility of restoring the club to former glories.

He will be assisted by Ibrahimovic, whose late goal sank Leicester in Sunday's Community Shield, and Pogba, who is poised to complete a world-record return from Juventus costing around 90 million pounds.

Former Italy manager Antonio Conte has been brought in to pick up the pieces at Chelsea, who recovered to finish 10th under Guus Hiddink after Mourinho's dismissal last December.

Chelsea have priced N'Golo Kante from Leicester for 30 million pounds and spent a similar amount to sign Belgium striker Michy Batshuayi from Marseille.

With no European distractions, Conte will be able to plough all his resources into steering Chelsea back into the top four. Amid the flux elsewhere, Leicester, Tottenham, Arsenal and Liverpool are trusting in the formulae that worked for them last season.

Ranieri has lost Kante, but talisman Jamie Vardy has committed to a new contract and Riyad Mahrez remains a

Leicester player. Mauricio Pochettino's young Tottenham players, among them Harry Kane and Dele Alli, now have the experience of a title race under their belts. In a show of faith to the team that challenged Leicester last season, the north London club have been content merely to add depth to their squad with the acquisitions of Victor Wanyama and Vincent Janssen.

### ARSENAL ANXIETY

Down the road at Arsenal, Arsene Wenger approaches his 20-year anniversary as manager facing the same old doubts about his capacity to inspire the team to a first league title since 2004.

Arsenal pipped Spurs to second place last season, but with Swiss midfielder Granit Xhaka the only major signing to have arrived at the Emirates Stadium and injuries already biting, fans are anxious. Liverpool, beaten finalists in the League Cup and Europa League, are looking more and more like Jurgen Klopp's team, bolstered by the acquisi-

tions of Sadio Mane and Giorgino Wijnaldum. "We are in a good way, 100 percent," said Klopp. "And if we have a proper line-up, then we will be strong."

There are seven new managers, with Ronald Koeman succeeding the sacked Roberto Martinez at Everton and Claude Puel taking the Dutchman's place at Southampton.

David Moyes has replaced new England manager Sam Allardyce at Sunderland, while Walter Mazzarri has succeeded Quique Sanchez Flores at Watford. Hull City are without a manager after Steve Bruce resigned and having not signed a single player, they start the campaign as outright favourites for relegation. Their fellow promoted teams, Burnley and Middlesbrough, also face a battle to remain in a league that is now teeming with superstars both on the pitch and in the dug-out. "We are not naive to the challenge we face, but we are willing to take it on," said Burnley manager Sean Dyche. "The Premier League is the place to be." — AFP



**LIVERPOOL:** In this Sunday Aug 23, 2015 file photo, Everton's John Stones is seen during his team's English Premier League soccer match between Everton and Manchester City at Goodison Park Stadium, Liverpool, England. — AP

## CITY SPLASH OUT ON EVERTON'S STONES

**LONDON:** Manchester City splashed out a reported £47.5 million (\$61 million, 55 million euros) to sign England defender John Stones from Everton yesterday.

Stones agreed a six-year contract with City and is reported to have become the second most expensive defender in history behind Paris Saint Germain and Brazil star David Luiz.

"I'm absolutely delighted to sign for City and now the deal's done I'm looking forward to the next stage in my career," Stones told City's website. "I've obviously seen what's going on here at the Etihad, it's an ambitious club with a great manager so I can't wait to get stuck in and help achieve the goals." News of Stones' imminent move to Eastlands had leaked out earlier in the day when UEFA's website included the 22-year-old centre-back City's squad for next week's Champions League play-off against Steaua Bucharest. City responded by quickly announcing the deal, which puts Stones behind only Luiz as the most expensive defender the game has ever seen. Luiz moved to Paris Saint Germain from Chelsea for £50 million in 2014 and has won two successive French titles, a feat that Stones is keen to emulate with City once he is established in the team.

"I know it will be tough getting a place in this team but I'm determined to become the best player I can be and help us to success," Stones said. "I had a wonderful time with Everton and wish them and their fans all the best but now I'll give my all for City."

Stones' signing takes City manager Pep Guardiola's spending to well over £100 million since he arrived from Bayern Munich in the close-season.

Guardiola, who has also signed Ilkay

Gundogan, Nolito, Leroy Sane, Gabriel Jesus and Alexander Zinchenko, believes Stones perfectly fits his philosophy of having defenders who are as good in possession as they are in the tackle. "We want to help John show his quality with us and improve on what he has already achieved," Guardiola said.

"I like the way he plays the game and I'm looking forward to welcoming him into the squad," Stones, who has won 10 England caps, had hoped to join Chelsea last year and had a transfer request rejected when the London club's bids were snubbed by Everton. But Everton have finally relented and allowed their prize asset to leave Goodison Park as City flexed their financial muscles just hours after bitter rivals Manchester United completed a world record £89 million swoop for Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba.

Stones' arrival is a huge boost for Guardiola ahead of City's Premier League opener at home to Sunderland on Saturday. Guardiola had limited options at centre-back with Vincent Kompany, Eliaquim Mangala and Nicolas Otamendi all struggling with injuries, and only the latter has been included in the Champions League squad for the Steaua clash. In City's pre-season friendlies, midfielder Fernando and left-back Aleksandar Kolarov have been shuffled into the heart of the defence, with Belgian youngster Jason Denayer, yet to make a senior appearance for City, Guardiola's only other option.

Stones should solve those issues if he can continue his impressive development after emerging as one of England's brightest young talents at Everton following a £3 million move from Barnsley in 2013. — AFP

## GUARDIOLA, MOURINHO DUEL RESUMES IN MANCHESTER

**MANCHESTER:** They've hired the two most coveted coaches in world football. Their spending on new players this offseason has just shattered the \$300-million barrier. Their stated aim is to win the English Premier League. Make no mistake: The Manchester clubs mean business. It was clearly an affront to United and City that they ended up fighting it out for fourth place in the Premier League last season. Standards slipped, rivals stole a march, a big reaction was needed.

So United hired Jose Mourinho as coach, made a statement signing in Swedish superstar Zlatan Ibrahimovic, and has just broken the world-record transfer fee to lure France midfielder Paul Pogba for around 105 million euros (\$116 million). Forget being satisfied just making the top four:

Mourinho, a win-at-all-costs coach, is demanding the title. "I want to win," Mourinho said on being hired. "I think we can really, yes." By the time Mourinho was confirmed at United in May, City had already secured the signature of Pep Guardiola. It renews a coaching rivalry in Spain that sparked and occasionally got nasty when Mourinho was in charge of Real Madrid and Guardiola at Barcelona.

And Guardiola has set about bringing more youth, pace and intensity into City's squad by signing six players - including Leroy Sane, Nolito, teenage Brazilian prodigy

Gabriel Jesus and Ilkay Gundogan - for around \$130 million.

This is the biggest test of Guardiola's coaching career after his trophy-laden spells with Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

"Our objective," City chief executive Ferran Soriano said, "is to get to the end of the season with chances to win everything." For the hotbed not just of English football but the world game, look no further than Manchester.

In 2012, City and United were the central figures in the most exciting end ever to a Premier League season, with the blue half winning the title on goal difference. They also finished as the top two teams the following season, this time United winning the league.

Since then, United hasn't finished higher than fourth place in a post-Alex Ferguson era characterized by questionable managerial appointments and haphazard player recruitment. City has won the league once more (in 2014), which is widely considered a poor return given the wealth and players at the disposal of a club owned by the Abu Dhabi royal family.

Mourinho and Guardiola will shake things up. They have each captured 22 major trophies and have coached the biggest names in the sport. They have an intense work ethic and are among the most ruthless managers around. They are winners, pure and simple. — AP

## POGBA 'BACK HOME' AT MAN UTD IN WORLD-RECORD TRANSFER

**MANCHESTER:** Emerging from the shadows, Paul Pogba - a red devil emblazoned on the side of his head - removed his hood, looked straight into the camera and uttered the words Manchester United fans had been waiting to hear: "I'm back."

With that 26-second video teaser released by United early Tuesday, the France midfielder became the world's most expensive footballer at around 105 million euros (\$116 million) and England's biggest club made another statement of intent during its latest offseason of heavy spending that moved close to \$200 million.

"I just went for a holiday," said Pogba, who left United at age 19 for Juventus four years ago, virtually for nothing when his first contract with the club expired. "I've come back home."

This was the new Man United at work: Breaking the world transfer record and announcing the signing after midnight local time to suit foreign audiences. A series of glitzy videos included one with a grime artist where Pogba produces some impressive dance moves.

United will hope the 23-year-old Pogba saves his best work for the football field, though. And he's certainly dreaming big in his new era for the club under Jose Mourinho.

"First of all, win the league for the first time with United because I hadn't won the league when I left," Pogba said. "The Champions League of course and, personally, one of my dreams is to win the Ballon d'Or (FIFA's world player of the year award). That will come with time hopefully, but first the Premier League - I've never done it."

### OVERPRICED

Pogba said he was not bothered about the world-record price tag and that his return to United, nicknamed the Red Devils, was "destiny" - and predicted by his mother.

"My mum told me I would come back here and I told her, 'You never know, you'll see,'" he said. "For myself as well it's a big challenge, too, just to come back to where I came from, where I grew up, where I started. I didn't finish what I started here so I think I came here to finish it."

United has missed out on some of its No. 1 transfer targets in previous offseasons - notably Gareth Bale and Cesc Fabregas in 2013 - but was determined to push this one through, even if it meant paying a fee widely regarded as overpriced. United is one of the few clubs in world football that could afford this outlay, though. And if Pogba can help the team return to the top of the English and European game after lean years since Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013, it will be money well spent.

Mourinho's lineup for the new season is starting to have a fearsome look to it. The spine, in particular, is full of stars, winners and real potential - David de Gea, new 30-million-pound signing Eric Bailly, Pogba, Wayne Rooney, Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

The front five of Ibrahimovic, Rooney, Anthony Martial, Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Pogba has plenty of goals, power and quality in it, an upgrade on what Louis van Gaal had last season.

United has finished seventh, fourth and fifth in the post-Ferguson years, but is one of the title favorites this season.

Pogba played only seven games - all as a substitute - in his first spell at United, which ended sourly when he allowed his contract to run down and joined Juventus. United got only 800,000 pounds (now around \$1 million) in compensation for a player who was then just a precocious teenager.



**PPARIS:** This file photo taken on July 10, 2016 shows France's midfielder Paul Pogba gesturing during the Euro 2016 final football match between Portugal and France at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris. — AFP

### IMPRESS

Ferguson was unhappy with Pogba's attitude in the last months of his contract, and didn't play the Frenchman even during an injury crisis in the team's midfield. For a game against Blackburn in December 2011, Ferguson played full back Rafael da Silva in center midfield along with Park Ji-sung, with Pogba on the bench.

That was the last straw for a player who was desperate for a chance to impress his manager.

Pogba can be sure he'll be a guaranteed

starter this time round at Old Trafford.

"Paul is one of the best players in the world and will be a key part of the United team I want to build here for the future," Mourinho said. "He is quick, strong, scores goals and reads the game better than many players much older than he is."

"At 23, he has the chance to make that position his own here over many years. He is young and will continue to improve; he has the chance to be at the heart of this club for the next decade and beyond." — AP

## ALL CHANGE AT PSG AS NEW FRENCH SEASON BEGINS

**PARIS:** Zlatan Ibrahimovic has gone after four prolific years in France but a Paris Saint-Germain side now coached by Unai Emery are again expected to dominate as the new Ligue 1 season begins. It is now five years since PSG were taken over by Qatar Sports Investments and they will be looking to win a fifth consecutive league crown, albeit with a new look.

Despite overseeing clean sweeps of the domestic honours in each of the last two seasons, Laurent Blanc was sacked for failing to take Paris beyond the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

Spaniard Emery was named as his replacement, arriving from Sevilla where he won the Europa League in three straight seasons. Ibrahimovic, whose contract had expired, has gone to Manchester United but there has been no megastar signing made to replace him. The new sporting director, Dutchman Patrick Kluijver, has however overseen the arrivals of Jese Rodriguez, Hatem Ben Arfa, Grzegorz Krychowiak and Thomas Meunier.

"PSG called me when I was very happy in Seville, but I think I can go a bit further yet with PSG," Emery told sports daily L'Equipe. "This club with its current owner is young. With what I have done before I should be able to help them grow."

Last season, Paris finished a ridiculous 31 points ahead of Lyon in second but there is hope for neutrals that the gap to the rest will

be just a little tighter this time.

Lyon are now settled in their spectacular new stadium and coach Bruno Genesio was rewarded for taking OL to second spot with a new three-year contract.

So far he has held on to coveted midfielder Corentin Tolisso and star striker Alexandre Lacazette. Samuel Umtiti has gone to Barcelona but Cameroon international Nicolas Nkoulou has arrived from Marseille to replace him. Lyon look well-placed to establish themselves as the best of the rest but president Jean-Michel Aulas has been busy criticising PSG for what he deems to be "killing the competition" in France.

"PSG are pursuing an excessive policy of investment that will reduce the competitiveness of our Ligue 1. Too much is too much," Aulas tweeted last week.

Monaco faded to finish third last season and will hope to improve this time while also returning to the Champions League group stage. They missed out in the play-offs last year and should history repeat itself they may be compelled to cash in on some of their best players before the transfer window shuts.

For now, Monaco have strengthened, including in attack. There, Radamel Falcao is back after two disappointing seasons on loan in England and will partner Valere Germain, who starred on loan at Nice last season, up front. — AFP



**SANT JOAN DESPI:** FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi, third left, attends a training session with his teammates at the Sports Center FC Barcelona Joan Gamper in Sant Joan Despi, Spain, yesterday. — AP





EQUESTRIAN

GERMANY'S JUNG GOES FOR ANOTHER EVENTING GOLD

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Often called the best eventing rider of all time, Germany's Michael Jung aims yesterday to repeat Olympic gold with Sam, the same horse he rode to team and individual wins in 2012.

Jung and Sam will start the final day of the multi-discipline sport in second behind Australia's Christopher Burton while Germany, the team winner in 2008 and 2012, is in fourth.

"It's not often that you get to do two Olympics on the same horse. Sam is in fantastic form," Jung, 34, told Reuters. A repeat was not always the plan, however, as Jung only turned to Sam, a 16-year-old German Sport Horse, a week before the animals were due to fly to Rio. His first and younger choice Takinou suffered an infection.

The eventing competition, one of three equestrian disciplines in the Olympics, tests riders on dressage, cross country and show jumping. In 2012 Jung became the first eventing rider to hold the Olympic, European championship and world championship titles at the same time. In May, he became the first German to win the Badminton Horse Trials in England. He also completed a consecutive triple of Burghley, Kentucky and Badminton that had been achieved previously only by Britain's Pippa Funnell in 2003. "I have a really good team around me, that makes the sport for me," he said in an interview, adding that he particularly enjoys training young horses. The last rider to repeat Olympic gold eventing medals on the same horse was New Zealand's Mark Todd with Charisma, in 1984 and 1988. Jung's horse swap was not the only change made late in the eventing competition by the defending champions.

The Germans substituted Andreas Ostholt with Julia Krajewski on the eve of competition after Ostholt's horse lost a shoe in training.

Krajewski was one of 18 riders on Monday who did not finish what was widely considered the most difficult Olympic cross-country course in recent history. Jung and Sam were one of only three pairs to escape penalties on Monday. The winner will be decided by the show jumping phase on Tuesday.

Jung told reporters Sam had been too worked up by the crowds and noise leaving the gate but settled towards the end with plenty of juice left for Tuesday's competition. "He understands every question and I'm very happy to say he is very healthy," he said at a news conference. — Reuters



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Germany's Michael Jung competes during the Eventing's Individual Jumping of the Equestrian during the 2016 Rio Olympic Games at the Olympic Equestrian Centre in Rio yesterday. — AFP



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** An overview shows USA's forward Carmelo Anthony (C) jumping for a basket during a Men's round Group A basketball match between USA and Venezuela at the Carioca Arena 1 in Rio de Janeiro yesterday during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. — AFP

US MEN'S BASKETBALL BLASTS VENEZUELA AFTER SLOW START



BASKETBALL

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Red, white and blue for one quarter, the U.S. Olympic team woke up and won with ease. Shaking off a sluggish, sloppy start and maybe some Brazilian boredom, the Americans regrouped in the second quarter and romped over Venezuela 113-69 on Monday, taking another step toward a possible third straight gold medal.

Kevin Durant scored 16 points and Carmelo Anthony 14 for the US squad, which may have grown a touch overconfident following a 57-point blowout of China in its tournament opener. The Americans were tied after one quarter, but turned up their defensive intensity, outscored Venezuela 30-8 in the second period and improved to 82-1 under coach Mike Krzyzewski.

"I think once we settled down, made our adjustments to the way they were calling the

game, the way that Venezuela wanted to play the game, that second quarter we picked it up defensively and turned it around," Anthony said.

It was similar to the meeting between the teams in Chicago on July 29, when the US shot poorly and still won by 35 on their pre-Rio exhibition tour. Maybe this was a reminder that no team can be taken lightly - and there is little margin for error - once the Olympic flame is ignited. "The game of basketball, everything's not going to be easy," Durant said. "We know that, even with this great team."

The Americans continue pool play on Wednesday against unbeaten Australia. The Aussies, featuring five NBA players, four of them league champions, improved to 2-0 on Monday with an impressive 95-80 win over Serbia. Australia has never won an Olympic medal in men's basketball.

HEAVY UNDERDOGS

Anthony, the four-team Olympian and two-time gold medalist playing in his record

25th game for the United States, provided a much-needed spark in the second quarter. With the Americans leading just 28-22 and looking anything but golden, Anthony came across the lane and stripped the ball away from Venezuelan center Gregory Echenique and passed it to Kyrie Irving. Anthony then trailed Irving up the floor, accepted a feed on the wing and knocked down a 3-pointer that lifted some of the pressure - and fog - off Team USA. Anthony moved past Michael Jordan on the US career scoring list and now only trails LeBron James and David Robinson. Paul George scored 20 and Jimmy Butler 17 - most of them coming in extended garbage time - in the first Olympic matchup between the nations.

Venezuela's John Cox, a cousin of American superstar Kobe Bryant, scored 19 and Echenique 18. Although this may not be the best made-in-America team as James, Stephen Curry and others chose to skip the Rio Games, the US squad that came to Brazil appears to be in a class by itself. There will likely be tougher games ahead, but they

haven't had one yet. Venezuela, which doesn't have an NBA player on its roster, didn't figure to be a threat but the FIBA Americas champion wasn't intimidated by the US roster of household names. With their fans doing all they could to push the heavy underdogs, Venezuela's players outworked the Americans in the first quarter, which ended 18-all and the US with six turnovers.

It was a different story in the second, when the Americans reeled off 13 straight points in one stretch to take control. Staying on a 196-cabin luxury cruise shot anchored off Rio's coast, the U.S. team has settled in following a few choppy early days in Brazil. Taking the floor in all-white warmups as Jay-Z's "Public Service Announcement" blared inside the Carioca Arena, the US team looked both relaxed and ready. DeAndre Jordan showed off some dance moves during layup drills as Brazilian fans, many of them wearing NBA jerseys, snapped photos of the American stars. Late in the game, after George crushed a dunk to put the US up by 43, Jordan boogied again on the sideline. — AP



VOLLEYBALL

US WOMEN HOLD OFF SCRAPPY NETHERLANDS TEAM IN 5 SETS

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** This past year in Istanbul, US assistant coach Jamie Morrison worked right alongside a man he considers among the best volleyball minds in the business.

And fired-up, Italian-born Netherlands coach Giovanni Guidetti is suddenly making quite a splash in Brazil with group of tenacious Dutch women determined to spoil the fun for the top teams in the tournament. Even if few might have expected them to contend while playing in their first Olympics in 20 years.

Morrison was an assistant on Guidetti's staff at club power Vakifbank in Turkey, coaching Olympians Lonneke Sloetjes, Anne Buijs and Robin de Kruijf and also US outside hitter Kim Hill, who through the net saw several familiar faces. So, when the top-ranked Americans received a real push from the Netherlands in a hard-fought, five-set victory Monday, Morrison and the rest of the US group were nowhere near surprised by the stellar display on the other side. The Dutch had already spoiled China's Olympic debut Saturday, then the Chinese bounced back with a straight-set win over Italy.

"They're not intimidated by anybody now, and they shouldn't be. They're good," said US coach Karch Kiraly, who figures the group winners won't go unscathed. "And that's great, because the Olympics are about being good."

Guidetti credits Morrison - someone he considers above an assistant - for helping him become a better coach. "I learned a lot from him and I hope I can keep learning a lot from him," Guidetti said after the match. "He's an amazing coach. He's an amazing man and he knows volleyball very well. "He's like a lead guy. I'm really trying to learn every time from the people that can teach me, and he's for sure one of the ones that can teach me."

The US rallied from one set down and again behind 2-1 to win 18-25, 25-18, 21-25, 25-20, 15-8 on a day Netherlands captain Maret Balkestein-Grothues had to be helped off midway through the fourth set with a right ankle injury and didn't return. Simple communications were made before the match.

Such close international connections are commonplace in a sport that has no professional league in the U.S. for men or women, meaning players move across the world for eight months of the year to play professionally. "I looked across the net and we were smiling before the match," Morrison said. "A head nod, nothing more than that, not a hug."

You bet the Americans envisioned this success for the Netherlands, a squad Morrison has seen make big strides in a matter of weeks ahead of the Olympics.

"Volleyball has come enormously far in the Netherlands in the past two years," he said. "The team is up and coming and the support in their country is as well." — AP



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Britain's bronze medalists Tom Daley, left, and Daniel Goodfellow, right, wave to supporters from the podium after the men's synchronized 10-meter platform diving final in the Maria Lenk Aquatic Center at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday. — AP

DALEY EYES CHINA SHOWDOWN AFTER BRONZE DEBUT



DIVING

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** British star Tom Daley insisted China's ruthlessly efficient divers are "beatable" Monday as he looked ahead to an enticing new clash after getting just bronze in the Olympic 10m synchronised event.

Daley and his partner Daniel Goodfellow settled for third in the tandem event, behind gold medalists Chen Aisen and Lin Yue and second-place Americans David Boudia and Steele Johnson.

China is threatening to pull off a historic sweep of diving's eight gold-medal events in Rio. Wu Minxia and Shi Tingmao opened the competition Sunday with a decisive women's 3m synchronised springboard win. There

are six to go. Daley had come to Rio challenging his Chinese adversaries, saying "they have to beat me."

He offered praise for China's dominance on Monday but continued to stir the pot, saying he was eager to beat Chen and 2012 silver medallist Qiu Bo in the 10m individual.

Asked what makes China so strong, he sniffed: "1.3 billion as a population helps," before catching himself and praising their work ethic.

"These guys are so strong, they're so technically proficient in what they do," he said. "But going into an individual competition, as David will be able to tell you, they are beatable."

He was referring to Boudia's upset of Qiu in the thrilling platform final in London, one of only two golds won in 2012 by non-Chinese divers. Daley took the bronze.

Daley, Boudia, and the rest of the field will have their work cut out for

them in stopping the Chinese juggernaut in the 10m individual. Chen and Lin were coasting toward a dominating performance on Monday until a wobbly fourth dive-a back 3 1/2 somersault in pike position-opened the door a crack. "We had a little bit of hesitation during our jump, so we did not handle it very well," Lin said.

But they slammed the door shut on the next dive, nailing a front 4 1/2 somersault tuck that won 9.5s and 10s and set Rio's outdoor diving venue alight. Daley, still just 22 despite being in the spotlight for nearly a decade, is seeking to finally deliver the gold medal that has eluded him since emerging as a star in his mid-teens.

His Olympic debut came in Beijing 2008 when he was just 14. He finished seventh there in the 10m individual platform, before his London bronze.

The two-day men's 10m individual competition begins August 19. — AFP

SUMMER GAMES 2016 MEDAL TRACKER

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States	5	7	7	19
China	5	3	5	13
Australia	4	0	3	7
Italy	3	4	2	9
Japan	3	0	7	10
Hungary	3	0	0	3
Russia	2	5	3	10
South Korea	2	2	1	5
Thailand	2	1	1	4
Great Britain	1	1	2	4
Brazil	1	1	0	2
Sweden	1	1	0	2
Chinese Taipei	1	0	2	3
Belgium	1	0	1	2
Argentina	1	0	0	1
Colombia	1	0	0	1
Croatia	1	0	0	1
Kosovo	1	0	0	1
Netherlands	1	0	0	1
Vietnam	1	0	0	1
Indonesia	0	2	0	2
New Zealand	0	2	0	2
South Africa	0	2	0	2
Canada	0	1	3	4
Kazakhstan	0	1	2	3
Ukraine	0	1	1	2
Azerbaijan	0	1	0	1
Denmark	0	1	0	1
France	0	1	0	1
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
North Korea	0	1	0	1
Philippines	0	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	0	2	2
Georgia	0	0	1	1
Greece	0	0	1	1
Poland	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	0	1	1





ATHLETICS

SAMBA AND SMILES AS BOLT WARMS UP FOR OLYMPIC SWANSONG

RIO DE JANEIRO: Shimmying amid a troupe of semi-naked samba dancers and wise-cracking with journalists, Usain Bolt is determined to bow out of the Olympics with a flourish.

And from the moment he strutted onto the stage at Rio's Cidade das Artes theater-instructing his audience to applaud-he was determined to entertain.

The setting of the largest theater in South America could not have been more appropriate for track and field's greatest showman.

"I try to entertain and make it different. That's my personality." And it works. A Norwegian stood up at the end of the press conference and said: "I don't really have a question I just want to say I really love you man."

It was a reminder of just what athletics will lose when Bolt walks away from the sport next year after the World Championships in London.

"This is the last one for sure," Bolt said when asked if he may yet extend his remarkable career.

'WEEDING OUT BAD ONES'

"We're weeding out the bad ones. I personally think we're on the right track. We have to go through the rough time to get to the good times.

Although the Russian doping scandal exposed the sophisticated lengths that drug cheats were prepared to go to avoid detection, Bolt said he was unconcerned about the possibility that he might be lining up against rivals in Rio who are not clean.

"In life nothing is guaranteed. But for me going out there, I never worry about it," he said.

"That's WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) and IAAF and IOC (International Olympic Committee) — these are the guys that worry about that stuff," Bolt said.

"I personally feel the sport is going in the right direction and in a few years it's going to be fine. I don't worry about that."

Gatlin, owner of the fastest time in the world this year (9.80 sec), could be the biggest threat to Bolt's hopes of defending all three of his crowns.

Bolt, who has long spoken of his desire to become the first man to break 19 seconds in the 200m, acknowledged that feat may prove to be beyond even him.

"I think it might be a little but hard," said Bolt, who has never bettered the world record of 19.19sec he set in 2009.

"As a young kid you grow up looking forward to the big Games," he said. "Championships are what matters. This is what I do, I enjoy doing it."



RIO DE JANEIRO: Usain Bolt gestures during a Jamaican Olympic Association and Puma press conference at the Cidade Das Artes in Rio de Janeiro on Monday.— AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Gold medalist Sukanya Srisurat, of Thailand, competes in the women's 58kg weightlifting competition at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday.— AP

THAI DRUGS CHEAT GRABS WEIGHTLIFTING GOLD



WEIGHTLIFTING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Sukanya Srisurat said her Olympic gold Monday was redemption for serving a two-year-ban for doping offences as Thailand finished one-two in the women's 58kg to lead the weightlifting medals table.

The 21-year-old lifted an Olympic record 110kg in the snatch and 130kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 240kg, comfortably beating compatriot Pimsiri Sirikaew to first place.

ed positive as a 16-year-old for the prohibited substance methandienone, an anabolic steroid. She was one of seven young Thai weightlifters found to have violated anti-doping rules during youth and junior weightlifting championships five years ago.

"I felt so sad when I was banned but I never gave up to get back and now everything has been repaid," she told AFP following her triumph in Rio.

"I didn't make the decision to take it. Our association never made a decision. It was maybe some kind of mistake," she told reporters through a translator.

Twenty-six-year-old Pimsiri lifted 102kg

in the snatch and jerked 130 for her total of 232kg to add another silver medal to the one she won at London four years ago.

Pimsiri said Sukanya had paid her dues for the doping offence and insisted she was happy to finish second to the gold medalist, despite her competitor's previous drug use.

The kingdom has dominated the light categories so far grabbing two golds and a silver in the women's competition and a bronze in the men's.

with a bronze in the men's 56kg the following day. Kruiathong's joy was short-lived as his 84-year-old grandmother collapsed and died celebrating his success.

A viral video showed the jubilant scene of cheering fans in his rural hometown transform into tragedy when Subin Khongthap collapsed while watching the competition on a projector.

"We support and encourage each other to bring out the best in all of us," Sukanya said when asked about the reason for Thailand's success this week.

She hauled 102 in the snatch and 129 in the clean and jerk to comfortably make the podium, 8kg ahead of fourth placed Alexandra Escobar of Ecuador.— AFP



TENNIS

SERENA STRUGGLES, DEL POTRO BLASTS PUNCH-UP

RIO DE JANEIRO: Defending champion Serena Williams ended a three-match losing streak against France's Alize Cornet to keep her hopes of a fifth Olympic gold medal alive Monday.

Cornet defeated the American star three times in 2014, including at Wimbledon, and proved to be a thorn in her opponent's side again in Rio.

The 22-time major winner cut a frustrated figure, smashing her racquet into the ground at one stage. Williams stepped on the gas in the second set to secure a third round clash with Ukraine's Elina Svitolina, securing victory on a third match point.

"She says she knows how to play me. Every time I have played her, I have never been in the best shape which is ironic, so I really wanted to do well," Juan Martin del Potro followed up his shock defeat of Novak Djokovic by downing Portugal's Joao Sousa in front of a legion of passionate, vocal Argentine fans.

PUNCH-UP

However, traditional bitterness between Brazil and Argentina boiled over when a group of fans engaged in a punch-up.

"I only had five hours' sleep but I'm very glad with my success," he said. Things got even better for Del Potro when French fifth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, a potential quarter-final opponent, lost 6-4, 6-3 to Gilles Muller of Luxembourg.— AFP

CHINESE REELING AFTER LOSS OF 'PRECIOUS' GYMNASTICS TEAM CROWN



GYMNASTICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Zhang Chenglong insisted China are not a spent force after Kohei Uchimura's Japan ended their eight-year Olympic men's team reign in Rio.

Uchimura, 27, helped Japan to their first team gold since 2004 in the Rio Olympic Arena ahead of Russia, who were back on the podium for the first time since 2000.

"In China team work is very important. "You can't just stay in your own corner and do your own thing. Everyone has to be excellent not just one person."

China paid for errors starting with a shaky start for Lin Chaopan, 20, and Deng Shudi, 24, on the floor as they competed alongside the United States.

The Chinese impressed on the parallel bars with You hitting 16.166, but they needed a strong final rotation on the high bar to keep in the title chase.

Deng, Lin, and Zhang failed to produce the necessary fireworks, finishing nearly three points behind Japan. It was also the end of the road for Zhang, a gold medal winner in the team event from London, and seven-time world medallist over four world championships.

The 27-year-old has failed to reach the finals of the all-around and apparatus events.

China took the men's team gold for the first time in Sydney 2000, only to lose to Japan in Athens four years later.

China took the men's team gold for the first time in Sydney 2000, only to lose to Japan in Athens four years later. But they recaptured it at their home Games in Beijing 2008 and successfully defended it in London. And they are already learning from their

rivals. "We were paying attention to the other athletes and their training and are learning new techniques, not just focusing on ourselves."

"We recognise that compared to the other teams there is a very small difference. "In this competition Japan has been performing very well. Japan have been improving in technique, compared to last year even they were better.— AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Japan's Kohei Uchimura performs on the floor during the artistic gymnastics men's team final at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday.— AP



# Sports

Pogba 'back home' at Man Utd in world-record transfer



Chinese reeling after loss of 'precious' gymnastics team crown



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RIO DE JANEIRO: USA's Lilly King (L) celebrates with USA's Katie Meili after she broke the Olympic record to win the Women's 100m Breaststroke Final during the swimming event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Aquatics Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. (Inset) Russia's Yulia Efimova cries after she placed second in the Women's 100m Breaststroke Final during the swimming event. — AFP

## KING BEATS TAINTED RUSSIAN SWIMMER TO GOLD



SWIMMING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Doping tensions in Olympic swimming erupted after American Lilly King beat tainted Russian rival Yulia Efimova and US superstar Michael Phelps demanded life bans for swimmers with a drug record. Booing broke out in the swimming arena on Monday as Efimova twice convicted of doping but securing an Olympic place on a last-ditch appeal-lined up to challenge the women's 100m breaststroke final. King narrowly beat her then slammed her rival, stoking the controversy over revelations of Russian state-sponsored doping.

"I think it just proved that you can compete clean and still come out on top," King said of her win. She had also criticized Efimova before the race. Clearly devastat-

ed, Efimova burst into tears after the race. Russia sprang to her defense, with Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko describing her as a "good girl," according to Moscow's R-Sport news agency. The attacks were described as a "terrible ordeal."

The red-faced International Olympic Committee (IOC) sought to calm the choppy waters, saying the Games were about "respecting the right of others to compete."

But King was joined in the war of words by US legend Phelps and Frenchman Camille Lacourt among others who lashed out at a Chinese winner. Phelps, who will attempt the astonishing feat of winning his 20th Olympic gold medal later yesterday, launched a broadside at drug abusers and encouraged others to speak out.

Phelps said those punished for doping should face permanent exile from the sport. "I think you're going to see a lot of people speaking up more," the all-time highest Olympic medal winner said. China's Sun Yang, who

won the 200m freestyle on Monday, came under fierce attack from a furious Lacourt.

"Sun Yang, he pisses purple," an enraged Lacourt who came fifth in the 100m backstroke told French radio. "When I see the 200m podium I want to be sick." Sun has already been at the center of a verbal battle with Australia's Mack Horton who beat Sun in the 400m race.

The Sun-Horton dispute has turned into a social media war. China's state-controlled Global Times newspaper called Australia a former British "offshore prison" because of Horton's "drug cheat" remarks about Sun.

### THREE BANS

Efimova sought to defend her doping record. "I once made a mistake and served my ban," she said, referring to a 16-month suspension incurred after testing positive for a banned steroid in 2014.

She was given a provisional ban this year after testing positive for meldonium but that was overturned in May by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Following the Richard McLaren report for the World Anti-Doping Agency, Efimova was suspended again. The report implicated the Russian government in doping. But another appeal to the CAS last week let Efimova and six other Russian swimmers into Rio. The United States and other western countries had wanted a complete ban on Russian athletes.

The row largely overshadowed a day that saw a first gold medal for the Brazilian hosts. It was won by judoka Rafaela Silva, who grew up in Rio's notorious City of God slum. Silva upset world No. 1 Sumiya Dorjsuren in the 57kg final for a hugely welcome win for Brazil after apathy and protests in the run-up to South America's first Olympics.

China got more medals in diving, where Chen Aisen and Lin Yue won the men's 10m platform. China finished the day with five gold medals in total. Russia took gold and silver in the women's sabre fencing as Yana Egorian beat Sofiya Velikaya, who again suffered heartbreak after also losing the 2012 Olympic final. — AFP

## AUSTRALIA CLINCH WOMEN'S SEVENS GOLD



RUGBY

RIO DE JANEIRO: Australia became the first Olympic champions in women's rugby sevens when they ran out convincing 24-17 winners over trans-Tasman neighbours New Zealand in the gold medal final at the Deodoro Stadium in Rio on Monday.

The world series champions went behind early in the match but unanswered tries from Emma Tonegato, Evania Pelite, Ellia Green and Charlotte Caslick gave them a lead New Zealand were unable to overcome. New Zealand, who had two tries from the outstanding Kayla McAlister and one at the death from Portia Woodman, performed a tearful haka in front of the crowd at the end of the match, their dreams of gold shattered.

It was the spell that Woodman, the top try scorer in the tournament with 10, spent in the sin-bin for a deliberate knock down around halftime that probably ended those hopes.

Without question the best two of the 12

teams in the tournament, both New Zealand and Australia had come through scares at the hands of the United States on Sunday to stamp their authority on the semi-finals.

After a tight and physical start to the final, McAlister forced her way over in the corner for her sixth try of the tournament to give New Zealand an early lead before Tonegato hit back with her seventh.

Australia had started to find holes in the New Zealand defence and when Woodman was sent off for two minutes, first Pelite then speedster Green benefited from the extra space to give the women in green and gold a 17-5 lead just after halftime.

Charlotte Caslick then nipped over for another converted try to further extend Australia's lead and although McAlister grabbed her second try, two converted scores for New Zealand in little more than a minute was always going to be a big ask.

Woodman did finally weave her way over to score under the posts but the hooter had sounded and Australia were already well into their celebrations when Tyla Nathan-Wong took the conversion.

Canada earlier took the bronze with a 33-10 victory over Britain. — Reuters



RIO DE JANEIRO: New Zealand's Sarah Goss, right, is tackled by Australia's Alicia Quirk during the women's rugby sevens gold medal match against New Zealand at the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday. — AP

## IRON LADY IN 'GREAT SHAPE' AS SHE SNARES SECOND GOLD



SWIMMING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Hungary's Katinka Hosszu said she felt in "great shape" on Monday as she powered to her second gold medal of the Rio Olympics-and stayed on track for three more. Hosszu, dubbed the "Iron Lady" for her renowned stamina, won the 100m backstroke in 58.45sec, ahead of American Kathleen Baker, as Canadian Kylie Masse and China's Fu Yuanhui finished in a dead heat for bronze. Hosszu, who returned little more than an hour later to book her spot in Tuesday's 200m medley final, said she wasn't feeling any pressure from her heavy schedule, which also includes the 200m backstroke and 200m butterfly. On Saturday, the 27-year-old shattered the 400m individual medley world record for her first ever Olympic title.

"I was already very relaxed before the 400IM which was surprising for me," said Hosszu, who arrived in Rio in search of

her first Olympic medal. "I have been racing so much in the past four years that that was kind of my goal that when we get to Rio it would kind of be second nature and it really feels that way.

"I know I've done the 400IM and the 100 back a million times and now I'm fresh and in great shape," she added. Hosszu was sixth at the turn with world champion Emily Seebohm of Australia leading. She roared home as Seebohm failed not only to improve on the silver she won in London but faded to finish a disappointing seventh. "I can't believe I won the 100 back," Hosszu said. "I dreamt about it, but I could have done eighth, it's so close."

Seebohm, swimming in unfavorable lane seven after a lackluster semi-final performance, was left looking for answers after coming into the Games with the top time of 2016. "I definitely wanted to take it out (fast) and obviously it hurt a bit on the back end," she said. "I did a fantastic warm-up. I couldn't have done anything differently. "My semi needed to be better so I could be in an inside lane and have someone to push me," she concluded. — AFP



# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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## ALL-NEW INFINITI Q30 UNVEILED AT BEIRUT

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**TOKYO:** Passengers check in at the Delta Air Lines counter at Narita international airport in Narita, east of Tokyo, yesterday. More than 1,000 people spent the night at the Narita airport because of a computer shutdown that halted Delta Air Lines flights worldwide. — AP

# DELTA CANCELS 300 FLIGHTS AFTER OUTAGE

### AIRLINE SEEKS FORGIVENESS WITH REFUNDS, VOUCHERS

**DALLAS:** Delta's travails, and those of its customers, move into day two with the airline canceling of another 300 flights. The disruptions yesterday follow about 1,000 cancelled flights Monday and, according to FlightStats, about 2,800 delayed flights, after an outage at Delta's Atlanta headquarters instigated a global meltdown of its booking and communications systems.

The airline was back online after a number of hours Monday, but the outages were so widespread that it is still dealing with the ripple effects a day later. FlightStats, a flight tracking services, puts delayed flights Tuesday at close to 600, and cancelled flights closer to 330. More than 1,000 people spent the night at Narita airport outside Tokyo because of the shutdown and, while flights were resuming yesterday, Delta spokeswoman Hiroko Okada said more delays are expected. Delta also extended to yesterday travel waivers issued to the stranded.

#### Apology

The airline posted a video apology by CEO Ed Bastian. And it offered refunds and \$200 in travel vouchers to people whose flights were canceled or delayed at least three hours. Delta's chal-

lenge will be to find enough seats on planes during the busy summer vacation season to accommodate the tens of thousands of passengers whose flights were scrubbed. Airlines have been putting more people in each plane, so when a system of a major carrier crashes, as has happened with others before Delta, finding a new seat for the waylaid becomes more difficult.

Last month, the average Delta flight was 87 percent full. Confusion among passengers Monday was compounded as Delta's flight-status updates crashed as well. Instead of staying home or poolside at a hotel until the troubles blew over, many passengers only learned about the quagmire only after they passed through airport security.

They were stuck. The disruption was so deeply rooted Monday that at one point, the airline warned travelers that information on its website, its app, and even given by its own employees in airports, may be outdated.

"By the time I showed up at the gate the employees were already disgruntled, and it was really difficult to get anybody to speak to me or get any information," said Ashley Roache, whose flight from Lexington, Kentucky, to New York's LaGuardia Airport

was delayed. "The company could have done a better job of explaining ... what was happening."

#### Investigation

Delta spokesman Trebor Banstetter said that after the power outage, key systems and network equipment did not switch over to backups. The investigation of the outage is ongoing, but Banstetter said that there is no indication that the problems were caused by a hack or intentional breach of the system.

Georgia Power, which controls the system where the outage began, said it appears that a failure of Delta equipment caused the airline's power disruption. No other customers lost power, a spokesman said. Delta Air Lines Inc. is the third-largest in the world by number of passengers carried, with 138.8 million travelers last year, according to industry group IATA, but it ranks just behind American Airlines and Southwest Airlines.

Airlines depend on huge, overlapping and complicated systems to operate flights, ticketing, boarding, airport kiosks, websites and mobile phone apps. Even brief outages can now snarl traffic and, as the Delta incident shows, those problems can go

global in seconds. Last month, Southwest Airlines canceled more than 2,000 flights over four days after an outage that it blamed on a faulty network router. United Airlines suffered a series of massive IT meltdowns after combining its technology systems with those of merger partner Continental Airlines.

Lines for British Airways at some airports have grown longer as the carrier updates its systems. Delta employees were forced into something of a time machine as they did their best to get people to where they were going. Agents at many airports were using pen and paper to create boarding passes. In Tokyo, a dot-matrix printer was resurrected to keep track of passengers on a flight to Shanghai.

Some passengers said they were shocked that computer glitches could cause such turmoil. Others took it in stride. Ryan Shannon, another passenger on the Lexington-to-New York flight, said passengers boarded, were asked to exit, waited about 90 minutes and then got back on the plane. Once Delta cleared flights to take off, "we boarded and didn't have any problems. There is always a delay, or weather, or something. I travel weekly, so I'm used to it," Shannon said. — AP

## US PRODUCTIVITY FALLS FOR THIRD QUARTER IN A ROW

**WASHINGTON:** US nonfarm productivity unexpectedly fell in the second quarter, pointing to sustained weakness that could raise concerns about corporate profits and companies' ability to maintain their recent robust pace of hiring.

The Labor Department said yesterday that productivity, which measures hourly output per worker, dropped at a 0.5 percent annual rate in the April-June period. It was the third consecutive quarterly decline. "The reason the economy has still been able to expand is because of labor input. Firms are hiring people at a reasonably healthy rate," said Joseph LaVorgna, chief economist at Deutsche Bank Securities in New York.

"However, we do not believe this can last, because strong hiring in the face of weak productivity necessarily implies a further deterioration in corporate profit margins."

Productivity fell at an unrevised 0.6 percent rate in the first quarter. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast productivity rising at a 0.4 percent rate in the second quarter.

The US dollar weakened to session lows against the yen after the data. US stock futures and prices of US Treasuries were largely unchanged. Productivity decreased at a 0.4 percent rate compared to the second quarter of 2015, the fastest year-on-year pace of decline in three years. Revisions to data going back to 2013 also confirmed the softening productivity trend, which over time would suggest pressure on corporate profits and a slowdown in job gains.

Strong employment gains have helped to raise output. Nonfarm payrolls increased by more than 500,000 jobs in June and July.

#### SLUGGISH CORPORATE PROFITS

Corporate profits have been sluggish, in part as companies deal with the lagging impact of a strong dollar and lower oil prices. After-tax profits rebounded at an 8.1 percent rate in the first quarter after declining 5.3 percent in 2015. Corporate profits data for the second quarter will be published later this month. Output per worker in the second quarter increased at a 1.2 percent rate, up from the 0.7 percent

pace notched in the January-March period.

The government reported last month that gross domestic product rose at a 1.2 percent annual rate in the second quarter following a 0.8 percent rise in the first quarter. Some economists have attributed the weak productivity to the changing industry mix, which has seen a shift from manufacturing and energy toward services. Others have questioned whether it is being accurately measured.

Productivity has increased at an annual rate of less than 1.0 percent in each of the last five years, suggesting the economy's potential rate of growth has declined.

Unit labor costs, the price of labor per single unit of output, increased at a 2.0 percent pace in the second quarter. First-quarter unit labor costs were revised to show a 0.2 percent rate of decrease, instead of the previously reported 4.5 percent increase. Second-quarter unit labor costs rose at a 2.1 percent rate compared to the same period of 2015.

Hourly compensation per hour rose at a 1.5 percent rate in the second quarter after falling at a 0.8 percent pace in the prior quarter. — Reuters

## QATAR SNAPS 3-DAY WINNING STREAK, SAUDI FIRMS WITH OIL

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Qatar's stock market index ended a three-day winning streak yesterday as local investors booked profits while Saudi Arabia's index rose, helped by firmer oil prices. Doha's index, which had climbed as much as 0.7 percent earlier in the day, slipped in the final hour of trade to close 0.02 percent lower. It hit a nine-month closing high on Monday.

Shares on the MSCI emerging market index turned south, with Islamic lender Masraf Al-Rayan dropping 2.1 percent and Qatar Islamic Bank falling 2.6 percent. Sebastian Henin, head of asset management at Abu Dhabi's The National Investor, said passive inflows from emerging market funds had driven up prices over the last several weeks and traders might choose to book profits at current levels, keeping the market locked in a narrow trading range in the short term.

In Abu Dhabi the index edged down 0.3 percent as some shares on MSCI's emerging market index retreated. First Gulf Bank dropped 1.3 percent. Dubai's index held onto gains and added 0.3 percent, boosted by advances in blue chips. Emaar Properties rose 0.9 percent and Dubai Investments climbed 1.4 percent.

Shuaa Capital gained 3.1 percent in its highest volumes in two months on news the Nasdaq Dubai exchange will open an equity futures market next month. The market will trade single-stock futures on the shares of some of the United Arab Emirates' biggest companies, with Shuaa provid-

ing market-making services. This could expand the firm's revenues.

#### SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT

Petrochemical shares pulled Saudi Arabia's index up 1 percent after Brent oil futures climbed back above \$45 a barrel. Saudi Basic Industries gained 3.1 percent. Banking shares also fared well, with Samba Financial Group advancing 2.4 percent.

In Egypt, the main index retreated 0.9 percent, dropping below a 13-month high hit on Monday as non-Egyptian investors sold, bourse data showed. Losers outnumbered gainers 16 to 12 with Palm Hills Development dropping 3.4 percent after it posted second-quarter net profit of 64 million Egyptian pounds (\$7.2 million), an 85 percent drop from a year earlier. The company said the main reason for the fall was a change in revenue recognition on its income statements.

Analysts at Naem Brokerage said in a note that although profit fell short of their expectation of 119 million pounds for the April-June period, they remained positive on the stock with a "buy" rating.

"PHDC's performance at the top line seems resilient, as the company continues to capitalize on underlying growth in demand from the Egyptian real estate market," Naem said. Real estate investment firm Porto Group jumped 10.7 percent in heavy trade and telecom conglomerate Orascom Telecom Media and Technology bounced 6.9 percent. — Reuters

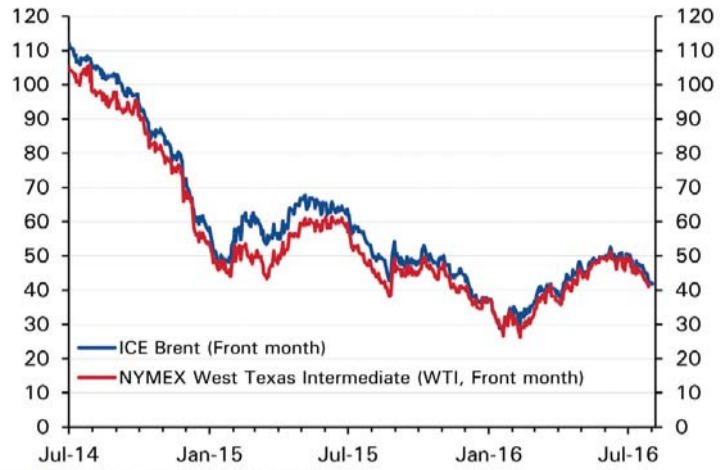


# OIL MARKET TURNS BEARISH ON SUPPLY GAINS AND STOCK BUILDS

## OPEC OUTPUT SURGES TO 32.8 MB/D IN JUNE

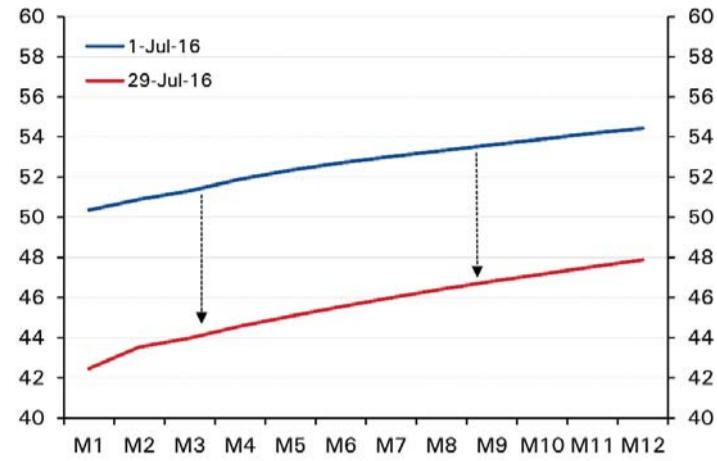
### NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

Chart 1: Crude oil prices (\$/bbl)



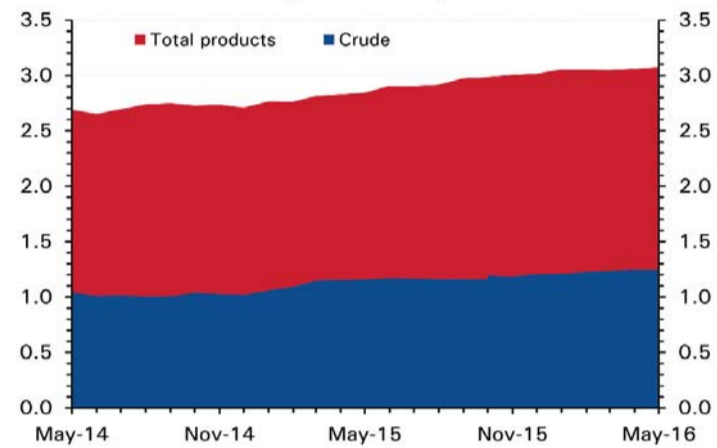
Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream

Chart 2: Brent forward price curve (\$/bbl)



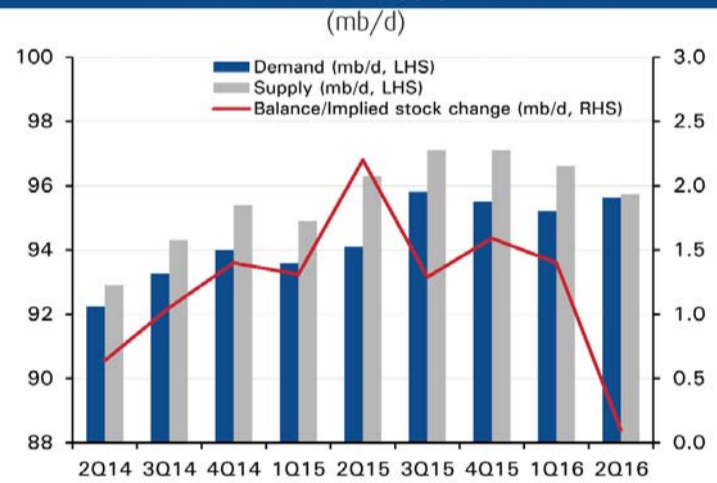
Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream

Chart 3: OECD commercial oil stocks (billion barrels)



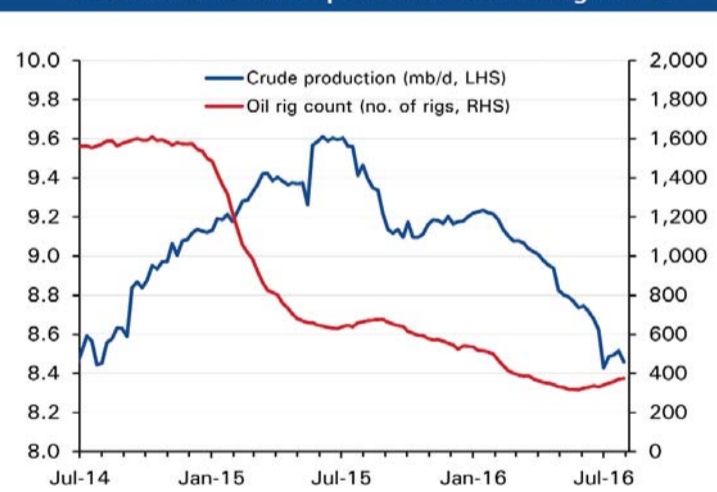
Source: International Energy Agency (IEA)

Chart 4: Balance of supply and demand (mb/d)



Source: IFA

Chart 5: US crude oil production and oil rig counts



Source: US Energy Information Administration (EIA), Baker Hughes

Iran, meanwhile, continued to chase its production capacity target of 4 mb/d, ramping up output by 77,000 b/d in June to 3.6 mb/d. Iran's determination to regain lost market share has seen its exports double since sanctions were lifted in January. The Islamic Republic is hoping to attract at least \$70 billion worth of investment to develop its oil industry under a new Iran Petroleum Contract (IPC).

# OIL TRADES NEAR \$45 AS GLUT OVERSHADOWS HOPE

**LONDON:** Oil traded around \$45 a barrel yesterday as concern about a supply glut countered forecasts for a drop in US inventories and speculation of producer action to prop up prices.

Total US crude inventories were expected to fall by 1 million barrels in weekly reports, although market intelligence firm Genscape has reported a rise of more than 307,000 barrels at the Cushing, Oklahoma US crude delivery hub, traders said. Brent crude for October was down 29 cents at \$45.10 a barrel by 1252 GMT, after rising \$1.12 on Monday. The global benchmark fell nearly 15 percent in July. US crude for September was down 17 cents at \$42.85.

"One can only wonder how long this enthusiasm will last considering the over-supplied fundamental backdrop," said Tamas Varga of oil broker PVM. "Current oil price strength does not feel justified." OPEC comments helped fuel the gain on Monday. Its president Qatar, in a rare statement issued by the group's Vienna headquarters, said the market was on the path to rebalancing and the drop in prices would be temporary.

OPEC sources have been saying since June that renewed talks about a global output freeze could take place in September, when most members, plus non-members

such as Russia, are expected to attend an International Energy Forum meeting in Algeria. The oil minister for cash-strapped Venezuela sought to keep alive the prospect of producer action to boost prices, saying on Monday a meeting between OPEC and non-OPEC countries may take place "in the coming weeks".

But Russia said it does not see grounds for new talks with OPEC yet. Iran, which refused to join an initiative discussed earlier this year to freeze output levels, has not said whether it would cooperate with any new effort. Some analysts are skeptical any producer action will result, just as the earlier attempt at an output freeze collapsed in April, scuppered by tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

"The discussions are likely to prove to be nothing but empty talk, with OPEC sticking with its policy of defending its market share," said Eugen Weinberg, analyst at Commerzbank.

Later yesterday, the latest round of US inventory reports will be in focus. Analysts in a Reuters poll forecast that US crude stockpiles fell by 1 million barrels last week. The American Petroleum Institute, an industry group, is due to release its inventory update at 2030 GMT, ahead of the government's report today. —Reuters

# OIL SHORT-SELLING CYCLE MAY BE AT OR NEAR TURNING POINT

**LONDON:** The enormous concentration of bearish short positions in US crude oil futures and options contracts by hedge funds and other money managers left the market ripe for a short-covering rally. The rebound in futures prices, with the September WTI contract up by 10 percent since Aug 2, has all the characteristics of a short-covering rally ("Hedge fund short covering probably accounts for oil rally", Reuters, Aug 8).

Price moves in the next few trading sessions should give some indication about whether hedge funds have embarked on the liquidation phase of the shorting cycle or are extending their short positions even further. By Aug 2, the most recent data available, hedge funds and other money managers had accumulated short positions equivalent to 248 million barrels in the main futures and options contracts linked to WTI. The number of short positions had increased from a recent low of just 71 million barrels on May 31, according to an analysis of data published by the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The accumulation of an additional 178 million barrels of short positions coincided with a decline in WTI futures prices of just over \$10 per barrel from \$49.93 to \$39.51. CFTC data shows there have been three previous cycles of short-selling by hedge funds since the start of 2015 and they now appear to be well into a fourth.

The accumulation and then liquidation of short positions during each cycle on NYMEX has corresponded roughly with the fall and then rise in WTI prices. The current short-selling already appeared fairly mature by Aug 2 which raised the prospect of an imminent turning point.

During the three previous cycles,

hedge funds had amassed their maximum short position after 11 weeks, 13 weeks and 13 weeks, respectively. The current short-selling cycle is already nine weeks old.

In the three previous cycles, hedge fund short positions in NYMEX WTI peaked at 178 million barrels, 163 million and 201 million. The current short position has already exceeded these and hit 219 million barrels. The current cycle of short-selling is still less mature than previous cycles when they hit their turning point and switched from accumulation to liquidation of short positions.

### Short position

But it has also been more aggressive with a record short position in NYMEX WTI established at a much faster pace than during the previous cycles. As the number of short positions has increased in the fourth cycle, WTI prices have declined, falling at much the same rate as seen during the second and third cycles. Prices might have been expected to fall even further and even faster, given the accompanying rapid accumulation of a record short position.

The persistence of many hedge funds with long positions probably explains why prices have been stronger than during previous cycles when a roughly similar number of short positions has been established.

From a price perspective, the current cycle of short selling appears less mature than previous cycles, which would suggest it could have another 2-4 weeks before peaking. But the current cycle appears to have developed on an accelerated timetable compared with prior cycles so it may already have reached or be very near its turning point. —Reuters

# OPEC OIL PRICE AT \$41.10 PB

**VIENNA:** OPEC daily basket price rose \$1.02 on Monday and stood at \$41.10 a barrel compared with \$40.08 last Friday, the organization's bulletin reported yesterday. Price of the crude, produced by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, averaged \$45.84 pb in June, \$42.68 pb in July and \$39.10 pb in August.

The new OPEC Reference Basket of

Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Rabi Light (Gabon), Minas (Indonesia), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela). —KUNA

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>ASIAN COUNTRIES</b>		
Japanese Yen	2.961	
Indian Rupees	4.527	
Pakistani Rupees	2.897	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.083	
Nepali Rupees	2.837	
Singapore Dollar	225.620	
Hongkong Dollar	39.054	
Bangladesh Taka	3.862	
Philippine Peso	6.465	
Thai Baht	8.698	
<b>GCC COUNTRIES</b>		
Saudi Riyal	80.816	
Qatari Riyal	83.249	
ani Riyal	787.162	
Bahraini Dinar	804.840	
UAE Dirham	82.512	
<b>ARAB COUNTRIES</b>		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	34.498	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	29.990	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.217	
Tunisian Dinar	137.370	
Jordanian Dinar	427.640	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.019	
Syrian Lira	2.0160	
Morocco Dirham	31.389	
<b>EUROPEAN &amp; AMERICAN COUNTRIES</b>		
US Dollar Transfer	302.900	
Euro	337.280	

Sterling Pound	395.280
Canadian dollar	230.690
Turkish lira	101.990
Swiss Franc	309.870
Australian Dollar	232.630
US Dollar Buying	301.700

### GOLD

20 Gram	268.840
10 Gram	137.340
5 Gram	69.510

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.000
Canadian Dollar	230.310
Sterling Pound	397.170
Euro	337.375
Swiss Franc	297.645
Bahrain Dinar	801.000
UAE Dirhams	82.725
Qatari Riyals	83.940
Saudi Riyals	81.520
Jordanian Dinar	426.955
Egyptian Pound	34.024
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.083
Indian Rupees	4.529
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Bangladesh Taka	3.855
Philippines Peso	6.450
Cyprus pound	159.680
Japanese Yen	3.965
Syrian Pound	2.405
Nepalese Rupees	3.830

Malaysian Ringgit	75.755
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.845
Thai Bhat	9.610
Turkish Lira	101.170

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.386795	0.401795
Czech Korune	0.004413	0.016413
Danish Krone	0.041064	0.046064
Euro	0.0330024	0.0339024
Norwegian Krone	0.031717	0.033917
Romanian Leu	0.086875	0.086875
Slovakia	0.009027	0.019027
Swedish Krona	0.031220	0.036220
Swiss Franc	0.301282	0.312282
Turkish Lira	0.097323	0.107623
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.222722	0.234722
New Zealand Dollar	0.209584	0.219084
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.224266	0.233266
Georgina Lari	0.136781	0.136781
US Dollars	0.298750	0.303450
US Dollars Mint	0.299250	0.303450
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003390	0.003974
Chinese Yuan	0.044005	0.047505
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036975	0.039725

Indian Rupee	0.004330	0.004719
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002875	0.003055
Kenyan Shilling	0.003115	0.003115
Korean Won	0.000263	0.000278
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072108	0.078108
Nepalese Rupee	0.002856	0.003026
Pakistan Rupee	0.002716	0.003006
Philippine Peso	0.006326	0.006626
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.219563	0.229563
South African Rand	0.016282	0.024782
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001658	0.002238
Taiwan	0.009569	0.009749
Thai Baht	0.008340	0.008890

### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.796746	0.805246
Egyptian Pound	0.025276	0.030394
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422995	0.431995
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019639	0.043639
Nigerian Naira	0.001249	0.001884
Omani Riyal	0.780203	0.785883
Qatar Riyal	0.082374	0.083824
Saudi Riyal	0.079673	0.080973
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.133601	0.141601
Turkish Lira	0.097323	0.107623
UAE Dirhams	0.081030	0.082730
Yemeni Riyal	0.001369	0.001449





## NISSAN UNVEILS WORLD'S FIRST SOLID-OXIDE FUEL CELL VEHICLE

CRUISING RANGE OF 600KM-PLUS FOR ZERO-EMISSION BIO-ETHANOL FUEL-CELL MODEL

**DUBAI:** Nissan Motor Co, Ltd revealed the world's first Solid Oxide Fuel-Cell (SOFC)-powered prototype vehicle in Brazil that runs on bio-ethanol electric power.

The breakthrough model, an all-new light-commercial vehicle, can rely on multiple fuels, including ethanol and natural gas, to produce high-efficiency electricity as a power source.

Nissan president and CEO Carlos Ghosn said: "The e-Bio Fuel-Cell offers eco-friendly transportation and creates opportunities for regional energy production...all the while supporting the existing infrastruc-

ture. In the future, the e-Bio Fuel-Cell will become even more user-friendly. Ethanol-blended water is easier and safer to handle than most other fuels. Without the need to create new infrastructure, it has great potential to drive market growth."

duct further field tests on public roads in Brazil using the prototype.

Research and development of the e-Bio Fuel-Cell was announced by Nissan in June in Yokohama. The powertrain is clean, highly-efficient, easy to supply, and runs on 100-percent ethanol or ethanol-blended water. Its carbon-neutral emissions are as clean as the atmosphere, which will be the part of natural carbon cycle. Also, the e-Bio Fuel-Cell offers the brisk acceleration and silent driving of an EV, along with its low-running costs, while boasting the driving range of a gasoline-engine vehicle.

Bio-ethanol fuels are mainly sourced from sugarcane and corn. These fuels are widely available in countries in North and South America, which feature widely-established infrastructure. Due to the easy availability of ethanol and low combustibility of ethanol-blended water, the system is not heavily dependent or restricted by the existing charging infrastructure, making it easy to introduce to the market. In the future, people may only need to stop by small retail stores to buy fuel off the shelf.

In pursuit of realizing a zero-emission and zero-fatality society for cars, Nissan continues to promote vehicle intelligence and electrification. Nissan's brand promise of "Innovation That Excites" is delivered with "Nissan Intelligent Mobility", which focuses on how cars are powered, driven and integrated into society through a more enjoyable driving experience.

The e-Bio Fuel-Cell will realize the concept of "Nissan Intelligent Power," promoting greater efficiency and electrification of cars and the joys of driving, alongside battery EVs, such as the "Nissan Leaf", "Nissan e-NV200", and "e-Power," which is equipped with an engine housing an exclusive large-capacity motor and power generator.

Nissan will continue to provide value to its customers by incorporating systems that enable the extraction of electric power from various fuels, while addressing the infrastructure issues tied to energy supply in every region of the world.



ture. In the future, the e-Bio Fuel-Cell will become even more user-friendly. Ethanol-blended water is easier and safer to handle than most other fuels. Without the need to create new infrastructure, it has great potential to drive market growth."

### Commitment

The fuel cell prototype forms part of Nissan's ongoing commitment to the development of zero-emission vehicles and new automotive technologies including autonomous drive systems and connectivity. Nissan already sells the world's highest-volume zero-emission car, the LEAF, and is pioneering Intelligent Mobility systems that will be deployed in a range of vehicles over coming years.

In this latest zero-emission development, the e-Bio Fuel-Cell prototype vehicle runs on 100-percent ethanol to charge a 24kWh battery which enables a cruising range of more than 600km. Nissan will con-

## DRAGON CITY UNVEILS BIGGEST 'MONDAY WHOLESALE OFFER AND ORDER' HUB

**DIYAR AL-MUHARRAQ, Bahrain:** Dragon City, the Kingdom's largest Chinese shopping centre that was inaugurated in December last year, officially launched their weekly special, "Monday Wholesale Offer and Order (WOO)", on 8th August. The inauguration was attended by leading businesspersons and traders from across Bahrain, VIPs, officials from Diyar Al-MuharrAQ and Dragon City as well as various media representatives.

Dragon City, the gateway for Chinese products into the Bahrain market with their unique WOO concept aims to enable businessmen and vendors to place orders in bulk at wholesale prices at Shop numbers 42 and 44, located near Gate 3.

Speaking at the launch of the Monday Wholesale Offer and Order, Patrick Zheng Shuo, General Manager of Chinamee Bahrain Management Company, the operating company of Dragon City, said: "As part of our focus on increasing the prospect of wholesales in the Kingdom, we are pleased to launch this new weekly, Monday Wholesale Offer and Order. This is truly a great opportunity for businessmen in and around the Kingdom of Bahrain, to avail the benefits of this offer. Providing customers with good quality at highly competitive prices, our hugely popular trade and consumer center is the ideal location for retail business owners looking to boost their business and relationships."

Patrick further added: "On behalf of Dragon City, I would like to welcome each and every-one to take advantage of the offers every week. We hope to provide our valued clients with the long anticipated shopping experience which encourages businessmen from all

trades to benefit from the weekly Monday special deals."

Grasping this unique opportunity, several businessmen as well as traders were seen signing special product deals as well as bulk orders with the stores. During the event, trade customers expressed their deep appreciation at the launch of this weekly opportunity.

A local business trader commented, "This initiative provides us with an ideal venue to source our products at extremely affordable rates. It is a highly economic and viable for us, as we save on time, travel, which effectively converts to huge financial savings and better profits. I would like to encourage my colleague businessmen and businesswomen from Bahrain and the neighbouring states to seize this unrivaled offer." Changing the trend of bulk shopping, Dragon City is the truly inspiring story of China's emergence into the Middle Eastern market especially the Bahrain market. As a hub for trade, commerce and investment opportunities in the region, Dragon City is a highly valuable income generating entity, thus providing the national economy of Bahrain with more choices of merchandise at very competitive prices for both retail and wholesale customers.

It is worth mentioning that Dragon City has introduced multiple benefits to the Kingdom, some of which include saving travel expenses for Bahraini businessmen dealing with Chinese firms by trusting Bahrain into the global investment limelight. Dragon City has also played a key role in creating more job opportunities thus drastically improving the employment and business opportunities for Bahraini citizens.

## OOREDOO APPOINTS AL BABTAIN SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR B2B

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, yesterday announced the appointment of AbdulazizYaqoub Al Babtain as Senior Director for B2B.

Welcoming Al Babtain, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al-Thani, Ooredoo Kuwait General Manager and CEO, said: "Ooredoo Kuwait has recently recorded major achievements and key developments including launching innovative services on many different levels including B2B. These major steps are part of our continuous efforts to enrich people's lives and enhance the relationships with business owners to contribute to the success of their businesses. On behalf of Ooredoo Kuwait's family I would like to welcome Abdulaziz Al Babtain, we trust that he will be positively contributing to the success of our B2B business and further develop it to reach our goals and objectives"

Mr. Al Babtain holds a bachelor's degree in Information Technology and General Management, from the University of Portland, Oregon - USA. He has more than 16 years of experience in Kuwait's private sector, starting his career working at Wataniya Telecom Company followed by Kuwait Investment Company, then Kuwait and Middle East Financial Investment Company (KMEFIC) where he has headed the Digital Trading Division and contributed to the success of the company's projects that are related to its branches around the Middle East.

Al Babtain's experience is not limited to technology, but it also includes deep knowledge of the local commercial sector. He has previously joined the projects team at Kuwait Stock Exchange then moved to join Fasttelco Company where he has held various positions including Vice President of Projects Management and Products Development department, then joined the retail sales depart-



ment. he has recently held the position of CEO of Operations Department at the same company. Al Babtain has the sufficient mix of professional experience that blends both the



Abdulaziz Yaqoub Al Babtain

Technological and Commercial industry, where he is considered to be a valuable asset for the company. Ooredoo's operations in Kuwait date back to December 1999 when it launched wireless services as the second operator. The compa-

ny today provides mobile, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of customers and businesses. Ooredoo is guided by its vision of enriching people's lives and its belief that it can stimulate human growth by leveraging communications to help people achieve their full potential.

Ooredoo is a leading international communications company delivering mobile, fixed, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of consumers and businesses across markets in the Middle East, North Africa and South-East Asia. As a community-focused company, Ooredoo is guided by its vision of enriching people's lives and its belief that it can stimulate human growth by leveraging communications to help people achieve their full potential. Ooredoo has a presence in markets such as Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq, Palestine, the Maldives and Indonesia. The company was named "Best Mobile Operator of the Year" at the World Communication Awards 2013.

The company reported revenues of USD 8.8 billion in 2015 and had a consolidated global customer base of 117 million customers as of 31 December 2015. Ooredoo's shares are listed on the Qatar Stock Exchange and the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange.

## INDIA OUTGOING BANK CHIEF REBUTS CRITICS, HOLDS RATES

**MUMBAI:** India's outgoing central bank chief insisted he had laid the foundations for sustainable growth in the world's best-performing major economy after keeping interest rates on hold in his final policy review yesterday.

Raghuram Rajan, who caught the government off guard in June by announcing he was stepping down in September, said he was unfazed by his critics and that the only thing that mattered was the impact of his decisions. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor was speaking to reporters after announcing the outcome of the last monthly policy review before he returns to academia next month. After confirming that he was keeping rates on hold to check inflation, Rajan staunchly defended his time in office during which he has faced severe criticism from allies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "I think snap judgments either by critics or by supporters aren't really what matters," Rajan, who is a former International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief economist, told reporters in Mumbai.

"What matters is how this plays out in the longer run for stronger and sustainable growth for the country, for job creation, for our movement into the middle income.

"In our view, the measures we have taken in the RBI were and are justified given the conditions that we have. People can have different judgements."

Since Rajan's appointment in 2013 under the previous centre-left government, India has enjoyed growth rates that have eclipsed other major economies. India's economy expanded by 7.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2015-16, the fastest of any major economy, while inflation has fallen from



**MUMBAI: Governor of The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Raghuram Rajan gestures as he addresses media representatives at a press conference in Mumbai yesterday. — AFP**

double-digit levels to under six percent on his watch. But although interest rates are at their lowest level since 2011, there have been tensions with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which has been pushing for deeper cuts, saying these would boost growth further. The BJP lawmaker Subramanian Swamy called Rajan an idiot earlier this year and told him to "go back to Chicago" where he used to be a finance professor.

Most economists however have lamented the prospect of the departure of the man who famously predicted the 2008 global financial crisis.

Rajan had been widely expected to hold the benchmark repo rate-the level at which it lends to commercial banks-at 6.50 percent yesterday. The bank last cut rates by 25 basis points in April.

### 'Hawkish approach'

In his address to the media, Rajan said he was confident there would be further falls in inflation after the level inched upwards to 5.77 percent in June, but warned that risks remained.

"Until we see the full effects of the monsoon, it would be premature to declare victory," he said.

The monsoon currently sweeping India has brought relief to farmers who rely on the rains for their crops, but food prices are still high in rural areas where millions of poor have been hit by a crippling drought. Some experts believe the central bank can cut rates in the next monetary policy announcement in October after a new governor is appointed. The government is yet to announce Rajan's successor with current RBI deputy governor Ujit Patel reportedly on the shortlist, along with economist Subir Gokarn, who served as RBI deputy from 2009 to 2012. Rajan took the RBI reins in September 2013 at a time when India's economy was struggling with a ballooning current account deficit, a plummeting currency and decade-low economic growth.

Many economists have hailed his line on rate cuts for bringing down India's inflation. "Overall, Rajan followed a hawkish approach to rate cuts between 2013-2014 and eased it out in the later stages. He has been very accommodative during his tenure and did what was good for the economy," Arun Singh, economist at Dun and Bradstreet, told AFP. The government last week formally adopted Rajan's consumer price inflation policy of four percent in a bid to help moderate future price rises. — AFP

## INDIA RIDE-HAILING FIRM OLA SIDESWIPED AS UBER, DIDI TEAM UP IN CHINA

**NEW DELHI:** Didi Chuxing's acquisition of Uber's China business last week reshapes the landscape in Asia's growing ride-hailing sector, and leaves India's Ola more vulnerable to attack by Uber in its \$12 billion home market. Four months ago, Ola executives met with Didi hoping the Chinese firm would invest fresh capital to help it fight Uber Technologies Inc which, with its deeper pockets, has made rapid inroads into India.

They were told Didi wanted first to sort out its own challenges in China, said a person with direct knowledge of Ola's plans. Didi and Uber have raised and spent billions of dollars in a discount slugfest to win drivers, passengers and market share in China.

Didi, now worth around \$35 billion, last year invested about \$30 million in Ola, which is also backed by Japan's SoftBank Group, and the two are allies in an anti-Uber group that also includes U.S.-based Lyft and Southeast Asia-focused Grab.

"This (Didi/Uber China) deal changes the dynamics of how they (Didi) will invest in India," said the person, who didn't want to be named because the discussions were private. If Didi invests more in Ola, it's effectively betting against Uber, its new partner in China, the person said. It's not clear whether Didi would provide equity or debt to Ola, which has raised around \$1.3 billion in funding and is valued at over \$5 billion. SoftBank Capital, Ola's key investor,

faces its own financial issues and is selling assets to raise cash and reduce debt, which may pose another fundraising challenge for Ola, which was aiming to raise another \$1 billion this year. Ola did not respond to an email request for comment. Didi said in an email that it will focus in the coming months on "ensuring smooth integration internally." It did not comment on its meeting with Ola. Didi has no immediate overseas investment plans, said a person with direct knowledge of the matter. The stakes are high in India, already one of the world's fastest growing taxi markets. Ola and Uber have burned through investors' money and clashed in legal battles over alleged dirty-tricks tactics and pricing. After the Didi deal, Uber is even more focused on India, which it has previously called its No. 2 priority overseas market, doubling down on resources, staffing and technology deployed there, said two people familiar with Uber's plans, one of whom is based in the United States.

### MISSION INDIA

Ola, founded by two graduates from India's premier technology institute, commands half of the country's taxi market as of end-June in terms of the number of cars registered on its platform, according to Counterpoint Research, with Uber on around 30 percent market share, and catching fast.

Uber has previously launched a bike taxi and autos service in India - a sign that it wants to localize transport options and a lesson from China where it focused on privately-owned cars in big cities, where car ownership has historically been low. Uber declined to comment for this article. In February, Uber opened an engineering centre in Bengaluru and has, according to LinkedIn, brought in ex-Google executive Apurva Dalal to lead its India product build. It has also hired more than three dozen engineers in India in six months and plans to add dozens more by the end of the year, said one of the people familiar with Uber's plans.

Two executives heading Uber's mapping efforts, Brian McClendon and Manik Gupta, visited India in June to work on making the Uber app more localised and boosting the mapping capabilities, the other, US-based, individual said. While Uber has pushed into cities and markets worldwide, Ola operates only in its home market. Ola is in 102 cities versus Uber's 27, according to Counterpoint, and offers a wider range of products - from auto rickshaws to shuttle buses, as well as taxi rides.

The Didi/Uber deal "will put Ola in a corner, and the pressure will rise," said Neil Shah, research director at Counterpoint. "The money Ola has will not last forever and it will require a lot of funding with Uber gaining financial strength." — Reuters

## CHINA'S PRODUCER DEFLATION EASES

**BEIJING:** China's producer prices fell at their slowest rate in nearly two years in July, the government said yesterday, a sign of improving conditions in the world's second largest economy.

The producer price index (PPI), which measures the cost of goods at the factory gate, fell 1.7 percent year-on-year last month, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, as a rebound in some commodity prices reduced downward pressures. Protracted declines in the PPI bode ill for industrial prospects and economic growth, as they put off customers who seek to delay purchases in anticipation of cheaper deals in future-starring companies of business and

funds. Chinese PPI has been negative for more than four years but narrowing declines in the last three months have fuelled hopes the country-a key driver of the world economy-could be reaching the bottom of a painful slowdown. The drop was less than the 2.0 percent decline forecast by economists in a Bloomberg News survey, and sharply narrower than the 2.6 percent decline in June.

The improvement in PPI "should benefit the corporate sector's profitability" researchers with ANZ said in a note. But it will mainly help state-owned enterprises, which dominate heavy industry, they added, so that the impact on private

sector investment will be limited. Producer price inflation should continue to strengthen and will "turn positive" in the second half of 2016 as commodity prices stabilize, they said.

But they warned that until Beijing's plans to cut coal and steel capacity have "made significant progress, the PPI should not stay strong".

Producer prices were helped by steady demand and "lower capacity utilisation" in factories, analysts with CICC Macro noted, adding that "higher PPI indicates continued improvement" in manufacturers' profitability this year.

China's GDP expanded last year at its slowest rate in a quarter of a century as

Beijing strives to effect a difficult transition in its growth model away from reliance on exports and fixed-asset investment towards one driven by consumers. Consumer inflation eased slightly in July, Tuesday's data showed. The consumer price index (CPI) — a main gauge of inflation-rose 1.8 percent on year, the NBS said, lower than June's 1.9 percent rise but matching expectations in a Bloomberg survey.

Moderate inflation can be a boon to consumption as it pushes buyers to act before prices go up. Beijing is targeting consumer inflation of around 3 percent this year. A drop in food price inflation dragged on the figures, Julian Evans-

Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a commentary, noting a "continued pick-up in broader price pressures" especially in service sectors including health care and education.

"The summer holiday fuelled the seasonal increases in prices of some services," said NBS analyst Yu Qiumei in a statement. Air ticket prices and tourism agency charges rose 12.1 percent and 6.5 percent respectively month-on-month. Evans-Pritchard said that inflation was likely to rise in coming months but not enough to concern policymakers. Shanghai stocks were slightly higher by the break yesterday, edging up 0.29 percent. — AFP



# WORLD STOCKS JUMP AS INVESTORS SEARCH FOR YIELD

**LONDON:** World stocks hit their highest levels in almost a year as investors searched for yield, while sterling fell to its weakest in a month on the prospect of easier monetary policy after Britain's vote to leave the European Union. Wall Street was set to open modestly higher, according to index futures. Ian McCafferty, a prominent Bank of England policy hawk, told The Times newspaper that, if the UK economy slowed as much as sentiment surveys have suggested, more easing would be required on top of the measures unveiled by the Bank last week.

That was enough to push sterling as low as \$1.2968, its weakest since July 11. It last traded at

\$1.2983, down 0.4 percent on the day.

But the picture was complicated by data from the British Retail Consortium showing the biggest rise in retail spending in Britain in six months in July. "McCafferty really underlined the dovishness of the MPC last week," said Jane Foley, a strategist with Rabobank in London. "But (reading the BRC data) consumers do seem to have been more robust than many had anticipated."

The BoE cut interest rates last week for the first time since 2009 to cushion the economic shock of the Brexit vote, and Australia cut its rates to a record low. New Zealand is widely expected to cut on Thursday.

Britain's blue-chip share index rose 0.3 percent, in line with a 0.4 percent rise in the pan-European STOXX 600 index. This lifted MSCI's all-country world index by 0.2 percent to a peak of 417.80 points, its highest since Aug. 19, 2015.

The European index was led higher by autos and banks and by forecast-beating company earnings. Overall, the second-quarter earnings season has been encouraging so far. Of the 77 percent of STOXX 600 companies that have reported second-quarter results, 61 percent have met or beaten expectations, according to StarMine data.

"European earnings are surprising on the positive

side, which is a confirmation of solid economic developments in Europe. However, the second half may not be as good due to uncertainties related to Brexit and some other political issues in Europe," UniCredit strategist Christian Stocker said.

The dollar dipped against a basket of major currencies, reversing earlier gains on slightly raised chances of higher Federal Reserve interest rates this year after Friday's stronger-than-expected US jobs data. The yen edged up 0.2 percent to 102.19 per dollar while the euro slipped 0.1 percent to \$1.1075.

inflation data kept alive the prospect of easier monetary policy. Consumer price slowed compared with June while a long decline in producer price moderated. The figure was better than expectations of a 2.0 decline in a Bloomberg News poll of economists and much less than the 2.6 percent fall in June. Protracted declines in the Producer Price Index bode ill for industrial prospects as customers seek to delay purchases in anticipation of lower prices in future, starving companies of business and funds.

Elsewhere traders were generally cautious after US markets retreated from record highs. Sydney added 0.3 percent by the close and Seoul ended 0.6 percent higher. Hong Kong closed down 0.1 percent. Tokyo closed up 0.7 percent on a weaker yen and as energy stocks got a lift.

The dollar was at 102.45 yen, unchanged from Monday in New York but well up from levels below 101 seen last week. Japanese exporters benefit from a weaker yen as it inflates the value of their overseas profits.

Energy stocks rose after OPEC said it would hold an informal meeting in Algeria next month-hinting it could take action to stabilise the crude market. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries said Monday that a meeting would take place on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum in Algeria from September 26 to 28, ahead of a planned meeting at the end of November.

Hong Kong-listed CNOOC and PetroChina were among those that recorded gains. In Tokyo energy exporter Inpex added 3.2 percent and refiner JX Holdings added 1.6 percent. In Sydney, Rio Tinto ticked up 1.6 percent, while Santos and Oil Search were also higher. —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report										
Tuesday 09 August 2016										
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low					
Price index	▼ -7.70	5,508.38	5,516.08	5,516.08	5,470.78					
Weighted Index	▲ 0.27	353.92	353.65	353.92	350.82					
KSX 15	▲ 1.74	821.05	819.31	821.05	811.63					

Volume	112,675,084
Value (KWD)	8,743,728
Number of Trades	2,740

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	▼ 0.0
IKARUS	38.0	37.5	81,204	3,053	4	37.5	▼ -0.5
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	▼ 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	750	▼ 0.0
ENERGYH	47.5	45.0	76,000	3,460	12	47.0	▲ 0.5
GPI	39.5	38.0	7,149,140	277,545	101	38.5	▼ -1.0
ARAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	▼ 0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>7,206,350</b>	<b>284,059</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>792.13</b>	<b>▼ -1.81</b>
KFOUC	154	164	388	64	1	164	▼ 0.0
DFCC	500	495	146,210	72,874	7	500	▲ 10.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	▼ 0.0
ALQURAIN	200	194	127,096	25,520	28	204	▲ 4.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>274,296</b>	<b>98,458</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>974.22</b>	<b>▲ 10.20</b>
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	▼ 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	315	▼ 0.0
CABLE	385	380	60,560	23,191	10	380	▼ 0.0
SHIP	180	172	24,327	4,233	16	174	▼ -2.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	960	▼ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	▼ 0.0
MRC	66	66	165,000	10,890	1	66	▲ 4.0
ACICO	285	276	12,681	3,551	5	280	▲ 5.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▼ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	▼ 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▼ 0.0
NICBM	198	198	60,000	11,880	6	198	▼ -2.0
EQUIPMENT	53	53	80,000	4,240	7	53	▼ -1.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	▼ 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▼ 0.0
SALBOOKH	62	62	11,500	713	6	62	▼ -1.0
ADLTU	480	475	268,851	128,888	11	480	▼ 0.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▼ 0.0
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	38.5	▼ 0.0
KGL	44.5	42.5	8,313	354	4	44.5	▲ 0.5
KCPK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	172	▼ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	1,600	1,500	5,010	7,516	4	1,600	▼ 0.0
NAFAIS	190	190	1,000	190	1	190	▲ 18.0
SFAWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	▼ 0.0
GFC	30.0	30.0	1	0	1	30.0	▲ 2.0
MAYADEEN	28.5	28.0	280,100	7,363	6	28.5	▼ -0.5
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	670	▼ 0.0
MTCC	55	54	1,303,516	70,839	35	55	▼ -1.0
UFAC	690	690	20,500	14,040	4	690	▼ -10.0
ALFAICO	212	210	607,155	128,295	13	210	▼ 0.0
MUBARRAD	59	57	80,900	4,089	4	59	▲ 1.0
LOGISTICS	72	69	965,216	67,988	45	71	▼ -1.0
SCEM	81	81	10,200	826	1	81	▼ 0.0
GCEM	75	75	63,000	4,725	3	75	▼ -1.0
QIC	77	77	428,448	32,990	1	77	▲ 2.0
GCEM	74	74	348,005	25,752	8	74	▲ 1.0
RKWC	90	90	120,100	10,809	2	90	▼ 0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	▼ 0.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>4,904,383</b>	<b>563,962</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>1168.55</b>	<b>▲ 5.55</b>
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	164	▼ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	▼ 0.0
PAPCO	98	98	1,000	98	1	98	▼ -2.0
CATTL	240	230	3,710	878	5	230	▼ -10.0
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	▼ 0.0
POULT	176	176	12,817	2,256	3	176	▼ 0.0
FOOD	2,480	2,460	158,182	392,238	8	2,480	▼ 0.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>175,709</b>	<b>395,470</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1200.59</b>	<b>▼ -8.82</b>
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	202	▼ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▼ 0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	248	▼ 0.0
Health Care						<b>1043.81</b>	<b>▼ 0.00</b>
KCIN	950	940	1,750	1,650	4	940	▼ -10
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▼ 0.0
SULTAN	56	55	22,273	1,240	4	55	▼ -1
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	26.0	▼ 0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▼ 0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198	▼ 0.0
OLULAFUJ	130	118	138,089	16,846	32	120	▼ -4
MUNTAZAHAT	87	87	20,000	1,740	1	87	▲ 1
JAZEFERA	880	880	8,425	7,246	2	880	▼ -20
SOOR	124	120	121,361	14,799	21	120	▼ -2
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▼ 0.0
ALRAI	154	154	30,000	4,620	2	154	▼ 0.0
ZIMAH	41.5	40.5	959,363	39,305	25	41.5	▼ 0.0
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	▼ 0.0
Mezzan	1,080	1,060	14,543	15,665	5	1,080	▼ 0.0
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>1,313,804</b>	<b>103,112</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>933.65</b>	<b>▼ -5.18</b>
ZAIN	335	330	1,305,316	435,375	32	335	▼ 0.0
OOERDOO	1,080	1,080	1,964	2,121	5	1,080	▼ -20
HITSTELEC	39.0	38.0	3,406,066	131,563	76	38.5	▼ -1
VIVA	940	920	101,051	93,833	49	940	▲ 10
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>4,814,407</b>	<b>662,891</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>699.54</b>	<b>▼ 0.88</b>
NBK	600	590	712,359	427,414	27	600	▼ 0.0
GBK	230	228	843,400	191,828	35	230	▼ 0.0
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	▼ 0.0
ABK	315	310	10,130	3,181	3	315	▼ -5
ALMUTAHED	395	390	152	59	2	395	▼ 0.0
KID	188	188	1,310,676	246,407	23	188	▼ 0.0
BURG	335	330	467,114	156,482	16	335	▼ 0.0
KFIN	465	455	1,993,899	915,939	60	465	▲ 5
BOUBYAN	395	390	55,723	21,863	17	395	▼ 0.0
AUB	195	194	180,100	34,940	6	195	▼ 0.0
ITHMR	37.5	35.0	17,846,523	654,687	256	37.0	▲ 2
WARBARANK	172	170	647,448	110,327	61	172	▲ 2
<b>Banks</b>			<b>24,067,533</b>	<b>2,763,127</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>795.44</b>	<b>▲ 4.31</b>
KINS	275	275	7,000	1,925	2	275	▼ 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	710	▼ 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	▼ 0.0
WINS	106	106	28	3	1	106	▼ 0.0
KUWAITRE	190	190	5,000	950	1	190	▼ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	46.0	▼ 0.0
WETHAQ	29.5	27.0	64,262	1,781	8	29.5	▼ 0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▼ 0.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>76,290</b>	<b>4,659</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1008.14</b>	<b>▼ 0.00</b>

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	35.0	33.5	331374	11,335	22	34.5	▼ -0.5
KRE	53	53	168,122	8,910	3	53	▼ 0.0
URC	116	106	194,610	22,429	14	116	▲ 8.0
NRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	▼ 0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	▼ 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	590	▼ 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	138	▼ 0.0
MASGALJI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.0	▼ 0.0
ARABREC	31.0	30.0	395,170	11,968	20	30.5	▼ -1.0
ERESCO	47.0	46.5	174,000	8,169	7	47.0	▼ 0.5
MADANEC	800	790	250,114	197,780	16	800	▲ 10.0
INJAZZAI	72	70	91,000	6,372	5	72	▼ -1.0
INVESTORS	22.5	22.0	2,575,085	50,917	46	22.0	▼ -0.5
IRC	29.0	28.0	245,250	7,000	8	29.0	▼ -0.5
ALTIJARIA	76	76	254,315	19,320	5	76	▼ 0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.5	▼ 0.0
AAYANRE	63	63	190,000	11,970	1	63	▼ 0.0
AQAR	60	60	100,000	6,000	1	60	▼ 0.0
AIADARIA	22.5	22.					





# FORD MIDDLE EAST REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO KUWAIT MARKET

ALGHANIM AUTO TO BE AUTHORIZED IMPORTER OF FORD BRAND PRODUCTS



**KUWAIT:** Kalyana Sivagnanam, Marketing, Sales and Services Vice President, Ford Middle East and Africa and Thierry Sabbagh, Ford Middle East's managing director, address a press conference in Kuwait yesterday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

**KUWAIT:** Ford Motor Company said it is committed to growing its business in Kuwait and most importantly, better serve Ford and Lincoln customers with the best brand representation, at a news conference held earlier yesterday.

Speaking to the local news media in Kuwait, Kalyana Sivagnanam, Marketing, Sales and Services Vice President, Ford Middle East and Africa, said: "Kuwait is an important market for Ford in the Middle East and we are committed to serving the Kuwaiti market and our customers."

"Ford Motor Company has terminated its dealership agreement with Arabian Motors Group WLL for the Ford and Lincoln brands in Kuwait effective 27 July 2016. As we expand our businesses in the Middle East, offering our customers in Kuwait world class products and a best in class ownership experience remains Ford's top priority, and we believe that Alghanim Auto will bring their expertise in automotive retail and excellence in customer satisfaction and services to help us further grow the Ford business in Kuwait, in line with the industry."

Ford has been in a contractual relationship with Alghanim Auto as an importer since March 27, 2016. Alghanim Industries is one of the largest privately-owned and professionally managed companies in the region that enjoys an exceptional track record of success in automotive distribution, sales and service, as well as being a market leader in almost every sector in which it operates.

Thierry Sabbagh, Ford Middle East's managing director added: "We are confident that Alghanim Auto are the right partner for the Ford brand moving forward and to help us deliver a best in class ownership experience in Kuwait."

"We are fully committed to provide the sales and service support our Kuwaiti customers need and are working closely with our new importer, Alghanim Auto, to deliver what our customers want: great products and services at great value for money," he explained.

Ford officials reiterated the fact that Ford and Lincoln customers can purchase Ford products as well as get their vehicles serviced by Ford trained technicians and service advisors as well as purchase original Ford and MotorCraft parts from Alghanim Auto's dedicated showroom and service center in Al Shuwaikh.

Ford also clarified Alghanim Auto is the only importer authorized by Ford Motor Company to perform warranty repairs for Ford and Lincoln vehicles in Kuwait, and that customers with Ford or Lincoln Extended Service Plans will be able to fulfill their contracts only at Alghanim Auto.

Ford Motor Company is a global automotive and mobility company based in Dearborn, Michigan. With about 201,000 employees and 67 plants worldwide, the company's core business includes designing, manufacturing, marketing, financing and servicing a full line of Ford cars, trucks, SUVs and electrified vehicles, as well as Lincoln luxury vehicles. At the same time, Ford is aggressively pursuing emerging opportunities through Ford Smart Mobility, the company's plan to be a leader in connectivity, mobility, autonomous vehicles, the customer experience and data and analytics. The company provides financial services through Ford Motor Credit Company.

## BOE BREXIT PLAN CHALLENGED BY WORLD AWASH WITH CHEAP MONEY

**LONDON:** The Bank of England's first rate cut since 2009 looks unlikely to be passed in full to borrowers, despite the BoE being ready to lend banks as much as 100 billion pounds (\$130 billion) to ensure it happens. The launch of the Term Funding Scheme (TFS) - the BoE's biggest intervention in Britain's banking market in four years - is likely to offer a modest boost to growth. But it also highlights the difficulty of implementing cuts in interest rates as they approach zero.

Governor Mark Carney said lenders had "no excuse" not to pass on August's quarter-point cut in interest rates to 0.25 percent, as the TFS would neutralise the negative impact of the rate cut on bank profits by providing lenders with cheap loans.

But less than a week later, things already look more complicated for the project that is part of the central bank's response to Britain's vote to quit the European Union. Britain's biggest mortgage lender, Lloyds Banking Group, is holding off cutting its main rate, while First Direct, part of HSBC, reduced the interest rate it pays out on one of its savings accounts by 0.4 percentage points.

"The narrative presented was a bit simplistic," said Ian Gordon, a banking analyst at Investec.

The key point is that British lenders vary greatly in how much they can benefit from the TFS, depending on whether they already have access to finance that costs them less than the 0.25 percent minimum charge for funding from the BoE scheme. Major lenders such as Royal Bank of Scotland, Barclays and HSBC already have more cash than they have been able to lend out, often from business and personal cur-

rent accounts on which the banks pay little or no interest.

For them, the TFS will do nothing to reduce the squeeze on their net interest margin - the difference between savings and lending rates that is the main source of profit from lending.

As a result, interest rates on new two-year fixed-rate mortgages - Britain's most popular type of home finance - were likely to drop by less than 25 basis points, Gordon said, as banks' sought to preserve profits and priced in a higher risk of default as the economic outlook darkened.

"I think prices will come down, but I'm skeptical you will see them come 25 basis points lower," Investec's Gordon said. Existing mortgage rates that tracked Bank Rate would fall, but credit card rates and new business lending - which is sensitive to the economic outlook - would prove stickier.

Bankers say Lloyds and smaller challenger banks such as Virgin Money, Shawbrook and Aldermore gain more from the scheme, as they rely on costlier wholesale finance and savings accounts.

Gordon said this gave them scope to cut the interest they paid savers by more than a quarter percentage point - an effect of the TFS which the BoE has not chosen to stress.

### MODEST GAINS

None of this means the TFS is a waste of time, but it is unlikely to have the same impact as the BoE's last big intervention, the Funding for Lending Scheme in 2012. "Overall I think it will provide a small stimulus to the economy ... but it's not a game-changer," Pantheon Macroeconomics' Samuel Tombs said.

The FLS came at a time when

British banks faced high borrowing costs due to the eurozone crisis, and offered incentives to lend as the economy gathered steam. In just over a year, it provided more than 40 billion pounds of finance to banks and building societies. By contrast, the TFS comes at a time when banks can already raise finance cheaply, and the BoE expects business and housing investment to fall sharply, reducing demand for loans.

"We are in a different world now where banks are in a much healthier position, where it's not really the supply of credit that is the constraint on the economy," BoE Deputy Governor Ben Broadbent told Reuters on Friday. "There is no point in offering very powerful incentives to lend ... because it is not clear they would be taken up."

The roughly 100 billion pounds of newly created money available via the TFS represents about 5 percent of outstanding UK loans, and a fair chunk may be taken up by banks refinancing old FLS borrowing for another four years at a cheaper rate.

Full pass through of last week's rate cut would take time, Broadbent said, and the BoE was not looking to police every single loan rate and would rely instead on competitive pressure to push down borrowing costs.

JP Morgan economist Allan Monks speculated that the TFS could ultimately provide a path for the BoE to introduce negative interest rates by the back door, circumventing Carney's opposition and effectively paying banks to lend. Broadbent, however, was quick to dismiss this. A European Central Bank scheme similar to the TFS, TLTRO II, showed the difficulty of getting banks to offer deposits or lend at negative rates, he said. —Reuters



**LAVAL:** The head office and logo of Valeant Pharmaceuticals in Laval, Quebec, Canada. —AP

## SOLID OUTLOOK FROM VALEANT, PROMISED CHANGES; SHARES UP

**NEW YORK:** Drugmaker Valeant Pharmaceuticals, a fast-growing Wall Street darling until its price-hiking business strategy made it a symbol of pharmaceutical company greed, said it's undergoing a restructuring as its new CEO attempts to turn it around and repair its tattered reputation.

The company has come under a harsh spotlight for repeatedly buying older medicines with limited competition and then jacking their prices up threefold or more, with no changes or improvements to the drugs. The Canadian company's spate of acquisitions and soaring revenue propelled its stock through the roof, while running up some \$30 billion in debt.

As soaring drug prices became a hot political issue, Valeant has been hit with three ongoing federal probes into its accounting and business practices and criticism from presidential candidates, forcing it to renounce its price-hiking strategy and push out Michael Pearson, the CEO behind that strategy.

Meanwhile, insurers and other payers

trying to reign in their costs for medicines successfully pressed for bigger drug discounts and rebates, which slashed Valeant's revenue from sales in developed countries by 14 percent in the second quarter. As a result, Valeant yesterday reported a wider loss and an 11 percent dip in total revenue during the quarter. Still, its shares jumped after the beleaguered company stuck by its financial forecast for the year and said it would unveil a new strategy. Valeant's losses widened to \$302.3 million, or 88 cents per share, from \$53 million, or 15 cents per share, a year prior. Earnings, adjusted for one-time gains and costs, came to \$1.40 per share.

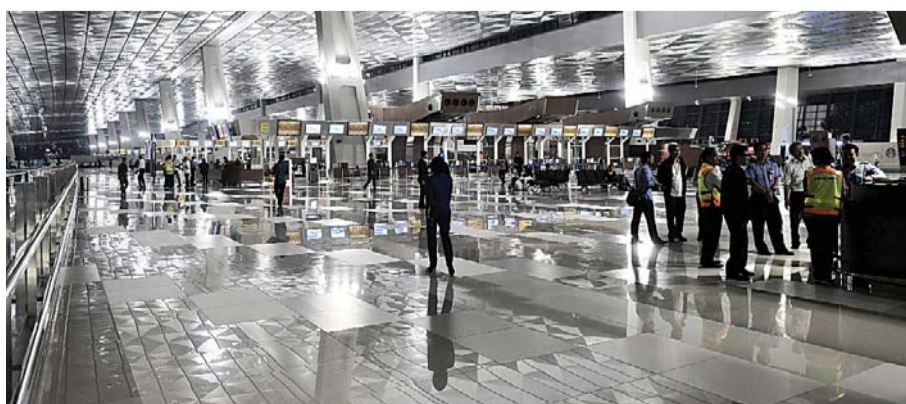
Revenue tumbled to \$2.42 billion in the period. Both results fell short of Wall Street expectations. Analysts had expected per-share earnings of \$1.61, and revenue of \$2.59 billion, according to a survey by Zacks Investment Research. Despite a weak quarter, Valeant stuck to earlier projections of annual full-year earnings in the range of \$6.60 to \$7 per share,

with revenue in the range of \$9.9 billion to \$10.1 billion.

That eased some concerns for investors, who have seen the value of the shares they hold lose more than 90 percent of their value over the past year. Shares jumped 13 percent to \$25.38 in morning trading yesterday. One year ago, shares cost about \$264.

Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc., based in Laval, Quebec, said it is taking steps to streamline its portfolio of products and has agreed to sell rights to several drugs. On Tuesday, Pearson's successor, CEO Joseph Papa, said that the company would be taking a "new strategic direction." No details about that direction were released, but anything that brings Valeant closer to a more typical pharmaceutical concern would be a relief to embattled investors.

"Although it will take time to implement and execute our turnaround plan, I am confident that we will show progress in the coming quarters," Papa said in a company statement. —AP



**JAKARTA:** This general view shows the check-in hall at the newly-opened terminal 3 at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Tangerang, on the outskirts of Jakarta, yesterday. —AFP

## INDONESIAN CAPITAL'S AIRPORT OPENS \$560 MILLION TERMINAL

**JAKARTA:** The Indonesian capital's airport opened a new terminal yesterday after years of operating at far above its passenger capacity.

Domestic flights for national carrier Garuda began operating in the morning from Soekarno-Hatta airport's steel and glass \$560 million Terminal 3. Its international flights will shift to the new terminal next month. Other airlines will gradually move their flights to the terminal and the airport company plans to start refurbishing two old terminals, built in 1984

and 1992, later this year.

Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 250 million people, is one of world's fastest growing air travel markets. But many international airlines bypass the capital Jakarta in favor of modern, high-capacity airports at Bangkok, Singapore or Kuala Lumpur for their Southeast Asian stopovers. The airport operator and government hopes the new terminal, and a third runway that is under development, will change that.

Budi Karya Sumadi, Indonesia's transport

minister and former president of the airport company, said "this terminal was built to change the image of the capital Jakarta." Soekarno-Hatta airport will be able to handle 62 million passengers a year once the renovated terminals are fully operational again in early 2018. The airport handled about 54 million passengers last year, making it the 18th busiest in the world, according to Airports Council International. An electric train from the airport to the city is slated for completion in early 2017. —AP





## ALL-NEW INFINITI Q30 UNVEILED AT EXCLUSIVE LAUNCH EVENT IN BEIRUT

**BEIRUT:** At an exclusive event in Beirut, (Lebanon) Infiniti Middle East took the covers of the hotly anticipated all-new Infiniti Q30. The Infiniti Q30 active compact is a new type of premium vehicle for a new type of consumer. Representing Infiniti's first entry into the fast-growing premium compact segment, the Q30 will play an important role in continuing to drive the growth of the brand here in the region.

Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director, Infiniti Middle East said: "When we first debuted the Infiniti Q30 to the region at the Dubai International Motor Show last year - it was met with widespread critical acclaim. We are extremely proud to be here today when we can officially launch the car to all markets in the Middle East. The Infiniti Q30 is a completely new segment and direction for the Infiniti brand and we are confident that this vehicle will continue to deliver Infiniti's premium experience to a new segment of customer."

The Q30 takes Infiniti's signature

design cues and evolves them into new dynamic shapes. The double-arch grille with 3D mesh, for example, has grown from the Q50, with a more fluid movement into the headlamps. The dramatic curves and turbulent lines flow up the bonnet, over the fenders and across the body line into the strong shoulder of the car.

The signature C-pillar arcs forward in a dynamic crescent shape that emphasises motion, even when stationary. The contrast of the long, low-slung roof-line, conjuring an image of a rakish shooting brake in silhouette, and elevated stance add to the visual impact. This also adds to a sleek look that gives the impression of the car being in motion even when standing still. The balance of sculptural shapes moving past one another creates a harmonious design that can be appreciated at a glance.

An important, differentiating characteristic of the Q30's design is its combination of elevated stance with an overall height that is comparable with models in

the traditional compact segment. The Q30's height (1,495mm) allows for a higher hip point (531mm), which aids ingress and egress. The A-pillar design is intentionally slim, contributing to enhanced visibility for a confident driving experience.

The Q30 Sport stands a little lower (1,475mm), accentuating the already distinctive, coupe-like silhouette, which is emphasised by a shallow side glass area, while also providing for agile ride and handling. Driving performance will also be differentiated, thanks to individual suspensions settings and distinctive ride and handling characteristics - offering premium compact buyers a choice that is specific to their personal needs and preferences.

### Striking appearance

The Q30 Premium includes LED front fog lamps, body-coloured and heated door mirrors, as well as chrome dual rectangular exhaust finishers. 18-inch alloy wheels add to the Premium

grade's striking appearance.

On the technology front, the Q30 delivers in spades as the best equipped with the highest level of assistive technology in the segment. This includes' Around View Monitor with Moving Object Detection, Intelligent Parking Assist, Forward Collision Warning with Forward Emergency Braking and Blind Spot Warning. A first for Infiniti and this category, the Intelligent Parking Assist is designed to work in the three most common parking situations, tight parallel parking, 90 degree backing-in and heading -in parking. Using 12 sensors in the front and rear, the system automatically steers the vehicle into place with the additional help or audio and visual warnings whilst the driver controls the brake and accelerator.

Ranking among the best in the premium compact segment, front passenger seat width is 1,393mm; rear passenger seat width measures 1,349mm; head room (without sunroof) is 108mm in the front and 43mm in the rear of the car.

There is 626mm of leg room in the front and 538mm in the back, and 1,324mm and 1,244mm of hip room front and rear, respectively.

Cargo capacity is highly competitive, notably the boot capacity of 430 litres. Aided by a wide, square aperture, and practical, squared-off dimensions, the boot will easily hold two large suitcases, with 60:40 split-fold rear passenger seats liberating additional space for larger cargo.

At launch, the Infiniti Q30 will be available with 1.6L or 2.0L Turbo variants in a 2WD configuration. The 2.0L Turbo will also be offered with an optional AWD drivetrain. The 2.0L Turbo engine delivers 208hp and 350Nm torque. When equipped with front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive, the highest-performing engine in the range is capable of powering the Infiniti Q30 from 0-to-100kph in 7.3 seconds.

Available across the Middle East the all-new Infiniti Q30 starts at AED 105,000.

# MARKA ANNOUNCES Q2 2016 FINANCIAL RESULTS

STRONG GROWTH IN REVENUE, A RISE OF 18.2% OVER Q1 2016



**Khaled Almheiri**  
Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of Marka

**DUBAI:** Marka PJSC (DFM: MARKA), the first retail-focused listed company in the UAE, yesterday released its interim financial results for the second quarter of 2016. For the three months ending 30th June 2016, the company reported total revenue of AED 89.5 million, an increase of 18.2 percent compared to Q1 2016. Total losses reported for the period were AED 18.72 million. However net operating loss for Q2 2016 was AED 3.83 million. The Q2 2016 results were achieved despite a generally slower retail season during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Khaled Almheiri Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of Marka, said, "Marka has been extremely busy during the second quarter of 2016, launching the world's first Harper's BAZAAR Café in Dubai Design District (d3) in partnership with Hearst

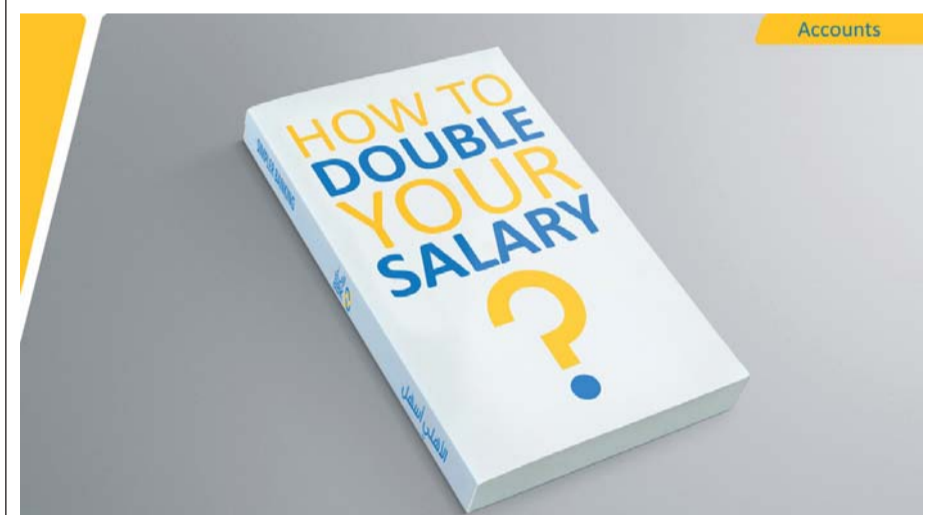
Magazines International, and completing franchise agreements for Reem Al-Bawadi restaurants in Kuwait, Bahrain, KSA and Lahore, Pakistan. On behalf of the board of directors, I am extremely pleased on the progress the company is making on our business plan to build a portfolio of exciting and profitable hospitality and fashion/beauty brands. Our focus continues to be on building for future growth and delivering long-term value for our shareholders."

Almheiri added, "Today's strong Q2 results have been achieved against a backdrop of a challenging retail economy and a slow retail month during the Holy Month of Ramadan, and reflect our commitment to building the best retail operating company in the Middle East. With a focus on investing for the company's future, we have 19 new

outlets planned for opening in 2016 - including in the UAE four Reem Al-Bawadi restaurants and three Cheeky Monkeys Playland & Sweet Surprises outlets. Our efforts are seeing fruition in building profitable trading platforms for 2017 and beyond."

As part of its other regional expansion activities, Marka recently opened its first Reem Al-Bawadi restaurant in Bahrain, and earlier announced plans to launch nine franchised outlets of Cheeky Monkeys in Saudi Arabia over the next five years. More recently, the company launched its loyalty rewards program in partnership with Air Miles Middle East, and opened its home-grown Italian street-food concept Vicolo in Dubai Design District (d3).

Marka currently operates over 50 outlets across its portfolio of hospitality, sports and fashion/beauty brands.



## ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 15TH 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' DRAWS

**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 15th 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 9th August, 2016 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw and is running until 30 September, 2016.

### The winners this week are:

- 1) Nada Ghanim Faraj Mubarak, Sabah Hospital Branch
- 2) Hares Abdulaleem Ahmad Khaleel, Head Office Branch

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw.

The next 'Double Your Salary' draw will be held on 16th August, 2016 where two new lucky winners will be announced. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names.



## CBK, MASTERCARD LAUNCH NEW BRITISH AIRWAYS-COBRAND MASTERCARD CARDS

**KUWAIT:** Building on their long-standing partnership and numerous successful joint campaigns and value-added offers, Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and MasterCard succeed once again with their new products - three co-branded MasterCard products including World, Platinum and Prepaid credit cards launched by CBK in partnership with British Airways.

As the only British Airways-branded MasterCard credit cards in the Middle East, the products combine a world-leading card concept with a global loyalty program, offering cardholders the opportunity to collect Avios points (the reward currency of the British Airways Executive Club) and redeem them for flights and upgrades.

Sahar Al-Rumaih, Acting General Manager for Retail Banking Division, CBK, said: "Our partnership with British Airways with the support of MasterCard is a significant

development for our wider growth plans in Kuwait and we are proud to be the only bank issuing a British Airways co-branded MasterCard credit card in the Middle East. It forms part of our overall strategy to bring the best card products to our customers."

The cards are loaded with benefits that MasterCard provides to customers such as Lounge access, global travel Insurance, Free nights in more than 1,200 hotels of luxury Starwood hotels around the world (SPG hotels). Customers will be able to collect Avios on purchases, from booking flights to paying for dinner or fuel or everyday shopping and spend them to pay for flights worldwide with British Airways and oneworld airline partners.

Raghav Prasad, General Manager - Gulf Countries, MasterCard, said: "The launch of the only British Airways-branded

MasterCard credit cards in the Middle East is a significant step forward for MasterCard as we continue to provide an enhanced and rewarding payment experience for our customers across the region. Travel is an important part of our lives in the Middle East and Commercial Bank of Kuwait's partnership with British Airways will allow frequent travellers to make the most of MasterCard's multi-tiered security while benefitting from attractive travel rewards and features."

The new co-branded credit cards feature a number of value-added benefits, including access to MasterCard Priceless Cities, which offers VIP treatment and unique experiences in entertainment, dining, hotels and shopping in cities around the world. MasterCard World and Platinum cardholders also benefit from lounge access, travel insurance and concierge services.

Devices

Smartphone photography at its smartest

the new Huawei P9 Plus starting from KD 15 monthly

## VIVA LAUNCHES HUAWEI P9 PLUS DEVICE WITH POSTPAID PACKAGES

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched the new Huawei P9 Plus device, smartphone photography at its smartest, with postpaid packages starting KD 15.

The new Huawei P9 Plus comes with the ground breaking Leica dual lens technology to capture more light with two sensors, one RGB and one monochrome. Together they combine richer colors and greater details for stunning pictures. Users can take photos of professional standards with the many choices in film mode and wide aperture effect.

The 8 megapixel front camera allows superior selfies even in low light. The 3400mAh battery gives longer battery life with rapid charge. The enhanced 'Press Touch' innovation builds on Huawei's screen pressure technology.

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



## FEW LIVESTREAMING APPS BEYOND FACEBOOK LIVE

**NEW YORK:** Live video is growing more popular as a way for families to share big moments with far-away loved ones and for artists and athletes to connect with fans. Livestreaming has also made the news in recent weeks as House Democrats used Periscope to broadcast a sit-in over gun control after the Republican majority cut off television cameras. It was also got attention when a Minnesota woman used Facebook Live to stream footage of her dying boyfriend after he was shot by police. And it might come up during the Olympics if spectators and athletes livestream events publicly - a violation of ticketing and Olympic rules and a challenge to the billions of dollars TV companies pay for rights. Below are some of the most popular ways to livestream from your phone:

### FACEBOOK LIVE

Anyone with a Facebook account can livestream anything using Facebook's app. To use it, tap the empty box where your status update would go. A menu should pop up with the option for "live video." A couple of taps later, you are live, broadcasting to your friends. You can change the privacy setting to make your live video public, too. The video is available for replay once you are done. You can delete it or save it on your phone if you want.

### PERISCOPE

The Twitter-owned video-streaming app made its debut about a year ago, well-timed with the exponential growth of people watching and taking videos on their smartphones. You can broadcast to select followers or the broader public. You can share your precise location or keep it private. Viewers can send comments, and streams can be shared on Twitter, Facebook or other social media services.

### MEERKAT

Seventeen months ago, Meerkat was the darling of the South By Southwest Interactive tech confab, seemingly destined to make livestreaming the next hot thing. Then came Periscope and Facebook Live, and Meerkat's popularity dropped. The company is no longer focused on livestreaming and has instead "pivoted" - Silicon Valley speak for shifting resources elsewhere when your first (or second, or third) idea doesn't work.

### YOUNOW

You sign in with their Twitter, Facebook, Google or Instagram account to stream live videos. YouNow also lets you "discover talented broadcasters" and video chat live with people around the world, as its website touts. Music is an especially popular broadcast topic, but you'll find the usual stuff as well, such as people livestreaming themselves as they sleep. Zzzzz.

### TWITCH

The Amazon-owned livestreaming service started off as a way for gamers to stream their gameplay and show off their skills. Now, Twitch is broadening its reach. It has added channels in its "creative" area for people to broadcast live music, drawing, programming and so on. You can pay a subscription fee for certain benefits on channels, and even tip performers. People can livestream from traditional computers, too - not just smartphones, as most other services require. - AP



**ANAHEIM:** In this Thursday, June 23, 2016, photo, Erick Armas, left, captures video of, from right, Jordan Hoyle, Violet Summersby, George Padilla and Sue Evelyn Gil, who were live broadcasting from the live.me booth at VidCon, an annual convention for the fans of stars from YouTube, Vine, Instagram and other video platforms, at the Anaheim Convention Center.



**CANTON:** This photo provided by the SutherlandGold Group shows Casey Cooper at his home in Canton, Ga., on the "Coop3r Livestream Set." — AP photos

# BOOM IN LIVE VIDEO HELPING FEW CREATORS MAKE A LIVING EMERGING AS A LUCRATIVE CORNER OF THE INTERNET

**ANAHEIM:** Casey Cooper is one of the most famous drummers on the planet right now. He has a million followers on YouTube, and his flaming-sticks drumming cover of Ellie Goulding's "Burn" is insane. But he'd just prefer you skip his recorded performances and instead catch him live - on streaming video, that is - because he can make more money that way.

Live video is fast emerging as a lucrative corner of the internet where artists can profit from fans who tip lavishly in order to rub virtual shoulders with their favorite broadcasters. Startups such as Ampli.fi and YouNow are helping foster a digital economy around live video. Now, deep-pocketed tech goliaths like Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat are joining the party. Different performers have different reasons for preferring live video. Cooper, 24, says fan tips can bring in much more than his hundreds of millions of views on YouTube, where copyright holders claim the ad revenue for use of their underlying songs.

Recording labels haven't reached into live performers' tip jars as they can't really replace downloads or streams of songs. A handful of sites including YouNow have registered to pay songwriting royalties, but the fee is minimal, according to the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Cooper's first session on Ampli.fi, a musician-focused streaming service, netted him nearly \$100 in about an hour.

### Power to the people

"It's so powerful," says Cooper, who broadcast his live show from his home in Canton, Georgia. "People will say, 'Please, please, please just shout me out. Say my username.'" Such intense fan interaction is one reason internet and media companies are jump-starting their live-video efforts. Facebook is spending tens of millions of dollars recruiting celebrities such as Kevin Hart and Gordon Ramsay for shows on its Facebook Live system. YouTube

just announced the ability to go live from your mobile phone. And cable giant Comcast is among several companies that invested \$15 million in October in YouNow, a live-streaming service popular among teens.

How popular? Just ask Sandra Alvarez, a 14-year-old student from Los Angeles who says she used to spend \$50 a month - more than half her allowance - tipping broadcasters on YouNow. She would get notified whenever one went live; with some, she says, she would tune in "basically every time." Some services like upstart Live.me cultivate such devotion by rewarding Alvarez and other followers with daily dollops of digital currency that they can use to buy their favorites virtual gifts.

### Recorded live

But live video isn't always easy to watch. Broadcasts on Twitter-owned Periscope are regularly over before many people even find out about them. Live video requires habits that feel like a return to the old days of broadcast TV. So more companies are giving users a way to save and share recordings - though at that point they're not really live anymore, of course.

Facebook Live stored its videos from the start. That allowed Candace Payne's giggling live selfie of trying on a Chewbacca mask to become an internet sensation with 160 million views since May, making it Facebook's most popular "live" video so far. Periscope is testing the ability to save videos longer than the customary 24 hours by adding a "save" hashtag to a stream title. YouNow is adding "Moments" for viewers to share snippets of streams.

### Fan energy into money

The big question is whether and how live video can turn into a real business. One revenue source is advertising. Twitter, for instance, will stream 10 Thursday Night Football games in the coming season and has already

sold 60 percent of its ad spots. But the real prize would be tapping into the spontaneous urge for fans to support small-scale streamers with whom they feel an instant, real-time connection. It's a little like tipping buskers, but with the convenience of credit cards and the distance of the internet.

Many fans will pay \$5 a month to get VIP status with an artist, says Ampli.fi founder Bart Decrem, a serial entrepreneur who sold a mobile game startup to Disney in 2010. That mostly just gets them a gold star beside their username in the chat room - though that boosts their chance of being noticed by the artist. "It's completely intangible," Decrem says. "That's the most powerful thing."

### Weekend at Bernie's

Such intangible economics have helped 71-year-old Bernie Katzman and his wife Mindy escape their workaday lives of teaching and nursing. From their home in Jacksonville, Florida, he plays keyboards and sings - his left hand on a Steinway, his right on a synthesizer. She chats and sometimes cooks healthy dishes. It's been nearly a year since their 22-year-old son introduced them to Twitch, an Amazon-owned streaming service that is mostly devoted to live playback of videogame battles. "We thought (Twitch) was a neuromuscular issue," says Mindy, 51. "We had no idea what streaming even meant."

The Katzmans now have more than 190,000 followers, among them nearly 500 subscribers paying \$5 a month. Add in the tips, including \$5 a pop to guarantee that Bernie plays a song request, and it provides a healthy supplement to retirement income. Fans regularly send pictures of their pets and ask marriage advice, which the couple - now married 29 years - gladly provides. All told, it's a full-time job for both of them. "This has been an unbelievable adventure," Bernie says. "We are pioneers in the field of streaming." — AP



**NEW YORK:** This June 27, 2015, file photo shows the Hulu logo on a window at the Milk Studios space. — AP

## HULU DROPPING FREE VIDEO AS IT PREPARES CABLE TV ALTERNATIVE

**NEW YORK:** Hulu is dropping the free TV episodes that it was initially known for as it works on an online television service to rival cable TV. Free episodes - typically the most recent four or five episodes from a show's current season - will be gone from the site within a few weeks. Instead, Hulu is making free episodes available through Yahoo.

While Hulu started as a free site, supported by advertising, free video has become increasingly more difficult to find as Hulu tries to lure viewers into a subscription - \$8 a month for a plan with ads, and \$12 without. In recent months, visitors to Hulu.com have been presented with prominent links to subscribe, with links to free video buried in a menu after signing in. And free episodes haven't been available on Hulu's mobile apps or streaming-TV devices, just on Hulu.com from a traditional computer. Now, they won't be on Hulu.com at all.

Devotees of Hulu's free on-demand videos will be able to find them by visiting the new Yahoo View site from a computer. The Yahoo site will not have free episodes of CW shows such as "Arrow" and "The Flash," as Hulu has been offering, because CW has a broader deal with Netflix instead. Yahoo says it will have the past five episodes of ABC, NBC and Fox shows available. The Fox shows will appear eight days after their TV airing, as is the practice at Hulu.com now. Yahoo will also have some older CBS shows.

### Licensing restrictions

The episodes on Yahoo are not currently available on a phone, although Yahoo is working on a mobile web version and an app. Yahoo says the mobile version will be free, but it may not have all

the same video as the desktop computer site because of content licensing restrictions. Hulu says relatively few people watch the free videos. It now has about 12 million subscribers who pay for original shows, the entire current seasons of some network shows and access to Hulu's library on mobile and streaming-TV devices like Roku.

Hulu also plans to launch a live online TV service next year. It would show broadcast and cable channels in real time, without making viewers wait until the next day for episodes. In a move that could make that service more appealing, Time Warner Inc. recently took a 10 percent stake in Hulu, joining the TV and movie conglomerates - Walt Disney Co., 21st Century Fox and Comcast's NBCUniversal - that already owned it. Time Warner plans to contribute some of its channels, including TNT and TBS, to the new service.

Several other companies already offer live, paid TV over the internet, including Sony and Dish. DirecTV plans a service for later this year as well. Yahoo also has broader ambitions for View. It wants to add video from other Yahoo properties and from other networks and studios. However, its previous attempt at an online video hub, Yahoo Screen, shut down in January, despite having new episodes of the cult comedy "Community" after its cancellation by NBC.

Verizon, which is buying Yahoo to help the phone company grow a digital advertising business, makes TV episodes and short videos available on its go90 mobile app. Phil Lynch, the head of media and content partnerships at Yahoo, says that as the deal gets closer to closing early next year, it "makes sense that we have integration discussions." — AP

## GAMING BOOST TEENS' SCHOOL RESULTS: AUSTRALIAN STUDY

**SYDNEY:** Playing online games may boost teenagers' school results while spending time on social networks such as Facebook could do the opposite, according to an Australian study. The research, based on the performance of 15-year-old Australians in the globally recognized Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) tests, looked at the relationship between internet usage and educational outcomes.

"The analysis reveals that children who regularly use online social networks, such as Facebook, tend to obtain lower scores in math, reading, and science than students who never or hardly ever use these sites," it said. "Conversely, the analysis shows that those students who play online video games obtain higher scores on PISA tests, all other things being equal," the study published in the International Journal of Communication said. The study said it was possible that children who were already gifted in maths, science and reading were more likely to play online games.

But it added that while both gaming and socializing used time that teenagers could otherwise spend studying, video games "potentially allow students to apply and sharpen skills learned in school." "Students who play online games almost every day score 15 points above the average in maths and 17 points above the average in science," study author Alberto Posso said yesterday.

"When you play online games you're solving puzzles to move to the next level and that involves using some of the general knowledge and skills in maths, reading and science that you've been taught during the day."

Students who used online social networks on a daily basis scored 20 points lower in maths than a student who never used this type of social media, according to the study, which used the PISA ranking for 12,000 pupils from 2012 and controlled for other influences. "Students who are regularly on social media are, of course, losing time that could be spent on study-but it may also indicate that they are struggling with maths, reading and science and are going online to socialize instead," Posso said.

Internet usage among teenagers is considered particularly high in Australia where 97 percent of 15 to 17 year olds say they frequently go online. Some 78 percent of the children in the sample used online social networks almost every day or every day. Use of the internet was not bad in itself, and Posso, from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, suggested teachers consider incorporating popular video games into their lessons - "as long as they're not violent ones." He also said other factors also need to be considered, with skipping school every day about twice as bad for results as using Facebook or chatting online daily. — AFP

## TEEN WHO POSTED WEAPONIZED DRONE VIDEOS FIGHTS EXPULSION

**NEW BRITAIN:** A teenager who posted online videos of flying drones shooting a gun and a flamethrower in his backyard appeared in court Monday to fight his expulsion from Central Connecticut State University. Austin Haughwout, 19, is suing university officials in an effort to return to school, and on Monday in New Britain he challenged the process that led to his expulsion, WTIC-AM reported.

Central Connecticut State officials say Haughwout was kicked out for threatening to shoot people at the school. An attorney for Haughwout says what some may have interpreted as threats were actually jokes, protected by free speech. Haughwout believes his drone videos were the real reason he got kicked out. School officials have denied that.

Haughwout uploaded the widely viewed videos to his YouTube channel last year. One shows a flying drone equipped with a handgun firing rounds. Another shows a flying drone with a flamethrower lighting up a spit-roasting turkey. Both videos were recorded in the family's yard in Clinton. The videos led the Federal Aviation Administration to subpoena Haughwout and his father late last year, saying the

weaponized drones were capable of causing serious injury to people or property. Haughwout and his father, Bret Haughwout, refused to comply at first, saying the subpoenas violated their constitutional right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures and questioning the agency's authority to regulate recreational drones.

Last month, a federal judge in New Haven ordered the Haughwouts to comply with the FAA subpoenas. Austin Haughwout has been in and out of the news over the past two years. Clinton police announced in June that they charged him with enticing a minor with a computer, attempted sexual assault and possession of child pornography after police say they found child porn on his cellphone. His lawyer has called that arrest warrant "overly broad" and suggested that Clinton police had it out for his client because of the drone videos. Last year, Clinton police charged him with assaulting officers. The case remains pending. In 2014, a woman was charged with assaulting Haughwout because she was upset he was using a drone to record video above a beach in Madison. Haughwout posted footage of the confrontation on YouTube. — AP





**COVENTRY:** In this Tuesday, July 19, 2016 photo US Army Vietnam War combat veteran William Long, 65, of New Haven, Connecticut, center, is escorted from the water by volunteers after water skiing during an adapted sports program for veterans. — AP

## VETERAN VITALITY: SPORTS CAMP CHALLENGES AND CHANGES THEM

**PROVIDENCE:** Marine veteran Joyce Ralph sometimes stays at home in Massachusetts instead of going for a bike ride or doing other things she likes to do. She feels too anxious because of her post-traumatic stress disorder.

Army veteran Paul Miosek sometimes feels isolated at his home in New York. No one else he knows is in a wheelchair. The two were among a group of about 50 veterans who took part in July in the Veterans Affairs New England Summer Sports Clinic in Rhode Island. For a week, they kayaked, water skied, cycled and sailed - activities designed to get them and other veterans thinking more about what they can than can't do. "This gives me a chance, with my anxiety, to push myself a little further, to realize there are safe places in the world," said Ralph, 52, of Halifax, Massachusetts.

The veterans ranged in age from their 20s to 80s. The rehabilitation clinic is open to veterans with spinal cord injuries, amputations, vision loss, mental health problems and other disabilities. Miosek (pronounced MY'-sak), 47, of Scotia, New York, lost both legs in 1990 when his head hit a power cable as he stood atop an armored vehicle in Germany, then fell 20 feet. Meeting other veterans at the clinic with similar injuries made him feel he's not alone.

"I feel a kinship toward them, since we are in that boat together," he said. "While in service, we faced a lot of obstacles that we overcame. Now that I'm a disabled veteran, and with other disabled veterans, there are things that we can overcome together, as well." In Coventry, Rhode Island, VA volunteers and water ski instructors set up different ways veterans could ski depending on their needs, from a sling-like seat in the center of a wide ski to a three-person tube.

### 'You made my life!'

Navy veteran Raquel "Rachel" Ardin uses a wheelchair most of the time. Ardin, 62, of

North Hartland, Vermont, was serving in Greece when she broke her neck falling out of a bunk in 1976. She taught herself to walk again, but the scar tissue from her injury began causing problems several years ago. During her first run of the day, and her first time ever on water skis, Ardin whooped the whole way.

The crowd of volunteers and fellow veterans on shore clapped and cheered. Afterward, Ardin told the volunteers, "You made my day. You made my life!" "I want to cry, I'm so happy," she told them. "Thank you, guys!" The sports clinic is modeled after the VA's national adaptive sports program, in which veterans nationwide compete in games. The VA Boston Healthcare System runs it, and the Providence VA Medical Center hosts it.

"Some of the more traditional activities that occur in VA hospitals, bingo, card playing, those sorts of things, while those are nice, we had a young generation that came out of the battlefield," said Richard Leeman, assistant chief of voluntary services in Boston. "They wanted to do the things they did prior to their injury."

There's also a winter sports clinic for skiing and snowboarding at Mount Sunapee Resort in New Hampshire. This was the seventh year of the summer clinic and the third time the Providence medical center has hosted it. The VA worked with many local groups to organize the activities.

"They pushed themselves to a new limit that they now know they can do," said Susan MacKenzie, the medical center's director.

"They have confidence that they can set goals for themselves and move forward, not just in sports but in any part of their life," Miosek said he "feels alive" at the clinic. "I'm able to get the energy out and do the things that I can't do at home," he said. "I use that energy all year long, to kind of let go and go for it." — AP

## MAN FINDS MAMMOTH TUSK WHILE DIGGING ON PROPERTY

**PRESTON:** An Idaho man stumbled upon a rare find while using a backhoe to dig in a gravel pit on his property. "It came to the point where I seen something weird or different inside the hill so I just stopped, kinda brushed off some of it," Kasey Keller of Preston told KIFI-TV.

Upon closer inspection, the object Keller first thought was a plastic pipe or petrified wood appeared to be bone. He decided to call in the experts. The object, according to Utah State University, was a 31/2-foot tusk of a Columbian mammoth. It could be anywhere from 12,000 to 15,000 years old.

Both Utah State University and Brigham Young University took a piece of the tusk for carbon dating. Columbian mammoths were 12 feet to 15 feet tall and likely roamed the grasslands of Lake Bonneville,

according to the university. The type of sediment the tusk was found in indicates that it washed up after flooding, the school said. Keller said paleontologists from BYU said they will return the tusk after preserving the mammoth remains. "From what I was told, the odds of finding that in this area are rarer than finding a needle in a haystack," said Keller. "And according to USU, they said they haven't found any other mammoth remains in Cache Valley."

He said the discovery inspired his twin boys, who recovered pieces of the tusk that broke off when Keller was digging with the backhoe. "It's kinda cool to think what actually was here on your property or you know, by your house," Keller said. "I'm definitely going to be digging with a lot more gracefulness because who knows what I might find." — AP

## NEW ZEALAND FARM COMPANY STOPS USING PALM OIL

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand's state-owned farming company said Monday it will stop using palm kernel products to feed its animals as it seeks to take better care of the environment. Landcorp announced it will stop using the products by the middle of next year. Environmentalists have linked growth in the palm oil industry to rainforest destruction in Indonesia, which in turn is contributing to the decline in species like the Sumatran tiger. Landcorp Chief Executive Steven Carden told The Associated Press that consumers worldwide are willing to pay a premium for natural products, including grass-fed meat and dairy. "We are really concerned with producing food in a responsible and environmentally friendly way," Carden said.

He said making the change also made sense

from a strategic and commercial viewpoint. Farmers typically use imported palm kernel cake, also known as expeller, as part of a diet for dairy cows, especially during the winter or when natural feed is low. The cake is a byproduct of palm oil production. Palm oil is a common ingredient in many household products, from margarine to lipstick. Carden said the company will replace palm products with locally grown alternatives like maize silage and chicory. Landcorp is one of the largest farming companies in New Zealand, with 140 farms and 850,000 animals. It uses about 15,000 metric tons of palm cake each year. But thousands of dairy farmers who provide milk to the country's biggest company Fonterra will continue to use the product, after Fonterra said Monday it had no immediate plans to stop using it. — AP

# BANGLADESHI BOY WITH MYSTERIOUS 'OLD MAN' ILLNESS Baffles Doctors

## 'The Curious Case of Bayezid Shikdar'

**DHAKA:** A four-year-old Bangladeshi boy suffering from a mysterious illness that makes him look like an old man has been admitted to hospital for tests, doctors and his family said. Doctors at a top hospital in Dhaka have agreed to try to diagnose and treat Bayezid Shikdar, who comes from a poor farming family, for free after learning of his plight on the weekend. Born with excess skin that hangs from his limbs and face causing it to sag, Bayezid also suffers from related heart, vision and hearing problems. His father, Lablu Shikdar, said numerous doctors have been at a loss to explain his condition.

"We sold our land to treat him at local hospitals. We took him to religious healers and herbal doctors, but his condition did not change. This hospital is our last hope," Shikdar told AFP at Dhaka Medical College Hospital this week. "We hope they'll make him look like any other normal child." Doctors initially suspected he suffered from progeria which causes rapid and premature ageing shortly after birth, leading to severe health complications. The extremely rare genetic disorder was the subject of Hollywood movie "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" starring Brad Pitt. But doctors at the Dhaka hospital expressed caution, saying extensive tests were needed.

### Multitude of problems

"In progeria, the ageing process accelerates with time," Abul Kalam, head of the hospital's burns and plastic surgery unit, told AFP on Monday. "But Bayezid's parents have said the ageing of their boy has been halted recently. He has shown signs of improvement. "We're investigating his condition. In addition to loose skin, he



**DHAKA:** In this photograph taken on August 7, 2016, four-year-old Bangladeshi child Bayezid Shikdar(R) sits with his mother Tripti Khatun on a bed at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. — AFP

has problems in his heart, ear, eyes and penis." Doctors said his genetic condition may also be the result of inbreeding, with marriage among relatives including first cousins common in Bangladesh's rural areas.

Bayezid's mother, Khatun, stressed that her son was just like any other child. "He is very fond of fish and rice. He plays football and hide and seek with his cousins," she told AFP after her son's case was highlighted in Bangladesh media

on the weekend. "When I first saw him he looked like a bundle of skin. We had no idea what he was afflicted with. We thought the condition would go away soon." "He is an extremely talented boy. There are days he grabs books and wants to go to school. But we thought he's still too young." Doctors at the same hospital have also been treating a 26-year-old father dubbed "Tree Man" for the rare and massive bark-like growths on his hands and feet. — AFP

# TINY ASIAN BEETLE WREAKS HAVOC ON N AMERICA TREES

### Fighting the insect

**CHICAGO:** Over the next two years, grounds crews in St. Louis will cut down nearly one out of every five trees, altering the US city's leafy landscape for at least a generation. The Midwestern metropolis made the tough decision with the knowledge that if it does not cut down the trees, most will quickly die. St. Louis is the latest victim of the Emerald Ash Borer, an Asian beetle smaller than a penny, which emigrated from China via shipping materials and is destroying millions of trees in North America.

The insect targets the Ash tree—a common variety in Midwestern cities, where the tree can survive cramped sidewalks, harsh winters and road salts used to keep streets clear of ice and snow. In St. Louis, city forestry commissioner Skip Kincaid is tasked with dealing with the invasive pest and the destruction it is expected to cause in the next few years. "I'm trying as best I can to enlighten the public about how devastating it is going to be," Kincaid said. To head off the Emerald Ash Borer's advance, Kincaid will cut down almost all of the city's 14,000 Ash trees—or roughly 17 percent of all trees—over the next two years.

Scientists have discovered a pesticide treatment that can keep the insect from killing trees. But Kincaid said that wasn't an economically feasible solution, as it must be repeatedly applied every other year. The forestry expert surveyed the value of each tree, quantifying the benefits they provide in terms of property values, reducing storm water runoff, and reducing energy costs through natural cooling. Only 1,000 made the cut. The rest will be removed and replaced with a variety of species, but it will be years before they reach the size of the Ash trees. "This is something where quite honestly, we really have no other choice," Kincaid said.

### A 'devastating' bug

Noel Schneeberger, a US Forest Service expert at the forefront of the beetle battle, says once the Emerald Ash Borer infests an Ash, the chances of it surviving are basically nil. "In terms of targeting a single genus of trees, it's pretty devastating," Schneeberger said. Officials have tried regional quarantines to keep the bug from spreading. But barring the transportation of firewood—thought to be the primary way the bug spreads—has not worked. Scientists estimate that about 30 million trees have already succumbed to the beetle, and by the time its path of destruction concludes, hundreds of millions more will be dead, brittle, and ready to fall during a storm.

What perplexed scientists at first was that the Emerald Ash Borer is a relatively benign beetle in its native East Asia—where Ash trees have evolved with the insect. It makes so little fuss in Asia that when it arrived in North America, scientists were not even able to identify the strange insect. In East Asia, the bug only seems to attack Ash trees that are already sick or dying. Healthy Ash appear to have a natural chemical resistance. But a vast majority of Ash trees in North America do not, and the bug has been spreading unchecked since its arrival on the continent in 2002. It has reached 26 US states, as far south as Texas, and north into Canada. In one experiment, scientists were able to induce North American Ash trees into producing compounds necessary to kill the beetle. The question of whether such efforts can be used en masse remain to be answered.

The infestation has been particularly devastating for many cities in the Midwest, where streets can have rows of Ash trees for blocks at a time. The insect burrows into an Ash tree, creating tunnels that completely destroy the tree's ability to move nutrients through its bark. The destruction is so thorough that the tree usually starves to death in less than five years. The US Forest Service labels the beetle "the most devastating forest insect to reach North America in modern times."

Still, over the last 14 years, scientists have made progress in learning more about the beetle, the tree variety it targets, and about other previously unknown insects. Through trial and error, they discovered that a coordinated response can keep trees alive. Heavily infested trees should be removed and healthy trees treated with certain pesticides applied every two years. St. Louis is following a similar plan focusing on the healthiest and biggest trees, and getting rid of the rest. "St. Louis has probably the approach that is used most commonly across the country," said Richard Hauer, a professor of urban forestry at the University of Wisconsin who has been helping cities deal with the problem.

### How to co-exist

In forests, it's a different story, and scientists are trying to figure out how best to handle the Emerald Ash Borer now that it has moved in. For

one, woodpeckers seem to love to eat the beetle's larvae. They are proving a natural predator, but the plucky birds can't do the job by themselves. Researchers found that they eat only about 16 percent of all Ash Borer larvae. In China, scientists found other natural predators previously unknown to science—small parasitic insects which are relatives of ants and wasps. Working together, the parasites can reduce the beetle's populations dramatically—anywhere from 50 to 90 percent.

Scientists have begun controlled releases of the parasitic insects in North America, and are studying whether they can create a biological balance of sorts, to reduce the Ash Borer population and keep more trees alive. But any hope that millions of trees can be saved is a false one, as the parasite controls are in their "infancy," Hauer said. "Give it several decades, or a century," he said, pointing out that biological controls for previous deadly infestations have taken 50 years or more to have an effect. In cities, one of the key lessons to take away from the Ash Borer invasion, is that too much of one tree is not a good thing, Kincaid said.

In St. Louis, he is planning to replace Ash with a far greater diversity of trees, so that no one insect can wreak mass havoc again. "We're in a world now where every year, it's a different invasive pest," Kincaid said. "That's why it's critical to watch this diversity of species. So if something moves in... you won't wipe out 17 percent of your street trees." — AFP



**CHICAGO:** A piece of a dead tree cut down in Chicago and stripped of its bark, shows the tunnels dug by the Emerald Ash Borer. — AFP

# RECORD NUMBER OF HIV CASES IN PHILIPPINES PROMPTS ACTION

**JAKARTA:** The Philippines has posted a record number of new HIV infections, prompting campaigners to call on authorities to step up efforts to battle the potentially deadly disease. A total of 841 new cases were recorded in June, the highest ever monthly figure since the country's first reported case in 1984, according to the health department's latest statistics released this week.

Over 90 percent, or 777 cases, were trans-

mitted through sexual contact, the majority of them among men who have sex with men. Injecting drug users accounted for 60 new cases and the remaining four were cases of mother-to-child transmission. New cases of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which can lead to AIDS have been rising in the Philippines, bucking the international trend which shows new infections falling.

"This is a cause of concern for us," Gerald

Santos from Manila-based campaign group Project Red Ribbon told the Thomson Reuters Foundation yesterday. "But to look at it with the glass half full, it also shows awareness is at an all-time high, meaning more people are aware of HIV and are getting tested." However, he said the actual number of new infections could be higher, as stigma associated with HIV prevents at-risk group from getting tested. "The government should double their efforts

in spreading awareness about HIV before it is too late," added Santos, the group's treasurer.

The Philippines saw new infections double between 2001 and 2012, according to a UN AIDS agency (UNAIDS) report in 2013 which showed the epidemic was also expanding in Indonesia and Pakistan. Increasing infections among injecting drug users sharing contaminated needles combined with low condom use and high fertility rates have raised con-

cern over "downstream" HIV infections - when the virus spreads to people not typically at risk of HIV, like children who acquire the virus through mother-to-child transmission. There have been 34,999 HIV cases in the Philippines since record-keeping started in 1984, with 83 percent diagnosed in the last five years, according to the health department. Globally, some 36.7 million people are living with HIV, according to UNAIDS. — Reuters



## CLINTON TO CALL ON CONGRESS TO START ACTION ON ZIKA VIRUS

**WASHINGTON:** Hillary Clinton will call on Congress to return to Washington and pass emergency funding for the Zika response during a visit to a Miami neighborhood dealing with the first US outbreak of the disease. Yesterday afternoon, the Democratic presidential candidate plans to tour the Borinquen Medical Center, a health clinic close to the Wynwood area where 16 non-travel related cases have been diagnosed.

She will demand Republican leaders bring Congress back in session to either pass stalled legislation or craft a new bipartisan compromise bill to provide funding for testing, treat-

ment and research on the disease, according to aides briefed on her plans.

Clinton's running mate, Virginia Sen Tim Kaine, has already said he'd return to Washington for a vote on a Zika bill. Until this month, the only known Zika cases in the United States were in people who had recently traveled to Latin America and the Caribbean. Federal officials last week warned pregnant women to avoid the Miami neighborhood and a 1-square-mile area around it.

### Spreading disease

Public health experts worry about the dis-

ease spreading: Florida health officials said on Monday they're investigating a case of Zika virus infection in Palm Beach County that was likely contracted in the United States. Lawmakers left Washington in mid-July for a seven-week recess without approving any of the \$1.9 billion that President Barack Obama requested in February to develop a vaccine and control the mosquitoes that carry the virus.

Both sides have been pointing fingers since. Obama, Clinton and Democrats blame Republicans for politicizing the legislation by adding a provision to a \$1.1 billion take-it-or-

leave-it measure that would have blocked Planned Parenthood clinics in Puerto Rico from receiving money. Republicans say the administration has not spent money that has already been provided and is trying to play politics in an election year.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, has signaled he is in no rush to return. Writing in the Lexington (Ky) Herald-Leader last week, he criticized Democrats for balking at passing the bill. He said they'll get another chance after Labor Day when Congress is back in session. Clinton supported the bill, which her policy aide Ann O'Leary called "a

critical first step to protect public health and ultimately save lives" in a post on the website Medium.

She laid out a plan to combat the virus last March, which included allocating \$1.8 billion in emergency funds.

A month later, she dispatched two of her aides to Puerto Rico, where hundreds of cases have been detected, to meet with medical professionals. "Zika is real. It's dangerous. And if we're serious about stopping this epidemic in its tracks, then there's no time to waste," Clinton wrote in a June op-ed in the Sun Sentinel. — AP

## STUDY LINKS GLOBAL WARMING TO RISE IN WATERBORNE ILLNESSES

**WASHINGTON:** Rising global temperatures are clearly linked to increasing waterborne food poisoning, particularly from eating raw oysters, along with other nasty infections, a new study shows. About a dozen species of vibrio (VIB'-ree-oh) bacteria make people sick from eating raw or undercooked seafood or drinking or swimming in tainted water. It also causes cholera, although that was not the focus of the research.

Lab-confirmed vibrio infections in the United States have increased from an average of about 390 a year from the late 1990s to an average of 1,030 in recent years, according to the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention. But most cases aren't confirmed by tests and reported. "It's a remarkable increase on an annual basis," said study lead author Rita Colwell of the University of Maryland, a top microbiologist who used to head the National Science Foundation. The study examined Europe and North America, but the most consistent tracking of vibrio illnesses were in the United States. The CDC blames about 100 deaths a year on vibrio on average.

Even Alaska, where such outbreaks used to be unheard of because the bacteria needs warm water, is getting cases from people eating vibrio-infected oysters, Colwell said. — AP

## RESEARCHERS ASKING FOR OLD PHOTOS OF LAKE TAHOE ALGAE

**INCLINE VILLAGE:** With all their modern scientific equipment and state-of-the-art computer models, researchers trying to better understand the effect of algae growth in Lake Tahoe are searching for new tools to aid in their mission - old photo albums. Experts at the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center said in an annual report last week that the mountain lake is still getting warmer, regional winters are still getting shorter and snowfall is still on the decline. Water quality also has worsened a bit. What is less clear, however, is the trend in long-term algae growth.

"Everyone wants to know if there's more of this stuff, but we don't know," said Geoff Schladow, a professor of water resources and environmental engineering at UC Davis. Researchers study algae growth because it is linked to high levels of nutrients, which enter the lake both atmospherically and through stormwater runoff. Fertilizer, for example, contains nutrients and can find its way into the lake when it rains, thus contributing to algae growth.

"We have low rainfall and low sediments coming in. You would expect the clarity to be better," Schladow said last week during a presentation on the campus of Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village, according to the Sierra Sun.

But despite a reduction in the amount of sediment entering the lake last year because of the ongoing drought in the West, the concentration of nitrate is actually higher. The problem is, scientists have already been measuring algae growth at Tahoe since the 2000s. "What we're left to use is anecdotal data," Schladow said. "We also ask for old photos, so if anyone has some they'd like to share, unfortunately that is the only older data we have." Scott Hackley, a staff research associate at UC Davis, said he's worked with archivists at the University of Nevada, Reno, to find old photos, but he and his team are hopeful that the community can help as well. "It'd be nice to get some old photos with the year, time of year and the location . to fill in some of the historical gaps," he said. — AP



NEVADA: This file photo taken on August 13, 2015 shows a Perseid meteor streak across the sky above desert pine trees in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area. — AFP

## GREAT BALLS OF FIRE FROM THE SKY: PREPARE FOR A METEOR 'OUTBURST'

SKY-GAZERS ARE IN FOR A SPECIAL TREAT

**PARIS:** Northern hemisphere sky-gazers are in for a special treat tomorrow night with a rare shooting star "outburst", which astronomers hope will not be marred by clouds and a bright Moon. For about an hour around 2300 GMT, there will be more than double the usual fireball activity associated with the annual Perseid meteor shower.

"There will be 200 or maybe as many as 300 (shooting stars) per hour," observed from a very dark site, astronomer Mark Bailey of the Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland told AFP. "This outburst, as we call it... doesn't last that long. It might last an hour or a couple of hours," he said. Normally, the Perseids regale Earthlings with a show of about 100-120 shooting stars per hour. The event builds up over about two weeks, peaking in mid-August.

"Some years are better than others... and then there are exceptional years like this year," Bailey said. The Perseids happen when Earth hits a wide belt of debris left behind by the comet Tuttle-Swift on its elongated, 133-year orbit around the Sun. Each meteor is a piece of bro-

ken-off comet, which explodes as it hits Earth's atmosphere. Within the broad belt of debris there are also denser dust ribbons created when the comet passes closest to the Sun in its orbit-a juncture called perihelion. This year, Earth is on a collision course with three of the most heavily populated of these trails-created in the years 1862, 1737 and 1479.

### 'Kamikaze run'

"The meteors you'll see this year are from comet flybys that occurred hundreds if not thousands of years ago," NASA meteoroid expert Bill Cooke said in a statement. "And they've travelled billions of miles before their kamikaze run into Earth's atmosphere." However, there is no risk to our planet. In fact, astronomers' main concern is the weather, with cloud cover predicted for parts of Europe.

There is also the dimming impact of our own satellite-the Moon-which will be in a bright phase, making it harder to observe the sharp but short-lived bursts of meteors exploding. "It is unfortunate that it is in a waxing phase," said Bailey. "So we should really be observing after

moonset"-some 30 minutes into the outburst. He advised people to get as far away from clouds and electric light as possible in order to enjoy the show. No telescope or special equipment is needed. "Wrap up warm, be prepared to sit comfortably on a deck chair or whatever, a glass of wine in your hand maybe, and then allow time for your eyes to become accustomed to the dark," which can take as long as 20 minutes, Bailey said.

The next mega-outburst of the Perseids is predicted to occur on August 12, 2028, and will feature the dust trail produced by the comet during its 1479 perihelion passage. The yearly show got its name because the stars appear to fly out of the constellation Perseus, visible in the Northern Hemisphere. It is also known as "tears of St Lawrence" in honor of a Christian saint tortured to death by the Romans in AD 258. According to legend, Laurentius was martyred on an iron grill over a fire, during which ordeal he is said to have quipped to his persecutors: "Turn me over. I'm done on this side!" He is a patron saint of cooks. — AFP



NEVADA: In this Aug 24, 2015 file photo, a kayaker paddles along Zephyr Cove, the sight of the 19th Annual Lake Tahoe Summit in south Lake Tahoe. — AP

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## KU STUDENTS HEAD TO JAIPUR, INDIA FOR SECOND HUMANITARIAN MISSION

In a gesture that reflects Kuwait's ever humanitarian contributions and initiatives to needy people around the globe, and in line with His Highness the Amir world title of 'The Humanitarian Leader', a group of 15 medical students from the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University known as 'The Academia' have left Kuwait Monday to Jaipur for their second humanitarian mission to India. The group will provide medical and educational relief to children and students in need in Jaipur and surrounding areas.

Last year, the Academia Group vaccinated thousands of Indian children against hepatitis B which kills thousands of children every year, and used a Mobile Medical Clinic to diagnose and treat poor people in the slums of Delhi. Since the Academia students strongly believe that education is the best way to curb poverty and raise living standards, they provided a number of schools with educational necessities, such

as supplies, desks, and chairs. In addition, they built an orphanage for girls in Delhi.

What make these trips truly humanitarian is that they are completely organized from A to Z by the medical students themselves and their personal expenses such as flight tickets, accommodation etc. are also funded by the volunteers from their own pockets. This year's trip will be no exception. The students have chosen Jaipur as their destination, aiming to vaccinate thousands of children and provide medical and educational aid to those in need in surrounding villages and poor areas.

The Academia Group Humanitarian Trips are named in honor of Sara Al-Baghlī, a beloved medical student who always reminded them of the importance of having an infinite love for humanity and saving lives. In a sad tragic car accident, Sara was killed by a careless driver while driving from home to college more than one year ago.



## CHEVROLET ALGHANIM HOSTS MANCHESTER UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB

As part of its on-going activities to build a long-term relationship with the youth of Kuwait, Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, was honored to invite the official Manchester United Supporters Club to Safat Alghanim showroom in Al Rai on Sunday, August 7th, 2016 and host the exciting televised match between their beloved football club and its challenger, Leicester City.

Inspired by the game's competitive spirit, Chevrolet Alghanim also announced a special Instagram contest where it had invited the participants to predict the match's final score using the hashtag #AlghanimMUFC for a chance to win beIN SPORTS receiver and Manchester United t-shirts.

The event reflects the Chevrolet brand's commitment to be an integral part of the Manchester United bran as one of the biggest General Motors' divisions and car manufac-

tures; the car brand continues to be one of the club's proud sponsors, supplying the team with jerseys for 7 years throughout their tournaments. The total value of the sponsorship has been estimated to be over 175 million Pound Sterling, which means that the company will be paying a whopping 25 million Pound Sterling each year.

Kuwait's Manchester United Supporters Club is considered to be the oldest fan club in the country compared to other local clubs. It

was founded more than four years ago, and has been officially recognized by Manchester United on November 27th, 2012, after the club members' official visit.

The undertaking complements Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive's sports initiative and solidifies its dedication to be a vital part of the youth's lifestyles and passion. The event saw the attendance of more than 100 Manchester United supporters who were treated with refreshments as they supported

their beloved football team through a stunningly giant display screen, cumulatively creating an enjoyable atmosphere bolstered by the club member's enthusiasm for the game. Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive looks forward to supporting the interest of the youth of Kuwait in future events as part of its ongoing promise to build supportive relationship and trust for many years to come.







# INDONESIA AMBASSADOR HOSTS ASEAN DAY

**H**is Excellency the Ambassador of Indonesia Tatang Budie Utama Razak hosted all the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

(ASEAN) at his residence on Monday, 8th August. The event was held to celebrate the establishment of ASEAN on the 8th of August 1967. The Association of Southeast

Asian Nation (ASEAN) is a regional organization comprising of ten Southeast Asian States which include Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei

Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Its principal aims include accelerating economic growth, social progress and sociocultural evolution among its members.

This year is the commencement of ASEAN Community where all of the ASEAN members had become one single, untied community.



## MALABAR ANNOUNCES DRAW WINNERS

**M**rs Noorjahan, raffle draw winner of 'Win up to 10 kilos of gold' campaign by Malabar Gold & Diamonds receives the prize

1/4 KG gold from Mr Afsal Khan, Zonal Head - Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Kuwait and Mr Lukman, Branch Head - Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Kuwait.



BBC FIRST

- 03:20 Mad Dogs
04:05 Doctors
04:35 Doctors
05:05 The Musketeers
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 Holly City
07:55 Death In Paradise
08:45 Call The Midwife
09:40 The Musketeers
10:35 Doctors
11:05 Doctors
11:35 Death In Paradise
12:30 Call The Midwife
13:20 The Musketeers
14:15 Doctors
14:45 Doctors
15:15 Death In Paradise
16:10 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 Mad Dogs
23:40 Doctors
00:10 Eastenders
00:40 New Tricks
01:30 New Tricks
02:25 Ripper Street

- 17:40 Mythbusters
18:30 World's Top 5
19:20 The Island With Bear Grylls
20:10 Storage Hunters UK
20:35 Dallas Car Sharks
21:00 Mythbusters
21:50 World's Top 5
22:40 Wheels That Fail
23:05 Wheels That Fail
23:30 Fast N' Loud
00:20 Kindig Customs
01:10 Mythbusters
02:00 World's Top 5
02:50 Wheels That Fail

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 03:00 Mega World
03:48 Smash Lab
04:36 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
05:00 Prank Science
05:24 How The Universe Works
06:12 How Do They Do It?
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Smash Lab
08:14 How The Universe Works
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 Smash Lab
12:14 How The Universe Works
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Mega World
14:38 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
15:02 Magic Of Science
15:26 Smash Lab
16:14 How The Universe Works
17:02 Mega World
17:50 Smash Lab
18:40 How The Universe Works
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 How The Universe Works
23:40 Smash Lab
23:40 How Do They Do It?
00:30 Food Factory
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Freaks Of Nature
01:45 Freaks Of Nature
02:10 How The Universe Works

DISNEY CHANNEL HD

- 03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Jessie

Disney JUNIOR

- 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
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Jungle Cubs
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:40 PJ Masks
09:10 Doc McStuffins
09:40 Doc McStuffins
09:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Sofia The First
11:00 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
14:00 The Lion Guard
14:30 Aladdin
14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
15:05 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
16:00 Doc McStuffins
16:25 Doc McStuffins
16:55 Sofia The First
17:25 Sofia The First
17:50 The Lion Guard
18:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 PJ Masks
21:30 Aladdin
22:00 Jungle Cubs
22:25 Gummi Bears
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopdidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopdidoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo
02:45 Art Attack

XD

- 06:00 Booster

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 03:00 Nathan For You
03:25 Nathan For You
03:50 Impractical Jokers UK
04:15 Impractical Jokers UK
04:40 Ridiculousness
05:05 Ridiculousness
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 Ridiculousness
08:30 Ridiculousness
08:55 Nathan For You
09:20 Nathan For You
09:45 Impractical Jokers UK
10:10 Impractical Jokers UK
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 Impractical Jokers UK
13:30 Impractical Jokers UK
13:55 Ridiculousness
14:20 Ridiculousness
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
17:25 Workaholics
17:50 Impractical Jokers UK
18:15 Impractical Jokers UK
18:39 Key And Peele
19:03 Workaholics
19:27 Tattoo Disasters
19:50 Tattoo Disasters

10 things I hate about you



10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

- 07:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
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
14:05 EJ NYC
15:00 Just Jillian
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:00 Iron Chef America
01:00 Chopped
01:10 Kitchen Inferno
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
18:45 Emmerdale
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Chopping Block
20:30 Midsomer Murders
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Emmerdale
23:40 Murdoch Mysteries
00:35 Emmerdale
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Murdoch Mysteries

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 03:50 Russia's Mystery Files
04:45 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
05:40 Life On Mars: The Amazing Rovers
06:35 Engineering Connections
07:30 Ultimate Survival Alaska
08:25 Alaska Fish Wars
09:20 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
10:15 Science Of Stupid
10:40 Science Of Stupid
11:10 Cesar To The Rescue
12:05 Mega Factories
13:00 4 Babies A Second
14:00 Laverstoke Mill
15:00 Engineering Connections
16:00 Science Of Stupid
16:30 Science Of Stupid
17:00 Megastructures
18:00 Mega Factories
19:00 Engineering Connections
20:00 Science Of Stupid
20:25 Science Of Stupid
20:50 Megastructures
21:40 Mega Factories
22:30 Engineering Connections
23:20 Life On Mars: The Amazing Rovers
00:10 Science Of Stupid
00:35 Science Of Stupid
01:00 Megastructures
02:00 Mega Factories

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
05:00 Max & Shred
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
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Breadwinners
09:00 Get Blake
09:24 Rabbids Invasion
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:36 Breadwinners
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 Harvey Beaks
14:12 Rabbids Invasion
14:36 Henry Danger
15:00 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Breadwinners
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
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

- Jimmy Fallon
05:30 Community
06:00 George Lopez
06:30 Breaking In
07:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
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
12:30 The Goldbergs
13:00 Community
13:30 Breaking In
14:00 Black-ish
14:30 The Grinder
15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
15:30 Fresh Off The Boat
16:00 Grandfathered
16:30 George Lopez
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 The Simpsons
18:30 Black-ish
19:00 Young & Hungry
19:30 Young & Hungry
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Fresh Off The Boat
21:30 Grandfathered
22:00 You're The Worst
22:30 Bordertown
23:00 The Brink
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
23:50 Fresh Off The Boat
01:00 Grandfathered
01:30 You're The Worst
02:00 Bordertown
02:30 The Brink

OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 04:00 Hercules Reborn
06:00 The Fugitive
08:15 Batman vs. Robin
10:00 The Berlin File
12:15 Pearl Harbor
15:45 Brick Mansions
20:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
22:00 John Wick
00:00 Hard Target
02:00 Sharknado 2: The Second One

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 04:00 Sister Act
06:00 Romy And Michelle's High School Reunion
08:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
10:00 Sister Act
12:00 The Proposal
14:00 Sleepless In Seattle
16:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
18:00 10 Things I Hate About You
20:00 We'll Never Have Paris
22:00 Kick-Ass 2
00:00 Behaving Badly
02:00 10 Things I Hate About You

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 03:00 College Road Trip
05:00 Eight Below
07:00 Mulan
09:00 Monsters Inc
11:00 The Book Of Life
13:00 Brave
15:00 Snow Dogs
17:00 Monsters University
19:00 Honey, I Shrank The Kids
21:00 Dunston Checks In
23:00 Snow Dogs
01:00 Honey, I Shrank The Kids

OSN MOVIES HD

- 03:00 Pixels
05:00 Tracers
07:00 Jackie & Ryan
09:00 Pixels
11:00 Jurassic World
13:15 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
15:30 The Judge
18:00 Step Up All In
20:00 Pitch Perfect 2
22:00 The Overnight
23:30 Horrible Bosses 2
01:15 The Babadook

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 03:00 The Simpsons
03:30 Black-ish
04:00 The Goldbergs
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 03:45 World's Deadliest Animals
04:40 America's National Parks
05:35 Built For The Kill
06:30 Extreme Animal Babies
07:25 World's Deadliest Animals
08:20 America's National Parks
09:15 Wild Kalahari
10:10 Predator Falls
11:05 Man V. Monster
12:00 Animal Mega Moves
12:55 Puma: Lion Of The Andes
13:50 Extreme Animal Babies
14:45 Hidden Worlds
15:40 America's National Parks
16:35 America The Wild
17:30 Predator Falls
18:25 Man V. Monster
19:20 Hidden Worlds
20:10 America's National Parks
21:00 America The Wild
21:50 Predator Falls
22:40 Man V. Monster
23:30 Animal Mega Moves
00:20 Puma: Lion Of The Andes
01:10 Extreme Animal Babies
02:00 Anaconda: Silent Killer

H2 HD

- 03:40 In Search Of Aliens
04:30 Ancient Aliens
05:20 Ancient Aliens
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
11:00 Ancient Aliens
12:00 Ancient Aliens
13:00 World War II: Lost Films
14:00 Ancient Discoveries
15:00 The Universe
16:00 In Search Of Aliens
17:00 Ancient Aliens
18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
20:00 Ancient Discoveries
21:00 The Universe
22:00 Last Days Of The Nazis
23:00 WWI: The First Modern War
00:00 In Search Of Aliens
01:00 Dogfights
02:00 Ancient Discoveries
02:50 The Universe

HISTORY HD

- 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
11:25 Hunting Hitler
12:15 American Pickers
13:05 Storage Wars
13:30 Storage Wars
13:55 Ax Men
14:45 Storage Wars Miami
15:35 Shipping Wars
16:00 Grave Trade
16:50 Mountain Men
17:40 Swamp People
18:30 Hunting Hitler
19:20 American Pickers
20:10 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 Counting Cars: Best Of Car Hunters
21:25 Car Hunters
21:50 American Restoration
22:40 Time Team
23:30 Counting Cars: Best Of Car Hunters
00:20 American Restoration
01:10 Counting Cars
02:00 Swamp People
02:50 Mountain Men

food network

- 03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Man Fire Food
06:30 Man Fire Food
07:00 Chopped
08:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:00 The Kitchen
10:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
10:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
11:00 Chopped
12:00 Guy's Big Bite
12:30 Guy's Big Bite
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Man Fire Food
14:30 Man Fire Food
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
17:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Chopped
21:00 Kitchen Inferno

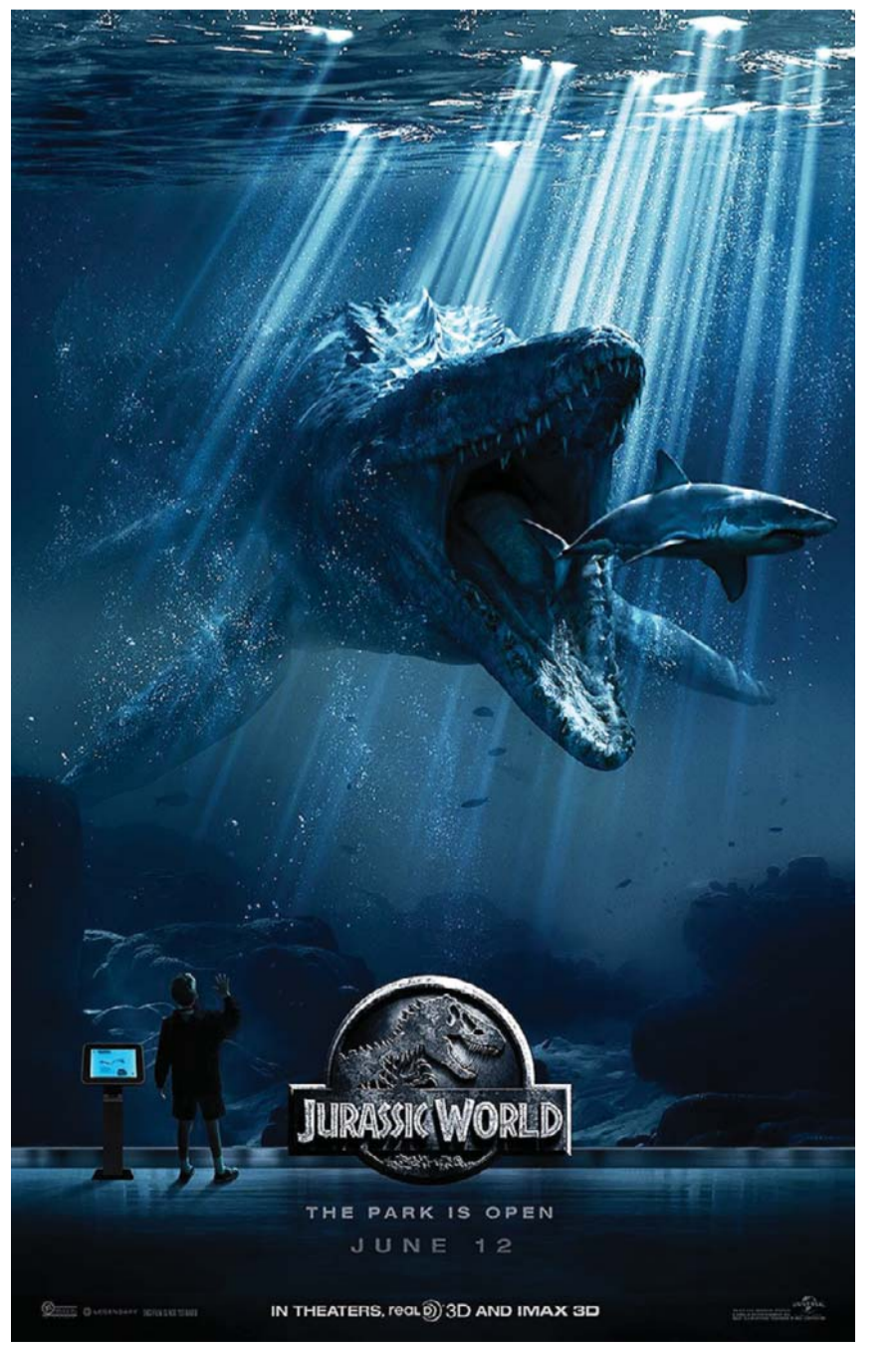
itv HD CHOICE

- 03:25 Grantchester
04:20 It's Not Rocket Science
05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples
06:10 Murdoch Mysteries
07:05 Chopping Block
08:00 Grantchester
08:55 It's Not Rocket Science
09:50 Come Dine With Me Couples
10:40 The Chase
11:35 Chopping Block
12:30 Murdoch Mysteries
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Emmerdale
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Come Dine With Me Couples
15:35 Chopping Block
16:30 Midsomer Murders
18:20 Emmerdale



THE BERLIN FILE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 20:13 Lip Sync Battle
20:37 Lip Sync Battle
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Kurt Metzger: White Precious
22:18 Kyle Kinane: I Liked His Old Stuff Better
23:05 Underground With Dave
Attel
23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
00:00 Tosh.0
00:25 Lip Sync Battle
00:50 Lip Sync Battle
01:15 Underground With Dave
Attel
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
02:05 Kurt Metzger: White Precious
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:20 Dog With A Blog
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Austin & Ally
08:35 Shake It Up
09:00 Hannah Montana Forever
09:25 Hannah Montana Forever
09:50 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:15 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:40 Good Luck Charlie
11:05 Good Luck Charlie
11:30 Jessie
11:55 Jessie
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Hank Zipzer
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Liv And Maddie
14:50 Dog With A Blog
15:15 Hank Zipzer
15:40 Bunk'd
16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
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
19:05 Austin & Ally
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
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
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
10:00 Rocket Monkeys
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
10:50 Booster
11:20 Booster
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Pair Of Kings
12:35 Lab Rats
13:00 Lab Rats
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:55 Phineas And Ferb
14:20 Kickin' It
14:45 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Supa Strikas
15:40 Supa Strikas
16:05 Lab Rats
16:30 Pickle And Peanut
16:55 Kirby Buckets
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Annedroids
18:15 Garner's Guide To Pretty...
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Gravity Falls
19:35 Becoming
20:00 Lab Rats
20:25 Supa Strikas
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Garner's Guide To Pretty...
21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Man Fire Food
06:30 Man Fire Food
07:00 Chopped
08:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:00 The Kitchen
10:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
10:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
11:00 Chopped
12:00 Guy's Big Bite
12:30 Guy's Big Bite
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Man Fire Food
14:30 Man Fire Food
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
17:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Chopped
21:00 Kitchen Inferno
03:15 Giuliana & Bill
04:10 Giuliana & Bill
05:05 Giuliana & Bill
06:00 Fashion Bloggers
06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians



JURASSIC WORLD ON OSN MOVIES HD



# CLASSIFIEDS



SHARQIA-1		SHARQIA-2		SHARQIA-3		MUHALAB-1		MUHALAB-2		MUHALAB-3		FANAR-1		FANAR-2	
MIN 30 SANA	12:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	1:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D	11:30 AM	MIN 30 SANA	1:00 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	12:30 PM
MIN 30 SANA	3:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D	2:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:15 PM	MIN 30 SANA	4:00 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	2:45 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	2:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	4:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	2:45 PM
MIN 30 SANA	6:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	5:30 PM	ABU SHANAB	7:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D	5:30 PM	MIN 30 SANA	7:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2	5:15 PM
MIN 30 SANA	9:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	7:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	8:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	9:15 PM	THE CONJURING 2	7:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	8:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	10:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2	7:15 PM
THE CONJURING 2	12:30 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:15 AM	ABU SHANAB	10:15 PM	MIN 30 SANA	12:15 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	10:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	10:15 PM	MIN 30 SANA	12:15 AM	ABU SHANAB	10:00 PM
				THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:45 AM			THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:30 AM					ABU SHANAB	1:00 AM

## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (04/08/2016 TO 10/08/2016)

THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	7:30 PM	FANAR-3	11:30 AM	MARINA-1	1:00 PM	MARINA-2	11:45 AM	MARINA-3	12:45 PM	AVENUES-1	12:30 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	9:45 PM	NERVE	1:30 PM	FINDING DORY	3:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	2:15 PM	MIN 30 SANA	1:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	3:15 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:05 AM	SULTAN- HINDI	3:45 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:45 PM	THE CONJURING 2	4:45 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	3:15 PM
		NERVE	7:00 PM	ABU SHANAB	8:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	7:30 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	3:45 PM	THE CONJURING 2	6:00 PM
		NERVE	9:15 PM	JASON BOURNE	10:15 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	10:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	6:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	6:00 PM
		MIN 30 SANA	11:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:45 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:30 AM	MIN 30 SANA	9:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	8:45 PM



## NOTICE

August 4, 2016



Mr. Sharaj Manakulangaraparambil Allijan son of Mr. Allijan Hassan, resident of Manakulangaraparambil House, Post Irinjilakuda North Thrissur, Kerala and Miss Suganya Ramadoss daughter of Mr. Ramadoss, resident of No. 28, Mariyamman Koil Street, Chidambaram, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, both Indian nationals, presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

(Krishan Kumar Pahel)  
 First Secretary (Consular)  
 and Marriage Officer  
 Embassy of India, Kuwait.  
 Ph.00965-225333 15

### LOST

It is notified for the information that my original certificates of secondary & senior school examinations of year 2009 and 2011, issued by CBSE has lost, Mohamed. (C 5200) 9-8-2016

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Challa Nagarjuna, holder of Indian Passport No: H4746507 resident of D.No. 3/153-A, Vallur, Kadapa Dist, A.P, India, has been converted to Islam, in future I will be known as Shaik Abdulla. (C 5198) 7-8-2016

I, Linguntla Babu S/o Late Venkataiah, holder of Indian Passport No: K9653001, have changed my name to M.N. Reddaiah

Naidu S/o Late Venkataiah. Address: Mudrapalle (Vi & Po), Penagalur (Mandal), Kadapa (Dist), AP. 5-8-2016

### SITUATION WANTED

Accountant - Indian, experienced having extensive knowledge in handling all kinds of accounts (including system establishment and management) right from JV to finalization and management reporting more than 20 years in the field now seeking full time or part time assignment with transferable iqama.

## REQUIRED

**Manpower required urgently for a Kuwaiti Gov. Project**

- 28 Supervisors for Powerstation  
 Qual: Graduate in Science & Experience in powerstation for supervising work of Charging & discharging limestone Vessels in Recarbonization Plant . Diploma or Equivalent qualification in Science subjects with Chemistry , Analytical chemistry or industrial chemistry as main subjects
- 34 semi skilled workers- Experience in loading unloading and charging materials to different tanks/ vessels and good in spoken English or Arabic
- 8 Drivers capable of driving Forlifts and Trailers.  
 Must have valid Kuwaiti heavy duty driving license . English or Arabic must .  
**Candidates having GCC experience More preferable**

**Contact: +965 99723822 Ph: +965 23725423**  
**Email : alsoberie@kuwaitchemicalhouse.com**

Contact: 97934610  
 rasheedpni@hotmail.com  
 (C 5199)

### ACCOMMODATION

Room for rent, 2 big rooms with balcony, no electricity bill, near Jabriya Indian School, central A/C, block 10, St. 9. Mobile: 55706900, 55983570. (C 5201) 10-8-2016

## EMERGENCY

**112**

**Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is**  
**1889988**

## URGENTLY REQUIRED

- 1- Mechanical Engineer / Diploma holder with local experience in the field of steel fabrication and driving license.
- 2- Waterjet operator with Autocad.
- 3- Mechanical foreman - who can read steel fabrication drawing.

**Contact: 99795702**  
**Email: gm@texonmiddleeast.com**

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:45
Shorook	05:12
Duhr:	11:54
Asr:	15:29
Maghrib:	18:35
Isha:	19:59



## Flight Schedule

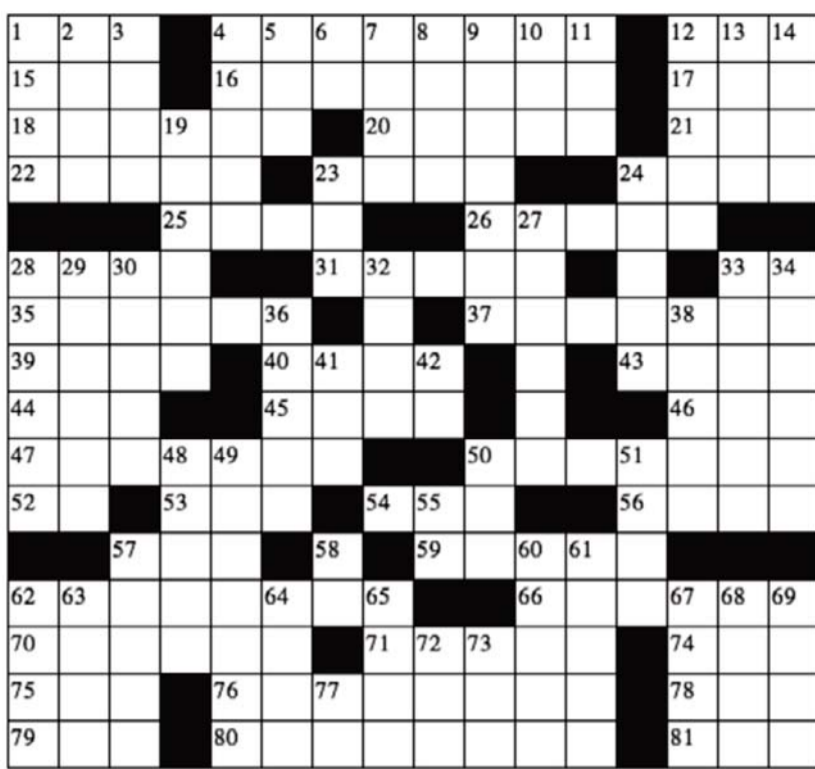
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

**DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 10/8/2016				Departure Flights on Wednesday 10/8/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	MSC	404	Jeddah	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
FDK	803	Damascus	00:35	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	JAD	302	Amman	00:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00				
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15				
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20				
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40				
RJA	642	Amman	01:45				
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50				
KKK	750	TXZ	01:50				
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05				
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15				
CEB	018	Manila	02:20				
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15				
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30				
BAW	157	London	06:40				
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10				
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15				
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25				
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30				
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35				
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40				
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40				
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50				
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50				
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00				
KAC	354	BLR	08:00				
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05				
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15				
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15				
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20				
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20				
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25				
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00				
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05				
IRC	6511	ABD	09:15				
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20				
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25				
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:40				
FDB	055	Dubai	09:50				
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40				
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40				
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55				
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00				
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25				
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50				
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55				
ETD	9819	Abu Dhabi	12:10				
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25				
JZR	241	Amman	12:30				
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35				
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45				
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55				
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10				
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15				
IRC	6521	Lamerd	13:35				
KAC	792	Madinah	13:45				
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00				
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05				
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05				
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15				
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20				
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20				
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30				
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30				
JZR	257	Beirut	14:50				
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50				
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00				
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05				
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05				
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10				



CROSSWORD 1338



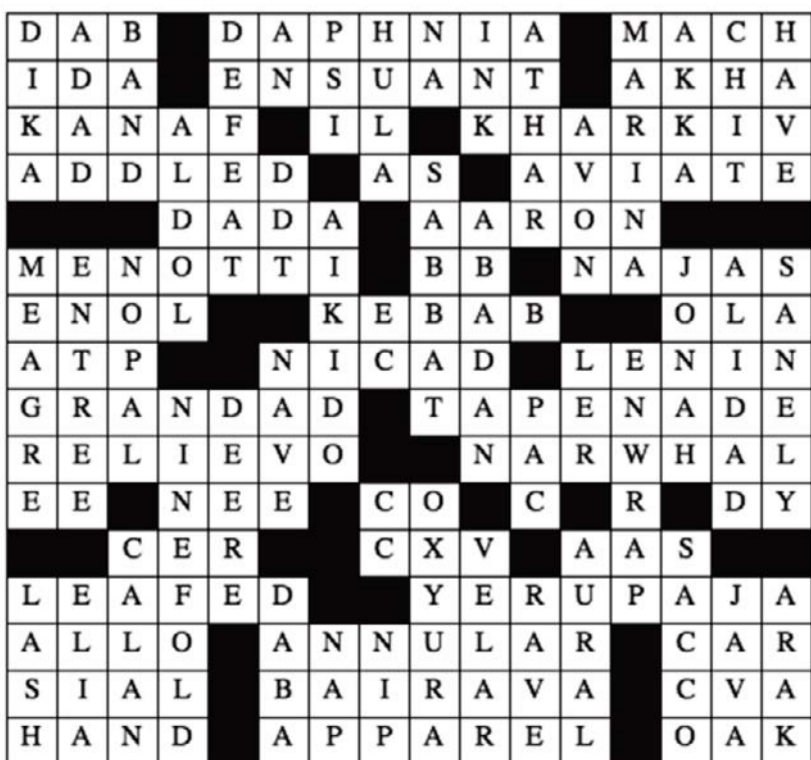
ACROSS

1. A protocol developed for the internet to get data from one network device to another.
4. A resident of Arkansas.
12. Tag the base runner to get him out.
15. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
16. A long hooded cloak woven of wool in one piece.
17. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
18. Italian lawn bowling (played on a long narrow dirt court).
20. In a manner differing from the usual or expected.
21. An electrically charged particle.
22. Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
25. A small cake leavened with yeast.
26. A piece of armor plate below the breastplate.
28. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
31. Having awns i.e. bristle- or hair-like appendages on the flowering parts of some cereals and grasses.
35. United States comedian and film actor (1880-1946).
37. A young unmarried woman.
39. English essayist (1775-1834).
40. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
43. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
44. Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
45. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
46. Game in which matchsticks are arranged in rows and players alternately remove one or more of them.
47. Thinking again about a choice previously made.
52. A doctor's degree in religion.
53. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
54. The United Nations agency concerned with the international organization of food and agriculture.
56. A sudden short attack.
59. New Zealand conifer.
62. A worker engaged in making steel.
66. Go on board.
70. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
71. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
74. The cry made by sheep.
75. A hospital unit staffed and equipped to provide intensive care.
76. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,201 feet high).
78. An inflammatory complication of leprosy that results in painful skin lesions on the arms and legs and face.
79. A master's degree in theology.
80. A very large pot that is used for boiling.
81. Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the faces.

DOWN

1. A sock with a separation for the big toe.
2. A compact mass.
3. The rate of moving (especially walking or running).
4. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
5. European strong-scented perennial herb with gray-green bitter-tasting leaves.
6. A colorless element that is one of the six inert gasses.
7. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
8. A connecting point at which several lines come together.
9. Vasoconstrictor (trade names Privine and Sudafed) used in nasal sprays to treat symptoms of nasal congestion and in eye-drops to treat eye irritation.
10. The sign language used in the United States.
11. French marshal in the Napoleonic Wars (1769-1815).
12. Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
13. Little known Kamarupan languages.
14. An unofficial association of people or groups.
19. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
23. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
24. The fluid (red in vertebrates) that is pumped by the heart.
27. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
29. Provided with gills.
30. (slang) The act of stealing.
32. Flightless New Zealand rail of thievish disposition having short wings each with a spur used in fighting.
33. 100 seniti equal 1 pa'anga.
34. Expletives used informally as intensifiers.
36. A support or foundation.
38. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
41. (Judaism) Sacred chest where the ancient Hebrews kept the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments.
42. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
48. Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
49. Excellent and delightful in all respects.
50. A long thin fluffy scarf of feathers or fur.
51. Baby bed with high sides.
55. Before noon.
57. The oily secretion of the sebaceous glands.
58. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
60. (archaic) The emperor of Japan.
61. At full speed.
63. Measuring instrument for indicating speed of rotation.
64. The arch of bone beneath the eye that forms the prominence of the cheek.
65. Horny plate covering and protecting part of the dorsal surface of the digits.
67. In bed.
68. (the feminine of raja) A Hindu princess or the wife of a raja.
69. Informal terms for money.
72. A doctor's degree in dental medicine.
73. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
77. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You could receive unexpected support for whatever you want to accomplish now. Your professional life runs smoothly. You give loving attention to details and have a sense of satisfaction in doing what you enjoy. The ability to break away and express your independence, as well as anything unusual or different, is also valued. You may enjoy getting away from routine and doing something completely different this evening. Take a little trip, or get outside. A call from a friend this afternoon may have you completing the plans for some fun activity. This may mean a bingo or card game with friends, or even planning a fall garden. Now is a time during which you are unusually motivated and driven into new and unexpected directions. Quiet evening may be in order.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are at your mental best with sharp ideas and clear thoughts. This is an excellent time to make decisions and take care of mental work. This is a favorable day for you—a day geared toward accomplishments, luck, good news, etc. Your mind is exceptional in its clarity. All that is mental comes to you without struggle or labor—ideas, thoughts and mental things of all kinds. A real guide or pathfinder, your sense of truth and direction are very clear. You already know the way to accomplish things and solve problems—you need no education to success. No mistake possible here—with you, the saying is true: "what you see is what you get." Try to keep any criticisms to yourself at this time. You are very much a mentor for others.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

A co-worker seems quite insistent on getting into your space today. Check again, he or she may just be looking for a little encouragement or a lighthearted environment. Reassurance about some oncoming changes in the workplace will help to assuage any fears he or she may have. If you allow your very own common sense to come into play, it will guide you productively. This afternoon you may find yourself with friends, lending others a helping hand or a listening ear. You will enjoy a tale of high adventure and may be able to join in with your own stories. You take better care of some responsibilities or chores today. You demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity to your loved ones this evening. You are in a good position to guide or suggest.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

If it makes sense, you love it—if it does not, you feel guilty about it: that is what life feels like now. There are a loving attention to details and a sense of satisfaction in doing what is right. Circumstances can throw you into a position where you must use your mind and deal with communications, service or enclosed hidden interests. You may deal with education, psychology, spiritual enlightenment or teaching techniques today. Your mental activity and the world of communication you enjoy are powerful. You want to be accepted by all and you work very hard to do what is expected of you. Communication is the interface that holds the rest of you together. Your dedication to achievement is intense. Leave work behind this evening and enjoy family.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Right now, the key to career moves involves attending to nagging details—whatever you have neglected or delayed. Circumstances may urge you to great effort and hard work. Things are working with rather than against you, so do not hold back. However, do not overdo and try to go too far too fast. Let things take their natural course, which should be easy just now. You are a very sensitive person who can depend on feelings and intuition to get around in life. Possessing good common sense, you will display your practical and down-to-earth side. You may find yourself involved in the invention of a new recipe this afternoon. Since you enjoy music so much, friends may take you to a musical place of entertainment tonight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Ideas regarding new business or private inventions should be put in writing with your name and date included. Without opening, mail one copy to you and one copy to your manager, director, etc. This will ensure you against someone taking your ideas. You have a creative burst of energy today that could show monetary results. You may enjoy the rewards of your creation within a short period of time. This creative energy of yours takes hold and may surprise even you. The secret here is to go with the flow. Do not squelch the desire to create. Your career will be anything but ordinary and leave it to you to find unusual ways of supporting yourself. You bring a lot of mental skill and understanding to whatever you do at this time.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Go for it! Do it now and ask questions later—you are a born leader—not afraid to try things out on your own. Your sense of mission makes for impulsive, sometimes rash and brave actions. Your motto may be to keep moving projects forward. Higher-ups are impressed with your work. Complete projects and stay focused—someone could try and lead you in another direction. You have a deep sense of responsibility and purpose and will encourage others along this line. You seem to gravitate to those things that last and hold true. Matters of law, religion and philosophy hold your interest at this time. This evening is important to a loved one and even though you may be tired—you will show your support. You captivate others with your compassion.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing, but your schedule demands that you tend to business for now. You find ways to steer away from arguments where you have not had much previous information of content. You give much effort to bring the focus back to the issue at hand or to steer others back to the current project. You put forth a lot of effort in your career, however you became involved. This afternoon someone will express his or her appreciation for your abilities and the way you accomplish your goals. You will be able to expound and expand upon new possibilities while visiting with your mate or loved one this evening. As an act of fair play, you could share thoughts about personal goals for the future.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may find yourself leading a group. This could mean a tour or instructing others in safety, etc. There could also be community work. Anything that is selfless or serves the common good is where you can be found today. There is a greater demand for self-discipline in your work—your superiors are impressed with your overall improvement. Your mind tends to move into the direction of helping others and that may be where you will find your most important work. Ideas connected with group work and goals are a natural-making your inner vision real. You are good at putting your ideas to work in the world, making dreams real. This could mean you will work or volunteer in the community as a social welfare or library aide.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You have a sense of justice and an innate ability to understand the law, whether natural or manmade. You could find yourself correcting a situation at work that would cause a great loss if you did not call attention to it. Showing others the way through or beyond the problems in business or life is easy for you. You can sense how to manipulate the opportunities of life-lucky. Making money is second nature for you—keeping or investing the money you earn or win is the challenge. Relationships are important to you and you may want to plan ahead for some special celebration or set aside some time to spend in giving a loved one special attention. When it comes to expenses, you will be able to save ahead for a special event.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You have a remarkable ability to accomplish and achieve in life. Your ambitions are backed up by your willingness. You can be very emotional and others might find you a bit too aggressive from time to time. You try hard and successfully push on toward whatever goals you have in mind. A conservative by nature, you tend to stand up for the status quo. If it makes sense, you love it, and if it does not, you feel guilty about it: that's what it's like now. A loving attention to details and a sense of satisfaction in doing what is right are some of the qualities that come to your attention. A special affinity between old people and children may find you working to improve living conditions for them this evening. A part-time job may be available.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You could be most persuasive with others—perhaps you are a top salesperson. Whatever the circumstances, the situation is a natural for self-expression and lends itself to your particular ideas. A careful attention to details and a sense of satisfaction in doing what is right are some of the qualities that bring the customers to your store or gain you better business. Your optimum job is just being you and this indicates a career in front of the public: politician, salesperson, consultant, etc. This time brings a sudden change of fortune for the better and is considered to be a truly lucky time. This evening you and a friend or loved one may enjoy some new form of art. You may even decide to purchase some art for an investment.

WORD SEARCH

Weather 1 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

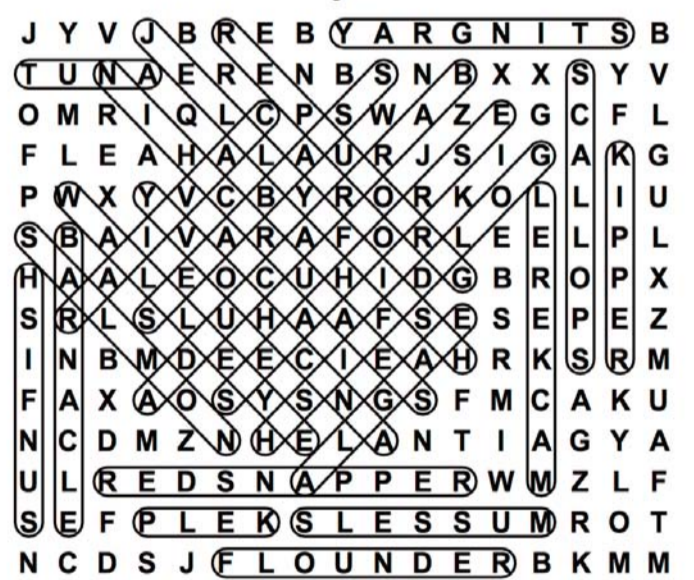


- BAROMETER
- CELSIUS
- CLOUDS
- COLD
- DRIZZLE
- DROUGHT
- FAHRENHEIT
- FLURRIES
- FREEZE
- HAIL
- HOT
- HUMIDITY
- LIGHTNING
- MIST
- OVERCAST
- RAIN
- SNOW
- STORM
- SUNNY
- TEMPERATURE
- THUNDER
- TYPHOON
- WIND

Yesterday Solution

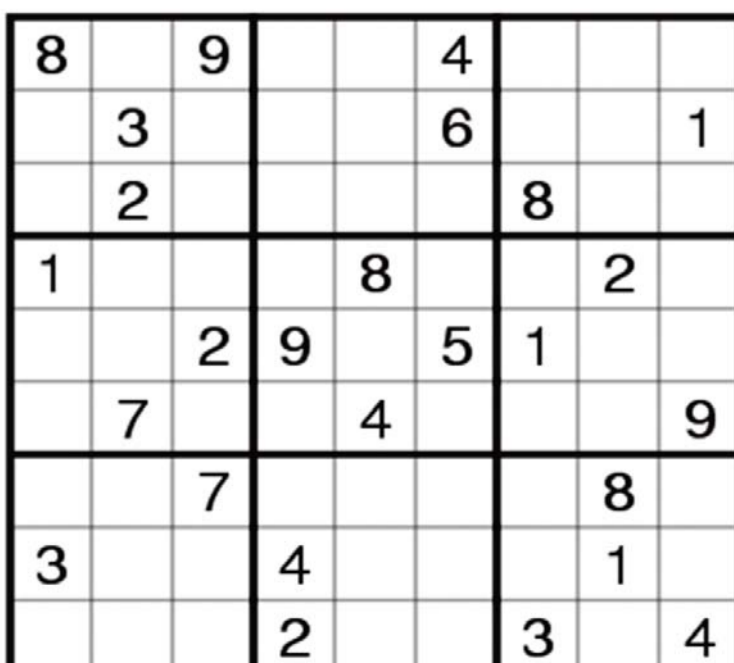
Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Smells Fishy 2 - Solution

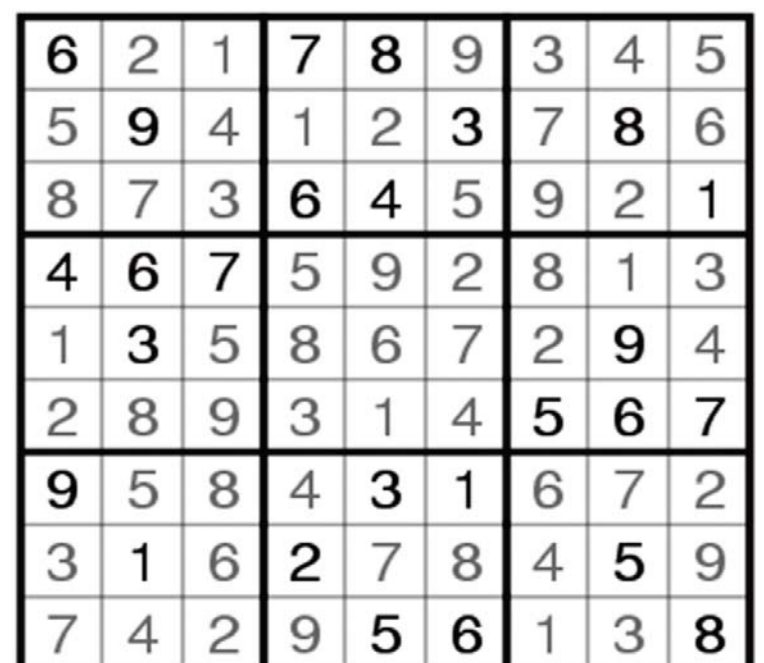


- ALGAE
- ANCHOVY
- BARNACLE
- BARRACUDA
- CAVIAR
- FLOUNDER
- GOLDFISH
- GROUPE
- JELLYFISH
- KELP
- KIPPER
- MACKEREL
- MUSSELS
- RED SNAPPER
- SALMON
- SCALLOPS
- SEA BASS
- SEA URCHIN
- SEAHORSE
- STINGRAY
- SUNFISH
- TUNA
- WALLEYE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

### Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



### PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

### INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

### STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

#### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

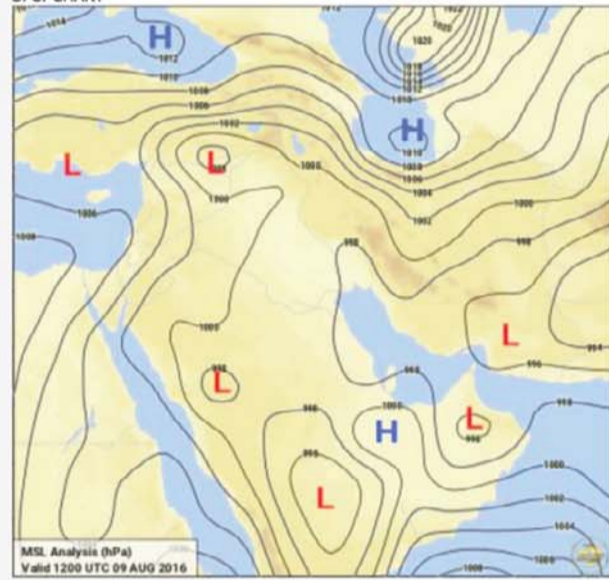
Issued 09/08/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 33 °C

By Night :Relatively hot with variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h

By Day : Very hot with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	very hot	very hot	very hot + raising dust	very hot + raising dust
Min Temp °C	33	35	35	35
Max Temp °C	49	49	49	49
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 26	15 - 38	15 - 40	15 - 40

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

#### Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

#### Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	EXP	Max °C	REC
KUWAIT CITY	35		48	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	33		48	
ABDALY	30		47	
BUBYAN	31		45	
JAHRA	33		48	
FAILAKA ISLAND	30		46	
SALMIYAH	35		44	
AHMADI	36		41	
JAL ALIYAH	30		48	
QARDH ISLAND	34		38	
UMM AL-MARADEM	33		38	
NUWAISIB	30		43	
WAFRA	30		47	
MANAGISH	30		45	
SALMIYAH	30		44	
MUTRIBA	30		48	

#### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	47
Min Temp (°C)	36
Max Rel Hum (%)	24
Min Rel Hum (%)	08
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	53 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

#### Sunrise

05:13

#### Sunset

18:33

#### Prayer Times

Fajr	03:46
Sunrise	05:13
Zuhr	11:53
Asr	15:29
Sunset	18:33
Isha	19:58



## PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	



GOSSIP



# Molly Sims is pregnant with her third child

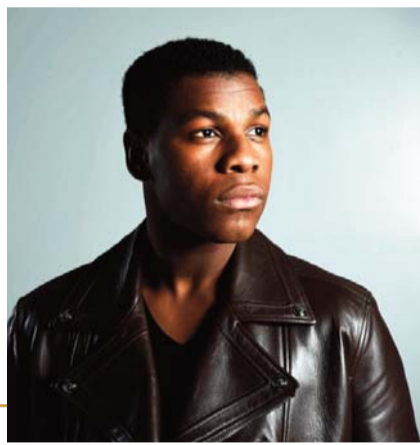
The 43-year-old actress and her movie producer husband Scott Stuber - who already have kids Brooks, four, and Scarlett, 16 months - were "shocked" to discover they will be adding to their family at the end of the year, but couldn't be happier. Molly said: "It's a Hail Mary! I'm so happy-we're so blessed. We were so shocked, but we're thrilled." The 'Yes Man' actress admitted the pregnancy was unplanned and joked it was the result of "what happens when I go visit my husband on the movie set." Though Molly was anxious about having another baby later in life, she was reassured when she heard Rolling Stones rocker Sir Mick Jagger, 72, is preparing to be a father again as 29-year-old ballerina Melanie Hamrick is expecting is eighth child. She told People magazine: "Being 43 is a little worrisome, cause I'm like 'OK, you are going to be 90!' But then Mick Jagger [is having a baby at 72] so we're like okay, we feel good about ourselves."

And the 'Fired Up!' star is having a tough time with morning sickness. She said: "I have never had more morning sickness in my life-I have been sick from the moment I wake up to the moment I go to bed. 'I have thrown up in the Bristol Farms parking lot and I have thrown up outside of a restaurant. It's just bad!" Shortly after giving birth to Scarlett, Molly admitted she was much more confident with her parenting than the first time around. She said: "I had much more trepidation with Brooks because I didn't know what I was doing. With her, it's like, 'OK, you're pooping, you're eating, you're drinking-we're good!' In that way, it's been really good."

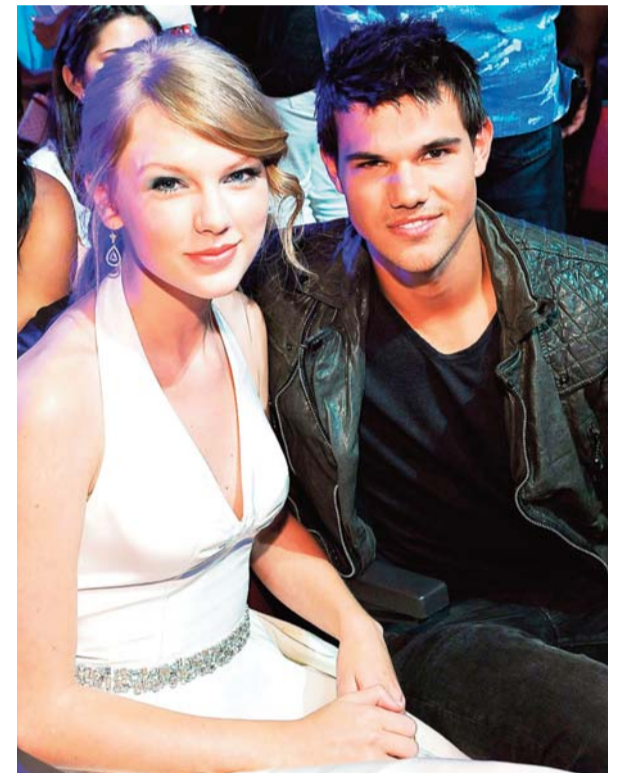
## John Boyega says he caught a Pokemon on the 'Star Wars' set

John Boyega caught a Pokemon on the set of 'Star Wars: Episode VIII'. The 24-year-old actor is big fan of 'Pokemon Go' and would spend his downtime between scenes bringing his character Finn to life at Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire, South East England, hunting pocket monsters on the Niantic Labs augmented reality game. And Boyega was very excited when he grabbed a Pikachu on the set populated by Stormtroopers, a wookiee and other aliens. In an interview with TechCrunch

he was asked if was playing 'Pokemon Go', to which he replied: "I do have the app. Currently at level 5, CP levels are looking good. I found a Pikachu at Pinewood Studios while filming 'Star Wars'. I told everybody, 'I got a Pikachu!' I was the most popular kid on set for like a day." Boyega is playing the title as much as he can and has been logging on in Boston where he is filming Kathryn Bigelow's new movie about the 1967 Detroit riots. The British hunk was surprised to find so many people playing the game on the



streets of the American city. He said: "I thought there was like a fight going on, there were so many people crowding ... I was like, 'What's going on?' Oh, they're just playing 'Pokemon'. It's great the ways technology has brought us all together. It's a very interesting time." Boyega is not the only celebrity to get hooked on the game. Other famous players include Lily Allen, Justin Bieber, Ellen DeGeneres, Demi Lovato, Joe Jonas and Steve Aoki.



## Lautner had 'fun with' Swift

Taylor Lautner had a "fun few months" with Taylor Swift. The 'Scream Queens' actor briefly dated the 'Shake It Off' singer in 2009 and he still has fond memories of their time together. Asked about their romance, he told 'Entertainment Tonight': "It was a good time. It was a fun few months there." And Taylor later admitted he still listens to his former girlfriend's music while he was being mocked about his love life by 'Scream Queens' co-stars Lea Michele and John Stamos during a Facebook Live interview. Lea said: "You dated Taylor Swift. I remember that. Should we talk about it? 'Didn't she write a song about you?' Taylor replied: "That's what she does. She writes songs." John then asked which song his pal had inspired, and Lea replied: "I listen to it on the one about a sweater and a hat." The 'Cuckoo' actor appeared visibly uncomfortable and tried to change the subject, simply saying: "That's hilarious." But Lea persisted with her questioning, and then said: "Am I right, though? I listened to '22' by the pool today. I was like, 'I'm feeling 22, guys.'" Taylor then conceded: "It's good music. I listen to it." While Taylor has only nice things to say about his former girlfriend, the 26-year-old singer - who is now dating Tom Hiddleston - recently found herself slammed by her most recent ex-boyfriend, Calvin Harris. Calvin took to the social networking site to claim his former flame was trying to "tear [him] down" after she confirmed she wrote his latest song 'This Is What You Came For' under a pseudonym. In a series of tweets, he wrote: "Hurtful to me at this point that her and her team would go so far out of their way to try and make ME look bad at this stage though '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 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 (sic)". He also confirmed Taylor lent her vocals to part of his latest track and praised her lyrical abilities. He tweeted, along with an upside down smiley face, after the report was confirmed: "And she sings on a little bit of it too. Amazing lyric writer and she smashed it as usual (sic)."



## Hathaway not worried about weight

Anne Hathaway insists there is no "shame" in gaining weight. The 'Devil Wears Prada' actress gave birth to son Jonathan - her first child with husband Adam Schulman - four months ago but isn't upset that she hasn't lost the weight she gained during her pregnancy as quickly as she imagined. Sharing a picture of some cropped denim trousers being cut into shorts, she wrote on Instagram: "There is no shame in gaining weight during pregnancy (or ever). There is no shame if it takes longer than you think it will to lose the weight (if you want to lose it at all). There is no shame in finally breaking down and making your own jean shorts because last summer's are just too dang short for this summer's thighs. Bodies change. Bodies grow. Bodies shrink. It's all love (don't let anyone tell you otherwise.) Peace xx #noshamer #lovewhatyouhavebeengiven (sic)" A few months after giving birth, the 33-year-old actress admitted the process had given her a new appreciation for her body. She said: "I work out in West Hollywood, so you see, like, Thor's trainer-you know, the people who have too many muscles to be in 'The Avengers'-so I would normally walk in and feel so intimidated. "But [now] I walk in, I'm like, 'Yeah I work

out with 5 lb. weights, but I pushed a baby out of my body, I feel good right now." And during one recent workout, the 'Interstellar' actress thought she'd caught the eye of a fellow gym-goer - only to realize he was looking for work. She recalled: "He comes up to me. He's like, 'So you been working out at this gym a long time?' And I'm like, 'Oh my God, he's hitting on me. Nice, new mom. I feel really good about myself and I'm like, 'Oh yeah, I've been coming here for a little bit.' "He's like, 'Cool, I'm a trainer here and just wondering if you want some pointers.' And I'm like, 'Oh no, he's not hitting on you, he just wants a job!' " Anne then decided to tell the trainer she was a new parent in the hope he'd compliment her post-baby figure, but she was left disappointed. She said: "I'm expecting him to say the thing that you say when someone says they've had a baby, which is, 'Oh my God, you look great!' "Doesn't matter if it's true. If somebody says, 'I had a baby 13 years ago,' you say, 'You look great.' That is what you do, that is the etiquette." So I say to this guy, 'I had a baby seven weeks ago.' And he goes, 'Oh, trying to lose the baby weight!'"

## Jodie Marsh says no to more pets

Jodie Marsh has ruled out having any more pets. The TV documentary maker has decided to not add any more animals to her menagerie after giving a home to a little abandoned kitten which she got from Wanderers Haven Animal Sanctuary. Jodie is besotted with her pussy, who she has called Maggie, but now in a new YouTube video she has posted to promote the center she admits she has as many animals as much as she can handle. The 37-year-old bodybuilder said: "I can't have any more myself at the moment, as you know I've got six, and I just can't have anymore." During the video, Jodie admitted she falls in love with nearly all of the animals she's introduced to, and in particular Albert the Basset who she meets in the video. She gushed over the animal: "You're just a saggy dog, I love saggy dogs. I Love Albert he's very funny - gorgeous." The 'Totally Jodie Marsh' star was also taken with 14-year-old Jack - who a lot of people find undesirable because of his age - but Jodie argued that older dogs are often a good bet to give a home to. She explained: "I would quite happily re-home an old dog like this. If he's only got a couple of years left, I wanna give him the best couple of years of his life. And it's not as big a commitment either. "People who take on a one year old or a two year old are committing to, potentially, 15 years whereas with an old dog like this your probably only looking at a couple of years." The video urges people to consider rehoming a pet rather than buying one, and she said: "It's just a

reminder to ask you all to rescue instead of buy. As you all know I have rescue animals at home and they're amazing." As well as Maggie, Jodie - who recently split from her husband James Placido after just eight months of marriage - owns three cats and five dogs, including fully grown Rottweiler Ralph.



## Lea Michele feels 'the best' she has ever felt with her body



The 29-year-old actress - who recently stripped for a photo-shoot with Women's Health magazine - has admitted although she felt intimidated shedding her clothes she is "comfortable" in her skin and is "very happy" with her appearance because she feels she is in the best shape she has been in her "whole life". Speaking to ET Canada about her physique, the brunette beauty said: "It was intimidating following in Chrissy Teigen's shoes. She's so beautiful. Zoe Saldana has done the cover as well. But I'm very comfortable in my skin. I was on Broadway and I had to take my clothes off there as well." "It wasn't that crazy for me, but then again, at the end of the day when you're taking these pictures you're like, 'Oh wait, these are going to be on newsstands for the whole world to see.' "But I'm very happy with how it came out. I feel the best I've ever felt in my whole life. I'm going to be 30 in three weeks, so I think it was the perfect time to do

that." However, the 'Scream Queens' star has revealed doesn't work out in a gym to stay in shape. Speaking previously, she said: "I'm not the kind of person who would go to the gym. For me, working out has to be good for my mind too, and when I leave [spinning class SoulCycle], the endorphins are buzzing. I'm glowing and I feel like I can take on the world." Meanwhile, the former 'Glee' star has recently taken to Snapchat to detail her beauty routine. The star joked about her ablations on social media, as she allowed fans to see her getting her bushy brows tamed and hair on her upper lip waxed off. In the video of her eyebrows getting waxed, she opened her eyes wide and said: "This is going to hurt really bad." And as she got her facial fuzz removed, she joked: "This is the real beauty, you guys. This is what happens when you're half Jewish, half Italian." — Bang Showbiz

## KYLIE JENNER IS 'OBSESSED' WITH BLUSHER

The 18-year-old 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star has admitted she is "seriously" in love with the pink cheek powder, and has a soft spot for the British make-up artist and beauty mogul Charlotte Tilbury's two-part palette in her Cheek to Chic Swish and Pop cosmetic line. Speaking about her essential make-up products on her website thekyliejenner.com, the brunette beauty - who is currently dating 'Rack City' hitmaker Tyga - said: "I'm seriously obsessed with blush. I have tried so many different brands and I love a lot of them, but there's one that stands out! "Charlotte Tilbury's Cheek to Chic Swish and Pop collection is a two-part blush and my favorite palette is Love is the Drug. You're supposed to 'swish' the outer shade on your cheekbone and 'pop' the center color on the

apple of your cheek and blend the two." And the teen entrepreneur - who built her beauty empire Kylie Cosmetics over two years - has revealed she has done "a lot" of damage to her tresses over time, and relies on Moroccan Oil shampoo and conditioner, which contains argan oil and a variety of vitamins, to repair her locks. The youngest of the Kardashian/Jenner gang explained: "I've done a lot of damage to my hair over the years, so it needs lots of hydration! That's why I love Moroccan Oil shampoo and conditioner. The products have argan oil, vitamins A and E, and red algae, which helps moisturize. Moroccan Oil has really saved my hair!"





FOOD



Photo shows William and Jessica Wong of Sydney, Australia, making confit cod on flatbread at a Catalonia-style cooking class in Barcelona, Spain.



Chef Rosa Camprodon shows tourist Carlos Rajo how to make Catalonia-style paella in Barcelona, Spain.



Chef Rosa Camprodon instructing tourists from California and Singapore in Catalonia-style cooking in Barcelona, Spain.— AP photos



Photo shows tourist Carlos Rajo stirring rice for a Catalonia-style paella in Barcelona, Spain.



Photo shows software engineer Abhishek Parmar and his 9-year-old son, Arjun, making Catalonia-style tomato bread in a cooking class in Barcelona, Spain.

## What color is paella? The answer, from a Barcelona chef

Of course we are familiar with the Spanish rice dish paella, we say. It is the color of a Mediterranean sunrise, a coral red or saffron yellow. Chef Rosa Camprodon shakes her head. Or maybe that's a shudder. She is our instructor at a Barcelona cooking school that caters to tourists, and she is teaching us to make paella Catalonia-style: a rich coppery brown.

Camprodon tosses finely diced onion into a pan of hot olive oil and has one student stir it. Add the tomato, and stir. Never let it sit on the flame, she says. Never let it burn. Add rice and stir 15 minutes in all, or until the mixture is a deep brown, ready for other ingredients. "There are as many paellas as there are cooks," Camprodon says. "But paella is not red or yellow. It is brown. The darkness depends on how long you caramelize the onions in their own natural sugar."

Chefs are nothing if not opinionated about food. And food, like art or history, is a great gateway into a new place. So on our first trip to Barcelona, my husband and I signed up for a half-day class with the Cook and Taste school. But before we tackled the paella, we spent a few hours on the history, gathering food for thought on a group walking tour about the Spanish Civil War. Our guide, Nick Lloyd, met us in the morning near La Rambla and La Boqueria market as tourists and foodies began to pour in. But he took us back to a time when the city was draped in red and black flags, with workers armed for battle. Here in the 1930s, he explained, followers of "Karl Marx, Adam Smith and the anarchists" joined forces in a revolutionary government in Catalonia, to fight against the fascists led by Gen. Francisco Franco - before turning on each other.

Lloyd pointed out a building once occupied by anarchists, across the plaza from another occupied by communists, and down La Rambla to the hotel where George Orwell stayed when he joined other volunteers who came to Spain from around the world to fight Franco. Lloyd recited passages from Orwell's "Homage to Catalonia" by heart, and explained that the war was a prelude to World War II. Franco crushed Barcelona's revolutionary government when his forces took the city in 1939, and he ruled the country with an iron fist until his death in 1975. It took decades for Barcelona to recover, but today the city is a bustling cosmopolitan center, known not so much for its bloody past and revolutionary struggles as for, among other things, Gaudi, soccer and of course, food.

The city's cuisine gained international fame in part thanks to the innovative chef Ferran Adria.

His El Bulli restaurant closed in 2011 but his influence remains. And maybe that's why we even thought to take a cooking class. The menu at Cook and Taste was gazpacho, roasted vegetables and cod over flatbread, seafood paella and, for dessert, crema Catalana. Our diverse group of 12 from the US, Singapore and Australia had much to learn and eat in four hours: The ham must be room temperature so the fat melts over the meat to bring out the flavor. The cockles for the paella should be cleaned in cold water with salt "so it feels like home," Camprodon said. The mussels, well, "they are very sociable, you know," so you must remove the thin beard-like membrane they use to cling to each other and to rocks. We prepared dessert first so it would have time to chill. One group whisked egg yolks and milk infused with lemon peel and cinnamon. The scented mixture was poured into terracotta dishes and refrigerated.

Another group diced and blended gazpacho, using the traditional tomato, cucumber, green pepper and garlic along with unusual ingredients: watermelon and beets. Camprodon prepared flatbread dough ahead, so it could rise before baking. We roasted eggplant, onions and red pepper, peeled the peppers and cut the vegetables into strips before boiling the cod in hot olive oil with garlic and cayenne. The bread was cut into squares and layered with vegetables and fish.

Finally, the paella. "This is a social event. We make it on Sundays with kids everywhere and sometime people fight, 'No, I make the best paella, I do it better...'" but there is plenty for everyone to do. This is hard work," Camprodon explained. We took turns stirring onions, added vegetables, rice and a saffron-garlic paste, then spread it evenly in a pan. "No empty spaces, please," Camprodon said. She added plenty of salt but not as much as locals seem to like. Cockles, mussels and shrimp were laid on top, then fish stock was poured into the pan and brought to a boil. "Another rule of paella: Never, ever stir after the stock has been added," she said. "Ideally, the rice is a little al dente." We ate gazpacho and flatbread as the paella cooked. At last, it was ready, as delicious as it looked. We savored the flavors but left room for the finale: our Catalan dessert, topped by sugar caramelized with a kitchen blow torch. We left sated, educated and ready for a siesta. — AP



A Catalonia-style seafood paella that is being prepared by tourists at cooking class offered by cooking school Cook and Taste in Barcelona, Spain.



Photo shows sisters Andrea and Sandra Siow of Singapore and Carlos Rajo of the United States practicing their chopping techniques in Barcelona, Spain.

## Summertime herbs make versatile herbed yogurt cheese

By Sara Moulton

If there's ever a time when you can have too much of a good thing, it might be right now, when fresh summertime herbs are beyond abundant. Happily, this recipe for Fresh Herbed Yogurt Cheese is just the ticket when you're looking to put a dent in the stockpile of herbs overflowing in your garden or taking up too much space in your refrigerator. It's a fresh cheese based on Greek yogurt, and it's very flexible regarding its herbal flavorings. I've chosen some of my favorites, including chives, parsley, thyme and tarragon. But if you have other herbs at hand - basil, cilantro, mint, oregano - go right ahead and swap them in for my mix.

Whichever herbs you use, be sure to chop them with a supersharp knife, and do so briefly and efficiently. Whacking away at herbs endlessly with a dull knife guarantees that you'll end up with a wet, gray mess. Making this cheese is simple, but you need to plan ahead because the yogurt takes 48 hours to drain. And although you're welcome to dig into it right after you've added the herbs, it tastes much better if you let it chill overnight. Plus, it's easier then to shape the cheese into a log or a round.

As an appetizer, this spread is delicious served on toasted French bread rounds or your favorite crackers. It's also great in place of mustard or mayonnaise on a summer sandwich of sliced turkey, smoked salmon, or roast beef - or on veggie sandwiches starring cucumbers or tomatoes. However you use this cheese, you'll be glad to have put the season's herbs to good use.

### Fresh herbed yogurt cheese

Start to finish: 2 1/2 days plus 20 minutes (20 active)

17.6 ounce container (about 2 cups) Greek yogurt, full-fat or low-fat, your choice  
3 tablespoons minced shallot  
2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley

1 tablespoon minced fresh chives  
2 teaspoons minced fresh tarragon  
1 1/2 teaspoons minced garlic  
1 teaspoon minced fresh thyme  
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
Salt and black pepper  
Toasted baguette slices or crackers

Line a large strainer with a triple layer of rinsed and squeezed cheesecloth and set the strainer over a larger bowl. Pile the yogurt into the strainer, spreading it out. Cover with plastic wrap, top with a plate and a weight such as a can of tomatoes and let the yogurt drain in the refrigerator for 48 hours.

Transfer the drained yogurt to a bowl and stir in the next 7 ingredients. Add salt and pepper to taste. If time permits, cover and chill the cheese for up to 8 hours (to develop the flavor). Shape the cheese into logs or rounds and serve with toasted baguette slices or crackers. Makes a little over 2 cups.

Nutrition information per 2-ounce serving: 76 calories; 43 calories from fat; 5 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 4 mg cholesterol; 56 mg sodium; 3 g carbohydrate; 0 g fiber; 3 g sugar; 5 g protein. — AP



## Taking green bean salad up a notch

By Katie Workman

Green beans can be - well, I'll say it, boring. They are one of the most accessible and affordable vegetables on the market, and one of the easiest to prepare, but too often they bring to mind the word "meh." But green beans can lend themselves to so many different kinds of preparations and seasonings that there are lots of reasons to make the effort to take them to another level. They can be roasted, steamed, boiled and sauteed, or served at room temperature in a salad, as in this recipe.

Here they are paired with bright, tangy clementine oranges and salty feta, then lifted up another notch with minced shallots and fresh thyme leaves. If you don't have coarse Dijon you can use regular, though I like the extra texture that the coarse variety gives to the dressing. The beans can be cooked and tossed with the dressing up to two days ahead, which lets them marinate a bit. Add the oranges and feta just before serving. All in all, a far cry from "meh."

### Green bean salad with clementine oranges and feta

Start to finish: 20 minutes  
Servings: 6

1 1/2 pounds green beans  
3 clementines  
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  
2 tablespoons rice vinegar  
2 tablespoons minced shallots  
1 tablespoon coarse Dijon mustard  
1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves  
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste  
1 cup crumbled feta

Bring a large pot of generously salted water to a boil. Drop the beans into the water and let them cook for 3 minutes until they start to become tender. Drain the beans in a colander and run cold water over them to stop the cooking, cool them down and preserve the bright green color. Peel the clementines and cut each segment in half crosswise. Cut the cooled beans in half cross-wise.

In a small bowl or container, combine the olive oil, vinegar, shallots, mustard, thyme, salt and pepper. Whisk or shake to combine. Place the beans and orange segments in a large bowl and drizzle the dressing over them. Toss to combine thoroughly. Add 1/2 cup of the feta and toss again gently to combine, then sprinkle the rest of the feta on top. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

Nutrition information per serving: 166 calories; 93 calories from fat; 10 g fat (4 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 22 mg cholesterol; 337 mg sodium; 14 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 8 g sugar; 6 g protein. — AP







Review

This image released by Disney shows Oakes Fegley in a scene from "Pete's Dragon." — AP

## Florence Foster Jenkins: Tone-deaf but adored

When opera lovers ask New York's Carnegie Hall for souvenir concert programs, they're not usually interested in Maria Callas or Joan Sutherland. More often than not, the name they request is Florence Foster Jenkins, an American socialite who only appeared at the legendary venue once, and couldn't hold a note. "In order for a singer to succeed, they need to have a combination of talent, charisma, and interpretive quality," Carnegie's archives director Gino Francesconi wrote in a blogpost commemorating her life.

"And, by definition, they need to be able to sing. Florence Foster Jenkins had none of these attributes. In fact, she was considered one of the worst singers of all time." Jenkins, who craved fame as a diva but gained infamy for her terrible voice, is the subject of "Florence Foster Jenkins," a bittersweet biopic which hits US theaters this week, starring three-time Oscar winner Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant. "She almost gets it, and that's what I found delicious in her," Streep told the audience at a preview screening for the Paramount picture in Beverly Hills last week.

"I started listening to the recordings and I could feel her getting really excited and her thinking 'This is going very well,'" said the actress. Jenkins, who inherited a fortune from her father in 1909, had to give up her beloved piano due to nerve damage from syphilis contracted from her first husband when she was just a teenager. She used her wealth to indulge her passion for opera singing instead, putting on grand artistic soirées for polite society at the Ritz-Carlton, the Waldorf and other upscale Manhattan venues.

### 'Vanity'

Those who heard her-often acquaintances rather than paying members of the public-knew she was a terrible singer but none ever felt inclined to tell her. "It became a thing to do. You had to go and listen to Florence Foster screw up every song she attempted to sing," says Francesconi. She was persuaded to make her Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 76 on October 25, 1944 and walked onstage in flamboyant homemade costumes, throwing roses into the sell-out crowd. The concert went as poorly as had every other recital, but this time Jenkins was not among friends.

Henry Simon of the daily newspaper PM described the audience's laughter as "the cruelest and least civilized behavior I have ever witnessed in Carnegie Hall." But a less charitable write-up in the Los Angeles Times described the performance as the "most pathetic exhibition of vanity I have ever seen." The singer's common-law husband, failed Shakespearean actor St Clair Bayfield hadn't approved of the concert, and wrote after her death that it had "turned out the fiasco I expected." "Afterward, when we went home, Florence was upset-and when she read the reviews, crushed. She had not known, you see," he added.

Diagnosed with heart strain, she died a month later. Directed by Stephen Frears ("Philomena," "The Queen"), the movie was shot in London and Liverpool, a city in northwestern England whose architecture is said to resemble that of 1940s Manhattan.

### 'Funny and moving'

"I thought it was a very special kind of gift, an adventure, to look into the life of someone who had no understanding of how she presented, except to hope that it went well," said Streep, 67. Grant-whose acting had taken a back seat to campaigning in Britain for tighter regulation of the country's famously rowdy tabloid press-was in semi-retirement, "having a baby a week, basically," when he was asked to play Bayfield.

"Stephen, who I knew a bit through the politics, started to make noises about a film. I thought he was joking and then suddenly this script appeared on my desk from him," said the actor, who has fathered four children since turning 50. "Not only was it funny and moving, but it was also directed by him-his quite classy-and Meryl bloody Streep was going to be in it so I absolutely had to say yes." —AFP



This file photo taken on April 12, 2016 shows US actress Meryl Streep (left) and British actor Hugh Grant as they arrive for the premiere of "Florence Foster Jenkins" in London. — AFP

## Cruise's 'Mena' pushed back, gets new title

Tom Cruise's cartel film "Mena" is now called "American Made," and is moving from Jan 6, 2017, to Sept 29, 2017, Universal Pictures announced on Monday. "American Made" is the latest collaboration between Cruise and director Doug Liman, who helmed the A-lister in "Edge of Tomorrow." "American Made" is based on the real-life exploits of Barry Seal, a hustler for drug kingpin Pablo Escobar and pilot unexpectedly recruited by the CIA to run one of the biggest covert operations in US history, one that almost brought down the Reagan White House through the Iran Contra scandal. Cruise, himself a trained pilot, plays Seal.

Related Pilot of Fatal Plane Crash Talked About Danger of Shooting Films (VIDEO) Imagine Entertainment's Brian Grazer, Cross Creek Pictures' Brian Oliver and Tyler Thompson, Quadrant Pictures' Doug Davison and Kim Roth are producing. Cross Creek Pictures is financing the film, with Universal handling distribution. The film generated headlines last year, when a plane carrying crew members crashed on the set in



Tom Cruise

## 'Pete's Dragon' (pleasantly) stays earthbound

After an exhausting summer buffet of set pieces, superheroes and whatever s-word you might use for "Suicide Squad," the gentle "Pete's Dragon" is a welcome palate cleanser. Where other summer movies are chest-thumping, it's quiet; where others are brashly cynical, it's sweetly sincere; where others are lacking in giant cuddly dragons, "Pete's Dragon" has one. Few may remember the 1977 Disney original, in which a young boy's best friend was a bubbly dragon invisible to others. As part of Disney's continuing effort to remake its animated classics in live-action, "Pete's Dragon" has been confidently reborn as an earnest tale of green-winged wonder.

David Lowery, a veteran of the independent film world and the director of the lyrical crime drama "Ain't Them Bodies Saints," inherits a far bigger film. But his "Pete's Dragon" still maintains the homespun feel of an American fable. Spielberg-light, you might call it. The film begins, in the "Bambi" tradition, in parental tragedy. Pete's family is driving through a remote Pacific Northwest forest with Pete nestled in the backseat of the station wagon, reading a children's book about a dog named Elliott. A deer sprints out and, in poetic slow-

motion, the gravity of the car's interior is upended. The car flips off the road and Pete staggers from the crash.

Flashing forward six years, Pete (Oakes Fegley) is a wild 10-year-old orphan living in the woods alone except for his magical companion, the dragon Elliott. As far as CGI creatures go, Elliott is an irresistible one. Furry as a fairway, he's like an enormous emerald-green puppy. Far from the "Game of Thrones" dragon variety, he's more adept at chasing his own tail than breathing fire. He's also the subject of local folklore, mostly as told by Robert Redford's wood-carving storyteller.

### Magic and family and faith

But it's his forest ranger daughter Grace (Bryce Dallas Howard) that first encounters Elliott and ultimately leads to the dragon's discovery. Grace coaxes Elliott back into society and into the fold of her family. She has a daughter, Natalie (Oona Laurence) and lumber mill-running husband Jack (Wes Bentley). It's the push by a logging company - where Jack's brother, Gavin (Karl Urban) is a gun-totting lumberjack - into the forest that simultaneously begins flushing out Pete and Elliott from their home in the trees. The lush forest (New

Zealand, again, subbing for North America) reigns over "Pete's Dragon," a tale scored with soft bluegrass and exuding an environment-friendly love for the beautiful and exotic splendors of nature. When competing interests come for Elliott, they are really fighting for the soul of the forest.

There are Spielbergian gestures here of magic and family and faith, perhaps better orchestrated than Spielberg's own recent try at a Disney film, "The BFG." But it's missing a spark, a sense of danger and maybe a little humor. The lean simplicity of "Pete's Dragon" is its greatest attribute and its weakness. It doesn't quite achieve liftoff until the film's final moments. But it does at last catch flight, finally soaring beyond its humble folksiness. "Pete's Dragon," a Walt Disney Co release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for "action, peril and brief language." Running time: 103 minutes. Three stars out of four. — AP

## A Minute With: Robert Redford on magical childhood stories

Hollywood veteran Robert Redford returns to his childhood love of fantasy stories in "Pete's Dragon," a new Disney film about an orphaned boy living in a forest and his friendship with one such creature. The fantasy adventure is a remake of the 1977 movie of the same name and this time movie features a realistic green-furred computer-generated creation of the dragon named Elliott.

Redford, 79, known for films such as "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "Out of Africa," plays Meacham, the father of forest ranger Grace (Bryce Dallas Howard) and the only one other than Pete (Oakes Fegley) to encounter the dragon.

**Q: You're seen as this champion of independent cinema, so what was it that made you decide to go into this?**

**A:** This was about a chance to return to my own childhood experience and remember times when I was a kid ... I loved stories that had magic in them. Then you grow out of that as you get older and you miss it. So this was a chance to play a role in a film that allowed me to step back into that time.

**Q: How did you imagine the dragon? Did anyone give you any cues?**

**A:** No, you really had to imagine the dragon because all you got when you were working was a pole with a tennis ball at the end and that was the dragon ... You had to imagine what the dragon would look like because it hadn't been developed yet.

**Q: What do you think this film says about the environment?**

**A:** If we keep cutting down trees, if we keep cutting things away and taking things away, pretty soon there will be nothing left to take away. There will be no planet ... I think the film illustrates the value of something like a forest, the storytelling values something like an animal in the forest that no one believes exists. I think those are very important things in this day and age because we become pretty cynical.

**Q: So how much would you say you live the life of someone who keeps their eyes open?**

**A:** My eyes are always open. I'm always looking at what's beyond or behind what I'm looking at and also I love using my imagination. I exercise that because that's what storytelling is about. I love storytelling because I think we're bred on storytelling. — Reuters



Robert Redford

## 'Game of Thrones' music tour coming to N America

The creators of "Game of Thrones" are turning the blockbuster fantasy epic into a North American concert tour, bringing together both the music and new visuals from the series. The tour next year will focus on the score composed by Ramin Djawadi, who will present the music with a full orchestra and what producers promised to be innovative video technology. "By combining the music with state-of-the-art technology, we are going to bring the astonishing world of Westeros to fans in a live and unique concert experience," the German-

born, half-Iranian composer said in a statement.

Djawadi, who also wrote the score for the Marvel action film "Iron Man," is teaming up on the tour with "Game of Thrones" network HBO and leading concert promoter Live Nation. The tour will open February 15 in Kansas City with a total of 28 dates across the United States and Canada including at New York's Madison Square Garden. Producers said that the tour would include original footage for "Game of Thrones," whose sixth season recently concluded. —AFP



## 'The Exorcist' TV producers explain the connections to the iconic film

"The Exorcist" TV series that Fox will unveil this fall takes place in the same universe occupied by the iconic William Friedkin film, producers said at the Television Critics Association panel for the show. The drama, which premieres Sept 23, takes place in Chicago, 40 years after the events depicted in the film. There will be nods to the original, including occasional use of the Mike Oldfield composition "Tubular Bells" — though the TV "Exorcist" won't be able to use it too often, because it's a not a cheap song to license, according to executive producer and director Rupert Wyatt. "We never set out to use it," Wyatt said. But eventually, after a bit of prodding, the producers "tried it at the end of the [pilot] cut, and we realized that it worked."

Related Fox Chiefs Talk Reboots, 'X-Files' Future and Strains of Peak TV Era "If you can earn something through the story," then it should go in, he said. "It was always our intent not to just plaster it on for the sake of homage." In another scene, there is mention of the priests who appeared in the film, noted executive producer Jeremy Slater. "It was important to let everyone know that this is a continuation of an existing story," said Slater. Those acknowledgements are in the first episode, and they're there in part to indicate that decades have passed, and audience members should not expect Fathers Karras and Merrin to "show up" at the home of the Rance family, whose plight occupies much of the ten-episode first season.

### Evil insinuating

Slater, Wyatt and the cast noted that one of their biggest goals was to carry over the grounded tone and realistic atmosphere of the first "Exorcist" film. Wyatt, who directed the pilot, noted that Friedkin had a background in documentary film before helming feature films. "He was approaching it as an agnostic or as an ambivalent [person] — the notion of evil insinuating itself into a situation, and whether that is demonic possession or part of the psychological makeup of the person," Wyatt said. "That's part of what made it wholly terrifying-that it was so plausible." "I believe there is evil in the world and we have certainly seen instances of it historically, and currently," said Geena Davis, who plays Angela Rance in the drama. "I think everyone is capable of an extreme range of behaviors,

depending on what you're exposed to and what your character can resist."

Davis, the founder of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, noted that the producers were well aware of the extensive work she has done to combat sexist Hollywood practices and stereotypes in the media. "When I was first approached, they were very earnest about letting me know" that they wanted her feedback and input, Davis said. Half the show's writers and two of its directors are women, she noted, and she also said that the arcs of the female characters were, in many ways, the dominant parts of the story.

### Twists and turns

"I haven't really had to bust anybody on anything," she said. "I think they're going out of their way so that I can be extremely proud of the show." Though it shares many aspects of the original-a family in crisis and priests who attempt to help-this version of "The Exorcist" will layer in the building blocks of a mythology that, in theory, would allow the show to run for some time. "This time around, evil has grander ambitions than targeting an eight-year-old girl in Georgetown," Slater said. Though this bigger story structure will be constructed around the Vances, the family and their relationships will remain the entry points for the audience.

"You need the propulsive twists and turns, and we have plenty of big plot twists, but at the end of the day, it's always going to be about a family in trouble and the priests brought in to help them," Slater said. If audiences didn't become involved in the characters, "we haven't done our jobs." There are scares, Slater said, but it's not a show that will deliver lots of gore every week. "We're learning a lot about what you can and can't accomplish on a TV budget," Slater said. "You have to be very judicious and smart about when you use your scares-you don't want to numb the audience. ... The audience knows the horror is coming, and as long as their patience is rewarded, the pressure is to tell the best story possible, not to tell the most shocking or gratuitous story possible." —Reuters





Seibun Nakamine makes a sanshin - a banjo-like instrument - at his workshop in Urasone, Okinawa prefecture.



Seibun Nakamine makes a sanshin - a banjo-like instrument - at his workshop in Urasone, Okinawa prefecture.—AFP photos



Tatsuo Chinen (left) sings a song as he plays the sanshin - a banjo-like instrument - at a pub in Naha, Okinawa prefecture.

# Okinawa's snakeskin banjo stands test of time



Seibun Nakamine makes a sanshin - a banjo-like instrument - at his workshop in Urasone, Okinawa prefecture.

**E**normous python skins hang from a wire inside the sweltering workshop where Seibun Nakamine sculpts a piece of Okinawa's musical identity. They are essential for the wiry 69-year-old craftsman who has spent nearly half a century making the three-stringed sanshin. The snakeskin-covered instrument, similar to a banjo, sits at the heart of the sub-tropical island chain's rich musical history. Its contagious, twangy sound is a fixture at weddings, festivals, and other celebrations.

Sitting on the wooden floor of his tiny studio, a pair of huge ox horns on the wall above, Nakamine sees his work as much more than assembling an instrument which can take several weeks to make and cost as much as \$5,000. Crafting a sanshin—which means three strings in Japanese—from ebony wood is like giving birth to a child, he said. "When I sell them to musicians, I feel like I am marrying off my daughter," Nakamine said.

"The art of making the sanshin is based on really old customs. It's complex, but very exciting to do. It's my job to figure out how to craft its body from the middle with the best possible balance and in the most beautiful way," he added. Nakamine—who has already chosen the sanshin music to be played at his funeral—is part of a dying breed. He estimates there are only about 50 professional sanshin makers left in Okinawa these days. The archipelago, which sits about 650 kilometers (400 miles) southwest of the Japanese mainland, was once home to the independent Ryukyu kingdom until it was annexed by Tokyo in the late 1800s.

For hundreds of years before that, Okinawa had strong links with China where a similar three-stringed instrument, the sanxian, served as a model for what would become the sanshin and, later, the Japanese shamisen. Okinawa, the scene of some of World War II's heaviest fighting, became a US colony after Japan's surrender in 1945. It was returned to Tokyo's control in the early seventies.

### 'Shadow warriors'

During the tough post-war years, some Okinawans resorted to a makeshift version of the instrument made out of a piece of wood and tin can. "Playing the sanshin was a comfort and helped to relieve the stress," said musician Tatsuo Chinen at a bar in the capital city Naha that specializes in sanshin music. But Chinen thinks the sanshin is not only an instrument of the past. "There are many young people who are now interested in this instrument," he added. For many though, the sanshin remains a powerful reminder of Okinawa's history, and its soulful sound can mirror a vast range of emotions, from intense sadness to bubbling joy.



Sometimes that joy translates into islanders opting to play sanshin music or listening to a performance—instead of working, Nakamine joked. "It's my opinion, but if you ask me, Okinawans like fooling around," he says. The sanshin has now crossed over into other more pop and rock-like musical styles among Okinawan bands. And so Nakamine tries to match what he creates to the voice and musical style of his clients. "If you try to determine the sanshin's sound when it's done being made, you're already too late," he added.

"That won't answer a customer's needs." The craftsman's sun-wrinkled hands are a hot commodity and his order backlog can sometimes stretch back more than 10 months. But it's not his opinion of the work that counts most, Nakamine said. "The musician judges whether a sanshin is good or bad," he said. "As craftsmen, we do our best to make a great instrument. But in the end we're only (working) in the shadow of the musician. "We're shadow warriors."— AFP

An elderly man (right) and children dance to the sounds of the sanshin - a banjo-like instrument - played by Tatsuo Chinen (left) at a pub in Naha, Okinawa prefecture. The snakeskin-covered instrument, similar to a banjo, sits at the heart of the sub-tropical island chain's rich musical history.



Schoolchildren sing a song as they play the sanshin.



Seibun Nakamine makes a sanshin.



Seibun Nakamine makes a sanshin.



Seibun Nakamine explains the process of making a sanshin - a banjo-like instrument - as dried python skin (right), used to make the instrument, is seen at his workshop in Urasone, Okinawa prefecture.



# Lifestyle

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Indian schoolchildren wear the colors of the country's tricolor as they pray for world peace at The Anjuman-E-Islam School in Ahmedabad yesterday, while commemorating the 71st anniversary of the nuclear explosion over Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. — AFP

## Escape rooms get an upgrade into a deeper theatrical show

You meet in a nondescript reception room in a midtown Manhattan skyscraper. You're handed a form on a clipboard. Then the receptionist slips away and the doors lock and all hell breaks loose. Within an hour, you and your group will have searched for clues in drawers and bookcases to get free, crawled through a ventilation shaft and encountered a woman dangling from a meat hook. "Paradiso: Chapter 1" fuses the traditional escape room game with theatrical elements like actors and high-tech production values.

"Paradiso" is one of several shows pushing the boundaries of what escape rooms can become, turning the fast-growing games into a richer, theatrical experience. "It seemed like there was an opportunity for escape rooms to go to the next level," said Michael Counts, the creator and one of the early pioneers of immersive theater. "For us, it was creating a deeper narrative, something that was expansive." Escape rooms were invented in Japan. They first appeared in the US in 2014. There are

now some 4,850 escape rooms in 84 countries and in every US state, according to the online Escape Room Directory.

"Maybe 'escape game' is a very limited word to use," said John Hennessy, one of the first to embrace the trend in the US. "I think we're going to have to start calling them something different." Hennessy, who organized races and scavenger hunts around southern California, now runs four escape rooms, including ones set in a medieval alchemist's lab and a film-noir style Hollywood mystery. "People spend their days pretty much staring at a screen - a monitor or a telephone, or whatever. This is very different from that. You're faced with problems that you have to solve by talking to each other and working with other people," he said.

### 'The Walking Dead Experience'

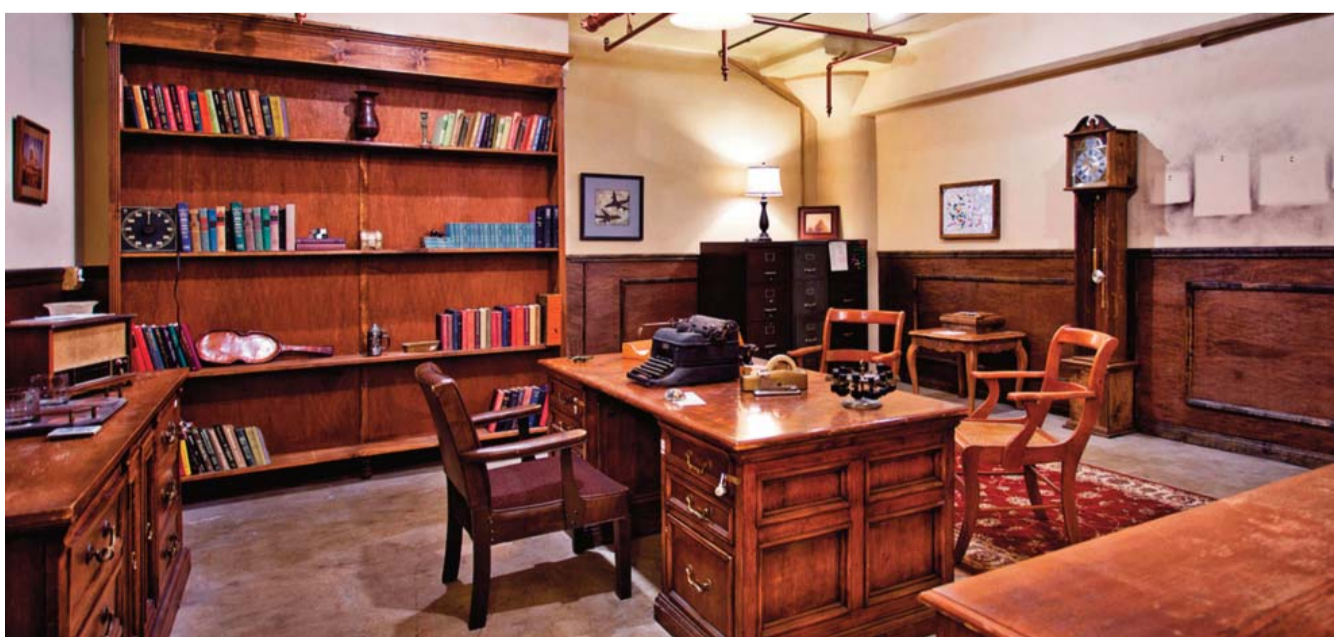
Counts teamed up with producer Jennifer Worthington, a former executive with filmmaker Jerry Bruckheimer, to create "Paradiso." To go deeper and scarier, they hired Broadway and immersive theater veterans - including lighting designer Ryan O'Gara from "Hamilton," video and special effects wizard Caleb Sharp from "The Walking Dead Experience" and set designer Katie Fleming of "Sleep No More." Ten guests at a time begin in the reception of the Virgil Corp., a nefarious Halliburton-like contractor. The cost is \$60, more than double the price of most regular escape rooms, but the experience is virtually cinematic.

The game is a noisy, chaotic, adrenalin-pumping scramble through four rooms. Doorknobs must be yanked in the darkness, peepholes in doors show scary figures, video screens flash messages, and there are holographic helicopters and corpses split in half - all to a doom-inducing soundscape. "You're sort of dropped into an action movie," said Worthington. "Who doesn't want to be in the middle of a James Bond movie?" In Orlando, Florida, Dave Maynard and his team at Digital Escape Velocity have added multi-touch screens, projectors, mobile devices and robotics. "We have gone completely off the deep end when it comes to throwing really high-tech stuff at it," Maynard said.

Maynard and his four teammates - all veterans of Lockheed Martin's research and development lab - just opened their first room, a deep space adventure set in 2225 that's customizable with the touch of a button. Six players at a time start in the battle-scarred engineering room of an alien ship and figure out how to power up the spacecraft and get to the observation deck and later the bridge. Wristbands offer players status updates, lights and engine sounds are synched up, video clues are sent depending on need and metrics are kept for a high scoreboard. "We innovate by really looking at how do we take the best of one thing and the best of another thing, put it together and make something that no one's ever seen before," said Maynard. — AP



This undated image released by Karen Greco Entertainment shows a scene from "Paradiso: Chapter 1," an immersive thriller created and directed by Michael Counts.



This undated image released by Race/LA shows one of the scenes for "Escape Room LA," in Los Angeles. — AP photos



This undated image provided by Objects of Art Santa Fe shows the Ramos Martinez painting Las Monjas dated 1943, on newsprint and offered at \$43,000 at the Objects of Art Santa Fe Show.



This undated image provided by Objects of Art Santa Fe shows a Francisco Zuniga painting 'Two Women' dated 1929. — AP photos

## Artwork from comedian Garry Shandling's estate to be sold

Dozens of paintings and other works of art from the estate of comedian Garry Shandling will be offered for sale at a show in New Mexico this week. Organizers of the annual Objects of Art Santa Fe say this will be the first public viewing of Shandling's collection, which includes Navajo rugs, Southwest furniture and pieces by Mexican artists Francisco Zuniga and Alfredo Ramos Martinez.

More than 40 of Shandling's personal pieces from his California home will be offered, ranging from a couple hundred dollars to more than \$40,000. The 66-year-old comedian, who died in March, stopped in Santa Fe often to vacation and buy art. Some of the pieces up for sale were originally purchased in Santa Fe, and it was through the recommendations of family and friends in California and relationships among art dealers that the pieces are finding their way back to New Mexico's art capital.

"Obviously Garry enjoyed the Southwest and enjoyed Santa Fe and this style of work so it was an exciting combination that we were doing the Objects show at the same time that they were ready to release the collection," said Kim Martindale, a co-producer of the show. Shandling was raised in Tucson, Arizona. On arriving in Los Angeles as a young adult, it was a short hop from a brief stint in the advertising business to comedy writing and stand-up.

While he was best known for his punchlines, his love of art resulted in regular appearances at the annual LA Art Show. "He definitely was a collector. He definitely was involved in the art world but he wasn't super public about that," Martindale said. "He certainly had a house full of really nice paintings and furniture and Navajo textiles." Among the work at this week's Objects show is a \$43,000 modernist painting of nuns on newsprint by Ramos Martinez that dates back to 1943. The artist began painting on paper in Paris and continued after moving to Los Angeles.

Martindale said Shandling's collection is reflective of his affinity for the Southwest and the Mexican and Latin style. Aside from the comedian's collection, the show will also feature work by Mexican sculptor Betsabee Romero, Cuban artist Jose Bedia and other one-of-a-kind pieces from around the world. With the success of the show in Santa Fe over the last several years, organizers have plans to expand with a show in Los Angeles in April. This week's show opens Thursday with a gala in Santa Fe and runs through Sunday. — AP