



More than  
82,000 flee  
California  
wildfire



Burkini bans  
cause ripples  
in France,  
worry abroad



The Real  
Fouz: The  
benefits of  
essential oils



Iran slam lifting  
'conspiracy'  
as riot  
police called



150 FILS  
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40 PAGES

## JULY WAS EARTH'S HOTTEST MONTH IN MODERN TIMES

KUWAIT ELECTRICITY LOAD HITS RECORD HIGH AMID HEAT WAVE



Min 33°  
Max 47°  
High Tide  
00:18 & 11:12  
Low Tide  
05:33 & 18:37

### FILIPINO MINISTER VISITS RIYADH OVER STRANDED WORKERS

RIYADH: Filipino and Saudi officials are working together to help thousands of stranded workers under a directive from King Salman, a diplomat said yesterday as the Philippines labor secretary visited. The roughly 11,000 Filipinos are among tens of thousands of workers affected by financial troubles at the kingdom's major construction firms. "Their salaries have not been paid, some of them for as long as eight months," Iric Arribas, charge d'affaires at the Philippine embassy, told AFP. "It turned into a humanitarian crisis."

Workers were unable to renew their residency permits, meaning they could not leave the country and could not access their bank accounts, he said. Some living in company accommodation "did not have food", Arribas added. About 7,000 of the Filipinos worked for Saudi Oger Ltd, while 3,000 were with Saudi Binladin Group and the rest with other firms, Arribas said.

Saudi King Salman earlier this month ordered various measures to help affected foreign workers.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: A boy practices climbing near a beach in Fahaheel in the evening heat yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

MIAMI/KUWAIT: Soaring temperatures worldwide made July the Earth's hottest month in modern times, setting a new high mark for global heat in 137 years of record-keeping, US government scientists said yesterday, with Kuwait recording the highest maximum temperature of 54 degrees Celsius. The report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration came just two days after the US space agency NASA released its climate data, which also found July was a record-breaking month. "July is typically the hottest month for the globe, and last month didn't disappoint," said a summary of the monthly report by NOAA. "July 2016 was 1.57 degrees Fahrenheit above the 20th-century average, breaking last year's record for the warmest July on record by 0.11 degrees."

Scientists say the heating trend is being driven by fossil-fuel burning, and is made worse by the ocean warming phenomenon known as El Nino, which came to an end last month. July's global average of temperatures taken over land and ocean surfaces were the "highest for any month in the NOAA global temperature dataset record, which dates back to 1880". July also marks the 15th consecutive month of breaking monthly temperature records, "the longest such streak in the 137-year record", NOAA said.

In Kuwait, temperatures hit 48 degrees Celsius yesterday. According to the Meteorological Department at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Kuwait witnessed light to moderate north westerly winds at speeds between 15 to 40 km per hour.

Continued on Page 13

### News

in brief

#### Norway opens \$1bn credit line for Iran

TEHRAN: Iran said yesterday that Norway had offered the Islamic republic a \$1-billion credit line following a meeting between their foreign ministers in Tehran. Borge Brende and Mohammad Javad Zarif signed three "export credit" deals aimed at funding "development and infrastructure projects", Iran's foreign ministry said in a statement. Iran has struggled to tap international finance as many banks fear US penalties if they do business with the Islamic republic. "After the lifting of sanctions, good opportunities have emerged for cooperation and Norway is ready to utilize the post-deal situation to expand cooperation in various fields," Brende said, according to the official IRNA news agency. The Norwegian minister met other top officials during his one-day visit, including Supreme National Security Council secretary Ali Shamkhani, before leaving for Pakistan.

#### Gunmen kill Saudi policeman in Qatif

RIYADH: Gunmen have shot dead a Saudi policeman in the kingdom's east, police said yesterday. The drive-by attack happened early on Tuesday in Qatif on the Gulf coast. Four masked men opened fire, wounding the officer who died on the way to hospital, provincial police said in a statement. "The police building and a patrol car were damaged," said the statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. It was the fourth fatal shooting of a policeman in Qatif since January. Parts of the Eastern Province have seen repeated security incidents since 2011, when a wave of protests began. Eastern Province residents have said clashes with police are also sometimes linked to criminal activity including the drug trade. Extremists from the Islamic State group have claimed attacks against

#### US killer accused of anti-Muslim rants

TULSA: An Oklahoma man suspected of fatally shooting a male neighbor was accused of harassing and shouting anti-Muslim slurs at the man's family, who are actually Christians from Lebanon, and of trying to run over the



Stanley Majors

man's mother with his vehicle. Police say Khalid Jabara was killed at his Tulsa home Friday and 61-year-old Stanley Majors is being held without bail on a first-degree murder complaint and possession of a firearm after a felony conviction. Jabara's family issued a statement saying Majors had called the family "dirty Arabs", "filthy Lebanese", "Aye-rabs" and "Mooslems". Prosecutors had charged Majors with injuring Jabara's mother, Haifa, in September by driving his vehicle into her. Haifa Jabara was previously granted a protective order against Majors in 2013 after alleging that he had harassed her and that he "is very racist towards foreigners and blacks."

## TURKEY STARTS RELEASING 38,000 INMATES MOVE AIMS TO MAKE SPACE IN JAILS FOR COUP SUSPECTS



MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin: Protestors hold signs outside as Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump appears inside for an interview at the Pabst Theater on Tuesday.— AP

### TRUMP SHAKES UP CAMPAIGN TEAM AGAIN, CLINTON SURGES

NEW YORK: Donald Trump yesterday shook up his campaign team for the second time in two months, fending off suggestions that his presidential run is in crisis as polls show Hillary Clinton cruising towards victory. The Republican White House nominee, who is tanking in key swing states, hired a conservative news executive once dubbed "the most dangerous political operative in America" as his campaign CEO and promoted a leading Republican strategist to campaign manager.

The CEO is Stephen Bannon, executive chairman of the hugely influential and ferociously anti-Clinton conservative website Breitbart News, and the new manager is leading Republican pollster Kellyanne Conway. "I am committed to doing whatever it takes to win this election, and ultimately become president," the New York billionaire announced. The shakeup comes with the campaign set to launch its first major television ads this week and with chairman Paul Manafort under fire in the press after being named in a Ukrainian corruption scandal.

Trump languishes six points behind Clinton - 47.3 percent to 41.2 percent, according to the Real Clear Politics polling average, and trails her in virtually

every key battleground state, raising the prospect of a Clinton landslide win. The Republican nominee was badly damaged after denigrating the parents of a Muslim American soldier killed in Iraq, and accused last week of inciting violence against Clinton in a remark about the right to bear arms.

A string of prominent Republicans have announced they will not be voting for Trump as US newspapers report of a campaign in crisis and staffers unnerved by a candidate apparently incapable of reeling in crass remarks. While his media-saturated, populist, outsider campaign fended off 16 rivals to win the Republican nomination, Trump has batted aside suggestions that he should change tack to win the November election from the center. "I don't wanna change," Trump told Wisconsin news station WKBT-TV. "Everybody talks about, 'Oh well, you're gonna pivot...' I don't wanna pivot. I mean you have to be you. If you start pivoting, you're not being honest with people."

Bannon will oversee campaign staff and operations and "strategic oversight of major campaign initiatives," the Trump campaign said. Conway will focus

Continued on Page 13

ISTANBUL: Turkey yesterday began freeing the first of some 38,000 prisoners not linked to the failed coup who are to be released in a move aimed at relieving pressure on prisons overcrowded with putsch suspects. The parole decision came as Turkey presses on with the biggest purge in its modern history after the July 15 bid by rogue elements in the military to oust President Recep Tayyip Erdogan from power.

Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said the release was "not an amnesty" but the measure could eventually apply to almost half of the Turkish prison population which has swelled to over 200,000 since the attempted coup. It will not apply to convicts guilty of murder, terrorism or state security crimes, or the thousands detained after the putsch. "The regulation refers to crimes committed before July 1, 2016. The crimes committed after July 1, 2016 are outside its scope," Bozdag said on Twitter. "As a result of this regulation, approximately 38,000 people will be released from closed and open prisons at the first stage."

According to Turkish officials, over 35,000 people have been detained since the coup attempt although almost 11,600

of them have since been released. The state-run Anadolu Agency said the first convicts began to be released from Istanbul's Silivri prison hours after the announcement. One of the freed prisoners Turgay Aydin, was quoted as thanking Erdogan and saying: "I am very happy because I am released from prison. I was not expecting it."

Bozdag said in an interview with A-Haber television that the parole could in the end apply to 99,000 out of Turkey's current total prison population of 214,000. According to Anadolu, the total capacity of Turkey's prisons is for 187,351 people. Hurriyet columnist Akif Beki wrote on Aug 11 that "prisons are jam-packed" amid the post-coup purge and asked: "How can that many be arrested without making any space?"

Turkey is in the throes of a three-month state of emergency imposed after the coup, which the authorities describe as an attempt by the US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen to overthrow the existing order. Gulen vehemently rejects the charges but Turkey has embarked on a relentless drive to expel what Erdogan calls

Continued on Page 13

### BABY GIRL BORN MIDAIR ON FLIGHT TO PHILIPPINES

NEW DELHI: A woman gave birth to a premature but healthy baby girl mid-flight while travelling from the United Arab Emirates to the Philippines, forcing the plane to carry out an emergency landing in India. The mother, whose due date was two months away, went into labor on board the Cebu Pacific Air flight Sunday as it flew from Dubai to Manila, her fellow passenger Missy Berberabe Umaldal posted on Facebook.

Panicked flight attendants started calling out for medical assistance - discovering two nurses among the passengers - before turning the front of the cabin into a makeshift delivery room. "We only heard one semi-loud screech, and a few seconds later, there were tinier, cute screeches, and it was when we knew the baby was born. Luckily, she only had to push ONCE," Umaldal said in her post, with a picture showing the mother holding her newborn, wrapped in a blanket. The mother's nationality is not known.

Flight attendants and nurses cleaned the newborn with mineral water and dressed her in baby clothes donated by

fellow passengers flying with infants. The pilot conducted an emergency landing in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad so the mother and newborn could receive medical attention before continuing on to Manila. "After initial examination by the medical staff, they were moved to the mother and child care center of a hospital in the city," a Hyderabad airport security official told AFP, requesting anonymity. "The newborn and mother are fine and under medical supervision."

The woman, her own mother who was travelling with her, and the baby were given three-day temporary visas, which would most likely be extended until the parent and child were fit to fly, the official said. Cebu Pacific Air, the Philippines' largest airline, said in a statement to AFP that it was the first time a baby was delivered onboard one of its aircraft, calling the birth a "momentous occasion". "We're blessed to have been an instrument in (the) safe delivery," said lead cabin crewmember Mark Martin.

Continued on Page 13





KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

## AMIR MEETS TOP STATE OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness Sheikh Sabah also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable yesterday to Kuwait Army Sergeant Hussein Al-Bloushi, congratulating him on his victory in a mock tank combat contest, part of the

2016 International Army Games held in Russia. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent Sergeant Bloushi similar congratulatory cables.

In the meantime, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem has addressed a cable to Bloushi, congratulating him on his victory.

"You have embodied with this accomplishment supremacy of the Kuwaiti youth in general and the military personnel in particular," the Parliament Speaker said in his cable. Furthermore, Ghanem expressed hope, in the cable, to witness further such success from the military personnel in external competitions. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

## KRCS CONCLUDES 'LITTLE VOLUNTEER' PROGRAM

### TEACHING FIRST AID TO CHILDREN

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) yesterday concluded its 'Little Volunteer' program which started on June 11 with the participation of more than 50 children, making them capable of coping with any incident through the use of first aid. KRCS Vice Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi said that the society worked on the implementation of programs and activities designed for young people and children in the field of relief and humanitarian work that instilled the virtues of giving and volunteerism in children.

"It provides a slew of activities and programs relevant to first aid. Such endeavors aim to provide them with opportunities to contribute to society," he said. Hasawi added that KRCS is proud to provide humanitarian and relief aid to countries that are exposed to disasters or manmade catastrophes through the directives of Humanitarian Leader His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-



KUWAIT: KRCS Vice Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi speaks during the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

Jaber Al-Sabah. He highlighted that such projects are designed to hone children's skills while consolidating their social values.

"We appreciate and applaud the courage of the volunteers in the humanitarian field who are working to meet the growing needs of refugees and displaced people, and are also aware of the enormous risks and challenges they face in light of the difficult conditions in the field," said Hasawi. He said that the Little Volunteer program taught kids the seven principles of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Hasawi said that the association is keen to encourage children to do volunteer work and feel the pain of others, which contributes to the strengthening of the human and social aspects of the community and creates a generation of volunteers to help the needy. He said the society is planning to organize many other educational events. At the end of the event, KRCS honored the volunteers and children who were involved, in addition to honoring the organizations that have supported the society's efforts.



Pictures from a ceremony held to conclude the 'Little Volunteer' program.



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti family look out at a passing Kuwaiti oil tanker near a beach in the Fahaheel district, some 35 kilometers south of Kuwait City yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## SEVERAL PEOPLE INJURED IN FIRES

### AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE LOOTED



KUWAIT: A fireman is being treated for smoke inhalation after participating in tackling a blaze in a Farwaniya building.



Firemen fight flames in cars at a parking lot in Jabriya.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Fire broke in the basement of a Farwaniya building containing paints and carpentry material. The fire was fought in a record time by Sabhan and Farwaniya fire centers. Non-commissioned officer Essa Al-Rashid from Sabhan suffered smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion and was taken to Farwaniya Hospital for treatment. Meanwhile, three citizens were injured in a fire in two cars in the parking lot of Mohammad Abdullah Al-Wahab School's parking lot in Jabriya. Hawally fire center rushed to the scene and found the three citizens in a critical condition because of burns. Investigations are underway to find out the cause of the fire. Separately, firemen dealt with a fire in Jahra, as Jahra and technical rescue centers responded. The fire was in the basement of a building used as a storehouse by a restaurant. The building was evacuated and ventilated, and the fire was put out. It took two hours because of many vio-



Firemen carry equipment while fighting a fire in Jahra.

lations in the building obstructing firemen's movements. The building's owner will be questioned over the violations in his building.

#### Theft

An ambassador's house in Kuwait was ransacked according to a case reported yesterday. A security sources

private passport before escaping. The suspect broke into the residence through the window of a ground-floor room that has no surveillance cameras installed, she added. Investigations are ongoing in the case.

#### Ahmadi crackdown

Ahmadi security carried out several inspection campaigns in Wafra, Khairan, Mahbouda, Sabahiya and Abu Halifa, resulting in arresting 14 persons wanted for debts, expired residency permits and other offences, 52 traffic violations were issued while nine vehicles, 16 motorcycles and three ATVs were impounded.

#### Traffic campaign

The traffic department carried out several campaigns in all Kuwait governorates last week, resulting in issuing 39,978 traffic citations, 1,949 vehicles were impounded, nine "wanted" cars impounded, two motorcycles impounded, 52 persons were detained and six expatriates were deported for driving without a license.



KUWAIT: Abdullah Al-Mutawtah, Acting Director of the Public Authority for Manpower (right), meets with Jamal Sayed Ahmad, Labor Consultant at the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait. — KUNA

## KUWAIT, EGYPT TO LINK MANPOWER SYSTEMS, FIGHT TRAFFICKING

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** A project to link the systems of manpower authorities in Kuwait and Egypt that facilitates the process of Egyptian workers' recruitment in the Gulf state is set to take place soon, a Kuwaiti official said yesterday. Abdullah Al-Mutawtah, Acting Director of the Public Authority for Manpower, made that statement following his meeting with Jamal Sayed Ahmad, Labor Consultant at the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait. Finalizing this project was among several areas of mutual concern discussed during the meeting. The project helps limit recruitment to trained and qualified labor forces that the Kuwaiti labor market requires, while fighting 'marginal labor' and visa trafficking, Mutawtah added.

#### Free trade zone

There are plans to establish a free trade zone on the borders of Iraq's Basra governorate near Safwan, said Abdullah Al-Humaidhi, board member of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), adding that this project may become a major commercial area for Kuwait and Iraq. He said the security situation in Basra and Iraq is a major concern for Kuwait's businessmen, and they need a security guarantee to enter commercial and investment activities there.

#### Patients abroad

The problem of financial allocations for

patients abroad resurfaced as foreign hospitals are demanding payment of their late bills, and the surprise is in the huge amounts.

A high ranking source at the health ministry said the allocations are snowballing, and Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh told the health ministry that the finance ministry will not make any payment unless the number of patients is reduced by 50 percent from the 10,000 patients currently in seven countries.

The source said the ministry started the reduction process and asked health offices to close the files of patients who have been treated and there is no need for them to stay abroad, yet the ministry was surprised by hospitals demanding payments of over KD 200 million, which prompted the health ministry to ask the finance ministry for help, but it refused, saying that it has paid all the money allocated for treatment abroad. The source said the health ministry must send KD 40 million per month to health offices to pay off all the accumulated bills.

#### Water theft

The judicially empowered team of Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) issued 19 citations for water theft in buildings of Jaber Al-Ahmad residential project, as house owners wasted and stole water in their buildings by adding floors and disconnecting meters. Violators were referred to the concerned department in the consumer sector for questioning.



KUWAIT: Minister of Electricity and Water Ahmad Al-Jassar led a team of senior ministry officials as they toured the site of a power line project in Liyah area north of Jahra yesterday morning. Construction of the 45-kilometer-long power line started in December 2013 and is set to be finished by this year's end, the minister said. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

## NEW MEASURES HELP TO REGULATE MARITIME TRAFFIC



**KUWAIT:** Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Marine Borders Affairs Major General Zuhair Al-Nasrallah met with a delegation from Kuwait Fishermen Association, represented by Public Relations Director Jalal Al-Shimmari, Secretary General Hassan Al-Sagha and Director of Financial Affairs Hassan Al-Failakawi. Nasrallah said the new arrangements regarding entry and exit of Kuwaiti fishing boats out of Kuwait territorial waters through Um Al-Maradem Island were due to security requirements, and were taken after a com-

prehensive study.

He said Um Al-Maradem is the only island approved for documenting entry and exit of Kuwait fishing boats, adding that the process was 'chaotic' previously as ships used to exit from various places and go long distances out of Doha towards Kubbar Island, and the same goes for the return trip, all without getting exit permits. He said the new arrangements remove all loopholes, and fishermen get an official exit seal and ships will be searched on their return.

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# LIGHTSHOWS, GREENERY, FOUNTAINS BEAUTIFY SHAHEED PARK'S EVENINGS



KUWAIT: With spectacular lightshows, fascinating greenery, water fountains, and outstanding monuments, hot evenings at the Shaheed Park, located in the Sharq district of Kuwait City, become bearable due to the overwhelming surroundings that leaves visitors at awe. — KUNA





# KISR REITERATES SIGNIFICANCE OF SCIENTIFIC, RESEARCH COOPERATION WITH KUWAIT UNIVERSITY

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has stressed the momentousness of boosting cooperation with state institutions through projects that serve the nation. As part of its 8th strategic plan, KISR seeks to extend cooperation with all the scientific and research institutions, topped with the Kuwait University, out of a strong belief in the significance of promoting knowledge and its applications, Director General Dr Samira Omar said in a press release on Tuesday.

This cooperation is likely to help push ahead the wheel of development, as well as finding solutions to the problems and issues of priority both for Kuwait and the entire Arab region, Omar added after a visit to the Kuwait University. She noted that the visit aimed at reactivating and bolstering joint cooperation on solid grounds, as part of the scientific agreement signed between KISR and Kuwait University.

Omar emphasized that the two institutions are hard at work to boost ties through a joint liaison and coordination committee. They encourage the financing and implementation of joint research projects in all fields, based on definite regulations, along with enhancing cooperation with the world's leading institutions and universities, she said.

Meanwhile, Director of the Kuwait University Dr Hussein Al-Ansari voiced eagerness to consolidate scientific and academic cooperation with KISR within the bilateral agreement. He stressed that both are seeking to encourage young people.

In addition, the university and the institute coordinate efforts in post-graduate studies, and encourage further cooperation among the affiliate bodies. They also support the organization of various scientific activities, conference, symposiums, training courses and workshops, on academic and applied research, Ansari added. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research Dr Samira Omar (second from left) is pictured during her visit to Kuwait University. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** A team from the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Municipality carried out a food inspection campaign at the Qurain Markets recently, which resulted in confiscating 1,680 kilograms of expired food products, while 16 citations were issued regarding work and sanitation related violations. Meanwhile, Ahmadi Municipality carried out a field campaign in Mahboula, which resulted in removing 77 truckloads of debris from public squares, Kuwait Municipality said in a statement. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

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Crime

Report

SORCERER ARRESTED

**KUWAIT:** “If you want to control him, so that he loves you forever, then I want his sweaty headdress, and KD 500 - KD 100 upfront and KD 400 when the job is complete.” This is what a Sudanese sorcerer, popular for practicing witchcraft using brass and candles, told a woman, who is actually an undercover agent at the financial crimes department. He was arrested while counting the KD 100 she gave him. Tips were received by the department about the sorcerer whose practices to hurt people and a large number of men and women frequent his place to get amulets for their relatives or loved ones in exchange for large amounts of money. The department carried out extensive investigations, then obtained a warrant. The source went to the house of the sorcerer and told him her husband is staying away from her and has married another woman, and she wants him back. He told her the only solution is to ‘heal’ him and asked for the headdress and KD 500. The woman was given the KD 100 down payment, and went to the suspect. She gave a signal when he was counting the money, and he was arrested red-handed. When they searched his house, they found headdresses and sorcery items. They also found many phone numbers of people he dealt with, and he said that all those who dealt with him are satisfied and are ready to do anything for him. The sorcerer and items were sent to the public prosecution.

Man sends brother to hospital

Adan was the scene of a bloody fight between two brothers that led to one of them being run over and admitted to Adan Hospital’s ICU, and an attempted murder case was lodged at the area police station on the orders of security director Major General Farraj Al-Zubi. A security source said a call came from Adan Hospital investigator about the arrival of a youth with multiple injuries. Policemen learned that the man had a fight with his brother because of family differences, and the suspect sought the help of his friends to beat his brother, then ran him over with his car. Detectives are working on arresting the brother.

Theft

A citizen in her thirties who went for a jog in Mishref found the window of her car broken and her purse missing with her personal items, civil ID and bank cards. She reported the case to Bayan police station.

Smuggling foiled

Two Egyptian nationals returned from their country with ducks stuffed with hashish, and were busted by airport customs officers. Customs officers searched their luggage and found the hashish and Tramadol, which they claimed is for their personal use. —Al-Anbaa and Al-Rai



Al-Anbaa

THE CULTURE OF THE SWEARWORD

By Saleh Al-Shayji

A citizen appeared on TV and urged fellow citizens to respond positively to the government’s decision to raise fuel prices. This is a call that agrees with my opinion and with what I called for earlier, and I do not oppose the citizen’s call, but with regret he uttered sentences that offended listeners, and this part of his interview was shared on social media.

What disturbed me are the types of answers and comments that were directed at this citizen from many readers, and most of them included cusswords and ridicule to put him down, and took the matter away from its real direction and deviated very far from the core of the issue. I will not take this opportunity to repeat my demands from citizens to be calm towards the decision to raise gasoline prices, but what I wrote is in a different direction through which I talk to those who attacked the man with ridiculing and insulting comments to him personally, and even extending to his family.

It is not right for any person to insult another who did not attack him in word or action, and this is an ethical rule as well as a legal maxim, but the team of

gloaters and swearers did not comply with these maxims and ethical rules, which created fear in me towards the social ethical system. This unjustified adversarial breakout towards one who differs with us is something rejected, and we must pause a lot and must stop it immediately.

Yet, with regret, there is an acceptance by a large sector of people for such unethical matters which compromise people’s relations with each other and spread hatred among people, because spreading written or taped comments in a way that reaches the largest number of people in a crude way spreads hatred, prioritizing irrational aspects and destroying the society’s values.

Everyone is free with his opinion in a democratic society, and democracy allows us a margin to express our opinions, provided that they comply with the law, democratic principles and human traditions that do not allow insulting others under any circumstances, because one who makes a mistake should be answered accordingly, and not ridicule the way he looks, or attribute things that are not in him.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

News

in brief

Schools to adopt new energy tariffs in 2017/18

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Electricity and Water informed the Ministry of Education to start calculating energy consumption values at schools and other education facilities using the new tariff, starting from the 2017/2018 school year. According to the new fees which the parliament approved last April and will go into effect next year, electricity costs 25 fils per kilowatt while water costs KD 4 per 1,000 gallons. —Al-Rai

E-passports

**KUWAIT:** The first batch of electronic Kuwaiti passports will arrive next week, said Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, the Interior Ministry’s Assistant Undersecretary for Citizenship and Passports Affairs. Sheikh Mazen will officially supervise the delivery process during his visit to Germany next Sunday, he announced. The first batch includes nearly 65,000 copies, Sheikh Mazen said, adding that e-passports will be received gradually before the end of 2017, or sooner depending on the readiness of the DNA fingerprinting authorities to include the DNA profile into the e-passport. —Al-Rai

Fake accounts

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality detected 30 Twitter accounts whose users post municipality-related news without permission, and in some cases post false information. The municipality plans to prosecute owners of those accounts and similar accounts under the electronic media law, a source said. —Al-Rai

‘Severe flaw’

**KUWAIT:** The parliament’s budgets committee warned from ‘severe flaw’ in the efficiency of accounting and management systems at the health, foreign affairs, higher education and defense ministries. This situation results in failure to provide accurate account adjustments, thus increasing the chance of falling into constitutional violation by being unable to present correct expenses’ records at the fiscal year’s end. A committee report says that the four ministries spent a total KD 900 million during the past few years in payments that remain without account adjustments. —Al-Qabas

Projects delayed

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Public Works has problems in carrying out infrastructure projects due to austerity measures that include reducing the ministry’s budget and failure to receive approval from the Finance ministry to go ahead with new contracts. The ministry had reportedly requested KD 59 million to carry out road, sewer and rain drainage network maintenance projects, but only KD 29 million were approved, sources said. —Al-Qabas



KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait recently visited the Criminal Investigations Department building in Salmiya to honor officers there for their efforts to serve the society at all times.



Saleh Al-Houti

OOREDOO WELCOMES NEW BATCH OF KUWAITI EMPLOYEES

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, welcomed a new batch of employees to its Sales department recently. The new batch were oriented and trained to join different divisions within the Sales department. This comes in alignment with the company’s overall strategy to enrich and invest in local talent.

Commenting on this, the Chief Human Resources and Administration Services Officer Saleh Al-Houti said: “We are happy to welcome our new joiners in the company, and we wish them a prosperous career within the Ooredoo family. We’re strong believers in the important role that our national youth play in advancing our company.”



ZAIN WELCOMES NEW CONTACT CENTER AGENTS

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, organized an orientation session for the latest batch of Contact Center (107) agents at its main headquarters in Shuwaikh. The session aimed at introducing the agents with the company’s strategy that serves the country’s largest customer base.

This orientation session, attended by the company’s executive management, comes under the umbrella of Zain’s Human Resources Developmental strategy, and is considered the first step in preparing new staff members of the Customer Care Division’s Contact Center Department to provide the highest standards of customer service to Kuwait’s largest family of subscribers.

Through such initiatives, Zain aims at introducing new Contact Center agents with the company’s leading experience in serving customers’ needs efficiently, as well as providing them with the core quality standards the company

follows to ensure customer service excellence. Zain believes such initiatives help strengthen the workflow mechanism within its workforces to ultimately result in the excellent service quality Zain customers enjoy today.

Zain’s executive management expressed their pride in the big role employees play in maintaining the leadership position the company enjoys in the Kuwaiti telecom market. The company believes that Human Resources is considered the powerhouse of any organization’s success, and providing an ideal work environment for employees is key to allowing them to discover new areas of creativity within themselves.

As the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, Zain takes pride in employing and retaining the best local talents in the country due to its continuous implementation of programs that drive employees to more success.



KUWAIT: Capital Governor Retired Lieutenant General Thabet Al-Muhanna recognized the Commercial Bank of Kuwait during a ceremony to honor organizations that carried out social activities during this year’s Ramadan. Deputy General Manager of the Public Relations and Media Department Amani Al-Waraa represented the bank during the event.





Senior N Korean diplomat based in London defects

MILITANTS AMBUSH INDIAN ARMY CONVOY IN KASHMIR

RUSSIA-IRAN COOPERATION SENDS MESSAGE TO US  
JOIN US OR WE’LL LOOK TO YOUR ENEMIES

WASHINGTON: Russia’s use of an Iranian air base to bomb targets in Syria sends a message to Washington as it weighs a military partnership with Moscow: Join us or we’ll look to your enemies. Tuesday’s missions were unprecedented. Iran allowed Russian warplanes to take off from its territory to strike opposition targets in Syria. The move came with little notice to the United States, which has watched helplessly the escalating bloodshed near Aleppo, the country’s biggest city, and even offered an alliance with Russia against Islamic State and other extremist fighters as a way to get Syria’s government out of the fight.

The negotiations have dragged on for weeks. Russia has grown impatient, with top officials several times suggesting an imminent deal, only to have American officials counter that the sides weren’t close. The bombing runs from a base near the Iranian city of Hamedan, 175 miles southwest of Tehran, may have been a reminder to the Obama administration that Moscow could be cozying up to Iran if Washington doesn’t come around.

Moderate opponents

“The Russians are showing they have options in Syria while they have Washington over a barrel on Aleppo,” said Andrew Tabler, a Syria expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. He said the operations also cement Russia’s alliance with Iran in the region. Russia and Iran have strongly backed Syrian President Bashar Assad’s government throughout the five-and-a-half year civil war with rebel groups supported by the United States and allies such as Turkey and Saudi Arabia. But the West has been pinning its hopes on Moscow.

When Russia intervened militarily in Syria last August, it claimed privately that its action would ultimately sideline Iran and its proxy Hezbollah force in Syria, making Assad more conciliatory in a peace process, according to US and European diplomats. The argument was one of several by Russia that the US and others have clung to as a potential pathway to peace, and which they hope to test when the UN sets up a new round of peace talks in coming weeks, even if they accuse Russia of failing countless previous challenges by persisting in bombing Assad’s more moderate opponents.

The latest Russian-Iranian coordination would suggest Tehran isn’t being sidelined. It is virtually unheard of in recent Iranian history for a foreign power to use an Iranian base to stage attacks. And Russia had only used its own territory and assets inside Syria for such operations previously. If Russia is moving closer to the Assad-Iran-Hezbollah alliance, it could spell doom for Syria’s besieged opposition. Secretary of State John Kerry called Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Tuesday to discuss the operations. Underscoring the US confusion, State Department spokesman Mark Toner told reporters that Washington was “still trying to assess what exactly they’re doing.”

Col Christopher Garver, a US military spokesman in Baghdad, said the Russians activated a communications link with coalition officials just ahead of the bomber mission. They “informed us they were coming through” airspace that could potentially put them in proximity to US and coalition aircraft in Iraq or Syria, he said. Asked how much advance notice the Russians gave, Garver said: “We did know in time” to maintain safety of flight. The setup at the Iranian air base occurred very quickly, perhaps overnight, said US officials, who weren’t authorized to speak publicly on military matters and requested anonymity.

No obvious advantage

One US military official said the Russians flew four Tu-22 Backfire bombers to the Iranian air base, along with a Russian cargo plane loaded with the munitions for the bombers, just hours before the missions. Another official said that all the aircraft were back in Russia later Tuesday, suggesting that the action was a test or gesture, not the start of any permanent Russian presence in Iran. Flying missions out of Iran wouldn’t appear to provide an advantage, though Russian officials said it enables heavier loads and lower costs. Russia maintains significant numbers of combat aircraft inside Syria, and it has flown long-range bomber missions from southern Russia.

Syria’s civil war has killed as many as a half-million people since 2011. Millions have fled as refugees, contributing to a global migration crisis. And the Islamic State has seized on the instability to become a worldwide terror threat. Syrian rebels and opposition activists reacted angrily to the news. The Russians “are taking advantage of the political vacuum that was left by America and Western countries that withdrew,” said Paris-based Syrian opposition figure George Sabra.

The deployment in Iran comes a day after Russia’s defense minister said Washington and Moscow were near agreement on the proposed military partnership. US officials said no agreement was close. The State Department’s Toner said the Russian cooperation with Iran doesn’t preclude the possibility of a US-Russian partnership in Syria. But such an arrangement would become more difficult if it essentially meant a US-Russia-Iran partnership.

Toner also suggested Russia violated last year’s UN security Council resolution enshrining the Iran nuclear deal. The resolution prohibits the supply, sale and transfer of combat aircraft to Iran unless approved in advance by the UN Security Council, something he said hadn’t occurred.

Russia said its planes targeted Islamic State militants and the al-Qaida-linked group formerly known as the Nusra Front in Aleppo, as well as in Deir el-Zour and Idlib, destroying five major ammunition depots, training camps and three command posts. The Russian planes flew over Iraq, apparently without the permission of Iraq’s government, a US official said. That by itself is hardly significant. Iran has flown supply and other missions over Iraq to Syria without permission. There is little Baghdad can do to stop those flights, and the US has regularly turned its cheek. —AP



In this photo taken on Monday, Aug 15, 2016, a Russian Tu-22M3 bomber stands on the tarmac at an air base near Hamedan, Iran. — AP

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# UN LAUNCHES PROBE OF SOUTH SUDAN VIOLENCE

**UNITED NATIONS:** The United Nations has launched a probe of a hotel attack in South Sudan in which soldiers raped women and assaulted aid workers while UN peacekeepers allegedly failed to act. Civil war broke out in South Sudan in December 2013 when

President Salva Kiir accused his former deputy Riek Machar of plotting a coup. The fighting has split the country along ethnic lines and driven it to the brink of collapse.

A peace deal signed between the government and rebels almost a year

ago has so far failed to end the conflict. And last month Juba was rocked by several days of heavy fighting between Kiir's forces and those loyal to Machar. The abuses now being probed by the UN—specifically, a July 11 attack on the Hotel Terrain in the capital Juba—took

place during these days of fighting. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said late Tuesday he was “concerned about allegations that UNMISS did not respond appropriately to prevent this and other grave cases of sexual violence committed in Juba.” He was referring to the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan, called UNMISS.

Ban said that in the July 11 incident one person was killed and several civilians were raped and beaten by men in uniform. The UN leader said he had launched “an independent special investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding these incidents and to evaluate the Mission's overall response.” Ban expressed outrage over violence committed by government and opposition forces in Juba July 8-11. He said that during this period many South Sudanese civilians and two UN peacekeepers were killed.

## Brutal assaults

He also called on the government to probe these acts of violence and prosecute those involved. The US ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, reported assaults and rapes of civilians, including humanitarian aid workers and journalists, by South Sudanese soldiers at the hotel. “South

Sudan's leaders must investigate this incident and hold accountable the individuals responsible for these cowardly and brutal assaults,” Power said in a statement.

At the request of the US, she said, the government sent a response force to the hotel compound. But, she added: “United Nations peacekeepers were apparently either incapable of or unwilling to respond to calls for help.” UN troops in South Sudan have come under heavy criticism after last month's fighting, for failing to protect civilians including women and girls raped near a UN base in Juba. The UN says it has documented at least 200 cases of rape in July alone by men in uniform, mainly troops loyal to president Kiir. Human Rights Watch said Monday that dozens of soldiers rampaged through the hotel compound, which houses employees of international organizations and is located close to a UN base. Several foreign workers were raped and a prominent journalist, John Gatluak, was killed, it said. Last Friday the UN Security Council approved a US-drafted resolution to strengthen the 12,000-person peacekeeping mission with 4,000 additional troops drawn from regional armies and equipped with a more aggressive mandate. —AFP



**NAIROBI:** Newly appointed South Sudan First Vice President, Taban Deng Gai (front-C) addresses a press conference in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi yesterday flanked by South Sudan government ministers (from-L) Gender and Social Development minister Awut Deng Acuil, Defence minister Kuol Manyang Juuk, and Petroleum minister Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth. —AFP

# SAUDI FACING ‘LONG’ WAR AFTER TALKS FAIL

## NO END TO THE CONFLICT IN SIGHT

**RIYADH:** Six months after Saudi Arabia said its war in Yemen was winding down, air strikes are again pounding rebels and rockets flying across the border, with no end to the conflict in sight. Facing criticism of its bombing campaign and a budget crunch from low oil prices, Riyadh is keen to bring an end to the intervention it launched last year against Shiite Houthi rebels and their allies, analysts say. But the suspension in early August of UN-brokered peace talks in Kuwait, after three months without any headway, has instead led to a major increase in violence.

“Both sides now are trying to

prove they are better in war than peace,” said Farea Al-Muslimi, a Yemeni specialist and visiting scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Centre. The Saudi-led Arab coalition launched the air raids in March last year, later sending in ground forces, to support the internationally recognized government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi after the rebels overran much of Yemen. Riyadh accuses the Houthis, allied with troops loyal to ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh, of working on behalf of its arch-rival Iran. Coalition warplanes are also supporting pro-government forces against Al-Qaeda

jihaddists who have exploited Yemen's power vacuum to expand their presence in the country's south and southeast.

## Lull in the fighting

A year into the intervention, spokesman Brigadier General Ahmed Assiri told AFP that coalition forces were “in the end of the major combat phase”. A relative lull in the fighting followed, but in late July the most serious fighting for months along the border killed 12 Saudi soldiers. The talks in Kuwait were suspended a few days later and the coalition resumed intense strikes on

Sanaa and other rebel-held areas. Rebel attacks also intensified. On Tuesday Saudi Arabia suffered its heaviest civilian losses of the conflict when seven died in a rebel rocket strike on the border city of Najran. “This looks to be a long, continuing war,” said Anthony Cordesman of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

A source closely following the conflict, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of his position, said the Saudis have been “working very hard” towards a lasting peace and political transition in Yemen. But when the Houthis and their allies on August 6 appointed a council to govern Yemen, Riyadh had little choice but to respond. “That was (an) unexpected move, for the Saudis especially,” Muslimi said, adding that Riyadh could not tolerate the threat to the “legitimacy” of Hadi's government.

Adam Baron, a visiting fellow and Yemen specialist at the European Council on Foreign Relations, said Riyadh still feels it can handle the war “at least for the time being”. Since peace talks collapsed, local forces backed by the coalition “appear to have made some gains” around Taz, in the southwest, and Nihm, northeast of Sanaa, Baron said. “The key at the moment is their ability to put pressure on Sanaa itself from the Nihm front,” he said. The Houthis would be hard to dislodge. Northern Yemen is their traditional stronghold. They fought six wars against the central government between 2004 and 2010. “It, at this point, seems to be a war of attrition,” Cordesman said. —AFP



**RIYADH:** This file photo taken on November 16, 2015 shows a Saudi F-15 fighter jet landing at the Khamis Mushayt military airbase, some 880 km from the capital Riyadh, as the Saudi army conducts operations over Yemen. —AFP

# IS LAUNCH WAVE OF SUICIDE ATTACKS ON LIBYA FORCES

**SIRTE:** Islamic State group jihadists in Libya have carried out nine suicide bombings in one day in a failed bid to hold a central district of Sirte, pro-government forces said yesterday. The attacks on Tuesday in the coastal city left nine pro-government fighters dead and 82 wounded, said Reda Issa, a spokesman for forces allied with the unity government. They took place as forces loyal to the Government of National Accord (GNA), backed by US air strikes, advanced on Sirte's central District Two as part of a three-month offensive to oust the jihadists from the city.

An IS fighter blew up his vehicle close to a group of soldiers and journalists, wounding several, said an AFP photographer. Five of the bombers attacked using cars, one on a motorbike and three on foot, said the pro-GNA forces, which published several photos of the bombers' corpses. IS seized Sirte, 450 kilometers east of Tripoli, in June 2015 and turned it into its North African stronghold, but they now hold just a few pockets of the city. Pro-GNA forces launched an offensive in mid-May to retake the city, which they entered on June 9, facing heavy resistance as they moved towards the centre.

The US Africa Command said Wednesday that it had carried out nine more air strikes on IS targets in Sirte on Tuesday in support of the pro-GNA forces, bringing the total number to 57 since August 1. Last week the pro-government fighters seized a conference centre in the city used by IS as its command centre. —AFP



**SIRTE:** A fighter from the pro-government forces loyal to Libya's Government of National Unity (GNA) fires a rocket-propelled grenade launcher towards Islamic State group's (IS) positions. —AFP



**MADRID:** Spanish Interim Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy (L) listens to the vice Secretary General of organisation of the Popular Party Fernando Martinez Maillo. —AFP

## SPAIN RULING PARTY AGREES TALKS WITH RIVAL TO EASE DEADLOCK

**MADRID:** Spain's corruption-hit ruling Popular Party (PP) agreed yesterday to negotiate with Ciudadanos to try and form a government, just days after the centrist grouping set a series of anti-graft demands as a condition to start talks. The move is a tentative first step towards unblocking the eight-month-long political paralysis that has gripped Spain as squabbling parties remain unable to reach any kind of agreement on a government following two inconclusive general elections.

The conservative PP's executive committee “authorized me and party leaders to negotiate with Ciudadanos”, acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy told reporters. But the agreement is on shaky grounds, as Rajoy refused to comment on the six conditions set by Ciudadanos last week, prompting the centrist party to question whether these had been accepted or not. “We had hoped that there would be a clear positioning today,” said Ciudadanos number two Jose Manuel Villegas.

Ciudadanos chief Albert Rivera will nevertheless meet with Rajoy today to try and clarify the situation, and see whether negotiations can start. “Mr Rajoy for once needs to take the plunge and say whether he accepts the conditions,” said Villegas. These include

anti-corruption measures such as creating a parliamentary commission to investigate one of the PP's most high-profile scandals. The case centres around former PP treasurer Luis Barcenas, who on top of alleged embezzlement also reportedly ran a slush fund for the party and says Rajoy knew about it, although the acting prime minister denies this.

Corruption was a big issue in campaigns before elections in December and again in June but this did not stop the PP from coming first each time, though without an absolute majority. The party won 137 parliamentary seats out of 350 in June's elections, and Rajoy has since been trying to garner support from his rivals to form a coalition or minority government, which he will have to push through a vote of confidence. In order to do so, he needs a simple majority. But even if Ciudadanos, which gained 32 seats in June elections, accepts to back the PP after negotiations, Rajoy will still not have a majority to push his government plans through. He also needs the support of the Socialists, his traditional rivals, but they refuse to back him. “We will vote against” a Rajoy-led government, Socialist party chief Pedro Sanchez told reporters. “There can only be regeneration if Rajoy is no longer prime minister.” —AFP

## GERMANY TO CALM STORM OVER REPORT ON TURKEY ISLAMIST TIES

**BERLIN:** Germany sought yesterday to head off a storm over a leaked government document that described Turkey as a “platform” for Islamists and underlined the “ideological affinity” between the country's leadership and Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood. Without confirming the contents of the paper, Germany's interior ministry admitted that it made a mistake in transmitting the classified written response to a lawmaker without first consulting the foreign ministry.

The foreign ministry meanwhile rejected extracts of the response to a question from a Left party lawmaker, which was published by German public broadcaster ARD. But Ankara demanded an explanation, blasting the document as a “new indicator of a warped mentality” targeting Turkey. According to ARD, the document noted that “the numerous statements of solidarity and action of support for the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas and groups of armed Islamist opposition in Syria by the ruling party AKP and President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan underline their ideological affinity to the Muslim Brothers.”

“As a result of a gradual Islamisation domestic and foreign policy of Ankara

since 2011, Turkey has developed into a central action platform for Islamist groups of the Near and Mid-East regions,” it quoted the document as saying. The EU and the US consider Hamas—which rules Gaza—to be a “terrorist” group. In a bid to calm the row, interior ministry spokesman Johannes Dimroth stressed the importance of Turkey in fighting jihadist groups. “We are deeply convinced that Turkey is the most important partner with regards to the fight against the so-called Islamic State group,” he said.

Foreign ministry spokeswoman Sawzan Chebli also refused to confirm the contents of the document, but said: “On what has been published in the media, we do not share the assessment as a whole.” Relations between Germany and Turkey have been fraught, with ties frayed over the German parliament's decision to brand as genocide the World War I-era massacre of Armenians by Ottoman forces and also Ankara's threat to back out of a crucial March deal with the EU on migrants. Berlin also angered Ankara by criticizing Erdogan's post-coup crackdown, in which more than 35,000 people have been arrested. —AFP



# CLINTON PUSHES BACK AS GOP CHALLENGES FBI, SEEKS PROBE

**WASHINGTON:** Hillary Clinton's campaign is pushing back against congressional Republicans who have challenged the FBI's decision not to pursue criminal charges against the Democratic presidential nominee and have pressed for yet another investigation. Having failed to find evidence to support their claims that Clinton was negligent in preventing or stopping the deadly 2012 terrorist attack on the US diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya, Republicans are now focused on whether Clinton shaded the truth about her haphazard handling of emails containing government secrets.

Furious the FBI didn't press charges against their political rival, House GOP members asked the agency for notes from its agents' July interview with Clinton. The FBI provided Congress on Tuesday with a raft of documents from its yearlong investigation that it wrapped up last month. Republicans claim the FBI notes, which are typically kept confidential, may show Clinton provided inconsistent answers to questions about her handling of emails containing classified information during testimony last year before the House Benghazi panel. Democrats, meanwhile, expressed concern that the Republicans would leak snippets of the classified materials carefully selected to make the presidential candidate look bad without providing a fair account of what happened. Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon said Tuesday the campaign would like the FBI notes to be publicly released in full.

## 'Rare step'

"This is an extraordinarily rare step that was sought solely by Republicans for the purposes of further second-guessing the career professionals at the FBI," Fallon said. "We believe that if these materials are going to be shared outside the Justice Department, they should be released widely so that the public can see them for themselves, rather than allow Republicans to mischaracterize them through selective, partisan leaks."

A spokeswoman for the Republican-led House Oversight and Government Reform Committee said that the panel's staff is reviewing documents that are classified as secret. Rep Adam Schiff of California, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said in a statement that the panel received "FBI witness interview reports, including that of Secretary Clinton's interview, along with other materials from the FBI's now closed investigative file." The FBI, in a statement, made clear that it expected lawmakers to use the documents for oversight and not to selectively leak details three months before the election. "The material contains classified and other sensitive information and is being provided with the expectation it will not be disseminated or disclosed without FBI concurrence," the agency said.

The FBI last month closed its yearlong probe into whether Clinton and her aides mishandled sensitive information that flowed through a private email server located

in the basement of her New York home. Though he described Clinton's actions as "extremely careless," FBI Director James Comey said his agents found no evidence of criminal wrongdoing. Clinton said last year that she turned over all 55,000 pages of work-related emails from her server, but said she deleted thousands more she and her lawyers deemed as personal. Clinton also says she never sent any information by email that was marked as classified.

## 100 emails exchanged

More than 100 emails exchanged by Clinton were subsequently reviewed and determined to contain information considered classified. As evidence Clinton lied, Republicans point to three email chains forwarded to Clinton that contained paragraphs marked "(c)," signifying they contained classified information. Rep Elijah E Cummings, the ranking Democrat on the House oversight committee, said Clinton did not originate the three email chains in question, which were forwarded to her private account by aides. He said only one of those emails was later determined by the State Department to contain classified information.

"The FBI already determined unanimously that there is insufficient evidence of criminal wrongdoing," said Cummings, D-Md. "Republicans are now investigating the investigator in a desperate attempt to resuscitate this issue, keep it in the headlines, and distract from Donald Trump's sagging poll

numbers." State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Tuesday that the FBI allowed the department to review emails the agency is providing Congress. "I think we're satisfied after having reviewed these emails that the FBI has made arrangements that the documents will be transmitted subject to appropriate handling controls," he said, adding that the department respects the FBI's desire to accommodate the requests of its congressional oversight committees.

Toner said, however, that the department is still discussing with the FBI the release of additional notes from the interviews investigators did with Clinton and her aides. The announcement comes as the conservative group Judicial Watch announced that it would receive copies of thousands of previously undisclosed work-related emails sent or received by Clinton. The emails, recovered as part of the FBI's probe, were recently returned to the State Department. —AP



**PENNSYLVANIA:** Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton reacts to the cheering crowd as she arrives at a Pennsylvania Democratic Party voter registration event at West Philadelphia High School. —AP



**ABBEVILLE:** Jasmine Fontenot, front, gets a boat ride to her home with the help of Darius Girouard, back and Fabian LeBlanc after her family was evacuated due to high water from recent rain. —AP

# 11 DEAD, 40,000 HOMES FLOODED IN LOUISIANA

**GONZALES:** The death toll from historic flooding in Louisiana climbed to 11 on Tuesday as the expanding flood zone prompted authorities to declare disasters in 20 parishes of the southeastern US state. While flooding receded in parts of southern Louisiana, other areas saw rising waters. The National Weather Service issued renewed flood warnings. "We're seeing unprecedented flood levels as the waters move south," Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards said at a news conference. Officials said 40,000 homes have been impacted by the floods and more than 8,000 people were in shelters.

More than 20,000 have been rescued or evacuated, they said. Twenty parishes-similar to counties in other states-were declared emergency disaster areas, up from four on Monday and 12 earlier on Tuesday. The designation frees up federal money to aid with rescue operations and emergency housing, among other things. "We're just now moving into recovery phase. We're still rescuing in the southern part of the parish," said Layton Ricks, the president of Livingston Parish-more than 75 percent of which was affected by flooding.

There were reports of looting in areas where homes and businesses were abandoned by fleeing residents. Many municipalities implemented evening curfews to combat the problem, and to allow rescue crews to move freely at night. "I felt this is the best way to protect our residents," said East Baton Rouge Sheriff Sid Gautreaux, adding that 10 people were arrested for looting since Monday afternoon.

## People 'suffering'

Edwards said there were still some 34,000 households and businesses without electricity in torrid summer heat and humidity-raising

concerns of mold in waterlogged buildings. "There are still a lot of people who are suffering," he said. The Louisiana governor's office confirmed to AFP late Tuesday that 11 people had died in the flooding. Rescue crews were searching for more victims, with officials uncertain about how many people remain missing. "We are going door to door," said Baton Rouge Fire Department Chief Ed Smith, describing a search and rescue process that he estimated could take another five to seven days.

Rescue workers are also searching cars that were inundated or carried away by flood waters. "We are going to have to search and mark each of those automobiles," the governor said. Ordinary citizens in small boats-who in the last few days have earned the title, "Cajun navy"-appeared to outnumber formal rescue crews. Among them were John Booth and Austin Tupper of Baton Rouge. The two men in their 20s had traveled 20 miles southeast to the hard-hit town of Gonzales, where they were using their private boat to help residents evacuate. Gonzales flooded only in the last 24 hours, as waters drained south.

## 70 percent flooded

Vast swaths of southern Louisiana remained under water-several feet deep in many places-inundating homes, businesses, and cars. Rick Ramsey, the mayor of Walker-a town of 6,000 people east of Baton Rouge-told CBS television affiliate WAFB that his town was heavily damaged. "We are in as good a shape as you can expect with 70 percent of our population flooded," Ramsey said. "What you're seeing now is tremendous community spirit," he added. "People are helping each other." —AFP

# MONSTROUS CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE DRIVES OVER 80,000 FROM HOMES

## STATE GOVERNOR DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

**LOS ANGELES:** A rapidly spreading fire raging east of Los Angeles forced the evacuation of more than 82,000 people as the governor of California declared a state of emergency. Despite the efforts of 1,250 firefighters with more on the way, none of the inferno was contained as of late Tuesday, state firefighting agency Cal Fire spokeswoman Lynne Tolmachoff told AFP. "We have very, very dry brush, thick fuel, it helps move it along very quickly," she said. "It is very dangerous to the public and also to the firefighters."

Governor Jerry Brown declared the state of emergency for San Bernardino County, just 60 miles (100 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, where the blaze, which has been named the Blue Cut fire, was quickly growing. It began around 10:30 am (1730 GMT) Tuesday and had already burned 18,000 acres (more than 7,200 hectares), according to the multi-agency Inciweb information site. Around 34,500 homes were threatened. The inferno has already claimed one high-profile victim: the Summit Inn, a old-fashioned diner on the world-famous Route 66 that counted celebrities like Elvis Presley and Clint Eastwood among its clientele, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Two firefighters were slightly injured after being surrounded by flames. They were treated at a hospital and released, and were back on the line fighting the blaze, Inciweb said. The wildfire poses "imminent threat to public safety, rail traffic and structures," according to the website, which said 82,640 people fell under

an evacuation warning. Several area roads were closed, as was the Mountain High ski resort in Wrightwood which hosts hiking and other outdoor activities in warmer months. Tolmachoff said it was rare to have so many people evacuated but not unheard of. Some are holding out, she added. "We do have people who chose not to evacuate. They cause trouble," she said.

## Perfect conditions

California is in its fifth year of a record drought and parts of the state are sizzling in a heatwave with

temperatures topping 104 degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius). Strong seasonal gusts known as the Santa Ana winds complete the perfect conditions for wildfires. Another major fire has been burning 100 miles north of San Francisco since Saturday. The Clayton fire, as it is called, has burned more than 4,000 acres and is being fought by around 1,700 fire personnel who have brought 35 percent of the blaze under control, according to Cal Fire.

More than 175 buildings have been destroyed as the blaze continues to move aggressively to the

north, it said. In central California's wine region, the Chimney fire burned 6,900 acres near the city of San Luis Obispo. It destroyed 40 buildings since starting on Saturday, and was only 20 percent contained. And in the scenic coastal area of Big Sur, the Soberanes fire had scorched more than 76,000 acres and was 60 percent contained. Twenty major fires are currently raging across the western United States. There were six in California, four in Wyoming and three each in Colorado and Montana, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. —AFP



**SAN BERNARDINO:** Flames burn next to the Interstate 15 as the Blue Cut wildfire rages near Cajon Pass. —AFP

# TRUMP HAS THE CROWDS BUT WILL THEY TURN INTO VOTES?

**NEW YORK:** It's a staple of nearly every Donald Trump rally: a boast from the candidate about his massive crowd size, a claim - sometimes true and sometimes not - that thousands more outside are hoping to get in, and a belief that the turnout foreshadows victory in November. "I actually think I'm going good, I have the biggest crowds," Trump told Fox on Tuesday, in light of sinking poll numbers. "Nobody's ever had crowds like this."

And yesterday, Trump hired Stephen Bannon, head of Breitbart News, to head his campaign with an eye on playing up his populist message - and to double down on his raucous rallies. But Trump may be buying into the hype. Crowd size is frequently not a good indicator of success on Election Day - and some Republicans attribute Trump's refusal to alter his message for the general election to his insistence on measuring success by the adulation he receives from audiences he's already won over. In a general election, candidates typically broaden their message to reach the people not in the event halls, who have yet to be convinced.

"Campaigns that rely too much on anecdotal evidence like crowd sizes when looking to measure progress are easily lulled into a false sense of security," said Kevin Madden, a senior adviser on Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign. "They assume, often wrongly, that the echo effect of being surrounded by big crowds of already converted voters is automatically translating into momentum." Boisterous, often full-house rallies have long been the lynchpin of Trump's campaign, and the Republican nominee took to Twitter in recent days to complain that the media were not giving them the credit they deserve.

"My rallies are not covered properly by the media. They never discuss the real message and never show crowd size or enthusiasm," Trump posted Sunday. Madden, who does not support Trump, recalls that in the closing days of the campaign four years ago, Romney drew massive crowds on each side of Pennsylvania, one outside Philadelphia and one in Pittsburgh on Election Day. "Based on crowd size, you'd have thought we had a good chance to win the state, but we ended up losing by about five points," Madden said. "The crowd sizes were there, but the data and the empirical evidence never really were." —AP

# BELGIUM HUNTS COUSIN OF BRUSSELS TERROR ATTACKERS

**BRUSSELS:** Belgian authorities are hunting a cousin of the El Bakraoui brothers who blew themselves up in the Brussels airport and metro attacks, a source close to the inquiry said yesterday. Oussama Atar, who spent years in jail in Iraq before returning to Belgium in 2012, is wanted on suspicion of involvement in the March 22 Islamic State-claimed bombings, the source told AFP on condition of anonymity, confirming Belgian media reports.

Police arrested Atar's mother, sister and one of his friends during raids in Brussels on August 11 but released them shortly afterwards, said the source who was not authorized to speak on the record. Investigators have "very strong" suspicions that Belgian-Moroccan national Atar was linked to the attacks in which his cousins Ibrahim and Khalid El Bakraoui blew themselves up with a third bomber, killing 32 people, the source said.

Atar was one of the "most wanted in Belgium and even in Europe," the source added. Khalid El Bakraoui attacked Maalbeek metro station while

his brother blew himself up at Brussels' Zaventem Airport. Both were part of a cell with links to the November attacks on Paris. Atar's brother Yassine was arrested with two other men five days after the Brussels attacks and remains in detention. Two of his other cousins, Moustapha and Jawad Benhattal, were arrested on June 18 on suspicion of planning an attack during a public screening of a Euro 2016 football match between Belgium and Ireland, Belgian media reported.

Atar was arrested in Ramadi, Iraq in February 2005 and sentenced to 10 years in jail for illegally crossing the border from Syria, his lawyer at the time, Vincent Lurquin, told AFP. After spending time in jails, including the notorious Abu Ghraib prison, he was freed and sent back to Belgium in September 2012. "I don't know what happened to him after that," Lurquin said. Atar said in an interview in 2011 that he had gone to Syria to study Arabic then went to Iraq to take medicines to people in need. His case had been backed by rights group Amnesty International. —AFP

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## BRAZIL'S ROUSSEFF AHEAD OF TRIAL: 'I'M INNOCENT'

**BRASOLIA:** Brazil's suspended president Dilma Rousseff admitted Tuesday she had made mistakes, but said she had done nothing worthy of impeachment in an address just over a week before she goes on trial. Rousseff, accused of using illegal budgetary maneuvers to cover up the depth of the country's economic problems during her 2014 re-election, faces trial in the Senate starting August 25, four days after the Olympic Games end in Rio. She looks near certain to be expelled from office.

With her impeachment trial looming, the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court also authorized Tuesday the opening of an

investigation into Rousseff and her predecessor Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, for allegedly trying to obstruct a corruption probe into the state oil firm Petrobras. In a letter to the Brazilian people that she read out in the capital Brasilia, Rousseff repeated her suggestion that Brazil hold new elections to get out of the political crisis.

Rousseff said that if she was spared by the Senate, she would back a referendum on holding early elections and electoral reform to carry out a "deep transformation" of a system that most Brazilians consider rotten. She also struck a humble note. "I have listened to the tough criticisms of my government, for the errors

committed," she said. "I accept these criticisms with humility and determination so that we can build a new way forward."

But Rousseff, a former leftist guerrilla who was imprisoned and tortured under the military dictatorship in the 1970s, repeated her insistence that forcing her out through impeachment amounts to a coup. "It would be an unequivocal coup, followed by an indirect election," she said. "We have to strengthen democracy in our country, and for this it will be necessary for the Senate to close the impeachment process underway, recognizing, given the irrefutable evidence, that there was no crime of responsibility. 'I am innocent,'

Rousseff insisted. "There is no injustice more devastating than to condemn an innocent person."

The final judgment phase in the impeachment process is expected to take several days before a vote. The Senate must vote by a two-thirds majority at the end of the judgment session in order to remove her from office. If that happens, interim president Michel Temer would stay on until scheduled elections in 2018. The Globo news organization reported that the actual judgment vote will take place between August 30-31. The president of the Supreme Court, Justice Ricardo Lewandowski, will pre-

side. Rousseff was elected in 2010, taking over from her political mentor Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, founder of the leftist Workers' Party.

She was re-elected in 2014 but her mandate rapidly got bogged down as economic output plummeted, unemployment rose and a huge corruption scandal tainted many of her allies, as well as members of the opposition. Starting in 2015, her allies began to drift away. In May of this year, she was suspended to face impeachment proceedings. "Brazil is living one of the most dramatic moments of its history," Rousseff wrote in her letter. —AFP

## FRENCH PRIME MINISTER SUPPORTS BURKINI BEACH BANS, URGES CALM

### HOLLANDE: SWIMWEAR BASED ON 'ENSLAVEMENT OF WOMEN'

**PARIS:** France's Socialist prime minister is expressing support for local bans of burkinis, saying the swimwear is based on the "enslavement of women" and therefore incompatible with French values. The burkini, a wetsuit-like garment that covers the torso, limbs and head, has prompted a growing national discussion about Islam and women's bodies, even though it's only worn by a handful of Muslims. Three French Mediterranean towns have banned the garment on beaches this summer, citing security concerns after a season marred by

deadly extremist attacks. Critics say the bans are discriminatory and could inflame religious and social tensions.

Many also see the bans themselves as sexist, decrees from male mayors telling women what they can and can't wear. But much of the French political class, from the left to the far right, is opining the opposite - that burkinis oppress women, and therefore have no place in a country whose motto celebrates equality and freedom. Prime Minister Manuel Valls said in an interview published Wednesday in the La Provence

newspaper that the swimwear represents a "provocation" and an "archaic vision" that women are "immodest, impure and that they should therefore be totally covered. That is not compatible with the values of France." "In the face of provocation, the nation must defend itself," Valls said.

#### Fashion or individual liberty

The government's women's affairs minister, Laurence Rossignol, took a similar stance. "The burkini is ... a particular vision particular of the place of the woman. It cannot

be considered only as a question of fashion or individual liberty," Rossignol said on Europe-1 radio. However, Valls said he's not in favor of a national law against burkinis. "I support those who have taken measures. They are motivated by the will to encourage social unity," he told La Provence, adding, "I don't think we should legislate the issue. General rules on clothing restrictions cannot be a solution."

French laws banning face-covering veils in public and headscarves in schools - based on the widely held view that they violate French secularism and oppress women - have alienated many among France's 5 million Muslims. Violent extremists have also cited the bans as one of their justifications for targeting France. Valls called for calm in Corsica, where a clash broke out over the weekend between local residents and bathers of North African origin. Some reports said it started because a young man took a photo of a woman in a burkini, though the exact circumstances of the incident remain unclear.

Rim-Sarah Alouane, a researcher at the University of Toulouse who has written on Muslim and women's issues, vigorously disagrees. "Women's rights imply the right for a woman to cover up," Alouane, a Muslim born and raised in France, said. The burkini "was created by Western Muslim women who wanted to conciliate their faith and desire to dress modestly with recreational activities. What is more French than sitting on a beach in the sand?" she asked. "Here we are telling Muslims that no matter what you do even we don't want you here." —AP



**MARSEILLE:** In this Aug. 4 2016 file photo made from video, Nissrine Samali, 20, gets into the sea wearing a burkini, a wetsuit-like garment that also covers the head. —AP

## US: THIRD KABILA TERM WOULD DOOM THE DRC

**WASHINGTON:** The United States warns of further violence in the already war-racked Democratic Republic of Congo should President Joseph Kabila hold on to power after his mandate expires in December. Kinshasa, meanwhile, speaks of "chaos" if foreign countries meddle in the crisis. For months, Washington has kept a close eye on the DRC, where tensions are running high ahead of the December 20 deadline for the end of the president's second term. He is barred from running again under the constitution.

The opposition and Western powers worry that Kabila is pulling strings to keep his post as head of state, and may try to delay the vote. The son of Laurent-Desire Kabila took over after his father was assassinated in 2001, before being elected in 2006 and 2011. In May, the constitutional court allowed Joseph Kabila to stay in power if the election does not take place on September 19, in accordance with the constitu-

tion, which requires a vote 90 days before the end of a president's mandate. That scenario seems increasingly likely.

"Sadly, the situation has only deteriorated. Congo today is roughly one month away from a full-fledged constitutional crisis," said Anthony Gambino, who used to head the US Agency for International Development office in Kinshasa. Thomas Perriello, the State Department's special envoy to the Great Lakes region of Africa, warned that "in countries where incumbents try to change the rules to stay in power, those countries are five times more likely to face violence and instability." "The good scenarios get less likely as we get closer to these deadlines, and the bad scenarios get more likely. We see this next month as crucial," he added. Perriello, like Gambino, was speaking at the Brookings Institution this week alongside the DRC's Ambassador in Washington, Francois Balumuene.

#### Democratic transitions challenging

US President Barack Obama has pressed for improved democratic transitions in Africa. "Africa's democratic progress is also at risk when leaders refuse to step aside when their terms end," Obama said in July 2015 at African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa. Noting that he himself is limited to two terms under the US Constitution, he stressed that "the law is the law." Washington has also pressed, unsuccessfully, for Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza and Rwanda President Paul Kagame to respect the laws in place in their respective countries to leave power when their time is up.

As for Kabila, "it's not based on personal animosity against a leader but based on a belief that a great product of President Kabila has been to establish a constitutional democracy, and this is an opportunity to turn the corner," Perriello said. The DRC-which gained independence from Belgium in 1960 when it was previously known as the Belgian Congo, and later became the Republic of Zaire from 1971 to 1997 - has suffered brutal wars, namely on its eastern front with Rwanda.

#### 'Implosion and chaos'

Balumuene, the DRC's ambassador, pointed to the repeated economic and security challenges Kabila has faced, including the fight against the Rwanda-backed M23 Tutsi rebels who were defeated in late 2013. He called for an "extension" of Kabila's mandate to address the country's crisis. "We need time after December 20, almost a year, to prepare the elections," Balumuene said, promising that the outgoing president would not run for a new term. "The opposition and certain foreign backers" are trying to "use the street, trigger a mass revolution to oust President Kabila," the ambassador charged. "Then, no one would be able to manage the chaos and its aftermath," he added, speaking in French. "We must avoid at all costs an implosion of the DRC... We do not need another Libya in Central Africa."

Gambino retorted that the country's constitution must be followed. "Any solution of what to do after the 19th needs to respect the constitution," he said. "Second, if one does that, that requires the holding of presidential elections if not in 2016 as early as possible in 2017. Delay beyond that is impossible." —AFP



**BENI:** People argue as a woman is transported to the local hospital in Beni on August 15, 2016 during scenes of tension following a wave of unrest and violence in the region. —AFP



**KIEV:** Ukrainian activists with their hands tied and plastic bags over the heads sit next to other demonstrators holding placards reading "GPO (General Prosecutors Office) is the place of tortures"; "Prosecutors torture people in Ukraine" during a protest in front of the General Prosecutors Office. —AFP

## WHO EXACTLY IS AN EXTREMIST?

**LONDON:** To his detractors, including the British government, Salman Butt is an extremist whose views on Islam fly in the face of Britain's values and help foster an atmosphere where young Muslims can be radicalized by militants. Even though he is not accused of supporting militant groups or violence, the British authorities believe it is only by cracking down on activists like Butt and denying a forum for their ideas to be widely heard that the threat posed by jihadists and groups such as Islamic State can be countered. But critics, ranging from civil rights groups to leading academics and lawmakers, say what the government is trying to do amounts to a curb on free speech which could drive a wedge between the authorities and Britain's 2.8 million Muslims. They argue if anything such plans will only make the problem worse and amount to an attack on the fundamental liberties the government wants to protect.

"Over the last few years the circle of who and what is considered extreme has been expanding slowly," said Butt, 30, who is taking the British government to court over its counter-extremism strategy. "Before it was just somebody committing crimes or calling for violence and then they expanded more and more to everyday people who happen to maybe criticise certain aspects of the government policy or hold certain conservative Islamic views," he told Reuters.

The problem facing Britain and other Western governments is the same one with which they have wrestled since the Sept 11, 2001 attacks on the United States: how to stop their young citizens being radicalised without been seen to censor critics. Thousands of Muslims, including more than 800 Britons, have left Europe for Iraq and Syria, many to join Islamic State (IS), while the recent deadly attacks seen in Paris, Brussels and Nice are a graphic illustration of the risk posed by some lured to a violent Islamist cause at home. —Reuters

The revelation on Tuesday that Anjem Choudary, Britain's most high-profile Islamist preacher, has been convicted for inviting his followers to support Islamic State has again brought the issue to the fore. Choudary was convicted last month although this could not be reported until Tuesday to avoid prejudicing the jury in a separate case. It ended a streak of many years during which he served as the leader of banned organisations but dodged prosecution by carefully managing his public remarks. Critics questioned why it had taken so long to act against someone who had been a leading radical Islamist figure for two decades and whose followers had been involved in militant plots and acts of violence across the world. "There should be zero tolerance towards any cleric - Muslim or otherwise - who advocates extremist views and rejects British values," Britain's top-selling Sun newspaper said. "Britain has been tolerant of men like Choudary for too long."

#### What makes an Extremist extreme?

For those such as new British Prime Minister Theresa May, tackling extremism means no values tolerating those who reject the country's values: democracy, free speech, equality and the rule of law. "Where non-violent extremism goes unchallenged, the values that bind our society together fragment," May, who had been interior minister for six years before taking over the Downing Street reins, said in a speech in February. "So while by no means all extremism leads to violence, it creates an environment in which those who seek to divide us can flourish."

May, in her former guise as interior minister, was responsible for drawing up a proposed Counter-Extremism bill with bans for individuals or groups deemed extremist and closures of places where radicals thrive, including mosques. However, there is still no sign of the legislation, with the Home Office (interior ministry) saying it would come in "due course". One main obstacle is who decides who or what is extremist. "Providing a

clear definition of extremism is a difficult task and the government has yet to succeed in doing it," said senior opposition Labour lawmaker Harriet Harman, head of the UK parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights which produced a critical report on the government plans in July. Even Finance Minister Philip Hammond admitted in May the issue was "a minefield": "The line between acceptable and non-acceptable behavior is fine and fraught with dangers," he said.

#### 'Hate speaker'

Last September, Butt, 30, who runs a discussion website Islam21c, was one of the first to fall foul of the moves to clampdown on non-violent extremists after being identified by a secretive cross-government Extremism Analysis Unit, established to pick out groups or individuals of concern. The activist, who has a biochemistry doctorate, was named in a Downing Street press release on "hate speakers" as one of six figures who gave talks at university campuses and were "on record as expressing views contrary to British values".

A later explanation given by the government to parliament said he had appeared to compare homosexuality to pedophilia and had spoken alongside figures from CAGE, a campaign group that gained attention for contacts with Mohammed Emwazi, the now-dead British militant known as "Jihadi John" who appeared in Islamic State videos beheading foreign captives. Butt said the accusations against him were "complete rubbish", and is now taking legal action to challenge the government's way of identifying extremists and its "Prevent" strategy, its much-criticised policy to stop radicalisation. "What has happened over the last 10 years of counter-terrorism policy is it's completely going about it in a very destructive way," he said.

"The government need to do a job to keep people safe but the way it's being done, especially recently, not only are they looking in the wrong place ... but they are completely ignoring the negative effects it's having on community relations." It is not just those like Butt who are targeted that are concerned. In January, Professor Louise Richardson, the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, said it was better to let extremists speak on campuses and challenge their views than to simply ban them.

David Anderson, Britain's terrorism law watchdog, has warned that plans to clamp down on individuals and organizations accused of extremism could backfire by playing into the hands of militant recruiters.

#### 'Free pass'

But those who back the government's intent at allowing extremists free rein in public forums say universities exposes vulnerable people to their messages. They point out that graduates or students at British universities have been involved in numerous militant plots including Emwazi and Nigerian "underwear bomber" Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab. Rupert Sutton, director of Student Rights, an organization that campaigns against extremism on university campuses, said people with controversial views were often given a platform where their opinions were not questioned. "They're too often given a free pass," he told Reuters.

"If you put it as a dichotomy between either freedom of expression or ban them from speaking that is too binary. What we need to think about is how we are going to make it so that when they do come to speak they face challenge rather than being banned." He said the focus should be on using existing legislation to tackle people like Choudary, even if he had long proved adept at ensuring he did not break the law. "When someone is as effective as it is Choudary is, you are going to get people saying: 'How is he allowed to go around on the street doing this?'" he said. —Reuters



## FLOOD-HIT BANGLADESH PLANS TO KEEP FOOD SAFE IN HOME SILOS

**DHAKA:** With millions of Bangladeshis hit by devastating monsoon floods in the past month, the government and aid agencies are helping them with emergency food and shelter, while working to improve protection against future disasters. By June 2019, the government will distribute half a million "household food silos" to people in areas prone to storms and flooding, to keep their food stocks safe from water and other threats. Bangladesh's Humanitarian Coordination Task Team - made up of government and UN experts, aid agencies and donors - estimates that some 3.7 million people in 19 districts have been affected by the recent floods which began in mid-July.

More than 250,000 houses are reported damaged, including nearly 17,000 houses that have been washed away completely and over 65,000 partially lost to riverbank erosion. Around 110 deaths have been reported due to drowning, most of them minors, according to government health officials. The water has now started receding but experts expect another bout of flooding this month as rainfall has increased upstream in India and Nepal, whose rivers flow through Bangladesh to the Bay of Bengal. Of the total number of people affected by the latest floods, around 2 million live in Jamalpur, Kurigram and Gaibandha - Bangladesh's poorest districts, where around a third of the population falls below the poverty line. These northern areas were also hit by severe flooding in September 2014.

### Red Cross appeal

Aid workers report that the latest floods are the most devastating of the last two to three decades. "This flood is the worst in the last 30 years, affected people say," said Adith Shah Durjoy, disaster operations coordinator for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Bangladesh. Some poor families also suffered in the floods two years ago, he noted. "The self-recovery capacity of these people is destroyed by repeated floods," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. An assessment by the humanitarian team said the food security and livelihoods of people in affected areas had been dealt a serious blow by the recent floods.

There are acute food shortages in some areas, as household food stocks have been damaged and food production hampered. People are eating only one or two meals a day, instead of three, and a lack of fodder for animals, especially cattle, means rural families face losing important assets. The government is responding to immediate relief needs, alongside local and international aid agencies, Durjoy said. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has so far distributed food to more than 27,000 people, and is using water treatment kits to provide clean drinking water to 15,000.

Yesterday, the IFRC launched an emergency appeal for \$1.7 million to support its Bangladesh arm in reaching 105,000 people with emergency assistance.

"The floods have inflicted significant damage and hardship across the country," said Mozharul Huq, secretary general of the Bangladesh Red Crescent. "Homes have been completely destroyed, (and) there's a shortage of clean water and lack of toilets. People's livelihoods have been left in tatters." Mahbubur Rahman, emergency response and preparedness coordinator for CARE Bangladesh, said humanitarian relief had yet to reach hundreds of thousands of people. International charity CARE is providing food and basic shelter to more than 2,500 families in Bogra and Kurigram districts, with funding from the British and US governments.

### More climate disasters

Much of Bangladesh's land is a low-lying delta plain, meaning many parts of the country regularly go under water. Monsoon floods often inundate homes and fields, causing crop losses and damaging food stocks. But natural disasters exacerbated by climate change are happening more often, according to Atiq Rahman, executive director of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies. "In the northern districts, agriculture - particularly rice and vegetables - is damaged, alongside losing lives," he said of the current floods. "Disastrous events are hitting more frequently than before."

There can also be considerable climate variability across the country, he added. For example, in April the northeastern districts of Sunamganj and Sylhet saw flash floods, while Barind Tract in the northwest was suffering from drought. Experts say major cyclones and floods are causing fewer deaths than in the past, thanks to alerts and evacuations. But vulnerable households are losing their ability to cope as growing climate stresses push them deeper into poverty.

As part of a government effort to help people manage climate risks, the "household silos" will be given to coastal and river-bank dwellers so they can keep their grain dry when waters rise. The World Bank is providing \$8.37 million to procure the silos from local company Madina Polymer Industries Ltd, under the project to modernize food storage. Made of polypropylene copolymer food-grade plastic, the silos look like earthenware pots, and can protect grain from chemical, thermal and weather effects. They are equipped with a seal that keeps the food inside dry even if the silo remains underwater for a long time during floods. The government will also build eight large silos that can store 535,000 tons of grain to respond to needs during natural disasters around the country. — Reuters



**SRINAGAR:** An Indian paramilitary soldier stops a family traveling on a scooter for questioning before letting them pass at a road block as curfew continued yesterday. — AP

## MILITANTS AMBUSH INDIAN ARMY CONVOY IN KASHMIR, THREE DEAD THE WORST UNREST IN OVER SIX YEARS

**SRINAGAR:** Militants ambushed an Indian military convoy in Kashmir yesterday, killing three personnel, in an escalation of violence that officials have blamed on separatist protests that have tied down security forces for more than a month. Indian Kashmir is in the midst of the worst unrest in six years that began early last month when security forces killed a young separatist commander who was idolised by some youth, provoking an outpouring of anger.

Police superintendent Imtiaz Hussain said militants were taking advantage of the unrest to attack security forces after years of declining violence. Militants ambushed an army convoy early on Wednesday in the town of Baramulla, killing two soldiers, and then struck at a police jeep when it arrived, killing one policeman, he said. "We were aware about the presence of the militants around Baramulla town for over a month but due to violence across Kashmir, they man-

aged to consolidate and carry out an attack," Hussain said.

At least 64 protesters have been killed and thousands injured during 40 days of unrest, while schools, shops and offices remain closed in much of Kashmir as paramilitary troops patrol. The turmoil has raised tension with Pakistan which invited India for talks on the disputed territory, drawing an angry rebuke from India. The nuclear-armed neighbors, which have fought three wars since independence in 1947, both claim the Muslim-majority region in full but rule it in part. UN monitors remain on the heavily fortified border between the two sides in Kashmir.

Yesterday, Indian authorities re-imposed a curfew in the summer capital, Srinagar, to stop a separatist alliance of political and religious groups from holding a sit-in outside the office of the UN Military Observer Group to press for its involvement. "The UN cannot watch the massacre in

Kashmir as a mute spectator," said Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the chairman of a faction of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference. The UN group routinely declines to comment to media, referring queries to UN headquarters. India accuses Muslim Pakistan of supporting Kashmiri fighters while Pakistan accuses India of meddling in Pakistani trouble spots.

India's Major General JS Nain said troops were on alert to stop militants from crossing over from Pakistani Kashmir to foment trouble. The army says 56 militants managed to cross into Kashmir up to June this year, compared with 36 in 2015. It blames Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency for supporting infiltrators. "The ISI and terrorist organizations want to infiltrate as many terrorists as they can whenever there is turmoil," Nain said. Pakistan denies giving material support to Kashmir fighters and denounces rights abuses in Indian Kashmir. — Reuters



**KHOST:** In this Tuesday, Aug 16, 2016, photo, Fazel Karim, holds a picture of his brother, who was recently released from the Guantanamo Bay detention center, at his home in the village of Haiderkhil. — AP

## AFGHAN FAMILY EXCITED OVER SON'S RELEASE FROM GUANTANAMO

**HAIDERKHALE:** An Afghan family in the eastern province of Khost says they're excited their son is among 15 prisoners released from Guantanamo Bay detention center and transferred to the United Arab Emirates this week. Obiadullah, who like many Afghans uses only one name, is now "free," after 14 years in the US prison in Cuba and that they can hardly wait to hear from him, family members and relatives told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Fazel Karim, Obiadullah's brother, said the family was not able to travel to Guantanamo but is hoping to go to UAE and visit him. Karim said they first heard from Obiadullah a month ago and he told them he would be "released." "We couldn't travel to Cuba to visit Obiadullah in Guantanamo, but I am so much hopeful that I can see him face to face in the United Arab Emirates," said Karim. Obiadullah was 19 years old when he was arrested by US forces, with a son who was only two days old. "Now, his son is 14 years old and he is a teenage boy," Karim added.

The Pentagon announced on Monday that the detainees - 12 Yemeni nationals and three Afghans - were sent to the UAE. Guantanamo, where 61 detainees now, was

opened in January 2002 to hold foreign fighters suspected of links to the Taliban or the al-Qaida terrorist organization. During the Bush administration, 532 prisoners were released from Guantanamo, often in large groups to Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia. The latest batch of released prisoners had been held without charge at Guantanamo, some for over 14 years. They were cleared for release by the Periodic Review Board, comprised of representatives from six US government agencies.

The UAE successfully resettled five detainees transferred there last year, according to the Pentagon. In July 2008, the seven-emirate nation also repatriated UAE citizen and Guantanamo prisoner Abdulah Alhamiri at the same time that Afghanistan and Qatar each accepted one prisoner a piece. Karim said that his brother's defense lawyer has told him that Obiadullah would be first transferred to a third country for six months to one year and that later, he would be completely free. However, that is unclear. It's not known what happened to prisoners the UAE previously took in, though it's widely believed they undergo some sort of government-monitored rehabilitation. — AP

## INDIA READY TO SEND TOP DIPLOMAT TO PAKISTAN FOR TERRORISM TALKS

**NEW DELHI:** India is willing to send its top diplomat to Pakistan for talks focused on fighting cross-border terrorism, sources at India's foreign ministry said yesterday, after a spike in tension in the disputed northernmost region of Kashmir. Indian Foreign Secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar was willing to attend talks on the invitation of his Pakistani counterpart, the sources said, adding that they should focus on the situation in Kashmir. The olive branch comes after 40 days of violent protests in Indian-ruled Kashmir that were sparked by the killing by security forces of a field commander of Pakistan-based Islamic militant group Hizbul Mujahideen who enjoyed wide support.

At least 64 people have died and thousands been injured in clashes with security forces that have been denounced by Pakistan, which also claims the right to rule Jammu & Kashmir in a territorial dispute that dates back to partition in 1947. In the latest clash yesterday, militants killed three members of the security forces when they

ambushed an army convoy and then fired on a police jeep that came to the scene. The Indian sources made it clear; however, that India "rejects in their entirety the self-serving allegations regarding the situation in J&K, which is an integral part of India."

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is the name of the Indian state that includes the disputed Kashmir region. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi ratcheted up tensions in his annual Independence Day speech on Monday, accusing Pakistan of glorifying terrorism. And, in a tit-for-tat escalation in the war of words between the nuclear-armed neighbors, Modi said he had received messages of support from leaders in restive regions of Pakistan, in particular the troubled southwestern province of Baluchistan. India accuses Muslim Pakistan of supporting Kashmiri fighters while Pakistan accuses India of meddling in Pakistani trouble spots, in particular of helping separatists fighting the Pakistani state in resource-rich Baluchistan. Both sides deny the accusations. — Reuters



**JAMMU AND KASHMIR:** Indian schoolgirls tie rakhis, a sacred thread, on the wrists of Indian Border Security Force soldiers as a symbolic gesture on the eve of "Raksha Bandhan" festival at the India-Pakistan border area of Suchetgarh in Ranbir Singh Pura. — AP



**MUMBAI:** This file photograph taken on August 29, 2013, shows Indian Hindu devotees collapsing as they try to form a human pyramid to break the dahi-handi, curd-pot, suspended in the air during celebrations of Janmashtami, which marks the birth of Hindu God Lord Krishna. — AFP

## INDIA BANS CHILDREN FROM HUMAN PYRAMID FESTIVAL

**NEW DELHI:** India's top court yesterday banned children from taking part in a popular but potentially dangerous religious festival in the country's west that sees young boys scale human pyramids. The Supreme Court barred children aged under 18 from scaling the pyramids and restricted their height to six meters following a string of accidents in recent years. The ruling comes ahead of the annual Dahi Handi festival in Maharashtra state next week that traditionally sees scores of boys hoisted to the top of wobbly pyramids in homage to Hindu child-god Krishna.

Crowds flock to the colorful spectacle in the state capital Mumbai where groups try to outperform each other with the highest pyramid, some reaching 13 meters. But the practice has also seen many injuries when pyramids collapse, while a 14-year-old boy reportedly died after falling during rehearsals in 2014. "Krishna didn't do acrobatics ... you cannot risk the lives of children," Justice Nageswara Rao told the court in New Delhi. The ruling followed a petition from a Mumbai social worker who stressed the dangers of the tradition that sees the boys smash jugs of buttermilk once they reach the top. The High Court in 2014 also placed restrictions on the pyramids, touching off a lengthy legal tussle by the Maharashtra government, some of whose lawmakers opposed the ruling. — AFP

## 3 KILLED AFTER KITES SLIT THROATS IN INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Two children and a man have died in the Indian capital after their throats were slit by glass-covered strings used for flying kites during Independence Day celebrations, police said yesterday. The tragedies prompted the Delhi government to this week issue an immediate ban on the production, sale and storage of the razor sharp strings which are used to try to cut down competitors' kites. The government said anyone caught with the strings, known locally as manjha, faced a five-year jail term and a 100,000-rupee (\$1,500) fine.

The children, aged four and six, died in separate incidents in New Delhi on Monday after they looked out of the sunroof of their cars. "The children were looking out of the sunroofs when they entangled in the deadly threads," Pushpendra Kumar, west Delhi's deputy police commissioner, told AFP. A 22-year-old man also died in the same way while he was riding his motorbike on a fly-over in the capital, another officer said. No one has been arrested over the deaths.

Another five-year-old child and a policeman were

badly injured in other incidents involving the strings, reports have said. Kite flying is hugely popular on Independence Day, with the sky dotted with ones often painted in the colors of the Indian flag and attached to long strings. The Delhi High Court last week directed the city government to raise awareness of the dangers of the strings, saying there had been a raft of deaths in recent years in Delhi and two neighboring states. Some states have already banned such strings following accidents. —AFP



# JAPAN PROTESTS MORE CHINA SHIP INTRUSIONS

**TOKYO:** Japan lodged a fresh diplomatic protest with China yesterday, accusing the country of again sending its coast guard ships into waters surrounding contested islands in the East China Sea. The two countries are locked in a long-running dispute over the uninhabited islets and tensions over them have been a frequent irritant between the countries. Tokyo has lodged at least 32 protests through diplomatic channels since August 5 over what it

says have been 29 intrusions. Those sparked Kenji Kanasugi, foreign ministry chief of Asia-Pacific affairs, to phone Guo Yan, minister at the Chinese embassy in Japan, the Japanese ministry said in a statement. "Despite Japan's repeated strong protests, the Chinese side has continued to take unilateral actions that raise tensions on the ground, and that is absolutely unacceptable," Kanasugi told Guo, according to the foreign ministry statement.

Kanasugi also called the intrusions a "violation of Japan's sovereignty" and are "unacceptable". The vessels left after being warned off by the Japan Coast Guard, officials said. Ships of the two countries regularly play cat and mouse in the waters but Japan says that Chinese activity has suddenly picked up this month, with local media speculating it is related to a secretive annual summer gathering of top Chinese leaders at a seaside resort east of Beijing.

China is also involved in maritime disputes in the South China Sea and it reacted angrily last month to a UN-backed tribunal ruling that its claims over most of the vital trade artery were invalid.

Japan has called on China to adhere to the decision and the two countries have clashed at recent regional summits and high-level meetings over the issue. Japan's measures over the east China Sea islands have included summoning China's ambas-

sador to the foreign ministry for a diplomatic dressing down as well as lodging protests via its embassy in Beijing. The Japan Coast Guard on August 8 said it caught sight of 15 Chinese coast guard ships in waters near the islands-the highest number ever spotted in the area. Japan also protested in June after it said a Chinese navy frigate sailed close to its territorial waters near the islands for the first time. —AFP

# SENIOR N KOREAN DIPLOMAT BASED IN LONDON DEFECTS

ONE OF THE HIGHEST RANKING OFFICIALS TO DO SO

**SEOUL:** A senior North Korean diplomat based in London has defected to South Korea, becoming one of the highest Northern officials to do so, South Korea said yesterday. Thae Yong Ho, minister at the North Korean Embassy in London, has arrived in South Korea with his family and is under the protection of the South Korean government, Seoul's Unification Ministry said. Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-Hee said Thae told South Korean officials that he decided to defect because of his disgust with the government of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, his yearning for South Korean democracy and worries about the future of his children.

Jeong said Thae was the second-highest official in North Korea's embassy, and is the most senior North Korean diplomat to defect to South Korea. In 1997, the North Korean ambassador to Egypt fled

but resettled in the United States. Jeong refused to give further details about Thae's defection, citing possible diplomatic problems with a concerned country he didn't identify. Britain's Foreign Office declined to comment. The highest-level North Korean to seek asylum in South Korea is Hwang Jang-yop, a senior ruling Workers' Party official who once tutored Kim Jong Un's late father, dictator Kim Jong Il. Hwang's 1997 defection was hailed by many South Koreans as an intelligence bonanza and a sign that the North's political system was inferior to the South's. Hwang died in 2010.

Thae's defection will likely enrage North Korea, which often accuses South Korea of kidnapping or enticing its citizens to defect. South Korea doesn't always make high-level defections cases public. Its revelation of Thae's defection came as ties between the rivals are at one of their

lowest points in decades over the North's nuclear ambitions. North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test in January, and South Korea has been working hard to apply more international pressure on the North. Jeong said Thae's defection could be a sign that unity in Kim Jong Un's ruling class is weakening.

## Power being challenged

Analyst Chang Yong Seok at Seoul National University's Institute for Peace and Unification Studies disputed that assessment, saying there are no tangible signs that Kim's grip on power is being challenged. "Senior North Korean officials have defected before, but these have all been isolated cases that weren't followed by a chain of defections by other officials," he said. Ramon Pacheco Pardo, senior lecturer in international relations at King's College London, said a diplomatic

defection "could prove very valuable to South Korea, the U.S. and other countries."

"Most North Korean defectors have limited access to the inner workings of the North Korean regime," he said. "The defection of a diplomat would allow intelligence services and military forces in other countries to learn more about the level of support that Kim Jong Un enjoys, recent developments in North Korea's nuclear and missile programs or the extent to which real economic reforms are being implemented." The defection of a high-level diplomat could also signal growing internal skepticism about the strength of the Kim Jong Un regime, since they are a rare occurrence. Thae, 55, is a veteran diplomat who is experienced in dealing with countries in Western Europe. He led a North Korean delegation that held talks with European Union representatives over the North's human rights situation in Brussels in 2001, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

Thae had worked at the North Korean Embassy in London for about 10 years, Yonhap said. Previously, he worked at its now-closed embassy in Denmark and spent a short period of time at its embassy in Sweden, it said. More than 29,000 North Koreans have defected to South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, according to North Korean government records. Many defectors have said they wanted to leave North Korea's harsh political system and poverty. In April, 13 North Koreans working at a North Korean-operated restaurant in China defected to South Korea in the largest group defection since Kim Jong Un took power in late 2011. Later in April, South Korea also revealed that a colonel in North Korea's military spy agency had defected to the South last year. Yesterday's announcement came as North Korea is responding angrily to a US plan to place an advanced missile defense system in South Korea. The North has warned of unspecified retaliation and fired several missiles into the sea earlier this month. —AP



**SEOUL:** South Korean Unification Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon Hee speaks about a senior North Korea diplomat's defection to South Korea during a press conference at the government complex. (INSET) This is an image taken from video on April 5, 2004 of Thae Yong Ho, North Korean diplomat speaking during an interview in Pyongyang. —AP photos

# AUSTRALIA, PNG AGREE TO CLOSE IMMIGRATION CAMP

**SYDNEY:** Australia agreed yesterday to close a camp for asylum-seekers on Papua New Guinea, one of two controversial Pacific island centers attracting growing criticism, but said none of the hundreds of men there now would be resettled on its soil. Canberra's policy of sending asylum-seekers who arrive by boat to outposts on Papua New Guinea and the tiny Pacific state of Nauru was thrown into turmoil in April when a PNG court ordered the Manus Island centre closed.

"Both Papua New Guinea and Australia are in agreement that the centre is to be closed," PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said in a statement following talks with Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton in Port Moresby. "It is important that this process is not rushed but carried out in a careful manner." Canberra has been under pressure to shut the Australian-funded

Manus facility, which as at June 30 held 854 men, following a PNG Supreme Court ruling declaring that holding people there was unconstitutional and illegal.

The centre was in the spotlight this week after Australian media published graphic images of two bloodied Afghan men who had allegedly been attacked with an iron bar by locals on Manus. The government is also facing criticism about the plight of some 442 asylum-seekers on Nauru, after thousands of leaked incident reports last week detailed allegations of widespread abuse and self-harm, including children wanting to kill themselves. "Today we can announce... the closure of the Manus Island detention centre and that's a very good outcome," Dutton told Sky News, without specifying a time frame.

Closing the camp shows the government's

policy of refusing to resettle asylum-seekers in Australia was working, he said, adding that the policy would not change. Under 'Operation Sovereign Borders' asylum-seekers trying to reach Australia by boat-even if they are refugees-are either sent back to where they departed from or transferred to Nauru and Manus. The policy has been criticized by rights groups as essentially placing refugees in indefinite detention on remote Pacific islands, with a protester yesterday interrupting a speech by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to urge him to "close the bloody camps". But the government says it has stopped deaths at sea after a spate of drownings.

## Asylum seekers to go home

Dutton said Australia and PNG would work together to support asylum-seekers and refugees transition to lives in the developing Pacific nation or return to their country of origin. "We are very adamant, very clear in our messaging so far... when the detention centre closes, that our position is not going to change," Dutton said, adding that this could see people accept settlement packages to return home. Refugee advocates welcomed the decision to close Manus Island, but called on the government to resettle refugees in Australia.

"The Australian government has for many years been shamefully outsourcing to PNG and Nauru its responsibilities to protect and fairly process hundreds of people who are seeking safety," Amnesty International's Anna Neistat said. "The government set up a system of deliberate abuse of and cruelty towards almost 2,000 men, women and children who are simply looking for a safe place to rebuild their lives." Australia director of Human Rights Watch Elaine Pearson said the men on Manus should immediately be moved to Australia or a safe third country. "Nearly 1,000 men on Manus have already lost three or more years of their lives locked up in limbo for no good reason," she said. "They've endured dirty, cramped conditions, inadequate medical care and violence. Finally, it is time to let them move on with their lives in safety and dignity." —AFP



**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** In this Aug 2, 2013, photo, a group of asylum seekers hold up their identity after landing in Manus Island, Papua New Guinea. — AP

From the Embassy of Democratic People's Republic of Korea



# THE LIBERATION OF KOREA: A HISTORICAL TURNING POINT

On August 15, 1945, Korea was liberated from military occupation (1905-1945). This marked a turning point in the history of the Korean people. With the liberation of their country, Koreans could lead an independent and dignified life as masters of their own destiny, the state and society. Liberation did not mean merely the revival of the nation for Koreans who had been at the crossroad of life or death. It was a historic event which brought about a change in their destiny from that of a slave to that of a master.

After achieving the historic cause of national liberation by leading the 15-year anti-occupational armed struggle to victory, President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994) founded the Workers' Party of Korea, which would organize and guide all victories of the Korean people, on October 10, 1945. Under the leadership of the WPK, a people's power organ was established in a short span of time and such democratic reforms as agrarian reform, nationalization of major industries and sexual equality were carried out with success, making people masters of the government, workers masters of factories and peasants masters of land and freeing women from the centuries-long feudal fetters.

Based on these successes the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the first people-oriented democratic country in the East, was founded on September 9, 1948; this enabled Korea, which had been eclipsed in the map of the world, to emerge in the international arena as a dignified independent and sovereign state. Thanks to the people-oriented policies of the state, the Korean people could lead an independent and creative life as genuine masters of the state and society, and the whole society became a great harmonious socialist family whose members help and lead one another forward in firm unity.

In this way, the liberation of the

country led to the building of a socialist society centered on the masses and an invincible socialist state unaffected by any upheavals. Socialist Korea has been built according to its own original guiding ideology, the Juche idea and Songun idea advanced by President Kim Il Sung and developed by Chairman Kim Jong Il?and guiding theories and principles clarified by those ideas.

It has given definite precedence to military affairs while holding fast to the line of establishing Juche in ideology, independence in politics, self-sufficiency in the economy, and self-reliance in defense as demanded by the Juche idea and Songun idea. As a result, the WPK has developed into a motherly party that takes care of and leads the destiny of the masses, the government into a master responsible for the livelihood of the people and servant for them, and the army into a defender of people's freedom and happiness.

To look back socialism expanded on a worldwide scale after WWII, but it experienced twists and turns. Amid intensified anti-socialist schemes committed by imperialists, opportunism appeared in several socialist countries, and this resulted in their tragic collapse in succession. However, the banner of socialism has remained fluttering as ever in the DPRK. It is out of question that the international society admires the DPRK which has followed consistently the road of socialism of its own choice and held fast to its ideology, system and cause for nearly 70 years. The reality of the DPRK which is achieving fresh leap and innovations in the building of a thriving socialist nation along with its history of dozens of years is a good testimony to the historic significance of the liberation of Korea which brought about a turning point in shaping the destiny of its people in an independent way and achieving the prosperity of the country.



# DUTERTE WILLING TO FACE PROBE INTO DRUG KILLINGS

**MANILA:** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday his government is willing to face any inquiry into the deaths of hundreds of suspected drug dealers and users as human rights groups express alarm over extrajudicial killings. Nearly 600 suspected drug peddlers and users have been killed in police operations since Duterte took power six weeks ago, police say, but rights groups put the number at more than 1,000.

"We are willing to submit ourselves for an investigation before anybody," Duterte said in a speech at the national police office, adding some of the killings were carried out by drug gangs. "But do not attribute acts of other criminals upon my government. The fight against drugs will continue unrelenting until we have destroyed the apparatus operating in the entire country." There have been cases when police officers have killed suspected drug dealers in handcuffs, in police custody or inside prison cells, civil rights

lawyers have said. Police have said they will not condone wrongdoing but that some may have been killed by rogue officers.

In another public event, Duterte attacked Senator Leila de Lima, who will open a public inquiry next week into drug-related killings, saying she was only playing politics and linked her driver to the drugs trade. "It's character assassination," an emotional de Lima told reporters at the Senate. "It's so foul. I did not expect the president to do that." Duterte won the presidency in May on a single platform of suppressing crime and drugs, declaring war on narcotics on his first day in office. He has identified 160 officials, police and judges in a name-and-shame campaign to stop the drug trade. "I myself, who ordered the campaign against drugs, take full and sole responsibility for it," Duterte said, cautioning police against using excessive force in making arrests. "Do not kill if you're not in danger of losing your life." —Reuters





A child swims and washes water buffalo in the Diyala River in Baghdad yesterday. The animals are bathed daily to help keep them free of diseases and to protect them from the heat. — AP

## TRUMP SHAKES UP CAMPAIGN TEAM AGAIN...

Continued from Page 1

on "messaging", regularly travelling with Trump while also working closely with Manafort and Bannon, the statement said. It is the second personnel shakeup at the top since June 20 when Trump dropped his first manager, Corey Lewandowski, who was sidelined by Manafort and courted controversy after allegedly grabbing a Breitbart reporter.

Bannon, a former naval officer and investment banker, is seen as a maverick and vehemently anti-Clinton. An Oct 2015 profile by Bloomberg Politics described him as "the most dangerous political operative in America". He is "a bit of a street fighter, willing to go right at his opponents, and make sure that they know that in politics, all is fair," Lewandowski told CNN. Bannon's arrival will be seen, at least by some, as a demotion of Manafort, the seasoned Republican advisor returning to presidential politics for the first time in 20 years after working as a lobbyist for controversial clients.

Chief among those clients was Viktor Yanukovich, the pro-Kremlin former president of Ukraine whom Manafort helped

rebrand until he was deposed during a popular uprising in 2014. The head of Ukraine's newly formed National Anti-Corruption Bureau said this week that more than \$12 million was earmarked for payment to Manafort from 2007 to 2012, although it was not clear if he received the money.

In an interview with Fox News, Trump claimed that the polls were getting closer and, when asked if he imagined running for president as a child, he deployed some of the populist candor that his supporters admire. "No, I didn't. If I did, I would have been less controversial," he said. On Tuesday, Trump made his first substantial pitch to African American voters of the campaign, telling a rally in Wisconsin that Democrats had "betrayed" them and promised to revitalize impoverished urban communities.

Blacks tend to vote Democrat and voted overwhelmingly in favor of Clinton at the expense of her former party challenger for the nomination, Bernie Sanders. On Tuesday, Trump also promised to reject bigotry "in all forms" - another departure for a nominee who previously vowed to ban Muslim immigrants. — AFP

## BABY GIRL BORN MIDAIR ON FLIGHT...

Continued from Page 1

The airline said it was giving the baby a million points in its lifestyle rewards program, equivalent to

about 10,000 one-way flights in the Philippines. "We are happy that both mother and daughter are doing well," said Cebu Pacific Air president and CEO Lance Gokongwei — AFP

## TURKEY STARTS RELEASING 38,000 INMATES

Continued from Page 1

his "virus" from all public institutions. In the latest move yesterday, the authorities fired another 2,692 civil servants mostly from the police, the official gazette announced. Some 75,000 people have already been dismissed from their jobs over alleged links to Gulen.

Turkey has pressed the United States to extradite Gulen to face trial back home, with prosecutors already demanding a symbolically tough punishment of two life sentences and 1,900 years in jail. US Vice President Joe Biden will travel to Ankara next week, the White House announced, in the highest ranking visit to Turkey by any Western official since the coup. Turkey has been deeply upset by what it has described as the lack of solidarity shown by Western leaders in the wake of the coup bid and is sure to press Biden on the extradition issue. "If the US does not send him (Gulen) to Turkey, relations will not be the same as they were before July 15," Bozdog said, warning

Washington not to "lose" the Turkish people.

And in the latest dispute between Berlin and Ankara, the Turkish foreign ministry reacted angrily to a leaked German government document that described Turkey as a "platform" for Islamists. With concern also surging over the authorities' attitude on press freedom, security forces sealed and raided the premises of the pro-Kurdish daily Ozgur Gundem following a court order to shut it down. A Turkish official said the closure had nothing to do with the state of emergency but was because the court found the paper was acting as a mouthpiece for the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Ozgur Gundem said in a statement on its website that two dozen people were detained in the police raid. Meanwhile, one of the paper's board members Asli Erdogan - a prominent writer - was detained in a police raid on her home, Turkish media said. However the paper still managed to distribute a four-page edition, with the headline "We will not give in." — AFP

## JULY WAS EARTH'S HOTTEST MONTH IN MODERN...

Continued from Page 1

The government has moved to assure residents the state's electricity grid can cope with the surge in usage as a result of the summer's heat wave, local newspaper Al Qabas reported on Tuesday. The country's peak electricity load reached 13,390 megawatts (MW) this month, its highest level ever, the ministry of electricity and water said in the report. The new figure exceeds the previous peak electricity load record of 13,310 MW, reached in July 17 this year.

The ministry attributed the surge in consumption to the intense heat which has afflicted the country this summer, with temperatures exceeding 50 degrees Celsius. Heavy use of air-conditioning devices and networks has put a major strain on the overall power consumption. However, the ministry said the network was able to cope with the rising power demand and can accommodate a power load as high as 15,000 MW. The UN's World Meteorological Organization has announced that it will set up a committee to examine whether a 54 degrees Celsius reported in Kuwait in July 21 is the new highest temperature ever recorded in Asia.

The NOAA report found above-average warmth across most of the Earth, with new records observed in parts of Indonesia, southern Asia, and New Zealand. Scorching temperatures were seen in part of the Gulf region, with several locations across Kuwait experiencing temperatures higher than 113 F during July. "The highest maximum temperature

during July 2016 was recorded in Mitribah, Kuwait," it said.

In Bahrain, the average temperature of 96.8 F for the month was the nation's highest July temperature since national records began in 1902. New Zealand, Spain and Hong Kong were also unusually warm. Places that saw near-average or cooler-than-normal temperatures last month included the northwestern United States, eastern Canada, southern South America, southwestern Australia, north central Russia, Kazakhstan, and India. Ocean temperatures were also at a record high, amid concerns that warming waters are contributing to the spread of coral bleaching worldwide. NOAA said the 13 highest monthly global ocean temperature departures have all occurred in the past 13 months.

Temperatures were record high even though El Nino has ended, and neither the warming trend of El Nino or the cooler La Nina prevailed across the tropical Pacific Ocean during July 2016. La Nina is "slightly favored to develop during August-October 2016, with about 55-60 percent chance of La Nina during the northern hemisphere fall and winter 2016/17," NOAA said. But even a break in El Nino, which contributed to the surging global temperatures this year, is not likely to sway 2016 from its track toward becoming the hottest year in the contemporary era for global heat. NOAA said the first seven months of the year are the "warmest such period on record at 1.85 F (1.03 C) above the 20th century average." That is one-third of a degree F (0.19 C) above the previous record set in 2015. — Agencies

## FILIPINO MINISTER VISITS RIYADH OVER ...

Continued from Page 1

These include a waiver of penalties for expired work and residency permits, payment for flights home, and for food and accommodation when the employers were no longer meeting their obligations. Lawyers hired by the Saudi government will handle claims for delayed salaries, even if workers leave the country.

Arribas said Philippines officials and the Saudi labor ministry are coordinating "to implement the general provisions of the directive from the king". Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello yesterday thanked King Salman for his help. Bello, who met his Saudi counterpart Mufarrej Al-Haqbani, handed over a letter of gratitude from President Rodrigo Duterte, Arribas said.

Before leaving for Saudi Arabia Bello told Philippines

television that Duterte wants the workers back as soon as possible. "The majority of them would like to go home" and perhaps return to work in the kingdom later, Arribas said. The stranded Filipinos worked in a variety of jobs including engineering, technical and office positions. Sources in March told AFP that delayed receipts from the government, whose oil revenues have dropped significantly over the past two years, left employees of the kingdom's construction giants struggling while they wait for salaries.

The Saudi Gazette reported yesterday that a Pakistani minister had also arrived in the kingdom to try to help more than 10,000 of his countrymen who are similarly stranded. In early August India's minister of state for external affairs, V K Singh, met with Haqbani to discuss the plight of about 2,500 Indian workers. — AFP



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## Focus

## DARK KNIGHT OF LOBBYISTS

By Jennie Matthew

**P**aul Manafort, Donald Trump's campaign chairman thrust into the headlines this week in connection with a Ukrainian corruption investigation, is a formidable Republican strategist who spent years lobbying for rogues and dictators. The smooth-talking, sharply dressed 67-year-old has become the public face of the most controversial US presidential campaign in living memory: a professional spokesman who never strays off message as he bats aside allegations of a campaign in disarray or a candidate going off the rails.

Yesterday, Trump announced a shake-up of his team as he tanks in the polls. On paper at least Manafort remains chief strategist, but some saw the hiring of Breitbart News executive chairman Stephen Bannon as CEO and Kellyanne Conway being promoted to campaign manager as a demotion. In a 40-year career he advised the Republican presidential campaigns of Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Bob Dole; he or his firms, such as the now defunct Black, Manafort, Stone and Kelly, have been paid millions to lobby for or burnish the reputations of foreign clients. "Name a corrupt despot, and

Black, Manafort will name the account: Ferdinand Marcos, \$900,000 a year; the now deposed Somali dictator, \$450,000; the drug-linked Bahamian government \$800,000," wrote Spy magazine in a 1992 article. But the client who has landed the Trump campaign in hot water is Viktor Yanukovich, the pro-Kremlin former president of Ukraine whom Manafort helped rebrand until the leader fell from power during a popular uprising in 2014.

Others were Angolan warlord Jonas Savimbi, whose rebel group got \$250 million under Reagan and Bush in its war against Angola's socialist government, the Philippines president Marcos and the late Zaire dictator Mobutu Sese Seko. His name also appears in connection with a French political scandal known as the "Karachi affair" in which arms contracts that France signed with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in 1994 are believed to have resulted in kickbacks to finance the presidential campaign of France's Edouard Balladur.

In 2013, Manafort admitted being paid by a Lebanese-born intermediary for advising Balladur on his ultimately unsuccessful bid. Another client was the Kashmiri American Council, named in 2011 by prosecutors as a front organization for Pakistan's ISI intelligence agency. Yahoo News says the Council paid Manafort's firm \$700,000 between 1990 and 1995. Riva Levinson, who worked under Manafort from 1985 to 1995, likened it in her memoir to "playing one big game of Stratego: building armies and scheming to take over the world... In fact, at times, that is exactly what was going on."

### Denies Wrongdoing

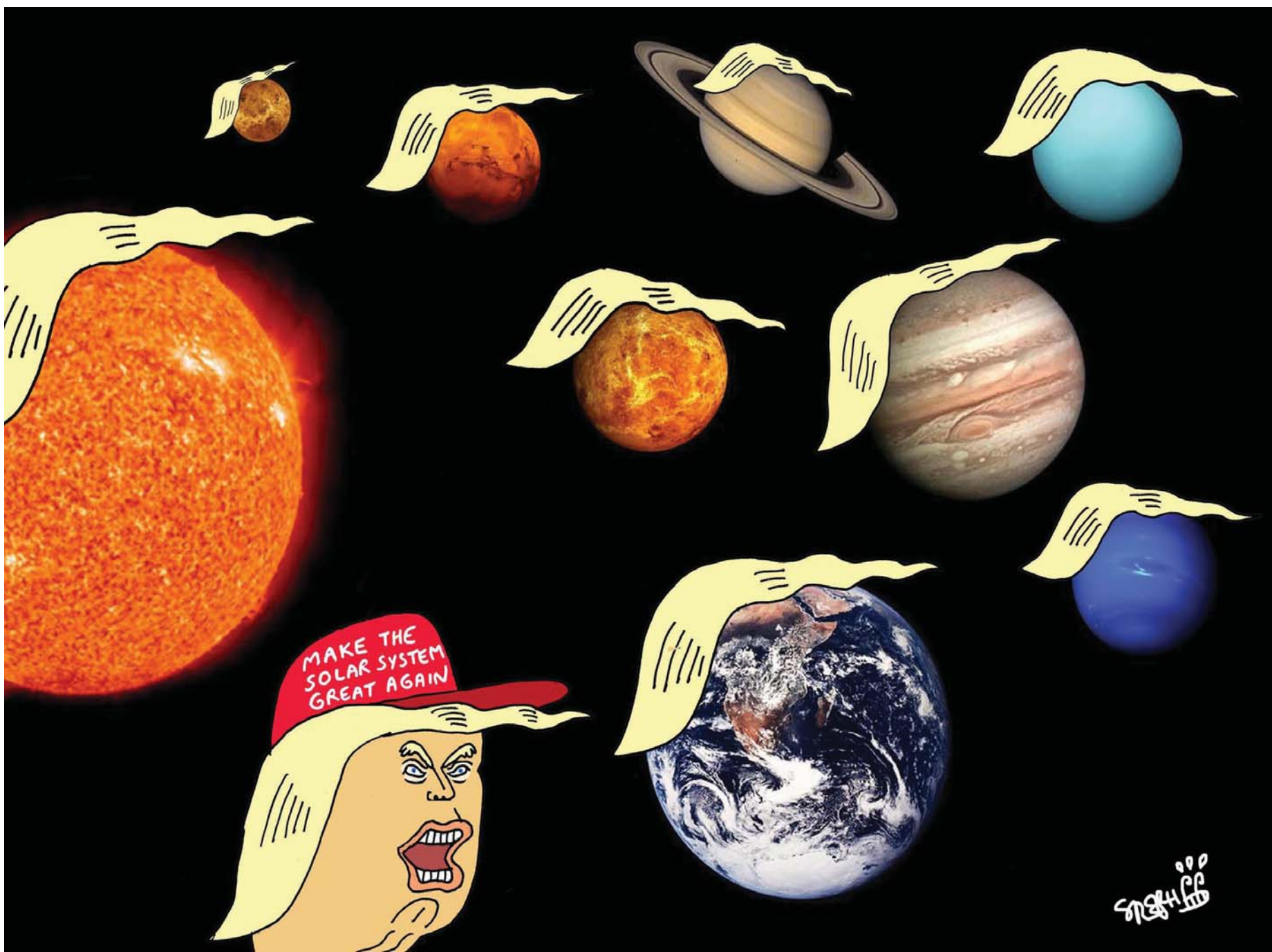
Originally from Connecticut, Manafort's father was a Republican mayor in the largely Democrat town of New Britain. His grandfather emigrated from Italy and in 1919 founded what became a successful construction company. Manafort graduated from Georgetown University with degrees in business administration and law. Besides working on Republican campaigns, he was a founding partner in two lobbying and consulting firms: Black, Manafort, Stone and Kelly founded in 1980 and Davis Manafort, both now disbanded.

Manafort defended his client roster in an interview with Fox News in April. Savimbi, he said, was America's man and working against a "Soviet dictatorship that was put up in Angola". Manafort said in the Philippines he helped a "transition," and in Kiev worked to bring Ukraine into Europe. "And we did," he told Fox. Manafort helped Yanukovich fine tune his image by softening his pro-Russia rhetoric, albeit while being accused of creeping authoritarianism and as Ukraine dropped in global ratings for press freedom. He was credited with persuading Yanukovich to make more effort to win votes in the Ukrainian-speaking west, away from his traditional Russian-leaning heartland, and give speeches in Ukrainian instead of Russian. Yet his ties with the former Ukrainian president, today exiled in Russia, have come under the microscope as Trump defends Russian President Vladimir Putin as a strong leader and calls for a reset in relations with Moscow.

The head of Ukraine's newly formed National Anti-Corruption Bureau, Artem Sytnyk, said this week that more than \$12 million was earmarked for payment to Manafort from 2007 to 2012, although it was not clear if he received the money. Manafort denies any wrongdoing, saying he had "never received a single off-the-books cash payment," or worked for the governments of Ukraine or Russia.

His position on team Trump marks his return to Republican presidential politics after 20 years - he was reportedly considered but rejected in 2008 by John McCain, allegedly alarmed in part over his Yanukovich ties. Manafort is married, and reportedly divides his time between Virginia, Florida and New York, where he has an apartment in Trump Tower. —AFP

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## FOR 69 YEARS, KASHMIR TORN BY DEADLY STRIFE

By Aijaz Hussain

**W**hen news spread in early July that Indian troops had killed a charismatic commander of Indian-controlled Kashmir's biggest rebel group, the public response was spontaneous and immense. Tens of thousands of angry youths poured out of their homes in towns and villages across the Himalayan region, hurling rocks and bricks and clashing with Indian troops. A strict curfew and a series of communications blackouts since then have failed to stop the protesters, who are seeking an end to Indian rule in Kashmir, even as residents have struggled to cope with shortages of food, medicine and other necessities. The clashes, with protesters mostly throwing rocks and government forces responding with bullets and shotgun pellets, has left more than 60 civilians and two policemen dead. Thousands of civilians have been injured and hundreds of members of various government security forces.

Yesterday, two soldiers were killed when they were ambushed by suspected rebels near the town of Baramulla, army officials said. But Kashmir's fury at Indian rule is not new. The stunning mountain region has known little but conflict since 1947, when British rule of the subcontinent ended with the creation of India and Pakistan.

### The History

In 1947, the kingdom of Jammu and Kashmir was asked to join with either India or Pakistan. But Maharaja Hari Singh, the unpopular Hindu ruler of the Muslim-majority region, wanted to stay independent. However, local armed uprisings that flared in various parts of Kashmir, along with a raid by tribesmen from north-western Pakistan, forced Singh to seek help from India, which offered military assistance on condition that the kingdom link itself to India. The ruler accepted, but insisted that Kashmir remain a largely autonomous state within the Indian union, with India managing its foreign affairs, defense and telecommunications.

The Indian military entered the region soon after, with the tribal raid spiraling into the first of two wars between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. The first war ended in 1948 with a UN-brokered cease-fire. Nonetheless, Kashmir was divided between the two young nations by the heavily militarized Line of Control, with the promise of a UN-sponsored referendum in the future. In Indian-controlled Kashmir, many saw the transition as the mere transfer of power from their Hindu king to Hindu-majority India. Kashmiri discontent against India started taking root as successive Indian governments breached the pact of Kashmir's autonomy. Local governments were toppled one after another, and

largely peaceful movements against Indian control were suppressed harshly.

Pakistan regularly raised the Kashmir dispute in international forums, including in the UN. Meanwhile, India began calling the region an integral part of the nation, insisting that Kashmir's law-makers had ratified the accession to New Delhi. As the deadlock persisted, India and Pakistan went to war again in 1965, with little changing on the ground. Several rounds of talks followed, but the impasse continued. In the mid-1980s, dissident political groups in Indian-held Kashmir united to contest elections for the state assembly. The Muslim United Front quickly emerged as a formidable force against Kashmir's pro-India political elite. However, the United Front lost the 1987 election, which was widely believed to have been heavily rigged.

A strong public backlash followed. Some young United Front activists crossed over to Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, where the Pakistani military began arming and training Kashmiri nationalists. By 1989, Kashmir was in the throes of a full-blown rebellion. India poured more troops into the already heavily militarized region. In response, thousands of Kashmiris streamed back from the Pakistani-controlled portion with weapons, staging bloody attacks on Indian security forces and pro-India Kashmiri politicians. Indian soldiers, empowered with emergency laws giving them legal impunity, carried out a brutal military crackdown, leaving Kashmiris exhausted and traumatized. More than 68,000 people have been killed since then.

Kashmir rebels suffered a major setback after 9/11, when the US pressured Pakistan to rein in the militants. Indian troops largely crushed the militancy after that, though popular demands for "azadi" - freedom - remain ingrained in the Kashmiri psyche. In the last decade, the region has made a transition from armed rebellion to unarmed uprisings, with tens of thousands of civilians repeatedly taking to the streets to protest Indian rule, often leading to clashes between rock-throwing residents and Indian troops. The protests are usually quelled by force, often resulting in deaths.

### Recent Developments

In 2008, a government decision - later revoked - to transfer land to a Hindu shrine in Kashmir set off a summer of protests. The following year, the alleged rape and murder of two young women by government forces set off fresh violence. In 2010, the trigger for protests was a police investigation into allegations that soldiers had shot three civilians dead, and then staged a fake gun battle to make it appear that the dead were militants in order to claim rewards for the killings.

Over those three years hundreds of thousands of young men

and women took to the streets, hurling rocks and insults at Indian forces. At least 200 people were killed and hundreds wounded as troops fired into the crowds, inciting further protests. The crackdowns appear to be pushing many educated young Kashmiris, who grew up politically radicalized amid decades of brutal conflict, toward armed rebel groups. Young Kashmiri boys began snatching weapons from Indian forces and training themselves deep inside Kashmir's forests. Despite that, the number of militants has apparently remained tiny, with security experts estimating there has not been more than 200 for the last several years.

### Anti-India Groups

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference is a conglomerate of social, religious and political groups formed in 1993. It advocates the UN-sponsored right to self-determination for Kashmir or three-way talks that include India, Pakistan and Kashmiri leadership to resolve the dispute. The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front was one of the first armed rebel groups. It favors an independent, united Kashmir. Currently led by Mohammed Yasin Malik, the group gave up armed rebellion in 1994, soon after Indian authorities released Malik from jail after four years.

Hizbul Mujahideen is Kashmir's largest and only surviving indigenous armed rebel group. Formed in 1990, the group demands Kashmir's merger with Pakistan. Its supreme commander, Syed Salahuddin, is based in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir. The group was led in Indian Kashmir by Burhan Wani until his death on July 8, which sparked the current clashes. Lashkar-e-Taiba is a Pakistan-based group fighting for the merger of Indian-controlled Kashmir with Pakistan. The United States lists it as a terrorist group. Its leader, Hafiz Saeed, is on a US terrorist list, with a \$10 million bounty on his head. He's also one of India's most wanted men. New Delhi blames the group for several deadly attacks in Kashmir and Indian cities, including the 2008 Mumbai attack that killed 166 people.

### Pro-India Groups

The Jammu Kashmir National Conference is a pro-India political group that has ruled Kashmir for much of the time since 1947. Its most recent leaders, Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah, the current opposition leader in the state assembly, are seen as the strongest proponents of India in Kashmir. The Jammu Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party emerged in the early 2000s as the strongest opponent to the National Conference, strategically using pro-separatist views for electoral gains. It came to power in 2002. It currently rules Indian-controlled Kashmir in coalition with India's ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. —AP

## PUTIN HINTS AT WAR, SEEKS DIPLOMATIC EDGE

By Andrew Osborn

**U**kraine says it thinks Vladimir Putin is planning a new invasion, and it's not hard to see why: The Russian leader has built up troops on its border and resumed the hostile rhetoric that preceded his annexation of Crimea two years ago. But despite appearances, some experts say Putin is more likely seeking advantage through diplomacy than on the battlefield, at least this time around. "It's about sanctions," Andrey Kortunov, director general of the Russian International Affairs Council, a Moscow-based foreign policy think tank close to the Russian Foreign Ministry, told Reuters.

"It looks like a way of increasing pressure on Western participants of the Minsk peace process," he said of a peace deal set up for eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russian separatists have battled against government forces. For two years, Russia has been under US and EU sanctions over its annexation of Crimea and support for the separatists in eastern Ukraine. European leaders say the sanctions cannot be lifted unless the Minsk peace deal is implemented, but for now it looks moribund, with fighting occasionally flaring and both sides blaming each other for failing to implement truce terms.

This week, tension escalated dramatically after Putin threatened to take unspecified counter-measures against Ukraine to retali-

ate for what his spies say was a plot to bomb targets across contested Crimea. Putin said two Russian servicemen were killed in a clash with Ukrainian saboteurs sent to Crimea. Kiev says the incident never happened, and was concocted to create a phoney pretext for a new invasion. The United States and European Union also say there is no evidence it took place.

Whether the plot is real or imagined, Moscow has cranked up its military activity in Crimea at the same time as holding a series of what it says are pre-planned war games and missile deployments in the area. Putin, who is expected to visit Crimea later this week in a show of support, convened his Security Council and cancelled the next round of international talks meant to turn the shaky cease-fire in eastern Ukraine into a lasting peace. But his response - deliberately refocusing international attention back on eastern Ukraine and the lack of progress in implementing a peace deal there - suggests Putin is trying to milk the latest Crimean crisis as part of a diplomatic power play he hopes will eventually kill Western sanctions.

### Talks Run into Sand

European talks between Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany meant to ensure the peace deal's implementation have so far run into the sand. And talks between Victoria Nuland, U.S. assistant secretary of state, and

Vladislav Surkov, a Russian presidential aide, have not generated a breakthrough either. In the meantime, pro-Kremlin separatists continue to control two self-declared republics in Donbass, eastern Ukraine, where low-level fighting with Ukrainian government forces continues, sometimes flaring up in a big way, despite the cease-fire.

Under the deal, Kiev committed to grant Donbass special status, to pardon separatist fighters, and to organise elections. But in a country ripped apart by more than two years of war that has lost control of giant chunks of territory, following through on such pledges is politically toxic. Kiev justifies its slowness to act by accusing Russia of failing to meet its own obligations: continuing to stir conflict in the east, and failing to give back control of Ukraine's eastern border. Kortunov said the aim of Putin's latest sabre rattling is to persuade Ukraine's Western allies "to exert influence on Kiev to get it to fulfil its side of the bargain".

Ultimately, Putin wants the world to forgive and forget Russia's Crimean annexation and for the conflict in the east to freeze, leaving a pro-Russian stronghold inside Ukraine, outside of Kiev's control. It is a long-term settlement that Kiev would never officially accept. Meanwhile, as long as the peace deal is stalled, the sanctions remain in place, with the EU's preconditions to lift them growing no closer.

"Russia is intensely frustrated by the lack of movement on the February 2015 Minsk agree-

ment, and has sought to put the onus for the lack of progress on Ukraine," Paul Quinn-Judge, a senior adviser at International Crisis Group, wrote in a commentary. "The agreement...is highly disadvantageous for Ukraine. Some key clauses, such as according the entities special status, would be politically explosive, perhaps politically fatal, for President Petro Poroshenko. He has accordingly chosen to delay as much as possible. Moscow is turning up the heat."

With Russia's reserve fund set to run out next year and Moscow's access to Western credit markets still closed because of the sanctions, for Russia the clock is ticking. By flexing his military muscles, Putin is sending a signal to the West that his patience is wearing thin and that he may resort to other options if Kiev can't be made to play ball. One of those, the daily Vedomosti newspaper reported earlier this week citing a source close to the separatist leadership, might be to stop restraining separatist forces, effectively allowing a full-scale conflict in eastern Ukraine to resume.

"For now, Russia's leadership is using the story about Crimean saboteurs as an ultimatum to its Western partners in the (Ukrainian) negotiations," wrote Alexander Baunov, a senior associate at the Moscow Carnegie Center. "(It is saying) You said yourselves that there is no military solution to the Crimea and Donbass problems, so broker a peaceful settlement. If you can't even do that, Russia reserves the right to take its own next step." —Reuters



## DICK ADVOCAT PROMISES TO REINVIGORATE FENERBAHCE

**ISTANBUL:** Experienced Dutch coach Dick Advocaat yesterday vowed to reinvigorate the fortunes of Fenerbahce with attacking football as he was officially unveiled as the new coach of the Istanbul giants. Advocaat had arrived in Istanbul earlier this week as the surprise choice to replace Vitor Pereira, whose one-year stint ended in an acrimonious parting with the club unilaterally terminating the contract of the Portuguese coach. 'The most important thing is that we try to take the initiative in the game,' said Advocaat as he was introduced at the signing ceremony at Fenerbahce's Sukru Saracoglu Stadium. 'We have to play attacking football. It's simple. And to be successful everyone in the squad has to be involved in what we do.' In a colorful managerial career spanning over three decades, Advocaat had most recently managed clubs including Zenit St Petersburg and Sunderland. The former Dutch national coach also enjoyed a successful stint of over three years with Scottish giants Rangers from 1998-2001. Fenerbahce lost out to local rivals Besiktas in the race for the league title last season but the final nail for Pereira was the team's defeat at the hands of Monaco in the third qualifying round of the Champions League earlier this month. — AFP



## BRAZIL JUDGE ORDERS US SWIMMERS NOT TO LEAVE

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** A judge in Brazil has issued an order to prevent US swimmers Ryan Lochte and James Feigen from leaving the country on the grounds they gave conflicting accounts of their robbery outside the Rio Games on Sunday, a Brazilian newspaper said yesterday. Lochte, one of swimming's most decorated Olympians, had already returned to the United States ahead of the court ruling, the newspaper quoted Brazilian police as saying. It was unclear if Feigen had also left the country. Lochte said he, Feigen and two other team mates were travelling back to the Athletes' Village in a taxi in the early hours of the morning after a party when armed men carrying police badges pulled them over. The gunmen ordered them to drop to the ground and demanded their wallets and belongings, Lochte said.

## TOWNSEND SET TO REPLACE COTTER AS SCOTLAND BOSS

**LONDON:** Gregor Townsend will replace Vern Cotter as the head coach of the Scotland national side at the end of the 2016/17 season, the Scottish Rugby Union announced yesterday. New Zealander Cotter's contract expires in June 2017 and the SRU has now made public its intention to install Townsend, a former Scotland international, into the role when his current deal as head coach of the Glasgow Warriors ends at the same time. 'Gregor's abilities as a head coach are evident and he is increasingly becoming one of the most sought-after coaches in the game,' said SRU chief executive Mark Dodson in a statement. Townsend, 43, took charge of Glasgow's one of Scotland's two professional teams along with Edinburgh in 2012 after three years as an assistant coach with the national side. He has since taken Glasgow to the Celtic League playoffs in each of his four seasons in charge and led them to their first title in 2015 after they also topped the regular season table. —AFP



# RED SOX OVERPOWER ORIOLES 5-3

**BALTIMORE:** Mookie Betts homered twice and drove in five runs, helping the resurgent Boston Red Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles 5-3 Tuesday night for their fifth straight victory. Betts hit a three-run drive in the fifth inning and added a tiebreaking two-run shot in the seventh. He's batting .426 with 12 homers and 18 RBIs in 11 games against the Orioles this season. Betts had three homers and eight RBIs in a 16-2 win over Arizona on Sunday. The victory lifted Boston into a tie with Baltimore in the AL East. The Orioles started the day atop the division by .001 over Toronto, which played a late game against the Yankees. Boston starter Eduardo Rodriguez had a no-hitter before leaving in the fifth inning with left hamstring tightness. Matt Barnes kept the Orioles hitless until Steve Pearce reached on a dribbler that got past the mound with one out in the seventh. Brad Brach (7-2) allowed Betts' second homer. Brad Ziegler (1-3) got his first win since being acquired from the Diamondbacks, and Craig Kimbrel got his 21st save.

### BLUE JAYS 12, YANKEES 6

Russell Martin homered twice, including a go-ahead shot in an eight-run eighth inning, and Troy Tulowitzki had four hits as Toronto erased a six-run deficit to beat New York. Edwin Encarnacion hit a tying homer and drove home three runs in the eighth as Toronto took advantage of a complete meltdown by New York's bullpen. Tulowitzki also went deep to help the Blue Jays pull off their biggest comeback of the season and move back atop the AL East, just ahead of Baltimore and Boston. Impressive rookie Gary Sanchez homered twice for New York, including a titanic, three-run drive deep into the rarely reached second deck in left field. It was the first time both starting catchers had multiple home runs in an American League game since at least 1913, the Yankees said. Scott Feldman (6-4) replaced ineffective starter Marco Estrada after a rain delay and struck out five in three innings of one-run relief. Adam Warren (1-1) began the eighth for New York and gave up four runs in 1/3 of an inning.

### DODGERS 15, PHILLIES 5

Chase Utley got curtain calls after each of his two home runs - including a grand slam - in his first game in Philadelphia since last season's trade to Los Angeles. Those cheers came after fans greeted him with a 1 1/2-minute ovation before he struck out leading off a rout of the Phillies. Utley was a six-time All-Star in 13 seasons as Philadelphia's second baseman, helping the team win five straight NL East titles and the 2008 World Series. Fans showed their appreciation with a long cheer before he struck out in the first inning at Citizens Bank Park.

In the fifth, Utley hit a two-out solo homer off Vince Velasquez (8-5) and raced around the bases in customary fashion. Fans clamored for a rare curtain call by a visiting player, and Utley obliged to another standing ovation. In the seventh, Utley hit a grand slam off Michael Mariot, and fans again cheered him back out of the dugout. It was Utley's seventh career grand slam. His first career hit was a grand slam at Veterans Stadium. Kenta Maeda (12-7) allowed two runs and three hits in six innings. Los Angeles took sole possession of first place in the NL West for the first time since May 10. Jung Ho Kang hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning and Pittsburgh knocked San Francisco out of first place in the NL West. Kang homered off reliever Derek Law (4-2) one pitch after Andrew McCutchen was thrown out attempting to steal second base. It was Kang's 14th home run this season and third in four games. San Francisco dropped one-half game behind the Dodgers. The Giants, who had led the division since May 10, have the worst record in baseball since the All-Star break at 9-20. Antonio Bastardo (1-0) retired three batters for his first win since Aug. 7, 2015.

### RANGERS 5, ATHLETICS 4, 10 INNINGS

Rougned Odor was hit by a pitch with the



**DENVER:** Catcher Wilson Ramos #40 of the Washington Nationals tags out Carlos Gonzalez #5 of the Colorado Rockies at home plate for the third out of the seventh inning at Coors Field on August 16, 2016. — AFP

bases loaded in the 10th inning, forcing home the winning run for AL-leading Texas. Carlos Beltran had tied the game with his fourth hit, a two-run single, after John Axford (4-4) walked the bases loaded. Marc Rzepczynski came on and the A's opted to intentionally walk Adrian Beltre, reloading the bases. Odor was hit in the shoulder on the next pitch. Oakland tied the game in the ninth off closer Sam Dyson, then took a 4-2 lead in the 10th when five of its first six batters reached against Keone Kela (4-1). Yonder Alonso had an RBI double and scored on Ryon Healy's single for the A's.

### ROCKIES 6, NATIONALS 2

DJ LeMahieu had three hits and reached base for the ninth straight plate appearance and Colorado's bullpen threw six scoreless innings following a lengthy weather delay. LeMahieu singled in the first inning, hit a two-run home run in the third and tripled and scored the go-ahead run in the fifth off Yusmeiro Petit (3-3). He also walked in the seventh after going 4 for 4 on Monday and walking in his final plate appearance Sunday. Rain and lightning swept over Coors Field at the start of the fourth, and the game didn't resume until 9:52 p.m. after a delay of 2 hours, 5 minutes. Colorado won for the second time in 10 games. Nolan Arenado and David Dahl each had two RBIs, and Chris Rusin (3-4) threw three innings in relief of starter Chad Bettis.

### INDIANS 3, WHITE SOX 1

Corey Kluber allowed one run in six innings to win his fourth consecutive start, and Cleveland beat Chicago for the seventh straight time. Kluber (13-8) struck out seven and walked two, allowing his only run on Justin Morenau's one

out homer in the sixth. Kluber is 5-0 with a 1.80 ERA in seven starts since a July 3 loss at Toronto. Cody Allen pitched a perfect ninth for his 23rd save. Jose Quintana (9-9) lost for the first time since June 28.

### CUBS 4, BREWRES 1, GAME 1 CUBS 4, BREWERS 1, GAME 2

Jason Hammel threw seven innings of two-hit ball, Anthony Rizzo jumped onto a wall to make a remarkable catch of a foul ball and Chicago beat banged-up Milwaukee to sweep a day-night doubleheader. Javier Baez hit a two-run homer while Hammel (13-5) struck out seven to extend his scoreless streak to 22 innings. In the opener, Trevor Cahill (2-3) came off the disabled list to throw five innings of two-hit ball in his first start in nearly 16 months in Chicago's 4-0 win. The Brewers lost second-game starter Chase Anderson to a bruised left quadriceps after two batters and slugger Ryan Braun to a left knee injury in the fourth inning. Matt Garza (4-5) took the loss in the first game and Jhan Martinez (0-1) lost after relieving Anderson in Game 2.

### CARDINALS 8, ASTROS 5

Tommy Pham and Jedd Gyorko each homered to help the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Houston Astros 8-5 on Tuesday night. The Cardinals roughed up Astros ace Dallas Keuchel (7-12) to overcome a rocky outing from starter Jaime Garcia (10-8). Garcia gave up five runs and seven hits in five innings, including three home runs. The Astros dropped their third straight, and the Cardinals won their third in a row on the day they learned outfielder Matt Holliday and reliever Seth Maness are headed for the disabled list. Holliday will have surgery on his right thumb

and could miss the remainder of the regular season, while Maness will have Tommy John surgery, likely sidelining him until 2018. Seung Hwan Oh pitched a scoreless ninth, striking out three, for his 12th save of the season.

### ROYALS 6, TIGERS 1

Danny Duffy allowed one run in 7 2/3 innings and Kansas City hit four homers. Raul Mondesi, Alex Gordon and Eric Hosmer all homered off Justin Verlander (12-7), while Kendrys Morales went deep off Mark Lowe. Duffy (10-1) allowed three hits and two walks, striking out five.

### METS 7, DIAMONDBACKS 5

Noah Syndergaard earned his first victory in seven starts, helping himself with a two-run homer, and New York ended a string of four consecutive losses to Arizona in the past week. Jeurys Familia pitched a perfect ninth for his major league-leading 40th save. Syndergaard (10-7), the losing pitcher in Arizona's 9-0 rout of the Mets in New York last week, went 5 2/3 innings, giving up four runs, two earned, and seven hits with eight strikeouts and two walks. He hadn't won since July 3. Braden Shipley (2-2) gave up seven runs, six earned, and 10 hits in 5-plus innings.

### ANGELS 7, MARINERS 6

Cliff Pennington hit a go-ahead triple in the eighth inning, Albert Pujols slugged his 22nd home run and Los Angeles ended an 11-game losing streak. With two outs in the eighth, Jeffry Marte turned on a 97 mph fastball from Arquimedes Caminero (2-3) and it drove into the stands to tie it 6-6. Jett Bandy kept the inning alive with a single, and Pennington sent him home with just his second triple since 2014.

Fernando Salas pitched a scoreless ninth for his third save, and Brett Oberholtzer (3-2) earned the win with a scoreless eighth. The Angels' 11-game streak tied a franchise worst.

### REDS 6, MARLINS 3

Tucker Barnhart's first career grand slam capped Cincinnati's five-run first inning, giving Anthony DeSclafani all the support he needed to beat his former team. With Miami leading 1-0, the Reds loaded the bases with three straight two-out singles in the first against Jose Urena (1-4), who was recalled from Triple-A New Orleans earlier Tuesday. Coming off his first loss this season, DeSclafani (7-1) appeared to injure his left ankle making a sudden stop while running the bases in the fourth. He allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings with no walks and six strikeouts.

### RAYS 15, PADRES 1

Brad Miller hit two of Tampa Bay's five home runs in a rout. Rookie Blake Snell (4-5) struck out eight in five innings, giving up one run, five hits and four walks. Edwin Jackson (3-3) gave up eight runs on nine hits and three walks in four innings.

### TWINS 4, BRAVES 2

Ervin Santana scattered four hits over seven scoreless innings, Joe Mauer homered and Minnesota beat Atlanta. Santana (6-9) walked two and struck out six, throwing 64 of his 107 pitches for strikes to win his third straight start. Brandon Kintzler earned his 12th save in 13 chances after facing four batters in the ninth. Atlanta starter Joel De La Cruz (0-6) gave up four hits, one run, two walks and struck four in 5 1/3 innings. — AP



**CALIFORNIA:** Los Angeles Angels third baseman Yunel Escobar can't reach a ball hit by Seattle Mariners' Mike Zunino for a double during the second inning of a baseball game on Tuesday, Aug 16, 2016 in Anaheim. — AP

## MLB results/standings

Chicago Cubs 4, Milwaukee 0; Boston 5, Baltimore 3; LA Dodgers 15, Philadelphia 5; Toronto 12, NY Yankees 6; Kansas City 6, Detroit 1; Cleveland 3, Chicago White Sox 1; Cincinnati 6, Miami 3; Minnesota 4, Atlanta 2; Tampa Bay 15, San Diego 1; Chicago Cubs 4, Milwaukee 1; Texas 5, Oakland 4 (10 innings); St. Louis 8, Houston 5; Colorado 6, Washington 2; NY Mets 7, Arizona 5; LA Angels 7, Seattle 6; Pittsburgh 4, San Francisco 3.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Toronto	68	52	.567	-	Washington	70	48	.593	-
Baltimore	66	52	.559	1	Miami	62	57	.521	8.5
Boston	66	52	.559	1	NY Mets	60	59	.504	10.5
NY Yankees	61	58	.513	6.5	Philadelphia	56	64	.467	15
Tampa Bay	49	69	.415	18	Atlanta	44	75	.370	26.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	68	49	.581	-	Chicago Cubs	75	43	.636	-
Detroit	63	56	.529	6	St. Louis	63	56	.529	12.5
Kansas City	59	60	.496	10	Pittsburgh	61	56	.521	13.5
Chicago W Sox	56	62	.475	12.5	Milwaukee	52	66	.441	23
Minnesota	48	71	.403	21	Cincinnati	49	69	.415	26
Western Division					Western Division				
Texas	71	50	.587	-	LA Dodgers	66	52	.559	-
Seattle	63	55	.534	6.5	San Francisco	66	53	.555	0.5
Houston	61	58	.513	9	Colorado	57	63	.475	10
Oakland	52	68	.433	18.5	San Diego	50	69	.420	16.5
LA Angels	50	69	.420	20	Arizona	49	70	.412	17.5



## FIFA ETHICS PANEL SEEKS MORE S AFRICAN MATCH-FIXING BANS

**BERNE:** A FIFA investigator has proposed at least a six-year ban and 10,000 Swiss francs (\$10,393) fine for ex-South Africa football chief Kirsten Nematandani over alleged ethics violations connected to fixing international friendlies in 2010. The investigator, Djimbaraye Bourngar, also recommended life bans for former Zimbabwe Football Association official Jonathan Musavengana and former Togo national team coach Bana Tchanile for alleged bribery and corruption violations.

"The investigations into the three individuals were initiated in relation to their specific conduct in the organization of several international friendly matches played in South Africa in 2010," FIFA said in

a statement. Nematandani, head of the South African Football Association (SAFA) from 2009 until 2013, had violated articles on general conduct, loyalty and disclosure, FIFA said.

Tchanile has already been banned from soccer for three years by his country's federation after taking a team masquerading as the Togo national side to play a friendly with Bahrain in 2010. None of the three could be reached for comment. The case has now been passed to the FIFA ethics committee's adjudicatory chamber for a verdict and possible sanctions. Investigations by soccer's world governing body FIFA have concentrated on warm-up matches South Africa played against Thailand,

Bulgaria, Colombia and Guatemala in May 2010 ahead of the World Cup which the country hosted.

### Betting syndicates

Match-fixing is often organized by betting syndicates who make money by correctly gambling on the result of the game they have manipulated. In 2012, Chris Eaten, then FIFA's head of security, said convicted Singapore-based match-fixer Wilson Perumal's company had provided the match officials for the four games under investigation. South Africa usually invites match officials from neighboring countries to handle home friendlies but agreed to Perumal's offer to fly in officials from Kenya, Niger and Togo for the four matches. The

South Africa team were handed two disputed penalties in a 2-1 victory over Colombia in Johannesburg on May 27, 2010. One of the spot kicks was ordered to be retaken twice after the initial efforts were saved. Colombia's goal also came from a penalty. Four days later South Africa were awarded another two spot kicks in a 5-0 win over Guatemala in Polokwane. In April, former SAFA chief executive Leslie Sedibe was suspended for five years and fined 20,000 Swiss francs over the same case while Steve Goddard and Adeel Carelse, former SAFA refereeing heads, were banned for two years each. Former SAFA executive member and head of referees Lindile Kika was suspended for six years in October. — Reuters

## DETROIT MLS BID COMES AMID MINOR LEAGUE SOCCER BOOM

**HAMTRAMCK:** Immediately after the opening kickoff, colorful smoke was already floating through the air and fans were in full voice, singing and chanting in a display reminiscent of matches in Europe and South America. This wasn't Milan or Liverpool, though, or even Portland or Seattle. This was a fourth-tier soccer match at a renovated old stadium in Hamtramck, an enclave of Detroit. The team is called Detroit City FC.

It competes in the National Premier Soccer League and its players aren't paid, but this season the club drew about 5,000 fans a game at its new home field, turning a night at Keyworth Stadium into one of the area's most unique sports experiences. DCFC's growth is a testament to soccer's grassroots appeal in the United States, and it comes as a group led by NBA owners Dan Gilbert and Tom Gores is trying to bring a Major League Soccer franchise to Detroit. The question now is: What will happen to DCFC if MLS shows up? And would an MLS team be able to capitalize on the soccer culture that's already here? The answer may not be that simple.

"It's a tightrope," said Alex Wright, one of DCFC's five owners. "It's going to take some time and some conversation." There are over 80 teams in the NPSL, representing big cities like Chicago and Boston as well as places like Fredricksburg, Virginia, and Binghamton, New York. DCFC was founded in 2012, and the ownership group felt there was enough soccer interest in the Detroit area for the project to succeed. The barriers to entry weren't exactly high. Wright says each co-owner had to kick in \$2,500 for the buy-in and a chance to own a team and build it from the ground up.

"It was something we as founders who had day jobs could do on nights and weekends, but it also allowed us the flexibility and the freedom and opportunity to kind of like, really have some fun with what kind of team we wanted to be," Wright said. DCFC outgrew its home field and now plays at Keyworth. There's an independent supporters group - Northern Guard Supporters - and fans march to matches together from a nearby bar. Near the entrance to the supporters' section at the stadium, there's a banner laying out some ground rules for the uninitiated.

### What do they have?

Fans who venture into that area along one of the sidelines can expect to stand the whole game, hear plenty of foul language and have smoke bombs set off around them. "As long as you can stand the smoke and stand the swearing - and just stand for 90 minutes - you fit right in," said 35-year-old Drew Gentry, a Northern Guard co-founder. Gentry became interested in soccer after stumbling upon a Champions League match on TV and being amazed by the fan atmosphere. "I'm like, 'What do these people have? This is soccer, it's not supposed to be interesting. Why do these people love this sport so much?'" he said.

Gentry wanted a local version of what he'd seen, a team he and his community could throw support behind. His is just one story of how an American under 40 came to love a sport that struggled for so long to gain a foothold in this country. Now fans are gravitating toward soccer for any number of reasons - and the group putting together Detroit's MLS bid knows it. "There's a group of people that grew up with soccer now. They're not necessarily people that grew up with the NFL or something else," said Matt Cullen, a principal of Gilbert-chaired Rock Ventures.

"It is almost like a little bit of a counter-culture kind of thing, and people enjoy it in a different way. I think it's the experience as much as the game at times." That's certainly true at DCFC games. The players aren't exactly household names. Fans go because of the atmosphere and the excitement of being part of something that they're all helping build. "In a more professional, traditional American setting, I think the mentality is you have to be something for every-

one," Wright said. "I think what soccer is proving is that while that is true - that is one way to do it - that's not the only way to do it.

To be something real for some people, is also another way to go, because we're not trying to fill a 65,000-seat stadium and we don't have 162 games a year." MLS teams don't have to draw 65,000 fans a game either. If there is a new team in Detroit, it would be in good shape if it can enjoy the type of loyalty DCFC receives from its fans. There is precedent for that kind of smooth transition. The Portland Timbers were a successful minor league team before being elevated to the MLS level in 2011.

There's some skepticism among the DCFC die-hards. The Northern Guard website includes a list of lyrics to various fan chants, and one of them aims its profanity-laced hostilities directly at Gilbert, Gores and MLS Commissioner Don Garber. "It's really important that everyone understand how much time and effort the supporters put into what they do," Wright said. "If you don't understand that, it's really hard to understand where they're coming from when you read what they write online or on social media. It's not vitriol if you've been spending so much of your time building something up and you're worried that it's going to be forgotten."

The MLS group has been quick to praise DCFC. Arn Tellem, who works with Gores as an executive at Palace Sports and Entertainment, said he's met with the DCFC hierarchy, and he raves about the experience at the team's games. He said DCFC and the Michigan Bucks - a Pontiac-based team that won the championship of the Premier Development League this month - have shown that there is great interest in soccer in the Detroit area. But it's not yet clear how, specifically, the MLS group and DCFC might work together.

Elevating DCFC to MLS status would be one way to try to preserve the club's charm and grassroots appeal. That's a model MLS has followed elsewhere, but Gilbert and Gores would likely have some work to do to win over the trust of some of the local fans. An MLS team could also try to coexist with DCFC in the hope that each can in its own way help soccer grow in Detroit. There are examples of minor league teams playing in MLS cities, although those teams don't necessarily draw many fans. Portland Timbers 2 - a team in the United Soccer League - drew about 2,500 at a game Sunday, a figure that would represent a step back for a team like DCFC.

### MLS expansion

Wright says DCFC looks forward to further conversations with the MLS group about their visions for the future. As for Gentry, he said recently that nobody from the MLS bid had reached out to his supporters' group. "I will believe an MLS team is in Detroit when they kick off their first match," he said. "Until then, it's not something that I'm going to lose sleep over, only because I've got stuff to do to grow my team - the team that's already here." The proposed MLS expansion team could start playing in Detroit by 2020, but that still leaves DCFC plenty of time to build an even greater following. Right now, the big priority for the MLS bid is securing a new stadium for a Detroit team to play in. The group is pushing for a site in downtown Detroit, but there are potential roadblocks.

If the stadium issue is resolved and Detroit is indeed granted a team, talks between the MLS group and DCFC figure to take on much more significance. "I think we want to be inclusive with DCFC and the Bucks and work with them, and we can learn a lot from them. I think the groups that are running these organizations are really smart and civic minded," Tellem said. "They have done an incredible job, and I think we can learn a lot from them and we will. Every time I'm with them, I leave feeling more positive that we have to do this together. We can't do this without them." — AP



**HAMTRAMCK:** Detroit City FC fans march toward Keyworth Stadium for a friendly against the Columbus Crew College Program in Hamtramck, Mich. While the prospect of having a franchise that competes at the highest level of soccer in the US is intriguing to some in the community, some supporters of Detroit City FC aren't as excited. — AP



**BUCHAREST:** Manchester City's John Stones (right) vies with Steaua's Alexandru Tudorie during the Champions League qualifying playoffs first leg soccer match at the National Arena Stadium in Bucharest, Romania on Tuesday, Aug 16, 2016. — AP

## AGUERO HITS CITY TREBLE DESPITE PENALTY MISSES

### MAN CITY DEMOLISH STEAU BUCHAREST 5-0

**BERNE:** Sergio Aguero missed two penalties in the first 20 minutes and then scored a hat-trick as Manchester City romped to a 5-0 win at Steaua Bucharest in the first leg of their Champions League playoff on Tuesday. David Silva and Nolito were also on target against the crestfallen former European champions who were spared an even heavier defeat as the visitors hit the woodwork three times.

Borussia Moenchengladbach also took a big step towards qualifying for the group stage with a 3-1 victory at Swiss side Young Boys. Former European champions Ajax Amsterdam were held 1-1 at home by Russians Rostov while Croatian champions Dinamo Zagreb also had to settle for a 1-1 draw at home to Austrians Salzburg. Copenhagen beat APOEL Nicosia 1-0 in the evening's other match. City's visit to Romania got off to an extraordinary start as Aguero fluffed his lines.

The Argentine, who has missed four of his last five penalties in European competition, saw his first spot kick saved by Florin Nita after eight minutes and then shaved the crossbar with

another attempt 12 minutes later. Even so City found little resistance and took the lead in between when Silva fired home after neat footwork by Raheem Sterling. Aguero finally found the target four minutes before halftime when he sidefooted the ball in from 18 metres following another chance created by Sterling. Nolito and Aleksandar Kolarov also hit the woodwork in the first half for rampant City.

### Offside trap

New signing Nolito increased the lead for Pep Guardiola's side four minutes after the restart when he beat the offside trap to collect Kevin de Bruyne's pass and rounded Nita for his first goal since his move from Celta Vigo. Aguero exchanged passes with Nolito before scoring the fourth with an angled drive and he then raced through the defence to complete his hat-trick with a shot off the post. "We played a really good game. It could have been eight or nine," said De Bruyne. "In the end Sergio scored three goals. If you do that nobody will complain about the two missed penalties." Two goals in four minutes in

the second half put Gladbach in command of their tie. Substitute Andre Hahn netted within a minute of going on, as the home defense appealed in vain for offside, before Raffael's volley was deflected into his own net by Alain Rochat. Raffael had given the Bundesliga side an early lead but Miralem Sulejmani equalized from close range for the Swiss in the 56th minute.

Christian Noboa floated in a free kick to put Rostov in front, only for four-times European champions Ajax to reply with a Davy Klaassen penalty before halftime. Andrija Pavlovic's well-taken goal two minutes before halftime, as he latched on to Thomas Delaney's pass and rounded goalkeeper Boy Waterman, gave Copenhagen a narrow lead over APOEL. Salzburg, who have failed in their last eight attempts to get through the qualifiers, may feel their luck is going to change after the draw in Croatia. Valentino Lazaro headed Salzburg ahead after a superb run by Wanderson just before the hour although Dinamo, Croatian champions for the last 11 seasons, leveled when Marko Rog won and converted a penalty. — Reuters

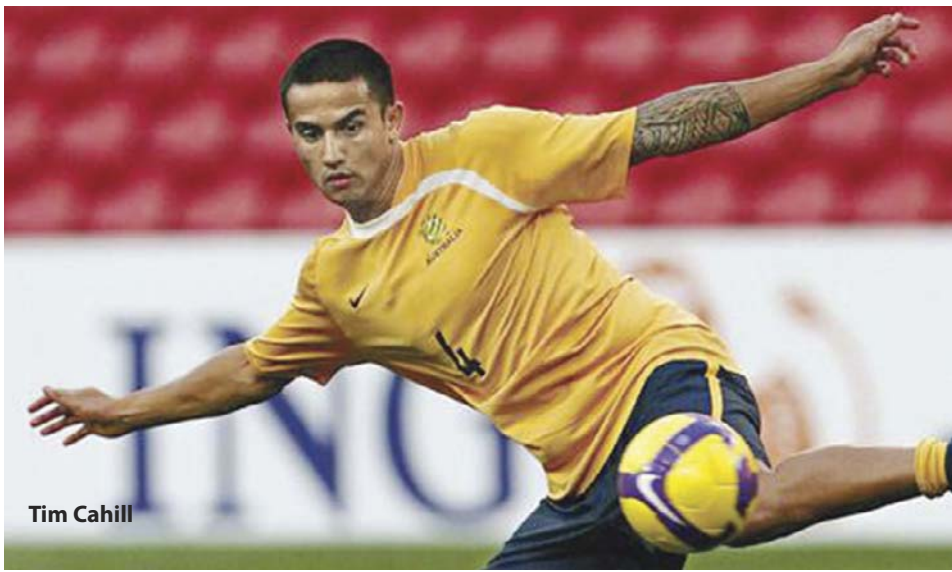
## REAL MADRID SWITCH FOCUS TO BARCELONA AND LA LIGA

**MADRID:** Winning the Champions League last season ensured Real Madrid their status as European football royalty but their focus for the coming campaign is to halt Barcelona's domination on the domestic scene. President Florentino Perez has thus far resisted the temptation to dig deep into his pockets to sign another Galactico ahead of the new La Liga season next weekend. Meanwhile, Zinedine Zidane has won over those who doubted his ability to convert his world class playing abilities into those of a competent coach. The European success over cross-town rivals Atletico Madrid on penalties in the Champions League final in May was enough to ensure his continued presence in the Real hot seat.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it" has been the motto of Madrid's transfer dealings. Zidane himself admitted ahead of their north American tour last month that "it is difficult to improve on this squad". Whilst title rivals Barca and Atletico have added significant depth and quality in the latter's case, Real have restricted themselves to a homecoming for Alvaro Morata after two years at Juventus by triggering a buyback clause for 30 million euros. Even that deal looked to have been done with the intention of then selling Morata on to the cash-filled Premier League.

But after scoring three goals in four games for Spain at Euro 2016 the 23-year-old will now battle Zidane favorite Karim Benzema for a place in the starting line-up alongside Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale. "They have been two long years and a long wait to return, but I am back at home," Morata said as he was presented on Monday. Morata was far from the only Real star to shine at the Euros, another reason for Madrid's uncharacteristic prudence in the transfer market. Ronaldo cried tears of pain and then of joy as was carried off with a knee injury before Portugal finally won a major international tournament by upsetting hosts France in the final.

But for many the central defender Pepe was Portugal's outstanding performer. Bale was inspired as he led Wales on a historic run to the semi-finals and Luka Modric dazzled for Croatia, whilst Toni Kroos' passing in the German mid-field saw him named in the team of the tournament. Zidane masterminded a run of 22 wins in 27 games from the point he rescued a shipwreck of a season in January. — AFP



## CAHILL LEADS AUSTRALIA'S WCUP QUALIFIERS SQUAD

**SYDNEY:** Overseas-based players dominate Australia's squad for the opening games of the World Cup qualifiers next month, as coach Ange Postecoglou opted for experience with veteran Tim Cahill the only domestic A-League player selected. Australia, the reigning Asian Cup champions, face Iraq in Perth on September 1 before taking on the UAE in Abu Dhabi on September 6 on their road to qualify for the 2018 Russia World Cup. Postecoglou said he wanted the squad to hit the ground running, and focused on form and fitness when he selected the team. While the European and Chinese seasons-where most of the squad play-are ongoing, Australia's A-League season kicks off in October.

"It's very important, when we look at our games last year in September, October, whilst the performances were OK... it was really evident to us that in that sort of window, players who had come in underdone really struggled,"

Postecoglou told reporters in Sydney. "When we were coming up with this squad, we were probably only taking risks with maybe a couple of players, probably Timmy (Cahill) and Mark Milligan, who haven't really played competitive football as yet... but they'll be able to cope with what we do," he said, adding that there were no uncapped players in the team.

Postecoglou said he was not worried about the fitness of Cahill, Australia's top goalscorer, who has not played since he left Chinese Super League side Hangzhou Greentown last month. "He hasn't had that long off," Postecoglou said of the 36-year-old, who signed for Melbourne City last week. "He's obviously not at match fitness, nowhere near it, but he's getting himself in good shape and we'll assess him over the next couple of weeks with his training at City and if he has sufficient enough fitness and feels good about it he'll come in." —AFP



## ITALY AMATEUR TEAMS THRIVE; MIGRANTS LOOK TO INTEGRATE

**LONDON:** Record numbers of migrants and refugees are set to join amateur soccer teams in Italy this year, as they seek to integrate in their new country by playing its favorite sport, local teams said ahead of the start of the 2016/2017 season. Italy, on the frontline of Europe's migration crisis, hosts at least 130,000 people - mostly men from football-loving nations in Africa such as Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Gambia - in reception centers across the country, government figures show.

Last month it received more than 25,000 migrants, a 12 percent increase on the same period last year, according to EU border agency Frontex. In recent years, charitable organizations have set up at least four teams of migrant players to help asylum seekers socialize and adapt as they go through a lengthy asylum process. "As the numbers (of arrivals) grow we also expect to have more young men (then before)," said Francesco Guizio, founder of Opti Poba, a migrant team in the southern region of Basilicata, one of thousands of amateur teams across Italy.

Guizio said he was counting on having around 80 players this year. "We are the size of Inter Milan," he quipped. Salvatore Lisciandrello, manager of Rome-based Liberi Nantes, said the team struggled to field 11 players when it was launched in 2007. But with expectations that 250 asylum seekers will show up for open training sessions in the coming weeks, Lisciandrello is planning to create a second squad. "Being unable to keep everyone is a defeat to us, but it's not easy to manage this numbers," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

### Dreams of Totti

Francesco Montanino, who coaches Afro-Napoli United, a team of Italian and migrant players founded in Naples in 2009, said football played a powerful role in enabling people from different backgrounds to bond.

"You always play with one ball and the same set of rules and win as a team," he said. But for others, it's the prospect of a lucrative contract with Serie A team that is the draw. Many migrants in their teens or early twenties secretly hope to be spotted by talent scouts on Italy's provincial pitches and go on to become professional footballers, said Montanino.

"Italy is renowned for football around the world and many come here dreaming of Totti and Higuain," he said referring to the two Serie A strikers.

Few make it. Over the past few years only two former Opti Poba players have been signed by lower division sides, where they earn only a few hundred euros a month, Guizio said. Dreams of a well-paid professional career in Europe also leave young boys exposed to the risk of trafficking, Lisciandrello of Liberi Nantes said. Two years ago he trained a 16-year-old from Cameroon who had been abandoned by agents after being taken to Rome in exchange for about 5,000 euros (\$5,600). The boy was so talented that Lisciandrello said he put him in touch with Serie A side AS Roma, which is expected to sign him when he turns 18 in September. Many others are less fortunate. Some 15,000 young players leave West Africa each year under false pretences, estimates the charity Foot Solidaire. — Reuters



**COLOMBO:** Sri Lankan cricketers celebrate their 3-0 test series win over Australia at the end of the third cricket test match in Colombo, Sri Lanka yesterday. — AP

## AUSTRALIA LOSE TEST CROWN AFTER SRI LANKA WHITEWASH

HERATH WRECKS AUSTRALIA, SRI LANKA SWEEP SERIES

**COLOMBO:** Australia lost their crown as the kings of Test cricket yesterday after another devastating burst of spin bowling from the veteran Rangana Herath helped Sri Lanka clinch an historic series whitewash. Set a formidable target of 324 in their second innings of the third and final Test, Australia collapsed were all out for just 160 as Herath took seven for 64 at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) in Colombo.

It was the third time in a row that the Australians had lost all of their Tests in away series against teams from the sub-continent and allowed India to regain the number one slot in the world rankings. And it was the first time that the hosts had ever recorded a clean sweep of a major cricketing nation since they gained Test status in 1981. "It's a hard one to grasp really, it's been a very tough series again, that is the our third straight whitewash loss in the subcontinent," a disappointed Australian skipper Steve Smith told reporters.

"Can't fault the prep, got here early, worked as hard as we can. Think Sri Lanka have played some great cricket, (it's) disappointing but a great learning curve." Openers David Warner and Shaun Marsh briefly raised Australian hopes of a consolation win as they made a brisk start to their chase before their partnership was broken just before lunch with the score on 77. Off-spinner Dilruwan Perera's dismissal of Marsh, who scored a century in the first innings in Colombo, was the cue for a dramatic collapse by the Australians who lost their last nine wickets for just 60 runs.

### Herath heroics

The destroyer-in-chief was Herath who, having claimed six wickets in the first innings, was again close to unplayable at times. Smith was his first victim and he then snared Adam Voges in the same over. Warner, who had batted well for his 68 with six fours and a six, was Perera's second big strike. His removal opened up the tail to Herath who wrapped up proceedings by taking the final wicket of Nathan Lyon, triggering wild celebrations in front of a raucous home crowd-many of whom had been admitted for free.

"The feeling is unbelievable. This is one of the top series for us," a beaming Sri Lankan skipper Angelo Mathews after being handed the Warne-Muralitharan Trophy. Earlier Sri Lanka, who resumed on 312 for eight, declared their second innings on 347 for eight with overnight batsman Dhananjaya de Silva unbeaten on 65. Playing in just his third Test, de Silva smashed 10 boundaries during his 74-ball knock, after scoring a century in the first innings. Kaushal

SCOREBOARD	
<b>COLOMBO:</b> Completed scoreboard on the fifth day of the third and final Test between Sri Lanka and Australia in Colombo yesterday:	
<b>Sri Lanka 1st innings</b> 355 (D. Chandimal 132, D. de Silva 129; M. Starc 5-63, N. Lyon 3-110)	M. Henriques 2-0-9-0, A. Voges 2-0-11-0
<b>Australia 1st innings</b> 379 (S. Marsh 130, S. Smith 119; R. Herath 6-81)	Did not bat: L. Sandakan
Sri Lanka 2nd innings (overnight: 312-8; D. de Silva not out 44, S. Lakmal not out 0)	<b>Australia 2nd Innings</b> (target: 324 runs)
D. Perera lbw b Starc 8	S. Marsh c Mendis b D. Perera 23
D. Karunaratne st Nevill b Lyon 22	D. Warner b D. Perera 68
K. Silva c Smith b Holland 115	S. Smith b Herath 8
K. Perera c Nevill b Holland 24	A. Voges lbw b Herath 1
K. Mendis lbw b Starc 18	M. Henriques run out 4
A. Mathews c Smith b Lyon 26	M. Marsh c K. Perera b Herath 9
D. Chandimal lbw b Lyon 43	P. Nevill c Mathews b Herath 2
D. de Silva not out 65	M. Starc c K. Perera b Herath 23
R. Herath c Smith b Lyon 5	N. Lyon lbw b Herath 12
S. Lakmal not out 4	J. Hazlewood st K. Perera b Herath 0
Extras (b8, lb3, w1, nb 5) 17	J. Holland not out 0
Total (8 wickets dec; 99.3 overs) 347	Extras (b4, lb6) 10
Fall of wickets: 1-8 (D. Perera), 2-44 (Karunaratne), 3-69 (K. Perera), 4-98 (Mendis), 5-156 (Mathews), 6-246 (Chandimal), 7-276 (Silva), 8-297 (Herath)	Total (10 wickets; 44.1 overs) 160
Bowling: Starc 19.3-4-72-2, Lyon 37-7-123-4, Holland 20-4-72-2, Hazlewood 14-2-33-0, Smith 2-0-13-0, M. Marsh 3-1-3-0,	Fall of wickets: 1-77 (S. Marsh), 2-100 (Smith), 3-102 (Voges), 4-114 (Warner), 5-115 (Henriques), 6-123 (M. Marsh), 7-140 (Nevill), 8-157 (Starc), 9-159 (Hazlewood), 10-160 (Lyon)
	Bowling: Herath 18.1-3-64-7, D. Perera 22-3-71-2, De Silva 4-0-15-0.
	Result: Sri Lanka win by 160 runs.
	Series: Sri Lanka win three-match series 3-0

Silva's gritty 115 played a big part in Sri Lanka registering their first series sweep against a major side since gaining Test status in 1981.

Defiant centuries from Dinesh Chandimal and Dhananjaya de Silva ensured that the hosts got a decent first-innings score of 355. The batting duo put together a defining 211-run stand for the sixth wicket after the hosts were left reeling at 26 for five having elected to bat. "What a moment ... credit to de Silva the way he batted and then Chandimal the way they got us through the second and third sessions on the first day and then Herath, doing his thing," Mathews said. Australian paceman Mitchell Starc was the standout performer for the visitors with his 24 wick-

ets in the series including three five-wicket hauls.

But the man-of-series award went to Herath who took a total of 28 wickets in the three Tests, including a hat-trick in the second rubber. Sri Lanka had only ever beaten Australia once before in a Test match but they won the first two contests of the series comfortably in Pallekele and Galle before the finale in the capital. The outcome means that India, who have just won an away series against the West Indies, are now top of the rankings and Pakistan have also leapfrogged Australia into second place. The teams now head into the limited-overs phase of the tour with the first of the five one-day internationals scheduled for August 21. — AFP



**SAINT PETERSBURG:** Photo shows the construction site of the new football stadium in Saint Petersburg which will host matches during the 2018 FIFA World Cup. — AFP

## RUSSIA SCRAMBLES AFTER WORK HALTED AT WORLD CUP VENUE

**SAINT PETERSBURG:** With the 2018 World Cup less than two years away, Russia is scrambling to resume construction at one of the tournament's flagship stadiums where labor disputes have threatened to derail efforts to meet deadlines. Work on the futuristic 68,000-seater stadium in Saint Petersburg, Russia's second city, was halted last month over a contractual disagreement between local authorities and the firm overseeing construction.

The firm building the venue, Inzhtransstroy-SPB, quit the project, forcing Russian authorities to hastily find a new company to build the spaceship-shaped stadium that will host seven World Cup matches, including a semi-final. Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko, who also heads the country's football union, said last week he was concerned about the situation but expressed hope that the new contractor, Metrostroy, would turn things around. "Poor quality work has been done on a string of engineering systems," R-Sport news agency quoted Mutko as saying. "This was all discovered when the contract was terminated. Now we need to build it with composure. We have to start being more positive."

The alleged shoddy labor unleashed a bitter war of words between Inzhtransstroy-SPB and local authorities, with the company accusing authorities of owing it one billion rubles (\$16 million) and withholding 4.3 billion rubles in extra funding. Local authorities, in turn, claimed the firm had missed deadlines, violated security regulations and neglected construction standards. Work on the venue, which will serve as Zenit St

Petersburg's stadium, is expected to resume by the end of the month. Inzhtransstroy-SPB pledged to "hand over in a civilized manner" the construction to the new firm, which has pledged to complete the stadium by December 26 for 5.38 billion rubles.

### 'No extreme delays'

Work on the ill-fated Saint Petersburg stadium began in 2007 with an estimated budget of 6.9 billion rubles. It has dragged on nearly a decade and is now going to cost an estimated 39.2 billion rubles. Before severing its ties with the stadium, Inzhtransstroy-SPB said that the venue was 85 percent completed, a figure Mutko said represents a "high level" of readiness. The remaining 15 percent of the stadium-which includes work on heating, electricity and the installation of fixed roof-needs to be completed before next summer's Confederation Cup, which Russia will host in four of its World Cup venues as a rehearsal for the 2018 tournament.

Local authorities have remained upbeat and dismissed the prospect of seeing an unfinished stadium host the matches. "Everything will be ready to host Confederation Cup matches in 2017 and the World Cup in 2018," the deputy head of the Saint Petersburg region, Igor Albin, told local media. President Vladimir Putin last month ordered government officials to take "measures to eliminate the delays in the construction of sport or other infrastructure" for the tournament, and instructed Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev to report on the issue monthly. — AFP

## EUROPE IOC CHIEF ARRESTED IN RIO OVER TICKET SCANDAL

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Brazilian police yesterday arrested top International Olympic Committee member Patrick Hickey over illegal sales of Rio Olympic tickets. Police said in a statement that Hickey, the 71-year-old head of the European Olympic Committees as well as the Irish national committee, was detained at a luxury Rio hotel. According to Brazilian media, Hickey tried to escape during the operation. The reports said he fell ill during his arrest and was taken to hospital. City police acted to "carry out an arrest warrant and search warrant against Patrick Joseph Hickey, from Ireland, a member of the International Olympic Committee," police said in a statement. "He was arrested," a spokesman confirmed.

Hickey has been a member of the IOC executive board since 2012. As head of the European body he has been instrumental in setting up the European Games which was first held in Baku, Azerbaijan, last year. The arrest-with echoes of a police raid on a FIFA hotel in Zurich last year in which seven officials were held on corruption charges-will come as a blow to the IOC which has made anti-corruption efforts a priority since a

bribery scandal around the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Six IOC members were expelled after the scandal.

An IOC spokesman said: "We are still in the process of establishing the facts" and made no further comment. The Olympic Committee of Ireland would only say that it was "seeking total clarity on the situation before we comment further."

Hickey's arrest follows earlier operations by police against what they say is an international ticket scalping ring. The head of the sports hospitality company THG Sports-which was licensed to resell London 2012 and Sochi 2014 Olympic tickets-was arrested on charges of illegal sales. Hickey's son Stephen used to work at THG.

Hickey senior denied any connection to THG in an interview last week with Irish broadcaster RTE. Kevin James Mallon, a director of THG Sports, was arrested in Rio on August 5 in possession of almost 1,000 premier tickets for Games events. Rio police said they had confiscated about 1,000 tickets that were being sold far above face value, mostly for popular events like the opening ceremony. — AFP



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Brazilian Captain Marta poses for pictures with fans during the Brazil vs Sweden game at the Maracana stadium. Sweden won against Brazil at the penalty shoot-out. — AFP

## BRAZIL FANS ASK: WHAT NOW FOR WOMEN'S FOOTBALL?

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Brazil's Olympic women's football team was showered with joyous attention until their heart-breaking semi-final elimination on Tuesday which brought forward a key question: Was the interest the start of something big or another false dawn? Brazil does not have a season-long women's league, forcing 13 of those in the 18-strong squad to ply their trade overseas.

But the Rio Games team had been grabbing the headlines and outshining the men's side since kicking off on Aug. 3, prompting many observers to ask whether that focus will die out with the Olympic flame or broadcasters and sponsors will finally invest. "When we got to the Olympic final in 2004... we thought that it would take off, that it would get sponsorship, that a league would be created," said Carlos Alberto Parreira, Brazil coach at the time and the manager who led the men's team to their 1994 World Cup triumph. "But nothing happened."

The reason there was no interest then, or since,

Parreira said, has everything to do with the chaotic administration of Brazil's heavily indebted football clubs. "Even the big clubs have financial difficulties," he said. "So there isn't enough money to invest in women's football. But I hope that mentality is changing bit by bit." The Olympics and the participation of the women who have always done so well, I hope it awakens the interest of the TV broadcasters and companies because without that you'll never develop women's football. What you are seeing here is that Brazilians also like women's football."

"Here" was the Maracana, where a capacity crowd watched Brazil outplay a defensive Sweden side only to lose 4-3 on penalties after the match finished goal-less following extra time. The home fans got behind the team throughout the game and a carnival atmosphere pervaded a stadium that regularly plays host to clubs such as Flamengo, Fluminense and Botafogo. "We have the impression that the women are taking it seriously," said Marcio Sousa, a Flamengo fan on his

way to Tuesday's game. "The men seem more interested in the European leagues than playing for Brazil."

### Poor relation

Some Brazilian clubs have women's teams but they are very much the poor relation to the men. There is no infrastructure for the women's game, no national league - only a three-month long tournament at the end of the season - and very little investment. The Brazilian Football Confederation pays for some players and a coach and that enables them to keep the national side going, no mean feat in a nation where women's football was banned from 1941 to 1979 for being unladylike.

Fans who turned out to cheer on players such as Marta, five times World Player of the Year, and Cristiane, the leading goalscorer in Olympic history, are now hoping their support will be translated into something more permanent. But history is against them as, perhaps, is culture. — Reuters





## RIVALS QUESTION BRITAIN'S MYSTERY CYCLING ADVANTAGE



### CYCLING

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Germany's Olympic sprint gold winner Kristina Vogel has complained that her dominant British rivals have an unfair advantage though she is not sure what it is. Several riders in Rio have grumbled about Britain's cycling hegemony for the past three Olympics. Britain has won 20 of the 30 golds disputed going back to Beijing 2008. Although they won only six this time-one less than the previous two Games-Britain only had entrants in nine of the 10 events as the women's sprint team didn't qualify.

Just to highlight the level of Britain's control, in the three events they did not win, they took silver. Yet at the world championships between each Olympics, Britain never enjoys anything like the same dominance, leading some, such as Vogel, to ask questions. "Of course I'm not saying that they took drugs or had an engine in the bikes," said the 25-year-old, who won the team sprint gold in London. "It's just that it seems that they don't train for three years, and then they start and at every Olympic Games they kill every nation! 'I just want to know what they're riding and I'm not!'"

British sprint star Jason Kenny, who won his sixth Olympic gold on Tuesday in the



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Britain's Jason Kenny (center) crosses the finish line to win the Men's Keirin finals track cycling event at the Velodrome during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. — AFP

keirin, admitted that he feels "frustrated" at the single-minded Games focus. His fiancée Laura Trott won the omnium to earn her fourth Games gold, making her Britain's most successful female Olympian, while Kenny joined former track sprint king Chris Hoy as the number one of all time. Trott said the Brits simply do not have the same equipment outside of the Olympics.

"You come back and you go to the world championships, and you don't have

the same Olympic equipment, the same skin-suits, the same wheels," she moaned. "You realise how everything was good, the form you had, during the Olympics." Trott has twice won the omnium world title, each time in an Olympic year before going on to win Games gold as well. But between 2012 and 2016, she finished second at the world championships every time-to riders she blitzed in Rio. "If you can win the worlds with basic equipment, you can come here

and do what Britain has done today and know the week we've had," she added.

Vogel, who beat Britain's Becky James into silver in the sprint, suggested other countries should follow Britain's lead. "That's what they're working for, just working for the Olympics. Maybe that's our fault, or our nations' fault," she said. "But we want to compete well between these four years." British coach Iain Dyer insisted it was a fallacy to suggest his team is not successful at the worlds. They topped the medals table at the worlds in 2013 and 2016, finished fourth in 2014 and only 2015 was a real blip-a 10th place finish without a single gold medal. There are twice as many titles up for grabs than the Olympics at world championships. "We set ourselves up to be successful every four years. If you are to peak every four years, it needs to be a bloody good peak, otherwise it's just a pimple," said Dyer.

He said some nations at the Olympics are only on a par with World Cup or World Championship performances "whereas we've been able to make that step because this is the event we're focused on the most. "But I would like to add that in these four years we've won 12 world titles." That puts Britain second only to Germany with 13 over the same period and one ahead of France and Australia. Yet when it comes to the last three Games put together, Germany have managed two gold, Australia one and France none, compared to Britain's 20. — AFP

### GALLERY



**Canada's Derek Drouin competes in the Men's High Jump Qualifying Round during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. — AFP**



**Russia's Dariya Klishina competes in the Women's Long Jump Qualifying Round during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium. — AFP**



**Sweden's Anna Jenny Fransson competes with Japan's Sara Dosho during the women's wrestling 69kg freestyle semi-final at the Carioca Arena 2 yesterday. — AFP**



**Qatar's Hassan Mabrouk (right) stops Germany's Paul Drux besides Germany's Finn Lemke during the men's quarterfinal handball match between Germany and Qatar at the 2016 Summer Olympics yesterday. — AFP**



**Nicholas Long of the United States (right) Luis Brethauer of Germany (center) Yoshitaku Nagasaki of Japan (left) ride their bicycles on a practice session at the Olympic BMX Center during the 2016 Summer Olympics yesterday. — AP**



### ATHLETICS

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Jamaica, Kenya and the United States added to their athletics medal tallies in the 110metres hurdles, women's 1,500m and men's triple jump on Tuesday, while Russia's sole track and field competitor survived to compete another day at Rio. Athletes from Kenya, Croatia and Canada also claimed Olympic gold in a largely empty stadium, where announcers urged rowdy Brazilian fans to restrain themselves after provoking a French pole vaulter with a chorus of boos the night before. Jamaica's Omar McLeod earned the country its first gold in the men's sprint hurdles, Kenya's Faith Kipyegon devastated the field in the 1,500m and American Christian Taylor successfully defended his triple-jump gold.

However, the loudest cheers of the night came for native pole vaulter Thiago da Silva as he received the gold medal he won on Monday night. The crowd once again booed silver medalist French Renaud Lavillenie, ignoring Da Silva's gestures asking for quiet. Lavillenie, who the night before had complained about the booing during his final attempt, apologized on Tuesday for having compared his experience to the hostility of Nazi Germany towards Jesse Owens at the 1936 Berlin Games.

The announcer at the Rio Olympic Stadium at least four times during Tuesday's evening competition asked the crowd to be respectful to the competitors, a reaction the Carioca fans' flashes of beligerence. Russian athletes in particular have faced hostile crowds in Rio as the result of a doping scandal that has shaded the Games. Long jumper Darya Klishina, the sole athlete from her country competing in track and field after the rest of the team was banned, escaped their wrath, but that was probably more a result of her slipping in unannounced and unnoticed rather than an overnight change of attitude.

After earning a spot in yesterday's final



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Kenya's Faith Chepngetich Kipyegon (center) reacts after she won ahead of Ethiopia's Genzebe Dibaba (right) and USA's Jennifer Simpson the Women's 1500m Final during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. — AFP

with a leap of 6.64m Klishina said she missed having team mates. "It is very hard being the only Russian," she said. "Unfortunately, I am here alone and this is a big responsibility." She looked to have missed her chance to compete at all when the IAAF suspended her last Saturday, only for the Court of Arbitration for Sport to over-rule.

In the hurdles, McLeod beat Cuban-born Orlando Ortega who won silver for Spain, and Frenchman Dimitri Bascou, who took bronze. The left the United States with a medal in the event for the first time in 120 years - with the exception of the boycotted 1980 Moscow Games Kipyegon bided her time through the slow early stages of the 1,500 race before setting off on a blazing second half with Genzebe Dibaba but then pulling clear of the world record holder. High jumper Derek Drouin earned Canada's third gold medal of the Games, clearing 2.38 meters to beat Qatar's Mutaz Essa Barshim.

#### 'Best day of my life'

In the morning session, American Taylor earned a second straight triple-jump gold with a 17.86m leap that is the furthest anyone has jumped this season, sailing 10cm longer than team mate Will Claye. But the 25-year-old silver medalist had one more good jump left in him, into the stands where he proposed to long-time girlfriend and former Olympian Queen Harrison, who burst into tears and accepted. "When I woke up I was like, today is going to be the best day of my life," Claye told reporters. "I'm going to go out there and do what I have to do on the track and I'm going to make her my fiancée."

Croatia's Sandra Perkovic also retained her shot put title with a third-round throw of 69.21 metres, 2.48 metres further than Melina Robert-Michon, who at 37 became France's oldest Olympic medal winner in athletics. "I have been working for this for 20 years," Robert-Michon said. "An Olympic medal is above all other medals and it is the reward for a lot of sacrifices and work." Four more athletics medals were on offer yesterday, including the men's 3,000m steeplechase and the women's 100m hurdles. — Reuters



### GYMNASTICS

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Simone Biles bowed out of her fabulous Olympic debut in Rio with a record-equaling fourth gold, short of the record five she sought, but with her name in lights among the gymnastics greats. "It's been a long journey, but I've enjoyed every moment," said the Texan whose early life struggles had not set her out as the future face of women's gymnastics. The 19-year-old took gold on floor on Tuesday ahead of US teammate Amy Raisman, muscles flexed and with the steely determination she had shown on her way to the team, all-around and vault titles.

The only blip standing between her and history, a slip on the beam on the penultimate day of competition, which gave her bronze. She is the fifth woman to win four gold at the same Games after Hungarian Agnes Keleti (1956), Soviet Larissa Latynina (1956), Czech Vera Caslavskaya (1968) and Romanian Ecaterina Szabo (1984). But Biles remains unfazed. "To walk away from your first Olympics with five medals and four in gold, how can you be disappointed," she said. "It's exciting it's over, but kind of sad too."

Biles missed London 2012 because she was too young to compete but has dominated gymnastics in the four-year cycle since. Finishing off on the podium beside her idol Raisman, 22, was more than she could have hoped for. "I remember watching her (in London) and saying 'I just want to be like her'.

Just standing next to her is amazing. It's the cherry on top me and Aly finishing 1-2 on the floor." Her long-time coach Aimee Boorman believes the sport will never be the same after the Biles whirlwind.

"Right now I would say she's the greatest gymnast," said Boorman, who has coached Biles since she was six years old. "She has really raised the bar. But then four years ago nobody thought they would see a Simone Biles." Her epic Olympic adventure has seen Biles photographed alongside Jamaican sprint star Usain Bolt and US swimming greats Michael Phelps and Katie Ledecky. But

she brushes aside all comparisons. "I'm not the next Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps, I'm the first Simone Biles," she says.

#### 'Kid has something'

It has been a long journey for the 1.45m (4ft 9ins) gymnast who moved to Texas from her native Ohio at the age of three, adopted with her little sister Adria by her maternal grandfather Ron Biles and his wife Nellie. The children had been in foster care as their mother struggled with alcohol and drug addiction. For Biles it all seems normal. She calls her grandparents 'Mom' and 'Dad' and

says that when she was small she thought all children were adopted. She started gymnastic lessons after a daycare field trip to a Houston gym aged six. Her raw talent and ability to do amazing flips soon caught the attention of Boorman. "When I first saw her, I was like, 'Wow, this kid has something!' But what it was and how far she could go with it, I had no idea," Boorman said.

Biles' talent developed from a bungling novice who could not stay on the beam and struggled with uneven bars because her hands were so small. Under Boorman, 43, Biles has won more world championships than any other woman in history, taking two gold at her first worlds in 2013. Four more gold at worlds in Nanning 2014 made her realize it was no fluke. "When I was young like every kid I always said I wanted to go to the Olympics but I wasn't really serious about it," recalls Biles. "Everything just hit me. I thought maybe I'm good! It's unreal how it happened," she said.

She is the first woman to win three straight world all-around titles and first to win ten gold medals at world championships. Everything has been geared towards her drive to become the greatest gymnast ever. Biles spent all her secondary education being homeschooled. "I wanted to see how far I could go in this sport. I don't have any regrets, because of how far I've come." The task now will be getting back to normal with college on the horizon. "We'll make it as normal as possible. It will be crazy. I don't think anybody is ready for it but Aly and Gabby (Douglass)," Boorman added. "One thing is sure, she definitely won't be back in the gym next week, except to sign autographs." — AFP



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** US gymnast Simone Biles competes in the women's floor event final of the Artistic Gymnastics at the Olympic Arena. — AFP





## SEVERAL FACTORS CITED FOR FEWER GOLDS

### REFLECTIVE CHINA BRACES FOR DIMINISHED HAUL

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Defeats in sports dominated by China at previous Olympics have left the country in an unfamiliar third place on the medals table, with some predicting that Rio 2016 could witness the lowest haul in two decades. Chinese athletes have so far failed to defend gold medals in some of their strongest events, such as badminton to diving, leading the country to sit behind the United States (28 golds) and Britain (19 golds) after 11 days of competition. "You're kidding me? The country which has never finished above China is about to," state news agency Xinhua said on its official English-language Twitter account on Monday, alongside a photo of the medals tally. The tweet has since been deleted.

The ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily expressed particular disappointment at the performance of Chinese gymnasts, winners of just two bronze medals. "People cannot but ponder - what on earth is up with them?" it wrote. By the end of Tuesday's events, the team had

accumulated 51 medals - 17 golds, 15 silvers and 19 bronze-and appear highly unlikely to get anywhere near the 38 gold medals China harvested in London four years ago. "Since China's gold opportunities are concentrated in the first half, it will be hard for China to win more than 25 golds at this year's Olympics, the lowest of the last five Olympics," the China News Service said on Sunday.

China, which sent its largest overseas delegation of 416 athletes to Rio this year, won 16 golds in 1996 and 28 in 2000. It has ended the Games in second place since 2004 and boasted of a 51-gold bonanza in 2008, its highest ever tally, when it hosted the Beijing Olympics.

The disappointments began swiftly in Rio. On the first day, former Olympic champion shooters Du Li and Yi Siling could only claim a silver and bronze, while swimmer Sun Yang came in second in the 400 meters freestyle event and then failed to qualify for the 1,500 meter freestyle final. He was the

London Olympic champion in both events.

#### Going easy

In the men's synchronized three-meter springboard diving, Britain ended the eight-year reign of China, who took bronze. In badminton, China's formidable mixed doubles pairs and second-ranked women's doubles pair were eliminated. The country's top sports officials had warned before the Olympics that the team faced a myriad of challenging factors, including unfamiliarity with South America, rule changes in some sports and the "diminishing dividend" of the 2008 Olympics. "After Beijing was selected as the host city in 2001, China started a long-term talent training plan for the Games," China's General Administrator of Sport Gao Zhidan told Xinhua in July.

"The plan continues but is not as vigorous as then. That will be another challenge." State media and internet users had already started to go easy on the athletes, who are cultivated through a sophisticated govern-

ment-sponsored sports school system, after the medal haul trickled in the first few days of the Olympics. Many commentators said that enjoying sport, rather than obsessing about gold medals, was increasingly important to China. Reflecting this shift in expectations, a swimming bronze medalist has emerged as the biggest star of the Olympics in her homeland.

Fu Yuanhui has become a social media celebrity thanks to her candid and humorous pool-side interviews on topics ranging from menstruation to boys. Ten million fans watched a recent interview she conducted live on a mobile app and she has been invited to appear on Chinese variety shows once back in China. "The Chinese people have made progress, we don't need gold medals to boost our confidence and are no longer as harsh on our athletes," said one user on China's Twitter-like Weibo. "What we chase now is the gold standard Fu Yuanhui reflects in her humor and innocence."— Reuters

## CHINESE WOMEN SHATTER BRAZIL DREAM OF 3RD GOLD



### VOLLEYBALL

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** China's women volleyball team upset favorites Brazil in a five-set battle on Tuesday that dashed the host nation's hopes of winning a third consecutive Olympic gold medal. The younger Chinese team outplayed their more experienced opponents 15-25 25-23 25-22 22-25 15-13 and went through to the semi-finals where they will face the Netherlands. Brazil, with eight players who competed in the 2012 London Games and four of them veterans from Beijing in 2008, had not dropped a single set until their quarter-final shocker against China.

China won their second gold medal in 2004 in Athens and are now on a path to a third under head coach "Jenny" Lang Ping, a former Chinese volleyball player who coached the United States to a silver medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"Today we proved our ability as a team after making mistakes in a shaky start in



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** China's players celebrate after winning the women's quarter-final volleyball match between Brazil and China at the Maracanazinho stadium. — AFP

the Games," she told reporters. "Now we do not fear anything.

"Except for the first set, it was a spectacular performance by our team that never

gave up," said Lang, one of the sport's greatest players of the 20th Century, according to the International Volleyball Federation. Unnerved by the loud cheering

and booing of Brazilian supporters in Rio's packed Maracanazinho stadium, China took the lead in the third set with a succession of unstoppable spikes by their top scorer Zhu Ting.

Brazil fought back in the fourth but China prevailed in the fifth. The United States crushed Japan in straight sets 25-16 25-23 25-22 to stay undefeated and boost their hopes of a first Olympic gold medal.

The Americans will meet a surprisingly strong Serbian team in the last four today. Serbia ousted Russia 25-9 25-22 25-21 to become the first Serbian volleyball team to reach an Olympic semi-final. "We played extremely strong in attack and service, causing the Russian receivers a lot of problems," said Serbian coach Zoran Terzic. Serbia will have to prepare for a very different game against the United States, who play much faster and more as a team than a Russian side that relies on two main attackers, Terzic told reporters. Earlier, Netherlands beat South Korea 3-1 and will go on to play China on Thursday before Saturday's final and bronze medal matches.— Reuters

## DOPING POSITIVES NEED NOT BE A NEGATIVE: TOP OFFICIAL

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** While the scourge of doping has delivered yet another blow to weightlifting's tarnished reputation at the Rio Olympics, one of the sport's most experienced coaches and administrators remains hopeful of a bright, clean future. Paul Coffa, the general secretary of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation, who has been involved in the sport for more than half a century, said catching and banning drugs cheats before Rio was "a big break for weightlifting".

Bulgaria's weightlifters could not compete in Rio after the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) banned the country's athletes following a high number of doping cases. Russia were also absent for "bringing weightlifting into disrepute". Six 2012 champions were excluded from Rio because of doping, including four from Kazakhstan and one from Poland. Two Poles were among the four weightlifting positives announced in the past 10 days. Of the 29 positives announced from reanalysis of 2008 and 2012 samples, 26 were from the pre-1989 Eastern Bloc. In 2015, the IWF also banned weightlifters from Brazil, China, Egypt, Colombia, Egypt, India, Saudi

Arabia, Malaysia, Mexico, Korea, Seychelles, Taiwan, Tunisia and Turkey while athletes from countries such as Argentina, Iran, Chile and Iceland were also suspended. Despite the problems, Coffa said the sport was heading in the right direction. "Weightlifting is a beautiful sport," the 74-year-old told Reuters. "If you take drugs away it would be sensational, the balance of medals would go to so many different countries, not the way it is at the moment. I believe that will happen."

#### Tears and diversity

There were signs of it happening already in Rio. The number of countries winning medals was 22, only one fewer than the all-time record set in 2000, the year when women's contests were added to the Olympic program. The diversity of the sport was on full display for large, noisy and appreciative crowds at the 6,000-capacity arena during an entertaining and incident-filled 10 days of competition.

There was an Arab woman on the podium, a champion from Uzbekistan, a medal for Kyrgyzstan, a vegan competing for the United States and a lifter from

Kiribati trying to raise awareness of global warming by dancing on and off stage. A Colombian cried for five minutes after winning gold, Egypt won their first men's medal since 1948, the United States their first medal in the sport since 2000. And in the final contest of the Games, a 145kg super-heavyweight from Turkmenistan was reduced to tears after three failures, and security personnel were called to the arena when Iranian coaches reacted angrily to a judges decision.

Despite its doping problems, weightlifting is growing in popularity. "Our membership numbers have risen from 11,000 to 26,000 between the last Olympics and these Games," said Phil Andrews, chief executive of USA Weightlifting, who predicted the bronze medal won by American Sarah Robles would be a boost back home. "Our medal will help to promote the sport." Coffa said he believed there will be tougher sanctions from the IWF in future and that the threat of being caught through retrospective testing would be another deterrent. Five Olympic champions from Kazakhstan will lose their 2008 and 2012 medals due to retests. — Reuters

## SWEDEN ELIMINATE HOSTS



### SOCCER

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Sweden beat Brazil 4-3 in a penalty shootout after the sides were goalless following extra time on Tuesday to reach the final of the women's football tournament at the Rio Olympics. Sweden, whose previous best showing at an Olympics was fourth place in 2004, will now face Germany in the final tomorrow. Lisa Dahlkvist scored the decisive penalty on Sweden's fifth attempt after Andressa, the youngest player on the Brazil squad, saw her penalty saved by Hedvig Lindahl. Brazil's Cristiane and Sweden's Kosovare Asllani also had their kicks saved. "It is very emotional," Swedish coach Pia Sundhage, who coached the United States to victory in 2008 and 2012, said. "I've been in finals in China, in London but then I had a team that everybody expected to do well. If you look at the team we have, it's been a wonderful road. Emotionally I am thrilled. It's hard to believe Sweden will play in the final.

"But we are not satisfied," she added. "We want to win the next game." The result was a huge letdown for the host nation, who were vastly superior and had the raucous support of a capacity crowd at the Maracana



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Sweden's Emilia Appelqvist fights for the ball with Brazil's Beatriz (left) during the Brazil vs Sweden game on August 16, 2016. Sweden won against Brazil at the penalty shoot-out. — AFP

stadium. Brazil had most of the play throughout as Sweden tried the same smash-and-grab tactics that took them past the US in the quarter-finals.

Brazil had 33 shots at goal, compared to Sweden's six. "I can only say that I feel frustration," said Brazilian coach Vadao. "Nevertheless I will not apologize to our supporters. We did dominate. We tried to find the best way round, we even tried playing in a

more disorganized fashion, we tried everything possible." Sweden, ranked sixth in the world, will play second-ranked Germany at the Maracana on Friday after they enjoyed a 2-0 win over Canada on Tuesday. Melanie Behringer, with her fifth goal of the tournament, scored after 21 minutes to put Germany ahead and Sara Daebritz added the second goal 14 minutes into the second half. — Reuters



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Rio Olympics medals table after Tuesday's competition (gold, silver, bronze, total)

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States	28	28	28	84
Great Britain	19	19	12	50
China	17	15	19	51
Russia	12	12	14	38
Germany	11	8	7	26
Italy	8	9	6	23
Netherlands	8	3	3	14
France	7	11	11	29
Australia	7	8	9	24
Japan	7	4	18	29
South Korea	6	3	5	14
Hungary	6	3	4	13
Spain	4	1	2	7
New Zealand	3	6	1	10
Brazil	3	4	4	11
Kenya	3	3	0	6
Canada	3	2	9	14
Croatia	3	2	0	5
Jamaica	3	0	2	5
Kazakhstan	2	3	5	10
North Korea	2	3	2	7
Cuba	2	2	4	8
Poland	2	2	3	7
Colombia	2	2	0	4
Belgium	2	1	2	5
Switzerland	2	1	2	5
Greece	2	1	1	4
Thailand	2	1	1	4
Argentina	2	1	0	3
Uzbekistan	2	0	4	6
Iran	2	0	2	4
South Africa	1	5	1	7
Ukraine	1	4	2	7
Sweden	1	4	1	6
Denmark	1	3	5	9
Armenia	1	3	0	4
Belarus	1	2	2	5
Slovenia	1	2	1	4
Czech Republic	1	1	5	7
Ethiopia	1	1	3	5
Georgia	1	1	3	5
Romania	1	1	2	4
Bahrain	1	1	0	2
Slovakia	1	1	0	2
Vietnam	1	1	0	2
Chinese Taipei	1	0	2	3
Neutral Olympic Team	1	0	1	2
Bahamas	1	0	0	1
Fiji	1	0	0	1
Kosovo	1	0	0	1
Puerto Rico	1	0	0	1
Serbia	1	0	0	1
Singapore	1	0	0	1
Azerbaijan	0	2	3	5
Turkey	0	2	1	3
Indonesia	0	2	0	2
Ireland	0	2	0	2
Lithuania	0	1	2	3
Malaysia	0	1	1	2
Mongolia	0	1	1	2
Algeria	0	1	0	1
Grenada	0	1	0	1
Philippines	0	1	0	1
Qatar	0	1	0	1
Venezuela	0	1	0	1
Norway	0	0	3	3
Egypt	0	0	2	2
Israel	0	0	2	2
Austria	0	0	1	1
Estonia	0	0	1	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1

### GALLERY



**Netherlands' Eva de Goede (right) vies with Germany's Hannah Kruger during the women's semifinal field hockey Netherlands vs Germany match of the Rio 2016 Olympics Games yesterday. — AFP**



**Brazil's Jaqueline Endres reacts after losing the women's quarter-final volleyball match between Brazil and China at the Maracanazinho stadium. — AFP**



**India's Sakshi Malik (red) competes with Russia's Valeriia Koblova Zholobova (blue) during the women's wrestling 58kg freestyle quarter-final at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games yesterday. — AFP**



**Brazil's Neymar (center) is fouled by Honduras' Jhonathan Paz (right) during their Rio 2016 Olympic Games men's football semifinal match at the Maracana stadium yesterday. — AFP**



**Netherlands fans pose during the women's semifinal field hockey Netherlands vs Germany match of the Rio 2016 Olympics Games yesterday. — AFP**



**Russia's Iaroslava Iakushina (left) fights United States' Claressa Maria Shields during a women's middleweight 75-kg quarterfinals boxing match at the 2016 Summer Olympics yesterday. — AP**



# Sports

Manchester City  
demolish Steaua  
Bucharest 5-0

16

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2016

Biles bows out  
with four golds,  
name in lights

18



HERATH WRECKS AUSTRALIA, SRI LANKA SWEEP SERIES

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RIO DE JANEIRO: Jamaica's Omar McLeod (4th right) reacts as he crosses the finish line to win the Men's 110m Hurdles Final during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. — AFP

## JAMAICA UNLEASHES NEW SPRINT SENSATION

### MORE GLORY FOR JAMAICA, BUT CHINESE FANS UPSET

RIO DE JANEIRO: Jamaica unleashed a new sprint sensation as Omar McLeod took the Rio Olympics 110m hurdles while Chinese sports fans lamented the team's perceived lack of gold medal success in Rio. Frustration bubbled over in China where sports fans branded their athletes Olympic failures while Britain cemented its position in second place ahead of China in the medals table with more gold medals in cycling.

Meanwhile sports officials slammed the Rio Games crowd for abusing French pole vault star Renaud Lavillenie, leaving him in tears following his medal ceremony. As Usain Bolt prepared to take to the track again yesterday in the 200m semi-finals compatriot McLeod, 22, led the hurdle race from start to finish and won in 13.05sec. He said inspiration had come from Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who took bronze in the 100m. "You see them, they go out and have fun and represent themselves and their country and they win, and you just want to go out and do the same thing," McLeod said.

#### French pole vaulter jeered

As well as Bolt's reappearance, yesterday's action also see the return of Darya Klishina, the sole Russian athlete represented in track and field following a ban imposed on their athletes over state-sponsored doping charges. Klishina will compete in the long jump final, one of 16 gold medals on offer on the day. Earlier Tuesday the Rio Olympics atmosphere soured when the crowd in the sparsely populated stadium jeered France's Lavillenie for the second day. Boos rang out

as Lavillenie was presented with his silver medal. The gold was won by Brazil's Thiago Braz da Silva in a major upset. The crowd had also jeered Lavillenie when he jumped in Monday's competition.

Tears streamed down Lavillenie's face as he stood for the Brazilian anthem. Afterwards, athletics legends Sebastian Coe and Sergey Bubka and International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach consoled the 27-year-old Frenchman. Bach said on Twitter that it was "shocking behavior for the crowd to boo Renaud Lavillenie on the medal podium." Elsewhere in track and field, Kenya's Faith Kipyegon beat world record holder Genzebe Dibaba of Ethiopia to 1500m gold, and American triple jumper Christian Taylor and Croat discus thrower Sandra Perkovic both retained their Olympic crowns.

#### Upsets for China

In China, the knives are out for the nation's sports administrators following some upsets in Rio. The Asian giant languished behind Britain-once dismissed as an "old declining Empire"-in third place on the Olympic medal table. China topped the medals table in 2008 with 51 golds and came second with 38 in London four years ago. With only 15 so far in Rio, online posts displayed fury at China's failure to keep up with Britain, which has a fraction of its population.

"Screw you (China), not only have you fallen behind in gold, but you're actually soon about to lose the medal count to an EU-quitting kingdom," wrote one sports fan.

Meanwhile questions were raised about Britain's dominance in cycling. Britain remain in second place in the medals table with 19 golds, behind the United States on 28, and their cyclists have accounted for six of the Rio titles. Jason Kenny won the men's keirin and Laura Trott the team pursuit Tuesday.

Rivals such as Germany's Kristini Vogel, who beat Briton Becky James into second place in the women's sprint, wondered why British riders do relatively badly at annual world championships and then clean up at the Olympics every four years. "Of course I'm not saying that they took drugs or had an engine in the bikes," said the 25-year-old. Britain has won 20 of the 30 golds disputed going back to Beijing 2008. However British coach Iain Dyer insisted it was a fallacy to suggest his team is not successful at the worlds. They topped the medals table at the worlds in 2013 and 2016, finished fourth in 2014 and only 2015 was a real blip-a 10th place finish without a single gold medal.

Meanwhile in football, Brazilian women's soccer heroine Marta, five-time world player of the year, exited in tears when Brazil were edged 4-3 on penalties by Sweden at Rio's Maracana Stadium. Sweden, who also beat defending champions the United States in the quarter-finals, now play Germany, victors over Canada, in Friday's final. Brazil's men, led by Neymar, took on Honduras in their semi-final yesterday. Germany were again involved - playing Nigeria. In gymnastics, Simone Biles finished with four golds and a bronze. The American took the floor event in Tuesday's finale.— AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: France's Renaud Lavillenie competes in the final of the men's pole vault during the athletics competition of the 2016 Summer Olympics at the Olympic stadium. — AP

## WEBSITE HACKED AS IRANIANS PROTEST LIFTING 'CONSPIRACY'

TEHRAN: The International Weightlifting Federation website was hacked yesterday and its Instagram page



WEIGHTLIFTING

flooded with over 285,000 comments after Iran's star lifter Behdad Salimikordasiabi controversially crashed out of the Rio Games. Having broken a world record in a previous round, the 26-year-old super heavyweight was disqualified when Olympic officials ruled that he had failed to register a total in the clean and jerk, leading to angry protests by his coach and fans that led to riot police being called to the arena in Rio.

The IWF website was unavailable after it was hacked by someone using the moniker "Master of Pain", who plastered the homepage with the Iranian lifter's name and photograph. "Keep your head up Behdad!", a message said. "God gives his hardest battles to his strongest soldier." Tens of thousands of Iranians also poured on to the federation's Instagram page in the hours after the jury's decision. "Behdad is winner in our hearts. God damn the Olympics," wrote one angry user, @hadisdr1375. "Hope one day sport world become more fair and closer to the humanity," said @nader\_beglary. State television slammed the decision as "unfair" and a video of the "Iranian Hercules" crying went viral.

Unlike Facebook and Twitter, Instagram is not blocked by authorities in the Islamic republic and has become hugely popular among the country's young, well-connected population. Salimikordasiabi set a new world record of 216kg in the snatch, and was leading Georgian lifter Lasha Talakhadze by 1kg as they went into the clean and jerk. But the judges ruled that



RIO DE JANEIRO: Iran's Behdad Salimikordasiabi cries after the Men's +105kg weightlifting competition at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. — AFP

Salimikordasiabi's first jerk was a no lift. The jury then dramatically overruled the judges' decision that his second lift was legitimate. "There's a conspiracy. Our enemies were on the jury," irate Iranian coach Sajjad Anoushiravani told reporters. "He is a gold medalist from London. He broke the world record here. They may as well throw the whole thing in the trash." — AFP

## QATAR'S BARSHIM WINS SILVER

### DROUIN JOINS CANADIAN GREATS WITH HIGH JUMP GOLD

RIO DE JANEIRO: Canada's Derek Drouin beat a quality field to add the Olympic high jump crown to his world title after a cliff-hanger of a final in Rio. Drouin cleared 2.38 meters in Tuesday's competition, edging Qatari Mutaz Barshim into the silver medal spot to become Canada's first Olympic high jump champion since 1932.

Barshim, the world indoor silver medalist, took silver after posting a height of 2.36 while Ukraine's Bohdan Bondarenko, who was runner-up to Drouin at last year's world championships, took bronze with 2.33m. "There was obviously some pressure but I'm very proud of the way I jumped," Drouin told reporters. "I didn't feel anxious at all. I certainly was calm and I was hungry to come out here and win gold. I'm sure people are going pretty crazy back home," added the 26-year-old, who won bronze in London four years ago.

"Four years ago I was very, very relieved but I didn't think it was my best day. Now I thrive in situations like this and I would have been disappointed with anything less than gold." The last Canadian to capture gold in the men's high jump was Duncan McNaughton, whose medal was subsequently stolen from his car and American Bob Van Osdel, who finished second and was a dentist, made a replica to replace it using a cast of his silver medal. "I didn't realize that," smiled Drouin, confessing he was not completely up to speed on Canadian Olympic history.

"Canada has a pretty strong history in track and field so it's been awesome to try and find my place in history." Drouin blushed slightly when asked if he thought he deserved to be mentioned alongside the likes of sprinter Donovan Bailey, the 100m gold medalist at the 1996 Olympics, or speed skater and two-time gold medal winner Catriona Le May. "When you grow up idolizing people like that it's really, really difficult to see yourself as one of them," he said. "I don't know if I could ever consider myself in that company. It's going to take a little while to sink in." — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: (Top) Qatar's Mutaz Essa Barshim competes in the Men's High Jump Final during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. (Above) Barshim celebrates winning the silver medal. — AFP





LIVERPOOL: Shoppers watch a street entertainer in Liverpool, north west England, yesterday. From computers and cars to carpets and food, Britain's decision to leave the EU is beginning to hit consumers in the pocket, having already spread uncertainty through the property market. — AFP

# UK SHOPPERS BEGIN TO FEEL POST-BREXIT PINCH

## BRITISH UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FALL AFTER VOTE

**LONDON:** From computers and cars to carpets and food, Britain's decision to leave the EU is beginning to hit consumers in the pocket, having already spread uncertainty through the property market.

The consequences of the shock vote have so far been mainly theoretical, but recent data suggest that the country's tumbling currency is about to reach the High Street. The pound has lost 10 to 15 percent of its value against the euro and the dollar since the June 23 referendum, raising the price of goods primarily supplied by foreign companies such as automobiles, computers, clothing and some foods.

Carmaker Peugeot told AFP that it had raised prices by an average of two percent since August 1 for models of its three flagship brands: Peugeot, Citroen and DS. Similarly, Dell computer group said it now had to factor the cost of components, denominated in dollars, into the price of its products in Britain.

British group Headlam explained that the pound's plunge had also increased the cost of its domestic floor coverings, imported mainly from Belgium and the Netherlands, by around six percent. All eyes are now turning to food and property, which have been relatively unscathed, but which many fear could see similar price fluctuations.

Fierce competition among supermarkets desperate to maintain market share normally provides a bulwark against sharp inflation in food prices, but Brexit could rewrite the rules, said Fraser McKevitt, an analyst at Kantar group's London office. "We wouldn't expect to see anything come through immediately, but if sterling does remain weak, we are likely to see impact on some prices," he said. "Around 40 percent of food in the UK is imported."

**Diluted purchasing power**

Price comparison website mysupermarket.com has already reported an increase of one percent in the price of an average basket of supermarket goods in July, blaming "fears of Brexit" for the second consecutive month of price hikes. There are also fears over the UK housing market, but deflation is more of a concern than price rises in this key sector. Figures released Monday showed that residential rents for new lets in London had fallen for the first time in six years, according to the first study published on the issue since Britain voted to leave the European Union. While good news for tenants, it will leave landlords worse off.

In addition, homeowners have seen the value of their property rise on average by just 2.1 percent in the year up to August, a slowdown from

the breakneck growth of recent years, according to property website Rightmove. Despite Brexit's tremors being felt in the economy, official figures do not yet reveal wild price fluctuations, reporting only a slight rise in inflation of 0.6 percent in July. But experts expect stronger inflation growth over the next few months, boosted by the increased costs of imported goods and more volatile goods such as alcoholic drinks.

The Bank of England has also deployed monetary weapons in an attempt to stop the economy sliding into recession, which are expected to increase the money supply and as a result boost inflation and further weaken the pound. Britons hoping for a pay rise to compensate for increased costs are likely to be disappointed, according to analysts.

"It looks probable that consumer purchasing power will be significantly diluted over the coming months as inflation trends higher and earnings growth is limited," warned Howard Archer from IHS Global Insight. "Companies may well look to clamp down on workers' pay as they strive to save costs in a more difficult environment." Workers lucky enough to see a rise in their salary thanks to a fall in low-skilled immigration are unlikely to enjoy a marked increase in living standards due to the general slowdown of the

post-Brexit economy, a report published by the Resolution Foundation said.

**Jobless rate**

Britain witnessed a surprise drop in claims for unemployment benefits in July, the immediate aftermath of the country's vote in favor of exiting the European Union, official data showed yesterday. In the run-up to the June 23 Brexit referendum, Britain's unemployment rate was meanwhile unchanged at 4.9 percent-but analysts expect it to rise in the coming months despite the drop in benefits, or claimant count. "Although the claimant count will be taken as a positive indicator of the UK economy post-referendum, the indications from the single month data suggest the unemployment may have troughed at 4.9 percent," said HSBC analyst Elizabeth Martins.

"Surveys point to, at the very least, a freeze in hiring for now. Any labour market weakening may take time to show through in the claimant count, if a former employee worked out their notice, for example, or delayed signing up to received unemployment benefits," she added.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said Britain's unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in the three months to June. The

quarterly reading-a low for 11 years-matched the figure for the three months to the end of May.

A total of 1.64 million people were officially unemployed in the reporting period, down 207,000 compared with one year earlier. The ONS meanwhile added that the claimant count dropped by 8,600 in July, confounding expectations of a rise of around 9,000.

"In the first official indication of post-referendum labor market conditions, the claimant count measure of unemployment actually fell by a monthly 8,600 in July, the first drop in five months, suggesting that the vote to leave was yet to have a major impact on the jobs market," noted Scott Bowman, an economist at Capital Economics research group.

ING bank economist James Knightley said in a note to clients that while "the UK labour market data for the three months to June looks good... we doubt that this will remain the case given the deterioration in business surveys following the Brexit vote". Fearing an economic slowdown and possible recession for Britain on business uncertainty and consumer caution in the wake of the vote in favour of Brexit, the Bank of England earlier this month took the decision to slash its key interest rate by a quarter point to a record-low 0.25 percent. — AFP

# SAUDI, OTHER ISSUERS GEAR UP AS GULF BOND CRUSH LOOMS

## KUWAIT MAY SELL UP TO \$10 BN OF CONVENTIONAL BONDS

**DUBAI:** Bond issuers in the Gulf will have to make potentially costly decisions on timing in coming weeks as the cash-strapped region gears up for one of its heaviest-ever periods of international issuance - possibly over \$25 billion by the end of October. Saudi Arabia, its finances strained by low oil prices, is expected to make its market debut in September. Bankers in touch with Saudi officials say it may come close to Argentina's \$16.5 billion issue in April, the largest emerging market debt sale.

Bahrain has also chosen banks for an issue, while Kuwait has said it may sell up to \$10 billion of conventional bonds and sukuk in global markets during the fiscal year to next March. Officials have indicated this could happen as soon as September. Add to that a half-dozen major companies in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) looking at issuing bonds, including Abu Dhabi's Union National Bank and Abu Dhabi National Energy Co, and there is the risk of a temporary supply glut that could push yields higher or even force some issuers to delay their plans. Sergey Dergachev, senior money manager at Union Investment Privatfonds, a Frankfurt-based emerging markets debt investor, said the most

important factor could be the Saudi issue's size. "If they issue a huge amount it will lead to some repricing in spreads among GCC credits and will make life for other GCC sovereigns and corporates in issuing debt a little bit trickier, as the market needs to absorb a large issue size."

The potential scale of the Saudi sale saddles other issuers with tough choices. If they wait until after Riyadh issues, market demand for GCC debt may be temporarily reduced - but if they move ahead of Riyadh, they may find potential buyers holding back cash in anticipation of the Saudi bond. The risks of waiting may be increased by the Eid Al-Adha holidays around Sept. 9-17, when business traditionally slackens and an issue may be trickier to do, and by the US Federal Reserve policy meeting on Sept. 20-21, which could produce a US interest rate hike.

### OIL

Since oil prices began sliding in mid-2014, GCC governments have mostly relied on running down financial reserves and issuing debt domestically to cover budget deficits. That has begun to change in the last few months as reduced flows of petrodollars into GCC economies have tight-

ened liquidity at banks and lifted interest rates. This is pushing both governments and firms to borrow abroad. A record total of \$26.3 billion in international bond issuance came from the GCC in the second quarter, including \$16.4 billion from governments and state agencies, also a record, Thomson Reuters data shows. With central banks around the world pursuing ultra-easy monetary policies and global investors desperate for yield, the market is still showing little concern about its ability to absorb another quarter or two of heavy GCC issuance. The yield on state-controlled Saudi Electricity Co's April 2023 dollar sukuk, one of the few outstanding international bonds from Saudi Arabia, dropped to a 15-month low of 3.04 percent this week. Its spread over the Polish government's March 2023 dollar bond, also rated A2 by Moody's, has widened only modestly to 82 basis points from 62 bps at end-March - much smaller than the record 140 bps hit in January, when market jitters over Riyadh's ability to cope with cheap oil peaked.

Nevertheless, Saudi Arabia looks likely to pay a substantial premium to what Qatar paid when it sold \$9 billion of bonds in May, the GCC's biggest issue so far. — Reuters

# BOURSA KUWAIT'S COMPANIES INFORMATION PORTAL NOW LIVE

**KUWAIT:** Boursa Kuwait, the official operator of the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE), announced yesterday that the Companies Information Portal (CIP) is now live and fully functional. Listed companies can now access the portal through the KSE website and upload their company related information by using the username and password provided to them. The Companies Information Portal is a tool designed by Boursa Kuwait, with the aim of providing a credible and updated information platform for all listed companies, which can be used as a reference site by all stakeholders. The Portal allows listed companies to upload their profile page, news regarding disclosure announcements and their financial statements, with full authority to make regular updates.

Commenting on this announcement, Vice Chairman and CEO Boursa Kuwait, Khaled Abdulrazzaq AlKhaled said: "The Companies Information Portal is one step further towards creating a more transparent and efficient exchange. The Boursa Kuwait website acts as the main reference for information for all

stakeholders and it is our duty to ensure that our News Capturing and Dissemination Process is as developed as possible and that the information disclosed on the site is credible and valid.

This falls in line with our aim to progressively transition the stock exchange and deploy basic tools, systems and products that allow us to improve the standards of our operations."

The Boursa Kuwait website is the main source of exchange related news, and as a means of providing updates to all stakeholders and ensuring maximum reach, Boursa Kuwait has developed a bilingual RSS Feed. Boursa Kuwait also announced several other developments, one of which was its recent affiliation with Thomson Reuters (TR), through which TR provides an advanced level of financial data services on the Boursa Kuwait website.

This initiative comes in line with Boursa Kuwait's mission driven strategy to create a more efficient stock exchange and promote a transparent approach that will allow it to progressively transition its operations.



Al-Khaled Abdulrazzaq Al-Khaled



# EGYPT’S DOLLAR BLACK MARKET RESILIENT DESPITE NEW THREATS

## GOVT STRUGGLING TO PUT HARD CURRENCY BACK IN BANKS

**CAIRO:** Desperate to elude roving financial police and fearful of new jail terms for black-market money-changing, Egypt’s currency traders are driving with bags of cash to meet clients in discreet locations around the vast capital Cairo. “The company I used to work for is shut down so now I work from the streets. Many people are worried but only the brave like me are still working,” a trader told Reuters by telephone while on his way to buy dollars from clients in Cairo.

Starved of hard currency since a 2011 uprising and an ensuing surge in violence and instability that have scared off many foreign tourists and investors, Egypt has been fighting a black market for dollars in which the divergence from the official central bank rate has widened to more than 40 percent.

Egyptian authorities have blamed exchange bureaux for the crisis and have arrested traders, shut dozens of outlets and revoked the licenses of those found to be trading far beyond the official rate of 8.78 pounds to the dollar.

On Aug. 9, parliament set prison sentences of up to 10 years and fines of up to 5 million pounds for traders selling foreign currency at black market rates. Previously there were no prison sentences or fines set for violators. Despite the intensifying crackdown, traders say the black market remains active and resilient behind the scenes.

“There is difficulty in making transactions and there are big risks, but with those increased risks come the increase in profit and that is why this market will keep working. One way or another, it will continue in unofficial locations,” said one exchange bureau manager, who like others asked for anonymity.

“The gaps in prices are big and that is because of the security crackdown. This market is now a market of fear. The price (for dollars) edged down but now it is rising again because the demand is strong while supply is less.”

### WIDE VARIANCE IN PRICES

The price of dollars now varies from one trader to the next by up to 50 piasters as communication between bureaux has gone quiet in response to intensified surveillance. Four traders this week offered a varied 12-12.5 per dollar range to buy dollars and a range of 12.5-12.7 per dollar to sell. They did

not divulge their volume of trade.

“I don’t believe the crackdown will help reduce the parallel market rates,” said Hany Farahat, economist at CI Capital. “On the contrary, excessive regulation will increase the opportunity cost of engaging in unofficial transactions and push traders to charge a higher fee, and therefore increase the parallel market premium.”

Egypt devalued its currency by nearly 14 percent in March to close the gap with the black market rate - but in vain given the

acute shortage of foreign currency. Net foreign reserves have shrivelled by more than half since 2011 to \$15.536 billion as of last month - enough for less than three months of imports even as Egypt has kept the pound artificially strong through weekly dollar sales.

The crackdown aims to deter demand for black market dollars and channel them back into bank coffers, but it has done little to increase dollar holdings, bankers said. “The more they set barriers in the market

the more ineffective they turn out to be. Currency traders are still trading but off the premises that are being monitored, selling to their big clients,” one banker said. Egypt, he added, needs to find effective solutions to its dollar liquidity problem.

President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi’s government has just struck a preliminary deal with the IMF for a three-year, \$12 billion lending program that it hopes will restore market confidence and lure fresh investment to ease its currency crunch. —Reuters



**CAIRO:** A man walks past a poster showing a US dollar outside an exchange office in Cairo yesterday. Egypt’s economy has been struggling since the 2011 uprising that overthrew longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak, with high inflation, foreign currency shortages, and lack of tourism and investment that has hit both business and the broader population. —AP

## News

in brief

### Kuwait oil price rises \$1.13 to \$43.74 pb

**KUWAIT:** The price of Kuwaiti crude oil went up by \$1.13 to \$43.74 per barrel Tuesday after it was \$42.61 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. At the global market, the price of crude oil went up yesterday after statistics in the US showed a retreat in American oil reserves last week by one million barrel contrary to what analysts predicted. The reserves, which stood now at 519.8 million barrels, were expected to increase by 522,000 barrels during the week ending on August 12th.

### US dollar stable against KD at 0.301

**KUWAIT:** The US dollar’s exchange rate against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at 0.301 while the euro’s rate went up to KD 0.339, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. The rate of the sterling pound went up to KD 0.392, as well as the rate of the Swiss franc went up to KD 0.313. The rate of the Japanese yen stood firm at KD 0.002.

### Qatar sells 4.6 bn riyals in bonds, sukuk

**DOHA:** Qatar’s central bank sold 4.6 billion riyals (\$1.26 billion) of conventional and Islamic government bonds on Tuesday in its first domestic government bond offer this year, a central bank official told Reuters yesterday. The central bank sold a total of 3 billion riyals of conventional bonds, including 1.5 billion riyals of three-year bonds at a fixed rate of 2.25 percent, 1 billion riyals of five-year debt at 2.75 percent, 250 million riyals of seven-year debt at 3.25 percent and 250 million riyals of 10-year debt at 3.75 percent. In addition, it sold 1.6 billion riyals of sukuk. “The demand was fine and most banks participated,” said the official, who added that bids by banks for conventional bonds had exceeded the amount offered by 50 million riyals, and for sukuk by 2.4 billion riyals. “It is a good sign and shows liquidity in the system is okay,” he said, adding that another issue was possible next month. He did not elaborate. Reduced state revenues due to low natural gas prices cut flows of new petrodollars into Qatar’s banking system this year, pushing money rates up sharply and causing the central bank to cancel several monthly sales of short-term bills.

### Waha Capital secures \$500m credit facility

**DUBAI:** Abu Dhabi investment firm Waha Capital said yesterday it had secured a five-year, \$500 million revolving credit facility from local and international banks. The funds replace a previous \$375 million revolving facility obtained in 2014, it said in the statement. First Gulf Bank was sole coordinator, with that bank and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank acting as book runners and mandated lead arrangers. Commercial Bank of Dubai was lead arranger with Emirates NBD, Union National Bank, National Bank of Fujairah, Doha Bank, Nomura International, HSBC Bank Middle East, Commercial Bank International, Malayan Banking Bhd (Maybank) and Garanti Bank International serving as arrangers.

## EGYPT’S REGULATOR APPROVES REVISED TERMS FOR 4G LICENSES

**CAIRO:** Egypt’s telecoms regulator has approved revised terms for 4G mobile broadband network licenses, and said it will send them out to operators on Sunday.

The government offered four 4G telecom licences in June, to Telecom Egypt and to the country’s three mobile services providers - Orange Egypt , Vodafone Egypt and Etisalat - but only Telecom Egypt accepted the terms. The regulator, keen to prioritize existing carriers, decided to revise them.

A senior official at the Telecommunications Ministry told Reuters yesterday that the revised terms include additional frequencies but there is no change in the pricing or the condition that 50 percent of the payment for the licenses must be made in US dollars. “The telecom regulator approved the final terms of the 4G licenses yesterday,” the official said, adding that companies would have until midday on Sept. 22 to accept them.

The National Telecom Regulatory Authority later issued a statement confirming it approved the final terms and that the companies had until Sept. 22 to accept. The government, which is grappling with a shortage of hard currency as economic and political turmoil in Egypt in the past few years has deterred foreign investment, has said it hopes to raise 22.3 billion Egyptian pounds (\$2.5 billion) in total in license fees. —Reuters

## OIL FALLS AS INVESTORS WEIGH UP ODDS OF OUTPUT FREEZE

**LONDON:** Oil fell for the first time in a week yesterday, but remained in sight of six-week highs, as investors weighed up how successful potential talks among producers to rein in ballooning oversupply would be. Brent crude futures were down 47 cents at \$48.76 a barrel by 1055 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was down 18 cents at \$46.40 a barrel.

Prices have risen by nearly 20 percent in just two weeks to their highest since early July, after speculation surfaced that top producers within and outside of OPEC could finally reach a deal on freezing output. “The market is totally dominated by short speculators facing OPEC talk,” SEB commodities strategist Bjarne Schieldrop said.

“The ‘pain trade’ is probably still to the upside. And now we are a dollar away from \$50 so it seems almost unavoidable that we’re at least going to take that (level) out,” he said.

The fight for market share among some OPEC producers has made market watchers doubtful that talks to rein in oversupply by freezing output levels would be successful. “Should this rally be believed? Do words speak louder than action for the second time this year? Or is the current strength one to be sold into?,” PVM Oil Associates Tamas Varga said in a daily report.

“The advocates of a sustained price rally are firm believers in some kind of agreement between OPEC producers possibly together with non-OPEC countries. Recent history is not on their side and the Doha failure back in April is likely to encourage bears with itchy fingers to soon start selling short.” —Reuters

## CHINA WARNS ‘PROTECTIONIST’ AUSTRALIA ON INVESTMENT

**SYDNEY/BEIJING :** Australia’s decision to block the A\$10 billion (\$7.7 billion) sale of the country’s biggest energy grid to Chinese bidders was a protectionist move that would negatively affect investment in the country, China’s Ministry of Commerce said yesterday.

Australian Treasurer Scott Morrison said last week that preferred bidders State Grid Corp of China and Hong Kong’s Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings would be prevented from buying electricity network company Ausgrid, citing unspecified national security concerns. “This kind of decision is protectionist and seriously impacts the willingness of Chinese companies to invest in Australia,” China Commerce Ministry spokesman Shen Danyang said at a regular news briefing in Beijing.

“China hopes Australia will create a fairer and more transparent environment for Chinese investment.” The decision was the second time this year Canberra has rejected bids for major Australian assets by Chinese interests, the biggest source of proposed foreign investment in Australia, according to an April report from the Foreign Investment Review Board.

It previously knocked back an offer by a China-led consortium to buy the country’s largest agricultural land owner, cattle company Kidman & Co.

### UNDER SCRUTINY

China’s offshore ambitions have come under increasing scrutiny this year by governments in Europe and the United States. Following a surprise move by new British Prime Minister Theresa May to review the building of a nuclear plant part funded by China, Beijing questioned whether Chinese money was still welcome. Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull used a major speech on Wednesday to criticize the rising tide of protectionism within parliament, despite his government being responsible for the rejection of the Ausgrid and Kidman bids.

The speech warned against giving in to the growing protectionist mood reflected in the new parliament, which he said could reverse gains made by the country since it liberalized its economy two decades ago. Turnbull’s conservative Liberal-National coalition will at times require support in the new parliament from a bloc of foreign investment critics led

### FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Proceeds from the sale of state-owned assets are designed to be plowed back into the economy through job-creating infrastructure projects, including public transport networks. “These are the transactions Australia needs if it is going to get out of the low growth, low productivity scenarios,” said Brendan Lyon, chief executive of industry lobby group Infrastructure Partnerships Australia.

Chinese investment in Australia surpassed \$11 billion in 2015, according to a report by accounting firm KPMG and the University of Sydney. Former senior defense department official Peter Jennings said the trade relationship put Australia in a difficult strategic position.

“We’ve never had a greater dependency with any country,” said Jennings, a director at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. “The risk that creates for us is if Beijing wants to adopt politically coercive policies, it’s in a fairly strong position to do so with us because of that level of trade dependence.” —Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES		
Japanese Yen	3.005	
Indian Rupees	4.519	
Pakistani Rupees	2.891	
Sri lankan Rupees	2.082	
Nepali Rupees	2.834	
Singapore Dollar	225.740	
Hongkong Dollar	38.967	
Bangladesh Taka	3.852	
Philippine Peso	6.533	
Thai Baht	8.752	
GCC COUNTRIES		
Saudi Riyal	80.616	
Qatari Riyal	83.042	
ani Riyal	785.213	
Bahraini Dinar	802.840	
UAE Dirham	82.307	
ARAB COUNTRIES		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.960	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.412	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.214	
Tunisian Dinar	138.280	
Jordanian Dinar	426.580	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.014	
Syrian Lira	2.0154	
Morocco Dirham	31.639	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		
US Dollar Transfer	302.150	
Euro	342.180	

Sterling Pound	395.510
Canadian dollar	235.780
Turkish lira	103.480
Swiss Franc	215.730
Australian Dollar	333.600
US Dollar Buying	300.950

### GOLD

20 Gram	270.710
10 Gram	138.280
5 Gram	69.980

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.350
Canadian Dollr	234.970
Sterling Pound	394.950
Euro	341.475
Swiss Frank	292.320
Bahrain Dinar	799.280
UAE Dirhams	82.550
Qatari Riyals	83.760
Saudi Riyals	81.350
Jordanian Dinar	426.035
Egyptian Pound	33.951
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.080
Indian Rupees	4.518
Pakistani Rupees	2.884
Bangladesh Taka	3.847
Philippines Peso	6.505
Cyprus pound	159.355
Japanese Yen	3.985
Syrian Pound	2.400
Nepalese Rupees	3.825

Malaysian Ringgit	76.340
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.955
Thai Bhat	9.690
Turkish Lira	103.000

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.383370	0.398370
Czech Korune	0.004518	0.016518
Danish Krone	0.041415	0.046415
Euro	0.0332788	0.0341788
Norwegian Krone	0.032798	0.037998
Romanian Leu	0.086731	0.086731
Slovakia	0.009004	0.019004
Swedish Krona	0.031738	0.036738
Swiss Franc	0.304276	0.315276
Turkish Lira	0.097505	0.107805
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.223939	0.235939
New Zealand Dollar	0.212002	0.221502
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.228620	0.237620
Georgina Lari	0.136555	0.136555
US Dollars	0.298250	0.302950
US Dollars Mint	0.298750	0.302950
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003346	0.003930
Chinese Yuan	0.043998	0.047498
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036910	0.039660

Indian Rupee	0.004300	0.004689
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002927	0.003107
Kenyan Shilling	0.003110	0.003110
Korean Won	0.000266	0.000281
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071982	0.077982
Nepalese Rupee	0.002843	0.003013
Pakistan Rupee	0.002681	0.002971
Philippine Peso	0.006331	0.006631
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.220045	0.230045
South African Rand	0.016732	0.025232
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001647	0.002227
Taiwan	0.009553	0.009733
Thai Baht	0.008318	0.008868

### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.795420	0.803920
Egyptian Pound	0.024625	0.029743
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422287	0.431287
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019586	0.043586
Nigerian Naira	0.001246	0.001881
Omani Riyal	0.778905	0.784585
Qatar Riyal	0.082237	0.083687
Saudi Riyal	0.079540	0.080840
Syrian Pound	0.001281	0.001501
Tunisian Dinar	0.134170	0.142170
Turkish Lira	0.097505	0.107805
UAE Dirhams	0.080893	0.082593
Yemeni Riyal	0.001366	0.001446



## HOLD THE LIFT! JAPAN INC'S ANSWER TO THE RISING YEN

**TOKYO:** While previous bouts of strength in the yen have pushed Japanese manufacturers to shift production overseas, exporters are coping with the recent currency stresses by penny-pinching - turning off lights and cramming elevators in the hope that nothing more drastic will be needed before the tide turns. The yen, a safe haven in troubled times, has been climbing in the unsettled period before and after Britain's June 23 vote to leave the European Union (Brexit) upset global markets, moving nearly 10 yen against the dollar since early June to just under 100.

For big exporters like car giant Toyota and electronic goods maker and Panasonic, that makes a sizeable dent in operating profit - a one yen rise against

the dollar can cost as much as 40 billion yen (\$400 million) for Toyota and 1 billion yen for Panasonic. Toyota, which this month cut its full-year operating profit forecast by almost \$1 billion, shut down two elevators at its Tokyo headquarters as part of its response.

"It's not clear how long the latest period of yen strength is going to last, so the company tries to promote a mindset where employees are always conscious of costs," said spokeswoman Shino Yamada. The elevator savings were to show solidarity with the rest of the company, she added.

The company expects tighter cost cutting and improved marketing will contribute 50 billion yen to operating profit this year, which won't make a dent in the 1.12 trillion yen pain inflicted by

the yen's recent gains. At electronics company Sharp, recently acquired by Taiwan's Foxconn, measures to take the heat out of the currency gains include putting the heat on staff - workers are not allowed to have the air conditioning lower than 28 degrees Celsius (82.4°F), said one Sharp HQ worker, who asked not to be identified.

"I used to secretly lower the AC to 26 degrees, but our manager ordered someone in the division to make sure it is always at 28 degrees," he said. Half the lights in the office corridors have also been removed.

### COST BUSTERS

Panasonic says it will continue to squeeze expenditure where it can. As the yen began rising in the wake of the glob-

al financial crisis - reaching a peak of about 75 yen to the dollar in 2011 - it introduced teams of "cost busters" tasked with finding savings in manufacturing from raw material procurement to product delivery.

"We no longer have need for cost busters, because it is now ingrained in our business," a company spokeswoman said. That's why the office lights go off during lunch breaks and even the company president needs approval to raid the stationary cupboard.

But, at least for now, workers will be comforted that the corporate response has largely consisted of minor inconveniences, not another exodus. Many Japanese corporations have already shifted chunks of their manufacturing abroad, and a survey at the end of last

year found barely any were considering moving production back to Japan even when the yen was below 120 yen to the dollar.

That trend appears fixed, but is driven more by the need to be closer to the customer than currency movements, according to the survey by state-financed Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). Overseas production will be just shy of 40 percent by early 2019, up from just under 25 percent at the turn of the century, JBIC forecasts. Nobody is blaming Brexit for that. "It's very difficult to revise production plans after sudden currency moves," said Tetsuya Otake, a managing officer in Toyota's accounting division, after the company released results this month. —Reuters



ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani vendor waits for customers next to a mall in Islamabad yesterday. —AFP

## DE BEERS STAKES ITS REPUTATION ON SPOTTING THE DIFFERENCE

**MAIDENHEAD, England:** In nature it takes billions of years to produce a diamond, or a laboratory can grow one in days and to the untrained eye, it looks the same. For De Beers, telling the difference is fundamental to protecting its reputation as the world's leading diamond firm by value and holder of a roughly 30 percent share of the market for genuine rough diamonds.

It guarantees all its own mined diamonds are natural, authenticates diamonds for third parties and makes money from selling its detection equipment. Increasingly sophisticated technology to produce synthetic diamonds drives industry-wide demand for the means to determine whether a stone was created in the earth's mantle or is man-made.

The difference is more than emotional. Synthetic diamonds sell for an estimated 30 percent less than the real thing and have no investment value. Any unscrupulous retailer passing off the man-made as natural would be committing fraud.

"For the diamond business, the one thing you don't want is for consumers to lose trust," Jonathan Kendall, president of De Beers' International Institute of Diamond Grading and Research, said. Far from the diamond-rich kimberlite rock of South Africa, staff at a De Beers laboratory in leafy Maidenhead, west of London, say they can determine with 100 percent accuracy whether a diamond is natural or synthetic. De Beers itself has a unit that makes synthetic diamonds, but only for industrial usages, such as drilling and cutting. All the rough diamonds De Beers sells for jewelry are real.

If anything, the pressure on De Beers to be the industry standard has increased as its indebted parent Anglo American has placed it at the core of a slimmed down portfolio, with a view to strengthening the balance sheet following a commodities rout. Approximately 300,000 carats of synthetic diamonds are produced a year, compared with approximately 130 million carats of rough diamonds mined annually, analysts say. They also say technological advances will produce more synthetic diamonds and of better quality, while natural production is expected to stagnate.

De Beers guarantees all its own mined diamonds are natural. It also authenticates diamonds for third parties and makes money from selling its detection equip-

ment. Kendall says that since De Beers took back a distribution license in late 2012 from the Gemological Institute of America, the world's biggest diamond grading laboratory, it has sold tens of millions of pounds worth of equipment to detect synthetic diamonds to other diamond traders and jewellers.

### THE SIXTH ELEMENT

De Beers' synthetic diamond unit Element Six, the world's leading supplier of synthetic industrial diamonds, takes its name from the place of carbon, from which diamonds are made, in the periodic table. De Beers does not break out Element Six's results, but says demand is affected by factors such as a slow-down in drilling because of cheaper oil.

As a whole, De Beers managed a profit in the first half of the year, when Anglo American made a loss. At the Maidenhead laboratory, the 80 scientific and technical staff describe their relationship with Element Six as poacher versus game keeper, or cat and mouse, as Element Six strives to produce synthetic diamonds that are indistinguishable from real - so far an unattainable goal.

Two techniques are used. High Pressure, High Temperature (HPHT) involves dissolving carbon, usually in the form of graphite, in a molten metal at a very high temperature and exerting pressure of 55,000 atmospheres - the equivalent of standing the Eiffel Tower upside down on a drinks can.

A second method, Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD), mixes a hydrocarbon, such as methane, and hydrogen in a vacuum chamber and introduces a seed diamond around which multiple diamonds can form. In both cases, the resulting structure differs from the natural shape created over billions of years. It can be disguised by cutting and polishing but the luminescence imaging of the De Beers detection equipment makes the difference obvious.

Apart from bars that show up across the synthetic structure, once inside the detection equipment, a laboratory grown diamond also sparkles with a different colour from a natural one. "Looking at luminescence colours using ultraviolet light is common practice in gemology, but the DiamondView instrument from De Beers Technologies is unique," the company said. —Reuters

## SAUDI SIGNALS IT MAY HIT NEW OIL OUTPUT RECORD

### KINGDOM OVERTAKES RUSSIA AHEAD OF FREEZE TALKS

**MOSCOW/DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia is sending signals that it could boost its crude oil supplies in August to a new record level, overtaking Russia, the world's top oil producer, as it gets ready for tough talks next month for a global output freeze pact. Industry sources say the kingdom, already the world's largest oil exporter, started to raise production from June, after holding it steady for the first half of the year, to meet rising seasonal domestic demand as well as higher exports requirements.

Higher production could give it more leverage during talks in September when both OPEC and non-OPEC producers are expected to revive a freeze deal to support oil prices, the sources say.

In June, Saudi Arabia pumped 10.55 million barrels of oil per day, and lifted production to 10.67 million bpd in July, the highest in its history. Now the sources expect the OPEC heavyweight to raise its crude supplies to a further record this month as demand inside and outside the kingdom looks healthy.

One source from outside OPEC said the Saudis were quietly telling the market output could rise further in August to as high as 10.8-10.9 million bpd.

Last week, Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih sought to clarify why the kingdom hiked its production in July in an over supplied market. In a statement, Falih explained the rise was due to rising seasonal domestic demand and customers asking for more oil worldwide. "Despite the bearish sentiment engulfing the market, we still see strong demand for our crude in most parts of the world, especially as supply outside OPEC has been declining fast, supply outages increasing, and global demand still showing signs of strength," he told state news agency SPA.

The amount of crude supplied to the market in July was 10.75 million bpd, above actual output as Saudi drew down the additional barrels from its huge inventories, SPA reported. Oil prices dropped to \$27 per barrel in January from as high as \$115 in mid-2014, hitting the budgets of oil exporters worldwide, including Saudi Arabia, and resulting in a record fiscal deficit for Riyadh.

A previous attempt to freeze output at January levels to support prices collapsed in April after Saudi Arabia said it wanted all producers, including Iran, to join the initiative.

But since the appointment of Falih in April, Saudi Arabia has taken a softer tone towards Iran

at OPEC. OPEC sources say the group will probably revive talks on freezing output when it meets non-OPEC nations next month in Algeria as Riyadh appears to want higher prices, but agreeing a level to freeze supplies is the main obstacle to a deal.

In January when the freeze idea first emerged, Saudi Arabia was producing 10.2 million bpd. Russia, which back in April was ready to freeze production in the first coordinated action with OPEC since 2001, also signalled it would continue boosting output.

Its output currently hovers near an all-time high of 10.85 million bpd and Russian officials expect it to edge up further next year. And Iran, OPEC's third biggest producer, has raised its production to 3.850 million bpd now from 3.37 million bpd in January and said it will not join any freeze initiative until it reaches its pre-sanction output level of 4 million bpd.

"It would therefore be a very hard sell for Saudi Arabia to have other countries join a collective action plan, while it is the main source of supply increase - outside of Iran post sanctions," wrote Olivier Jakob from Petromatrix in a note. —Reuters

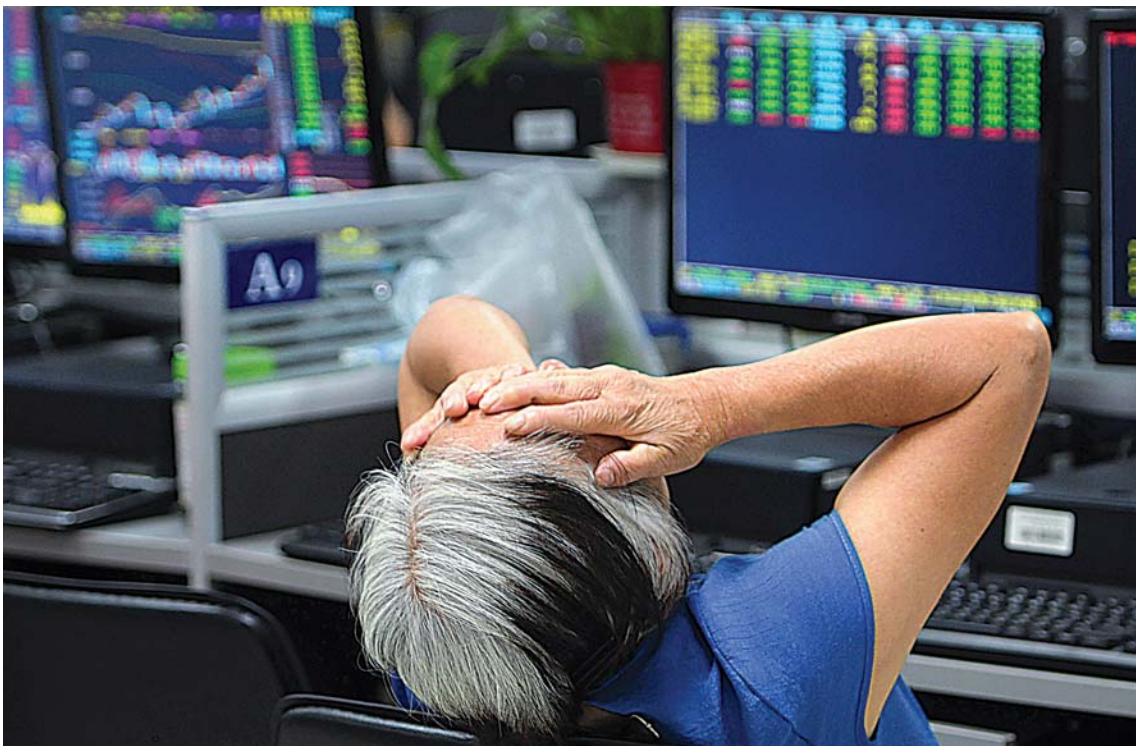
## CURRENCY VOLATILITY WANES, BODING WELL FOR RISK-TAKING

**LONDON:** A flood of central bank cash and the prospect of more to come has crushed volatility in the foreign exchange market, prompting investors to seek higher returns in riskier currencies. The drop in market measures of how sharp exchange rate swings has emboldened investors and encouraged appetite for emerging country currencies and, in developed markets, the Australian and New Zealand dollars.

As this graphic shows, one-month euro/dollar implied volatility is near its lowest in two years at 7.1 percent while for dollar/yen the measure is near five-month troughs. A key driver of this collapse has been expectations that monetary policy will remain loose for a while yet. The Bank of England and the Australian and New Zealand central banks have cut interest rates in recent weeks and, despite warnings from officials, the US Federal Reserve seems in no hurry to hike.

"Investors who go by macro-economic fundamentals are on the sidelines because there is an expectation that the Federal Reserve will probably not raise until December," said Manuel Oliveri, currency strategist at Credit Agricole. If the US rate outlook were to change or political or economic risks jangled investors' nerves, volatility would quickly return. Until then, they are happy to take risks. "Sure, political and geo-political risks are lurking, but volatility is lower and that is positive for higher-yielding currencies like the Australian dollar and will keep the dollar capped," Oliveri added.

The dollar index hit its lowest in seven weeks on Tuesday, while the high-yielding Australian dollar trades near its highest in four months. Even the New Zealand dollar hit a one-year high despite the Reserve Bank's rate cut last week, highlighting investors' search for higher yields. With policy rates in most



JIUJIANG CITY: A woman reacts as she studies stock prices at a brokerage house in Jiujiang city in central China's Jiangxi province yesterday. Global stocks rose yesterday after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced plans for a whopping 28 trillion yen (\$254 billion) stimulus package. —AP

developed economies like Japan, the euro zone and Britain are close to zero, Australia on 1.5 percent and New Zealand on 2 percent are attractive.

### HUNT FOR HIGH-YIELDERS

Analysts say riskier assets and currencies have been performing well since the US payroll data released earlier this month showed that while the number of jobs indicated the economy was robust, productivity and inflation were subdued. "The market simply does not believe in the Fed hiking before the

November (Presidential) elections," said Alan Ruskin, strategist at Deutsche Bank, one of the largest currency traders.

Stocks have hit highs while dollar debt issued by companies from riskier and less developed countries have been among the year's best performing assets. In the past six weeks, investors have pumped \$18 billion into emerging debt funds, a record run, Bank of America Merrill Lynch data shows. For the \$5-trillion-a-day currency market, analysts said the low volatility environment would encourage investors to

borrow in low-yielding currencies to buy higher yielders - the so-called carry trade favoured by asset managers who follow macro trends, speculators and hedge funds.

"We expect carry to perform well in the coming months," HSBC analysts said in a note, adding emerging market currencies would do rather well. Carry trades have generated 5 percent annual returns in the past three decades, according to a study by the Cass Business School released in late 2012. —Reuters



RENNES: Euro coins at the security and protection company Brink's in Rennes, western France. Considering the policy of the European Central Bank (ECB), some German banks have decided to charge their customers with negative interest rates on their savings. —AFP

## INDIAN MODEL LAND LEASING LAW PROMISES GREATER SECURITY FOR TENANT FARMERS

**MUMBAI:** Several Indian states are adopting a model land leasing law aimed at giving poor tenant farmers greater access to benefits, such as credit, while also protecting the rights of land owners. The central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh drafted a law on land leasing last month based on recommendations from government thinktank Niti Aayog. States including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Punjab and Bihar are expected to follow suit.

The model Land Leasing Act, proposed by Niti Aayog in April, recommends that all lease arrangements be made formal, and gives tenant farmers access to benefits including farm credit, insurance and compensation for crop damage. It also protects

the landlord's ownership of the land. At least a fifth of India's land holdings are managed by tenant farmers and in some states, it is as much as half. Most states ban or restrict leasing of agricultural land to prevent the abusive tenancy arrangements of the past.

But the result is that leases are either informal or concealed, with few rights for tenant farmers. "So productivity remains low and tenant farmers are poor. We can't afford this," said T. Haque, chairman of the land policy department at Niti Aayog in New Delhi.

"For poor farmers, leasing is a way to increase the size of the land holding, improve their livelihood, and give them security of tenancy," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

### UNCULTIVATED LAND

Tenant farmers are mostly landless labourers who try to eke out a living from growing crops on someone else's land. They pay the landlord a percentage of the output in rent. While nearly 60 percent of India's population is dependent on agriculture for a living, land holdings are small and fragmented, and productivity is among the lowest in the world.

The model law can help consolidate farm holdings and increase productivity, said Haque, who is also persuading states to digitise their land records. The law offers several benefits to land owners too, he said. "Some land owners don't lease out their land because they are

afraid tenant farmers will claim ownership," said Haque. "So the land goes uncultivated, and owners have no occupational mobility as they are tied to the land," he said.

Some states including Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Maharashtra give tenants the right to purchase leased land after a period of tenancy. This has discouraged landlords from leasing their land in some of the most fertile areas, Haque said. The model law proposes quicker litigation in case of disputes. Matters related to land and property make up about two-thirds of all civil cases in the country, according to a recent study by Bengaluru-based Daksh, a legal advocacy group. —Reuters



GLOBAL STOCKS DIP AHEAD OF RELEASE OF FED MINUTES

BEIJING: Global stocks dipped yesterday as investors awaited the release of the minutes to the US Federal Reserve's latest meeting for hints on when interest rates might be raised again. France's CAC-40 dropped 0.7 percent to 4,431 while Germany's DAX shed 1.2 percent to 10,549. London's FTSE 100 declined 0.2 percent to 6,880. Wall Street looked set for a weaker opening, with futures for the Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard & Poor's 500 index both off 0.1 percent.

Yesterday's release of notes from the Fed's July meeting will provide insight into the debate

among board members over when to raise rates. One member of the policy-making board, William Dudley, said earlier that it was premature to rule out further increases this year and another member, Dennis Lockhart, has said there could be two hikes in 2016. The Fed's earlier decision to hold off raising rates has weakened the dollar, helping exporters.

Revived bets on US interest rate rises this year saw the dollar turn defence into attack and halted a red-hot run for oil prices and emerging markets. The dollar rebounded from seven-week lows against the yen as talk of as many two Federal

Reserve rate hikes before new year from one Fed official and a move as soon as next month from another set traders up for Fed meeting minutes due later.

Futures markets pointed to Wall Street barely budging when it reopens, but European stocks struggled as London's FTSE and Frankfurt's DAX and Paris's CAC 40 fell between 0.2 percent and 1.1 percent after Asia had eased back from one-year highs overnight.

Group head of multi-asset portfolios at GAM, Larry Hatheway, said attention was firmly on the Fed minutes and particularly why the bank's last

meeting ended with a notably cautious statement.

"It wasn't really about Brexit. It is not even about the world economy which isn't in great shape but is somewhat improved from the first quarter fears, and it's surely not about the cost of capital," Hatheway said. "So one presumes the caution reflects a thought process about a much lower equilibrium real interest rate ...or possibly the fact that inflation is just not accelerating, which was corroborated to a degree by CPI data yesterday."

With stocks on the back foot, bonds were in favor, having lost ground for the last two sessions. Yields on two-year US government notes briefly touched a near three-week high of 0.758 percent, but they failed to reach the July peak of 0.778 percent and were last at 0.750 percent.

European yields nudged 2-4 basis points lower with Spanish bonds boosted ahead of a meeting that could pave the way for a new government in Madrid after eight months of limbo. Interim prime minister Mariano Rajoy is to hold a meeting of his Conservative People's Party (PP) to consider a reforms-for-support offer from centrist rivals Ciudadanos.

"I still have doubts about political progress in Spain and negotiations could still go on for weeks," said DZ Bank strategist Christian Lenk. "But markets do seem to like what's coming out of Madrid."

foreign currency for international trips. It should also further whet investor appetite in a country which already offers by far the highest interest rates — 5.75 percent-in western Europe.

Sterling was back at \$1.30 again after a very brief rise on surprise data showing the number of people claiming unemployment benefits in the UK unexpectedly fell in July despite the shock to the economy caused by the June Brexit vote.

In Asia overnight, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan dipped 0.3 percent while Japan's Nikkei closed 0.9 percent higher, paring some of Tuesday's sharp losses thanks to a weaker yen as it dropped back below the 100 yen per dollar level.

China's CSI 300 index and the Shanghai Composite both erased earlier losses to end the day flat after authorities approved the launch of a long-awaited scheme to allow stock trading between Shenzhen and Hong Kong. The oil price slide left Brent crude futures down 0.4 percent at \$49.05 a barrel, while US crude retreated 0.4 percent to \$46.40.

That and the US interest rate talk also halted a thundering recent bull run for emerging market stocks and currencies. Russian shares eased back from record highs while MSCI's main 27-country EM index was down 0.7 percent and heading for its first measurable drop in almost two weeks.

"Clearly the Fed seems to think the market's pricing of a September rate hike is too low. Today's minutes of the Fed's July policy meeting could be more hawkish than market expectations," said Tomoaki Shishido, fixed income strategist at Nomura Securities. —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Wednesday 17 August 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▼ -33.43	5,473.62	5,507.05	5,507.68	5,458.05
Weighted Index	▼ -1.63	352.52	354.15	354.50	351.65
KSX 15	▼ -4.63	819.45	824.08	825.91	817.89



Volume	52,014,976
Value (KWD)	6,162,885
Number of Trades	1,539

Security	Trades						
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	91	— 0.0
IKARUS	33.0	32.0	491,250	15,875	24	32.0	▼ -2.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	— 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	740	— 0.0
ENERGYH	46.5	45.5	13,010	592	3	46.5	— 0.0
GPI	40.0	40.0	1,079,912	43,196	23	40.0	— 0.0
ARAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	— 0.0
Oil & Gas			1,594,172	59,664	50	784.78	▼ -1.27

KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	168	— 0.0
BPCC	495	495	43,903	21,732	3	495	— 0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	650	— 0.0
ALQURAIN	204	196	29,251	5,741	11	204	▲ 2.0
Basic Materials			73,154	27,473	14	952.85	▲ 2.71

KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	— 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	340	— 0.0
CABLE	385	380	64,280	24,451	6	385	— 0.0
SHIP	166	166	58,584	9,725	3	166	— 0.0
PCBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	980	— 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	— 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	— 0.0
ACICO	280	280	12,861	3,601	4	280	▼ -10.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	— 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	128	— 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	— 0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	— 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	— 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0
SALBOCHK	63	62	20,503	1,271	7	63	▲ 1.0
AGLTY	485	480	513,780	249,103	13	480	▼ -5.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0
CLEANING	38.5	38.5	24,255	934	1	38.5	▼ -0.5
KGLP	44.5	43.0	45,220	1,967	5	44.5	— 0.0
KCPG	164	164	5,000	820	1	164	▼ -4.0
HUMANISOFT	1,580	1,580	5,000	7,800	1	1,560	— 0.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	— 0.0
GFC	27.0	26.5	8,300	220	5	26.5	▼ -0.5
MAYADEEN	29.5	29.0	946,746	27,487	15	29.5	▲ 0.5
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	— 0.0
MTCC	59	57	1,508,020	86,865	66	57	▼ -1.0
UPAC	690	690	102	70	1	690	▼ -40.0
ALFAICO	216	216	20,000	4,350	1	216	— 0.0
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	— 0.0
LOGISTICS	72	72	659,825	47,507	9	72	— 0.0
SCBM	80	80	584,300	46,744	4	80	— 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	— 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	— 0.0
FCBM	73	73	1,750,022	127,752	20	73	▼ -1.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	— 0.0
SPEC	78	78	10	1	1	78	▲ 3.0
Industrials			6,226,808	640,640	163	1171.15	▼ -5.70

KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	— 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	— 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	— 0.0
CATTL	248	242	62,940	15,365	16	244	▼ -11.0
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	— 0.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	— 0.0
FOOD	2,460	2,460	30,051	73,925	3	2,460	— 0.0
Consumer Goods			92,991	89,290	19	1214.80	▼ -8.12

MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	202	— 0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	— 0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	228	— 0
Health Care			0	0	0	1029.43	— 0.00

KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	960	— 0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	— 0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	57	— 0
CABLETV	20.5	20.5	16,000	328	4	20.5	▼ -3
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	— 0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198	— 0
OULAFUEL	126	122	142,652	17,687	25	124	▼ -2
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	— 0
JAZEERA	840	840	20,152	16,928	1	840	▼ -10
SOOR	128	124	37,763	4,765	22	126	▼ -4
FUTUREKID	108	100	9,950	1,011	2	100	▼ -10
ALRAI	146	144	57,207	8,352	3	144	▼ -4
SIAMH	41.0	40.5	347,540	14,224	16	40.5	▼ -1
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	— 0
Mezzan	1,100	1,060	22,065	23,635	10	1,080	— 0
Consumer Services			653,329	86,930	83	919.04	▼ -15.88

ZAIN	340	335	4,930,307	1,651,703	32	335	— 0
OOREDOO	1,100	1,040	7,223	7,614	11	1,000	▲ 20
HITSTELC	39.0	39.0	572,440	22,325	14	39.0	— 0
VIVA	940	930	75,875	70,566	42	930	▼ -10
Telecommunications			5,695,845	1,762,208	99	596.58	▼ -1.49

NBK	600	600	488,892	293,335	17	600	▼ -10
GBK	228	226	44,000	9,984	3	226	▼ -2
CBK	345	345	2,000	690	1	345	▼ -5
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	— 0
ALMUTAHED	390	390	110,000	42,900	5	390	▼ -5
KID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	— 0
BURG	335	325	1,614,163	532,820	48	335	— 0
KFIN	470	465	714,357	332,316	31	465	— 0
BOUBYAN	390	385	117,068	45,346	17	385	— 0
AUB	196	194	277,829	53,909	15	194	— 0
ITHMR	38.0	37.6	620,000	10,841	9	37.5	— 0
WARBARANK	172	170	103,378	17,804	80	170	— 0
Banks			4,500,687	1,348,745	206	793.67	▼ -2.66

KINS	270	265	28,313	7,575	3	265	▼ -0.5
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	— 0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	— 0.0
WINS	110	108	30,063	3,307	3	110	▲ 2.0
KUWAITIRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	— 0.0
WETHAQ	28.0	28.0	5,000	140	2	28.0	▼ -2.5
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0
insurance			83,376	11,022	8	1000.14	▼ -10.11

Security	Trades						
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	34.0	33.5	175029	5,941	6	33.5	▼ -1.0
KRE	52	52	20,000	1,040	3	52	— 0.0
URC	102	102	92,080	9,392	8	102	▼ -2.0
NRE	80	78	145,620	11,456	12	79	— 0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0
TAM	550	500	3,100	1,600	2	550	— 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	— 0.0
MASGALCH	39.5	35.0	32,090	1,164	6	39.5	▲ 2.5
ARABREC	32.5	31.5	996,000	31,919	34	32.0	— 0.0
ERESCO	44.0	42.5	226,001	9,733	13	44.0	▼ -0.5
MADANEC	810	800	308,645	246,923	9	810	— 0.0
INJAZZAT	72	71	330,000	23,435	6	71	— 0.0
INVESTORS	22.5	22.5	2,482,071	55,847	23	22.5	— 0.0
IRC	29.0	28.5	1,160,567	33,636	27	29.0	▼ -1.0
ALTUJARIA	76	75	1,629,414	130,570	25	75	▼ -1.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.5	— 0.0
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	— 0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	— 0.0
ALAQARIA	23.0	22.5	19,000	428	2	23.0	▲ 2.5
MAZAYA	114	114	200,025	22,803	10	114	— 0.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	— 0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	— 0.0
TUJARA	38.0	37.5	43,025	1,664	7	38.0	▼ -2.0
TAAMEER	22.5	22.0	149,882	3,294	6	22.5	▲ 0.5
ARKAN	83	82	9,000	744	2	82	— 0.0
ARGAN	152	152	2,000	304	1	152	— 0.0
ABYAAR	22.5	22.5	215,400	4,847	5	22.5	▼ -0.5
MUNSHAAT	52	51	380,570	20,208	11	51	▼ -2.0
FIRSTDUBAI	63	62	101,000	6,263	8	63	— 0.0
KBT	39.5	39.0	100,000	3,936	6	39.5	▲ 0.5
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	166	— 0.0
MENA	21.5	21.0	20,700	444	2	21.5	▲ 0.5
ALMUDON	27.0	27.0	180,310	4,868	5	27.0	▼ -0.5
MARAKEZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	28.0	— 0.0
REMAL	32.0	31.0	200,000	6,384	7	31.0	▼ -1.5
AVVJ	69	64	4,560	294	6	68	▼ -1.0
<b>Real Estate</b>	<b>9,435,798</b>		<b>9,435,798</b>	<b>647,142</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>832.59</b>	<b>▼ -3.20</b>



Dimah report

## SOME GOVTS HAD ENOUGH OF AUSTERITY MEASURES; THEY ARE SPENDING AGAIN

By Hayder Tawfik



When the austerity measures started by some of the major developed economies back at the peak of the financial crises in 2008, it was the public who took to the street in big protests. Sometimes the protest was ugly and in some places it was quite violent. To lessen the impact on the lives of the ordinary and specifically the unemployed people, central banks around the world lowered interest rates to historical lows and then to zero. This to an extent helped to alleviate some of the hardships but did not lead to strong economic growth and job creation. In some places like US, UK and Germany unemployment fell to very low levels but this job growth was not accompanied by wage growth.

Finally it seems that those who initiated austerity measures had enough of it and in a way they are abandoning it in favor of relaxing their purse and go on spending again. Japan seems leading the way followed by US, Canada and now the UK. They all in one way or another have signaled a turn away from austerity. Economic growth struggle in age of stagnation has finally forced global rethink on fiscal stance among G20 members looser this year and possibly in the next few years.

There are tentative signs that most governments around the world are planning fresh spending to boost growth and support wages. Over the past few years, some distinguished economists have been saying that most developed economies need the jolt as society ages and productivity sags. That's signaling the ascendancy of energizers like Japanese Prime Minister Shinto Abe and the new and young prime minister of Canada. Donald Trump recently talking about \$500 billion spending on infrastructure if he becomes the next US president and the firing of austerity advocates such as former UK Chancellor George Osborne.

## US budget battles

The shift away from tight budget and reliance on monetary policy has been delicate, difficult to understand and impossible to predict its outcome and isn't implemented globally. So while countries like Japan, Canada and South Korea are among those rolling out fiscal stimulus, others such as Germany that is world's biggest creditor are still holding on to their tight purse. Borrowing heavily to support growth in the euro area is still out of favor. Opportunists politician who are eyeing high offices or the ones who are facing elections in the next few months and into next year are playing into the public mood. Instead of the talking about further belt-tightening and spending cuts, they are talking about higher-quality jobs, investment, or the dangers of inequality. In few economies this is more obvious than in America. Where once the government shut down during a spat over spending, now neither candidate in the US presidential election is talking much about the deficit.

We might be starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel after the years of fiscal gloom. The global economy urgently needs more from the demand side than the supply, and fiscal expansion accompanied by big spending are the last resort. Easy monetary policy's days are over. If the prime minister of Japan is serious about his stimulus plan of about \$280 billion then I think other developed economies will start their own stimulus measures too. Any stimulus measure that does not include big spending will end up as a failure. The package should include fresh spending, direct, encourage employment and should create a chain effect.

China, the world's second-biggest economy, is pumping cheap money into banks, companies and local governments in an effort to ignite economic growth. Apparently, in June alone, the Chinese money supply increased by \$250 billion. The government knows that the global economy cannot any longer take in the Chinese overproduction so a demand lead growth has to be the alternative. Also, South Korea has joined the other Asian nation in announcing extra spending. The government has unveiled an 11 trillion won (\$9.9 billion) supplementary budget to support the jobs market.

## The message from IMF

According to International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde, there was consensus at the last meeting of the Group of 20 nations in July that more needs to be done to tackle inequality and the backlash against globalization. That means one thing, extra spending.

Loosening fiscal policy a little in the most advanced economies such as Japan, Germany and UK could trigger a snowball effect on the rest of the world. If all these announced stimulus measures get carried out then for sure they will boost global economic growth by at least 0.7 percent according to some economists. The most important is that these or any extra stimulus should not be funded by say hiking taxes but by extra government borrowings. At present, most advanced economies can borrow in the bond market at far below 1 percent as central bank asset-purchase programs from Japan to the euro area keep yields near the zero level. Low.

Canada being a member of the Group of 7 who is economy has been badly affected by the fall in oil and commodity prices has put the government back at the center of the nation's economy with about C\$120 billion (\$92 billion) in cumulative budget deficits projected over six years and the biggest jump in spending since the 2009 recession.

In the US, where Larry Summers has called for a "major increase" in infrastructure investment, both major presidential candidates-Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump-have come out in favor of more outlays on infrastructure. Trump also has proposed a mammoth tax-cut plan that experts say would cost more than \$10 trillion over 10 years, though some of his advisers have suggested he will scale that back. In addition, the billionaire developer has backed increased military spending.

"If his program were implemented in full, it would be quite a large fiscal expansion. I believe that all these various fiscal packages announced recently will lift global economic growth but not as much as everyone is hoping for and may be short-lived. For it to lift global economic growth back to historical trends it has to be sustainable, effective and have a chain effect. I think the Eurozone is the spoiler of any plan to lift the global economic growth. While countries like Greece, Italy and other crisis-prone states strive to work down deficits and debt, even those with some fiscal room for maneuver such as Germany, Netherlands are unwilling to use it. Unfortunately, there is no mechanism in the Eurozone that oblige member states who are suffering from big budget deficits to spend when their economies need urgent lift.

One country in Europe that has turned against austerity is the UK. After the 23rd of June referendum vote to leave the European Union and under a new prime minister, the government has definitely turned against austerity measures. Policy makers on both sides of the fiscal-monetary divide are likely to throw whatever stimulus measures they can find at the economy to prevent a painful contraction.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond who replaced Osborne when he was fired by new Prime Minister Theresa May said this month he's ready to reset fiscal policy to respond to Brexit if need be. The bank of England followed shortly with its own measures by cutting interest rates further and promising more on the way.

Globally, monetary policy is still carrying more than its share of the burden for growth, and a few new fiscal measures is not going to ignite the world economy much more than what we have today. As for investors' confidence, stimulus measures has got to be done in a very effective way and should be accompanied by new structural policies that increases economic growth potential. — @Rasameel

## GLOBAL REPORTS KD 5.8M FEE REVENUES IN H1 2016

## COMPANY REPORTS KD895,000 NET PROFIT DESPITE CHALLENGES

**KUWAIT:** Global announced its financial results for the first half ended 30 June 2016 reporting fee revenues of KD5.8 million and net profit of KD895,000 despite extremely challenging market environment and its adverse effect on the regional equity markets, investment banking deal flows and new money raising efforts.



**Maha Al-Ghunaim, Vice Chairman & Group CEO**

During H1 2016, the asset management business remained resilient with KD1.0 billion of assets under management.

The company's asset management teams remained focused on launching products and services best suited to our clients' investment needs offering recurring income / yield accompanied with low volatility as an alternative to low interest rates. Investment Banking team was mandated to assist clients in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman ranging from advisory to M&A mandates, two of which were successfully closed during the first half.

The Company's continuous efforts to control and rationalize its cost base resulted in reducing its operating cost base by KD0.929 million in H1 2016 to reflect the current market environment.

Global has a healthy capital structure, conservatively deployed primarily in liquid and operating assets with no

external debt and a capital base of KD87.5 million.

Maha Al-Ghunaim, Vice Chairman & Group CEO, said: "These results reflect the challenges the markets are witnessing especially in the MENA region including falling oil prices, geopolitical conflict in the region and economic



external debt and a capital base of KD87.5 million.

Maha Al-Ghunaim, Vice Chairman & Group CEO, said: "These results reflect the challenges the markets are witnessing especially in the MENA region including falling oil prices, geopolitical conflict in the region and economic

instability in the eurozone. Despite the expectations that such challenges will last for some time, we remain committed to continue creating value to all our stakeholders by offering investment products and services suitable for clients' needs in these challenging times."

## ASIAN FUNDS PILE INTO ALTERNATIVE ASSETS AS TRADITIONAL RETURNS SLIDE

**SINGAPORE:** As returns on traditional assets have nosedived or turned more volatile in Asia, conservative investors such as pension funds and insurers have been pouring cash into alternative investments that bring the yield they need, but at significantly higher risk.

Many countries in Asia only started to cut interest rates in 2015 or 2016, but they are now at or near record lows and expected to fall further; India, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan and Thailand are all likely to see rate cuts this year, according to economists at Nomura. The resulting decline in bond yields has hit the region later than many other parts of the world, but is now forcing a strategy rethink for investors who need predictable income to match their fixed commitments.

Zurich Insurance's Asian division, for example, is considering investing in private debt including collateralized loan obligations and commercial real estate and infrastructure debt. "We simply have to accept that returns going forward will be lower than what they have been historically," said Michael Vos, Asia-Pacific investment manager at Zurich. "There is no free lunch - if you want higher returns, you need to take more risk."

Risks include a dearth of buyers when you want to sell, a greater chance of loan defaults, and lower levels of disclosure about the underlying assets. Credit Suisse said it, too, was increasing allocations to hedge funds and senior secured bank loans on behalf of Asian institutional clients.

Swiss private bank Union Bancaire Privee (UBP) said it was switching more of its high-net-worth clients' money from low-yielding bonds and volatile stocks into hedge funds, real estate debt and insurance-linked securities. "There is no doubt that the risk/reward of equity and fixed income markets have deteriorated dramatically over the last six to 12 months," said Ted Holland, Hong Kong-based Asia-Pacific head of business development for UBP.

"Finding 'low-risk' yield in this environment has been particularly difficult." This rapid change in climate is demonstrated by GIC Pte, Singapore's biggest sovereign wealth fund. Its portfolio return slowed to 3.7 percent per annum over the five years through March 2016, from 6.5 percent in the five years ended in March 2015, and it warned difficult investment conditions would persist for a decade. A survey by State Street Global Investors in July found that 44 percent of 72 Asian pension funds, which must keep a steady income flowing to pensioners, are seeking higher-risk, higher-return strategies.

South Korea's National Pension Service, facing lower domestic bond yields than U.S. Treasuries, plans to increase its alternative holdings to 35 percent of assets by 2020 from 10.7 percent in 2015, and will begin investing in hedge funds this year. It reported preliminary returns of 4.6 percent for 2015, down from 5.25 percent in 2014.

## RISK TRADE-OFF

The trade-off in this hunt for yield is an increase in risks that require careful management. Chief among them is a lack of liquidity. Many alternative investments, such as property or private equity, can't be readily turned to cash, so investors can't get their money out in a hurry. In a falling market, buyers for such assets become yet more scarce, exacerbating the falls.

They are also typically unlisted, so they are much less transparent than traditional investments, which are priced in real time on formal exchanges that typically demand more stringent governance and disclosure requirements. "There are also not many reliable or accepted benchmarks out there, so how do you measure the performance of your portfolio versus the performance of the market?" said Beng-Eu Lim, Asia Pacific head of asset owner sector solutions at State Street.

If investors are stepping down the yield curve to instruments that don't carry an investment grade imprimatur from credit rating agencies, the risks of default are also higher. Vos at Zurich acknowledges that investors in alternative assets need to take protective measures.

"When you take higher risk, it is important you have sufficient capital to absorb the extra volatility that comes with taking this additional risk so we are not forced sellers at the bottom of the market," he said. But even private individuals are pouring into such investments. Alternative investments made up 15 percent of Asian high-net-worth individuals' portfolios as of May 2016, almost double the level from three years ago, and are expected to rise further over the next year, according to market research firm East & Partners Asia.

UBP said some of its clients were raising their exposure to alternatives to as much as 50 percent of their portfolio, up from about 20 percent previously. That flood of cash could ultimately defeat the investment rationale for yield-hungry investors. — Reuters



**SINGAPORE:** Two men fish next to a container port in Singapore yesterday. Singapore exports fell more than expected in July from the previous year on softer US and Chinese demand, the government said yesterday, giving further credence to an economic slowdown this year. — AFP

## SINGAPORE EXPORTS DOWN WORSE-THAN-EXPECTED IN JULY

**SINGAPORE:** Singapore exports fell more than expected in July from the previous year on softer US and Chinese demand, the government said yesterday, giving further credence to an economic slowdown this year. Concerns over the weaker global economic outlook prompted the government this month to narrow its growth forecast for this year to 1-2 percent instead of 1-3 percent as projected earlier. Singapore's economy grew a modest 2.0 percent in 2015, the weakest rate of expansion since 2009 due to the effects of a global financial crisis.

On Wednesday, the government's trade promotion body International Enterprise Singapore released data showing that the city-state's non-oil domestic exports fell 10.6 percent year-on-year in July.

The decline is worse than the 2.4 percent contraction the previous month. It was also worse than the 2.5 percent median estimate of a 2.5 percent decline in a Bloomberg survey of 15 economists. Electronics exports such as semiconductors contracted by 12.9 percent, accelerating from a 1.7 percent decline in June. Non-electronics exports, including pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals and specialised machinery, fell by 9.5 percent from a 2.6 percent fall in June. "Indeed, when it rains, it pours. This will add on to the long list of poor data pointing to the risk of an economic contraction ahead," said DBS Bank senior economist Irvin

Seah. "The writing is on the wall. For those maintaining a sanguine view on the near term outlook on the economy, this should be a wake-up call," he said in a note.

The "slowdown in China is the main concern but sluggish growth in the US and uncertainties surrounding the Eurozone are not helping," Seah said. But CIMB Private Banking economist Song Seng Wun urged caution in reading the July data. He said the exports decline was due to seasonal factors like the Hari Raya Muslim holidays in Indonesia and Malaysia where companies shut down for a week, as well as the severe flooding in China.

"It's not as bad as the headline numbers would have suggested," Song told AFP, adding he expects exports to rebound in the coming months. "The decline was probably exaggerated by the fewer working days in some of the key markets like Malaysia and Indonesia which celebrated the Hari Raya festivities." Exports to Singapore's top 10 markets declined, except for the European Union which expanded by 3.0 percent. Exports to China fell 16.6 percent and shipments to the United States dropped 19.1 percent, while those to Indonesia shrank 22.6 percent and Malaysia by nearly 17 percent. United Overseas Bank said the data was "disappointing" but expects an export recovery in the second half due to an anticipated pick-up in global trade. — AFP

## HONG KONG AIRLINE CATHAY'S 1H PROFIT TUMBLES 82%

**HONG KONG:** Cathay Pacific Airways said yesterday that its profit tumbled in the first half of the year as economic weakness in China and other important markets cut passenger demand while it faced cut-throat competition from rivals.

Hong Kong's biggest airline posted an interim net profit of 353 million Hong Kong dollars (\$45.5 million), down 82 percent from the same period a year earlier. The airline said its earnings were hurt by "economic fragility and intense competition" in the January-June period, putting sustained pressure on revenue, which fell 9.2 percent.

The company, which also operates regional carrier Cathay Dragon, said passenger numbers rose 2.7 percent but the money it earned from them fell 10 percent. Cathay said mainland China's economic slowdown and weak conditions elsewhere cut into demand for lucrative business class seats from corporate customers.

Fuel costs, the airline's biggest expense, helped offset the poor



**HONG KONG:** Cathay Pacific (C) and Dragonair (L) planes are seen parked on the tarmac at the international airport in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP

performance somewhat. They fell by 20 percent to HK\$3.4 billion after losses from hedging contracts were taken into account. "We expect the operating environment in the second half of the year to

continue to be impacted by the same adverse factors as in the first half," Chairman John Slosar said in a statement. "The overall business outlook therefore remains challenging." — AP





## NEW INFINITI Q60 SPORTS COUPE STARTS PRODUCTION AT TOCHIGI PLANT IN JAPAN

**KUWAIT:** Production of the all-new INFINITI Q60 sports coupe has started at the company's manufacturing facility in Tochigi, Japan. Designed and engineered to perform, the Q60 offers a compelling combination of daring design, exhilarating performance and dynamics.

The Tochigi plant has been producing INFINITI vehicles since the brand was launched in 1989. The launch of the new INFINITI Q60 heralds the start of a new chapter in the plant's history. To meet the requirements of the new model, a series of upgrades have been made to the production line, and innovative manufacturing processes have been introduced.

### Upgrades to production lines

Industry-leading advances in manufacturing enabled INFINITI designers to draw the sharp angles and body lines that are characteristic of the Q60. The stamping and assembly lines feature key improvements, notably through the adoption of a unique deep-body stamping technology and new tooling machinery for the model's unique resin trunk lid. To further enhance quality control, a new lighting

system for the inspection process and a camera and video system on the assembly line have been introduced. Manufacturing, design and engineering teams worked very closely together to ensure that the unique trunk lid feature for Q60 can be realized with the highest quality at the Tochigi plant. In a world's first application, this trunk lid is a hybrid combination of a resin skin on a steel frame. It gives INFINITI designers more freedom to develop shapes that can then be built in a single part.

### Dedicated paint booth

One major enhancement to the Tochigi facility is a new dedicated paint booth, which has been installed solely to allow production of Q60's new "Dynamic Sandstone Red" paint finish. The glossy, deep red finish requires a new painting set-up, using a combination of machinery and manual processes developed by INFINITI's most senior coating experts.

The new paint booth enables workers in the Tochigi plant shop to more finely control paint thickness and quality, and the newly-developed "Dynamic Sandstone Red" paint process is the result of testing several hundred varia-



tions of paint formulations and application methods. Tochigi's 216 highly-skilled Takumi (master craftsmen) were picked from the plant's 4,500-strong workforce to work on the INFINITI production line. INFINITI's Takumi not only possess a particularly high level of technical knowledge; they are specially-trained in premium vehicle manufacturing, and have been chosen for their deep understanding of INFINITI and its core values. True to the Japanese philosophy of Kaizen - that of continuous improvement - Takumi undergo constant and intensive training to learn new techniques and skills. Takumi work across every section of the Q60's production line, including stamping, body shop, paint, assembly and quality assurance.

From the Takumi employed to work on INFINITI production, a further 6 Meister Takumi are selected - those with the highest understanding of premium car production and the desires and expectations of INFINITI's customers. Overseeing every aspect of INFINITI production at Tochigi, Meister Takumi ensure the manufacturing processes at the plant are fully attuned with the unique blend of attributes that differentiate INFINITI's products.



## KFH ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF BANKING CARDS 6TH DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced 7 winners of the sixth draw of the new banking cards campaign themed "Use KFH Cards and You May Win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz SUV's and Cash Prizes up to \$200000" in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

**The winners are:** Badriya Malallah, Hanan Alduwailah, Majed Alajmi, Hind Albeshara, Adel Alabdulsalam, Bodor Alajmi and Abdulrahman Alrajan. For every KD 10 spent on their KFH cards, clients will gain a chance to enter a draw and win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz cars and a chance to win the value of their purchases up to \$2000 daily for 100 days ending October 11th 2016. It is worth noting that KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used in domestic and international purchases and KFH Debit cards used in international purchases are eligible for the daily draw.

Moreover, clients will gain the chance to enter 2 draws to win 2 Mercedes-Benz cars. The first draw will be for the first car Mercedes Benz GLE 400. This draw will be held after 50 days of the launch for purchasing transactions conducted from day 1 to day 50, while the second draw will be for the second car Mercedes Benz GLE 450 Coupe, and will be held after 100 days of the

launch for purchasing conducted from day 51 to day 100 of the campaign.

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

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

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

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

## FORD TARGETS FULLY AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE FOR RIDE SHARING IN 2021

**DUBAI:** Ford announces its intent to have a high-volume, fully autonomous SAE level 4-capable vehicle in commercial operation in 2021 in a ride-hailing or ride-sharing service.

To get there, the company is investing in or collaborating with four startups to enhance its autonomous vehicle development, doubling its Silicon Valley team and more than doubling its Palo Alto campus. "The next decade will be defined by automation of the automobile, and we see autonomous vehicles as having as significant an impact on society as Ford's moving assembly line did 100 years ago," said Mark Fields, Ford president and CEO. "We're dedicated to putting on the road an autonomous vehicle that can improve safety and solve social and environmental challenges for millions of people - not just those who can afford luxury vehicles."

Autonomous vehicles in 2021 are part of Ford Smart Mobility, the company's plan to be a leader in autonomous vehicles, as well as in connectivity, mobility, the customer experience, and data and analytics.

### Driving autonomous vehicle leadership

Building on more than a decade of autonomous vehicle research and development, Ford's first fully autonomous vehicle will be a Society of Automotive Engineers-rated level 4-capable vehicle without a steering wheel or gas and brake pedals. It is being specifically designed for commercial mobility services, such as ride sharing and ride hailing, and will be available in high volumes.

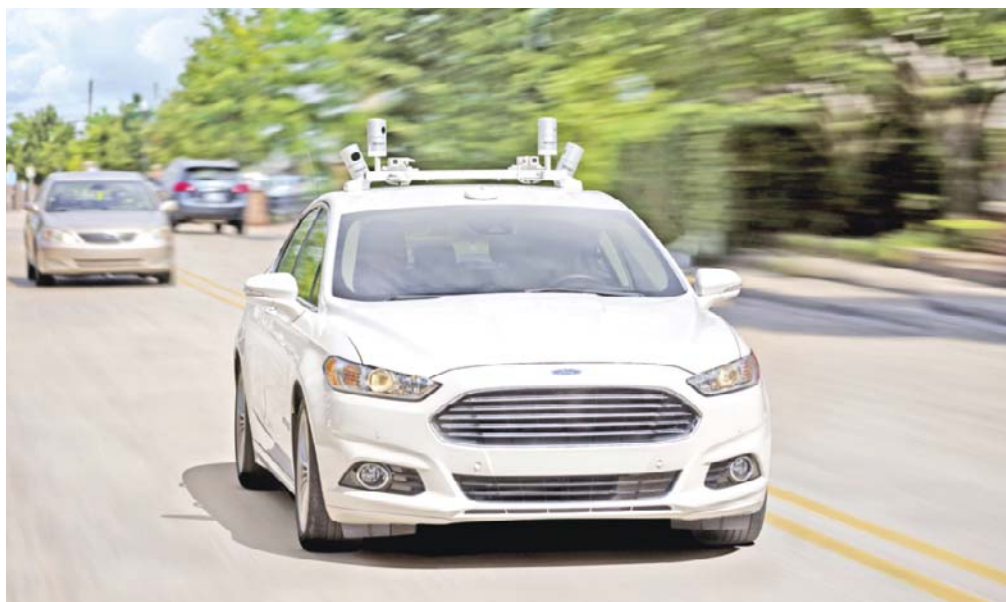
"Ford has been developing and testing autonomous vehicles for more than 10 years," said Raj Nair, Ford executive vice president, Global Product Development, and chief technical officer. "We have a strategic advantage because of our ability to combine the software and sensing technology with the sophisticated engineering necessary to manufacture high-quality vehicles. That is what it takes to make autonomous vehicles a reality for millions of people around the world."

This year, Ford will triple its autonomous vehicle test fleet to be the largest test fleet of any automaker - bringing the number to about 30 self-driving Fusion Hybrid sedans on the roads in California, Arizona and Michigan, with plans to triple it again next year. Ford was the first automaker to begin testing its vehicles at Mcity, University of Michigan's simulated urban environment, the first automaker to publicly demonstrate autonomous vehicle operation in the snow and the first automaker to test its autonomous research vehicles at night, in complete darkness, as part of LiDAR sensor development.

To deliver an autonomous vehicle in 2021, Ford is announcing four key investments and collaborations that are expanding its strong research in advanced algorithms, 3D mapping, LiDAR, and radar and camera sensors:

\* **Velodyne:** Ford has invested in Velodyne, the Silicon Valley-based leader in light detection and ranging (LiDAR) sensors. The aim is to quickly mass-produce a more affordable automotive LiDAR sensor. Ford has a longstanding relationship with Velodyne, and was among the first to use LiDAR for both high-resolution mapping and autonomous driving beginning more than 10 years ago.

\* **SAIPS:** Ford has acquired the computer vision and machine learning company to further strengthen its expertise in artificial intelligence and enhance computer vision. SAIPS has developed algorithmic solutions in image and video processing, deep learning, signal processing and classification. This expertise will help Ford



autonomous vehicles learn and adapt to the surroundings of their environment

\* **Nirenberg Neuroscience LLC:** Ford has an exclusive licensing agreement with Nirenberg Neuroscience, a machine vision company founded by neuroscientist Dr. Sheila Nirenberg, who cracked the neural code the eye uses to transmit visual information to the brain. This has led to a powerful machine vision platform for performing navigation, object recognition, facial recognition and other functions, with many potential applications. For example, it is already being applied by Dr. Nirenberg to develop a device for restoring sight to patients with degenerative diseases of the retina. Ford's partnership with Nirenberg Neuroscience will help bring humanlike intelligence to the machine learning modules of its autonomous vehicle virtual driver system

\* **Civil Maps:** Ford has invested in Berkeley, California-based Civil Maps to further develop high-resolution 3D mapping capabilities. Civil Maps has pioneered an innovative 3D mapping technique that is scalable and more efficient than existing processes. This provides Ford another way to develop high-resolution 3D maps of autonomous vehicle environments

Ford also is expanding its Silicon Valley operations, creating a dedicated campus in Palo Alto.

Adding two new buildings and 150,000 square feet of work and lab space adjacent to the current Research and Innovation Center, the expanded campus grows the company's local footprint and supports plans to double the size of the Palo Alto team by the end of 2017. "Our presence in Silicon Valley has been integral to accelerating our learning and deliverables driving Ford Smart Mobility," said Ken Washington, Ford vice president, Research and Advanced Engineering. "Our goal was to become a member of the community. Today, we are actively working with more than 40 startups, and have developed a strong collaboration with many incubators, allowing us to accelerate development of technologies and services."

Since the new Ford Research and Innovation Center Palo Alto opened in January 2015, the facility has rapidly grown to be one of the largest automotive manufacturer research centers in the region. Today, it is home to more than 130 researchers, engineers and scientists, who are increasing Ford's collaboration with the Silicon Valley ecosystem. Research and Innovation Center Palo Alto's multi-disciplinary research and innovation is the newest of nearly a dozen of Ford's global research, innovation, IT and engineering centers. The expanded Palo Alto campus opens in mid-2017.

## RIO OLYMPICS SERVES AS EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR ARAB TOURISTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BRAZIL

**ABU DHABI:** The Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce (ABCC) has revealed that the Rio Olympic Games 2016 is a highly effective tool for tourists, especially those coming from the Arab region, to learn more about Brazil. The global event, which opened last August 5, 2016 and will run until August 21, 2016 in Rio



Dr Michel Alaby

de Janeiro, is hosting over 11,000 athletes from 206 National Olympic Committees competing across 28 Olympic sports. The ABCC's statement follows the report that the nine Brazilian airports handling Olympic Games tourists have witnessed the arrival of over three million tourists from July 31, 2016 to August 6, 2016.

According to the Brazilian Secretariat of Civil Aviation, despite the heavy influx of tourists flocking to Rio to witness the Olympic Games, only 4.4 per cent of flights were delayed. The secretariat also reported that in Sao Paulo alone, Guarulhos Airport handled 715,000 people while Rio's two airports, Galeao/Tom Jobim and Santos Dumont, handled a combined 595,000 passengers during the first week of the Olympics. Numbers are poised to increase gradually as more tourists are expected to arrive to watch track and field and artistic gymnastics events. More arrivals are also being seen from August 20 to August 22, 2016 for the closing events and return of Olympic athletes to their respective countries.

"This is truly a wonderful and most opportune time to visit Brazil as it hosts the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. Aside from coming to watch the different competitions, visitors, particularly those coming all the way from various Arab countries, can also take time to see other Brazilian tourist spots and learn more about the country's rich heritage and culture. We are confident that this global event will also serve as a strategic tool to reinforcing relations between Brazil and the Arab region," concluded Dr Michel Alaby, Secretary General and CEO, ABCC.

## INFINITI AL BABTAIN CONTINUES ITS SUMMER OFFER 'LUXURY IN A DIFFERENT STYLE'

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co, the exclusive agent of Infiniti in the State of Kuwait continues its summer offer for its customers luxury and entertainment with its special offer this August in a different style. Upon the purchase of any Infiniti vehicle customers will receive a 5 years warranty, 5 years or 50,000 km free service, 1 year full insurance and your choice between a free Bose sound system and 1 year Netflix subscription or window tinting and body protection, all of this only this August.

On this occasion, Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co, would like to invite its clients to benefit from the exceptional 'August Campaign' through visiting its showrooms in all off Al-Rai,

Ahmadi, and the Infiniti pavilion at the Kuwait Finance House located in Shuwaikih.

The Company aims through its new promotions' strategy to strengthen its sales of the luxury Infiniti vehicles, ensuring that Infiniti is the leading brand of luxury vehicles in Kuwait and the Middle East, which attracts the VIP clients to own it. Infiniti belongs to the category of luxury vehicles that gained international publicity for its luxury features, elegant design, and attractive inspiration. All its models combine elegant comfort, capturing luxury, strong performance and smooth acceleration. Infiniti depends on the latest technology in the world, which ranks it on top of the most advanced smart vehicles with super technology.



# ROBOCOPS, VR FOR S KOREA'S HIGH-TECH WINTER GAMES

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Robots will help guard Pyeongchang 2018 and specially designed technology will lower language barriers in the most high-tech Winter Olympics yet, the Games' chief organizer told AFP. Organizing committee president Lee Hee-Beom also said drones would be used extensively at a 'state-of-the-art' Olympics which will trade heavily on South Korea's technological expertise. "Not only for security also for some other areas," Lee said in an interview at the Rio Olympics, when asked how robots would be used in Pyeongchang.

"We are aiming at a barrier-free Olympic Games so we will do our best to make it language barrier-free, age barrier-free, handicap barrier-free. I'm not going to go into

much detail but I advise you to come and enjoy it." While details of the technology, some of it still under development, were not revealed, South Korea's technical advances of recent times throw up some tantalizing possibilities. South Korean-designed HUBO humanoids have sophisticated voice recognition and vision and can walk, roll on four wheels and even climb stairs.

The HUBO picked up a \$2 million prize last year in a competition in which it had to drive and exit a vehicle, open a door, cut through a wall and find and close a leaking valve. A South Korean arms manufacturer has also developed a robotic sentry which is able to identify, warn, track and - if commanded - shoot intruders. But Lee said the technology in use at Pyeongchang would

be "not only robots", "We are preparing state-of-the-art technologies," he said. "As you know, Korea is well advanced in the IT business. "We have many advanced companies including Samsung and other venture companies so we are developing state-of-the-art technologies in the area of information technology, and we will use state-of-the-art technologies including robots. "We are preparing lots of things. Virtual reality, some other things. You can come and see it."

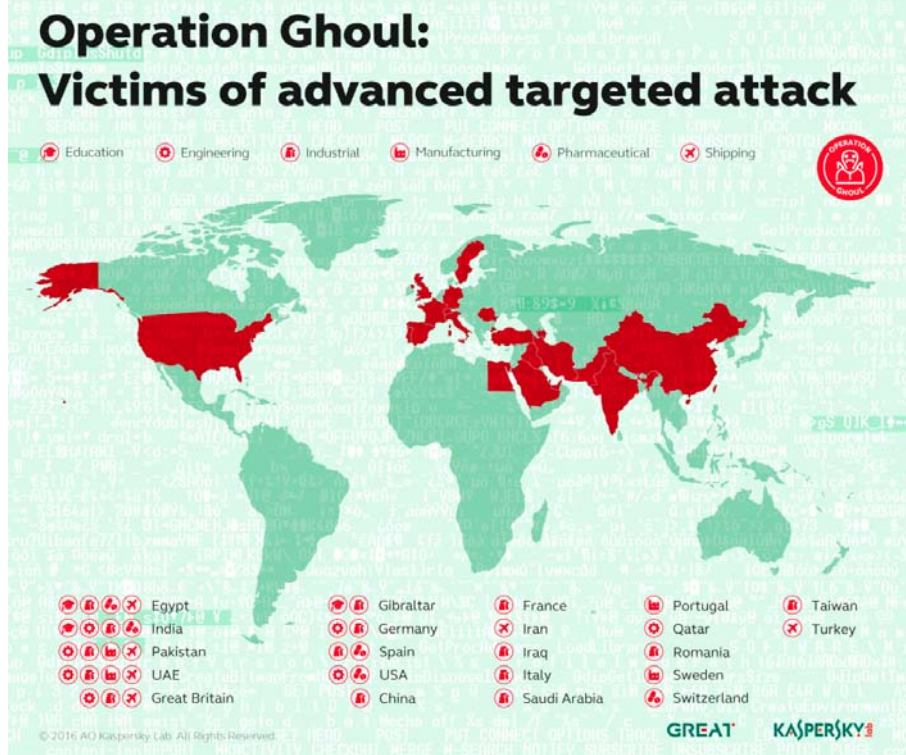
#### Two Koreas

In December, Pyeongchang organizers signed an agreement with two government ministries covering automatic interpretation technology to break down the

Korean language barrier for foreigners. Lee only took charge of the Games in May after the abrupt resignation of his predecessor, shipping magnate Cho Yang-Ho, but he said preparations are largely on track. Infrastructure - including the Games venues, a new high-speed rail link connecting Pyeongchang to Seoul and Incheon, and a new expressway - will all be completed on time, he said. The Games' original budget of 2.2 trillion won (\$2 billion) is under review but should rise less than 15 percent, a Pyeongchang spokesperson said. Lee was in Brazil to observe Rio's hosting of the Games and he left with a notebook bulging with ideas and checklists. "Thirty years ago we had the Seoul Olympic Games. With the Seoul Olympic Games, we think that Korea

became a country of the world," said the former trade minister. "We could open diplomatic ties with all the countries including all European countries including Russia and other Eastern European countries. "And then we became a member of the OECD. So with the Pyeongchang Olympic Games we want to upgrade our national status as a global member."

Lee added that he was open to South Korean athletes marching at the opening ceremony with North Korea's team, as happened at the 2000 and 2004 Summer Olympics and the 2006 Winter Games. "We are open to any kind of suggestions but so far we have not decided anything yet. It's our hope," he said, when asked if the two Koreas would march together. — AFP



## A NEW WAVE OF TARGETED ATTACKS IN MANY COUNTRIES

**DUBAI:** Kaspersky Lab has discovered a new wave of targeted attacks against the industrial and engineering sectors in multiple countries around the world, including United Arab Emirates. Using spear-phishing emails and malware based on commercial spyware kit, criminals hunt for valuable business related data stored in their victims' networks. In total over 130 organizations from 30 countries, including Spain, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, India, Egypt, United Kingdom, Germany, Saudi Arabia and other countries were successfully attacked by this group.

In June 2016, Kaspersky Lab researchers spotted a wave of spear-phishing e-mails with malicious attachments. These messages were mostly sent to the top and middle level managers of numerous companies. The e-mails sent by the attackers appeared to be coming from a bank in the United Arab Emirates (UAE): they looked like payment advice from the bank with an attached SWIFT document, but in reality the attached archive contained malware.

Further investigation conducted by Kaspersky Lab researchers, showed that the spear-phishing campaign has most likely been organized by a cybercriminal group which has been tracked by company researchers since March 2015. The June attacks appear to be the most recent operation conducted by this group.

The malware in the attachment is based on the HawkEye commercial spyware that is being sold openly on the Darkweb, and provides a variety of tools for the attackers. After installation it collects interesting data from the victim's PC, including:

- \* Key strokes
- \* Clipboard data
- \* FTP server credentials
- \* Account data from browsers
- \* Account data from messaging clients (Paltalk, Google talk, AIM,...)
- \* Account data from email clients (Outlook, Windows Live mail,...)
- \* Information about installed applications (Microsoft Office)

This data is then sent to the threat actor's command and control servers. Based on information received from the sinkhole of some command and control servers, the majority of the victims are organizations working in the industrial and engineering sectors, others include ship-

ping, pharmaceutical, manufacturing, trading companies, educational organizations and other types of entities.

These companies all hold valuable information that could be subsequently sold on the black market - financial profit is the main motivation of the attackers behind Operation Ghoul.

Dubbed Operation Ghoul by Kaspersky Lab researchers, it is only one among several other campaigns that are supposedly controlled by the same group. The group is still active.

"In ancient folklore, the Ghoul is an evil spirit associated with consuming human flesh and hunting kids, originally a Mesopotamian demon. Today, the term is sometimes used to describe a greedy or materialistic individual. This is quite a precise description of the group behind Operation Ghoul. Their main motivation is financial gain resulting either from sales of stolen intellectual property and business intelligence, or from attacks on their victim's banking accounts. Unlike state-sponsored actors, which choose targets carefully, this group and similar groups might attack any company. Even though they use rather simple malicious tools, they are very effective in their attacks. Thus companies that are not prepared to spot the attacks, will sadly suffer", - said Mohammad Amin Hasbani, security expert at Kaspersky Lab.

In order to protect your company from Operation Ghoul and other threats like this, Kaspersky Lab researchers recommend businesses implement the following measures:

- \* Educate your staff so they are able to distinguish a spear phishing email or a phishing link from real emails and links.
- \* Use a proven corporate grade security solution, in combination with anti-targeted attack solutions, capable of catching attacks by analyzing network anomalies.
- \* Provide your security staff with access to the latest threat intelligence data, which will arm them with helpful tools for targeted attack prevention and discovery, such as Indicators of compromise and YARA rules. Kaspersky Lab products detect the malware used by the group behind Operation Ghoul with the following detection names: Trojan.MSIL.ShopBot.www, Trojan.Win32.Fsyzna.dfah, Trojan.Win32.Generic.



**COLOGNE:** A trade visitor wears virtual reality goggles while playing the computer game Batman of Sony at the game fair Gamescom. The fair runs from Aug 17 to 21, 2016. — AFP

# NOT SO SWIFT: BANK SYSTEM SLOW TO ADDRESS WEAK POINTS

**LA HULPE, Belgium:** More than a dozen current and former board directors and senior managers of SWIFT, the bank messaging system that helps transmit billions of dollars around the world every day, have told Reuters the organization for years suspected there were weaknesses in the way smaller banks used its messaging terminals - but did not address such vulnerabilities. The sources said that until February, when hackers tried to steal nearly \$1 billion dollars by breaking into the messaging system at Bangladesh's central bank, SWIFT had not regarded the security of customer terminals as a priority. Top executives either did not receive information from member banks about specific attempts to hack the messaging network, or failed to spot those attempts themselves, the managers said.

In SWIFT's annual reports and strategy plans from the past 17 years Reuters could find only one reference to SWIFT helping its users to secure their systems. That reference - to helping "our community to strengthen their own infrastructure" - was in the 2015 annual report published in June this year, months after the Bangladesh heist, in which the fraudsters ended up making off with \$81 million. "The board took their eye off the ball," said Leonard Schrank, who was chief executive of SWIFT from 1992 to 2007. "They were focusing on other things, and not about the fundamental, sacred role of SWIFT, which is the security and reliability of the system."

Schrank said he was broadly aware that users' terminals were a weak link in SWIFT's overall security, but paid too little attention to it. "So I am partially responsible," he said. The messaging business failed to act in part because the risks were not properly appreciated, the former directors and managers said. SWIFT did not comprehensively track security incidents or monitor the extent of sloppy security practices among users. It saw smaller banks as a potential - but not immediate - threat to the security of the network, according to the former managers and directors.

SWIFT never acted, former board member Arthur Cousins said, because the organization believed bank regulators - rather than SWIFT - were responsible for ensuring smaller banks' security procedures were robust enough to repel hackers. A spokeswoman for SWIFT, a cooperative owned by banks, defended the organization. "SWIFT and its Board have prioritized security, continually monitoring the landscape and responding by adapting the specific security focuses as threats have evolved. Today's security threats are not the same threats the industry faced five or ten years ago - or even a year ago - and like any other responsible organization we adapt as the threat changes."

SWIFT was, and still is, dominated by large Western banks, including Citibank, JP MORGAN, Deutsche Bank and BNP Paribas, that built the network decades ago. That contributed to the lack of concern over security, said the former directors, because the larger banks tend to have sufficient defences to prevent criminals from hacking into their SWIFT systems. But since the 1990s, many smaller banks in emerging markets have joined SWIFT, and some may have weaker computer security. In all, more than 10,000 institutions are now connected to SWIFT.

Gottfried Leibbrandt, CEO since 2012, said it was only with the benefit of "hindsight" that one could see that SWIFT needed to put more focus on security at customer terminals. "Hindsight is always a wonderful thing," he said. "Sometimes it takes a crisis to change things."

#### Rise in Small Users

In the Bangladesh heist, hackers broke into a computer interface called Alliance Access, a piece of software sold by SWIFT for accessing its central network. It is still unclear exactly how the thieves gained entry. Bank Bangladesh has alleged that a botched upgrade of its system left vulnerabilities in it. SWIFT has rejected any responsibility for the way Bangladesh Bank upgraded its systems. Whatever specific weakness the thieves in the Bangladesh case exploited, former SWIFT directors and managers said the system became more vulnerable as it got bigger. Alessandro Lanteri, a former executive with Italian bank Unicredit who served on SWIFT's board between 1995 and 2000, said security challenges increased when smaller banks in emerging markets joined the SWIFT network. "The difficulty is always to keep the security system very effective when you deal with little banks and emerging countries," he said. "There, it is very difficult to be sure that all the procedures of security are managed in the correct way." The number of countries and territories covered by SWIFT swelled from 126 in 1994 to 200 in 2003 and 212 now. Bigger western banks considered SWIFT more cost effective and secure than alternative means of communication, Cousins said, and encouraged smaller banks to become members. But despite the rise in the number of smaller institutions as members, the big banks continued to dominate SWIFT. The organization's revenues, which hit \$710 million last year, are driven by a concentrated number of large western correspondent banks like Citigroup and HSBC, former SWIFT staff said.

Traditionally, 90 percent of messaging revenue comes from banks in just 25 countries - almost all developed nations - data in the decade to 2011, the last year for which SWIFT published a breakdown, shows. Some people working at the coalface spotted evidence of deteriorating security well before this year's Bangladesh case. Two years ago,

Martin Ullman, a Prague-based SWIFT consultant, was browsing a LinkedIn forum for SWIFT users when he saw a posting from a recently-appointed technician at the Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI). The technician needed to install an upgrade to the bank's SWIFT messaging system but didn't know how. He wanted advice.

Ullman emailed the man and told him that raising such issues in a public forum could endanger security and advised him to seek expert help. The technician said the bank couldn't afford it, and said he finally managed to install the system himself. CBSI declined to comment. Reuters was unable to contact the technician to confirm the incident. Yet security was vital: Six former directors of SWIFT said any breach of the broader system could put the bedrock of SWIFT - the willingness of banks to accept messages at face value - at risk.

#### Trail of Incidents

Hugh Cumberland, a former SWIFT executive who now advises banks on payments technologies, said he first saw security risks in 1993. He told Reuters that, when he was working as a technology contractor with BZW, an arm of BARCLAYS, in London. Cumberland arrived for work one day to be met by policemen carrying Heckler & Koch sub-machine guns. Two staff members had been arrested for attempting to use their access to a SWIFT terminal to send 10 million pounds of "unnamed client money" to accounts controlled by them. Cumberland did not know the outcome of the case. Both SWIFT and Barclays declined to comment.

Another incident occurred in 1995, when officials at Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) began sending fraudulent payment instructions to Citibank, telling it to pay money from DIB's account at the U.S. bank into the account of a fraudster, according to a lawsuit DIB filed against Citibank in New York in 1999. More than \$150 million was allegedly stolen by DIB executives in collaboration with Foutanga Dit Babani Sissoko, a West African businessman previously jailed for trying to bribe U.S. customs officials. Sissoko was deported from the United State before the DIB allegations were made in court. Reuters could not contact him.

A lawyer involved in the case confirmed the messages were sent via SWIFT, which has a near monopoly on such international payment instructions. The court dismissed the claim of negligence against Citibank. The banks declined to comment on the case. (SWIFT was not involved in the legal proceedings.) More recently, thieves exploiting SWIFT systems stole \$250,000 from Bangladesh's Sonali bank in 2013 and more than \$12 million from Ecuador's Banco del Austro in 2015. Later in 2015, Vietnam's Tien Phong Bank foiled an attempt to steal money via SWIFT, which was reported by Reuters in May. SWIFT officials said the banks involved in these three cases did not immediately inform it of the incidents, though the banks did confirm them later. The senior management at SWIFT appears to have been

unaware of the events. Leibbrandt told Reuters in May that, before the Bangladesh heist in February, he had not been told of any successful or unsuccessful attempt to steal money using SWIFT. Asked why SWIFT had not logged the incidents described above, a spokeswoman said: "SWIFT has always maintained an uncompromising focus on security as evidenced by our track record."

#### Changing Attitudes

Some former SWIFT executives and directors said the failure to spot the security risks around user terminals reflects weaknesses in SWIFT's board. Schrank, the chief executive from 1992 to 2007, said some directors lacked the experience needed to help steer such a big and important enterprise. "Generally the SWIFT board, with very few exceptions, are back-office payments people, middle to senior management," he said.

Of 48 current and former non-executive SWIFT directors for whom Reuters could find career histories, only two sat on their employer's management board. Only one sat on the board of a listed company other than their employer. Fritz Klein, a former Credit Suisse banker who served on SWIFT's board from 1998 to 2002, said an even greater concern was the length of tenure of some members, which he said did not encourage fresh thinking. At any time, a third of members had been there for "very long, perhaps too long," he said.

A spokeswoman for SWIFT said: "SWIFT's large and diverse group of Board members have decades of experience in operations, management, IT, risk assessment, and various other disciplines. SWIFT's Board composition includes long-standing members with a deep understanding of how SWIFT works, as well as newer members who contribute with a fresh outside view." The board is dominated by larger banks: the six countries which have the greatest messaging volume have the right to appoint two directors each. The next 10 largest user countries can appoint one each. Lanteri, the former Unicredit banker who used to be a SWIFT director, said: "When I was on the board I had no direct contact with the little countries." Board members came from all over the world, he said, but "from the most important banks."

The Bangladesh heist has changed attitudes. In May, SWIFT published a new "customer security plan", promising to strengthen security on software tools such as Alliance Access; to develop new tools to spot when an account has been compromised and when a payment instruction deviates from normal patterns; and to allow banks to issue "stop payment" orders quickly. In July, SWIFT announced the creation of a "Forensics and Customer Security Intelligence team", in conjunction with cyber security firms BAE Systems1 and Fox-IT2. The team will gather information on any attempts to commit thefts through SWIFT, analyse the risks these attacks highlight and share the lessons with the wider SWIFT community. — Reuters

# UNIVISION WINS BID TO BUY GAWKER MEDIA

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Univision on Tuesday won the bidding for embattled Gawker Media, which recently filed for bankruptcy after being ordered to pay \$140 million to Hulk Hogan for releasing his sex tape. Gawker confirmed to AFP that a deal was made to sell the company to the Spanish-language media giant, but did not disclose the price. US media reports pegged the purchase at \$135 million. "I am pleased that our employ-



**ST PETERSBURG, Florida:** In this March 16, 2016, file photo, Gawker Media founder Nick Denton arrives in a courtroom. — AP

ees are protected and will continue their work under new ownership - disentangled from the legal campaign against the company," Gawker founder Nick Denton said in an email to AFP confirming Univision as the top bidder. "We could not have picked an acquirer more devoted to vibrant journalism."

In March, a US jury in Florida ordered that wrestling star Hogan be allowed to collect

\$140 million in total compensation after Gawker published a videotape of him having sex with a friend's wife. Gawker filed for bankruptcy in June in an attempt to sidestep a shutdown from the judgment. "For my part, I am proud to have contributed financial support to his case," tech billionaire Peter Thiel, who bankrolled the Hogan lawsuit, said in an op-ed piece in The New York Times Monday. "It is ridiculous to claim that journalism requires indiscriminate access to private people's sex lives."

Denton earlier this month filed for personal bankruptcy protection in a bid to stop his assets from being seized because of the judgment. Denton has slammed what he called a "personal vendetta" and said in a memo to staff that it was "disturbing to live in a world in which a billionaire can bully journalists because he didn't like the coverage."

While Gawker has come under fire for its no-holds-barred approach to celebrity coverage, the case also raised questions about whether powerful interests can use their resources to silence media for unfavorable coverage.

The case drew heightened attention when Thiel, a Silicon Valley titan, acknowledged that he had helped fund the litigation and others against Gawker, a company Thiel has feuded with for years since it "outed" him as gay. A filing in federal bankruptcy court in New York lists Gawker assets in a range of \$50 million to \$100 million, and liabilities between \$100 million and \$500 million.

German-born Thiel was a founder of the online payments firm PayPal, and served as its chief executive before it was sold to eBay. He was also an early investor in Facebook and has been active in venture investing in Silicon Valley. Univision reportedly outbid US digital media company Ziff Davis for Gawker. — AFP



## CAN SEASON AND PLACE OF BIRTH INFLUENCE CELIAC DISEASE RISK?

**SWEDEN:** Winter babies and people born in places with shorter days and less sunlight might have a lower risk of developing celiac disease than peers born in warmer regions or seasons, a Swedish study suggests. About one in 100 people have celiac disease, an autoimmune disorder that damages the small intestine and interferes with the absorption of nutrients from food. People with celiac disease can't tolerate gluten, a protein in wheat, rye and barley. Left untreated, the condition can lead to complications such as malnutrition, low bone density, lactose intolerance and infertility.

While the exact causes of celiac disease are unknown, some previous research has pointed to the potential for the season of one's birth to be among many environmental factors that might

influence the risk, said lead study author Fredinah Namatovu, a public health researcher at the Umea University in Sweden. "Season of birth and area of birth appears to play a role," Namatovu said by email. "Season and region of birth could be a proxy for other factors such as vitamin D and viral infections."

### Another twist

To test out this idea, researchers examined data on almost 2 million children up to age 15 born in Sweden from 1991 to 2009, including about 6,600 diagnosed with celiac disease. Overall, the risk of diagnosis was around 10 percent greater among children born in spring (March-May), summer (June-August) and autumn (September-November) than it was among those born in winter (December-February). But

seasonal patterns differed by region, the researchers report in Archives of Disease in Childhood.

### Family history

The risk of celiac disease was higher among those born in the south of the country, where sunlight in spring and summer is intense, than among children born in the north of the country, where springs are colder and summers shorter. In another twist, kids diagnosed before age of 2 years appeared to have a greater risk if they were born in the spring, while older children seemed to have an increased risk if they were born in summer or fall. Because the study is observational, it can't prove that certain birth seasons or regions directly cause celiac disease, the authors note.

Potential explanations for the varia-

tions in risk might be seasonal differences in exposure to viral infections, or to vitamin D, which the body makes in response to sunlight, both of which could affect the immune system at a vulnerable time in its development. But that wouldn't explain the regional variations and these ideas would need to be explored with more research, the authors conclude. Among other things, global warming, variation in the type of spring weather and the timing of changing seasons could potentially explain some of the differences in risk found in the study, said Dr Joseph Murray, director of the celiac disease program at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Trends in how much and what type of gluten infants eat over time might also have contributed to the study results, as could an influx of migrants in the south-

ern part of the country who might have different eating habits, Murray, who wasn't involved in the study, added by email. "Many factors are associated with the risk of contracting celiac disease and thus far, research has not led to an understanding of the potential cause or origin of the disease," said Dr Alex Krist, a researcher at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond who wasn't involved in the study. "Our current understanding of who is at risk is limited to people who have a family history or other autoimmune conditions, as well as those belonging to certain racial and ethnic groups," Krist added by email. "Learning more about other potential associations, like birth season, may prove useful in better understanding both the cause of and who is at risk for celiac disease." —Reuters

## STIGMA 'KILLING' SOUTH AFRICANS LIVING WITH HIV

### A HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENT FOR HUMANITY

**DURBAN, South Africa:** Tania has to shout to be heard over music blasting out of a brothel in downtown Durban, South Africa, where dozens of sex workers slouch in chairs under the red glow of the bar or lean against walls as they wait for clients. Dressed in a tight top and trousers, the 42-year-old looks younger than her age. Sex work is illegal in South Africa but the trade thrives, drawing women from as far away as Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique and Botswana to work alongside Tania.

Cracking jokes and quick to laugh, Tania said working in a brothel was safer than selling sex on the streets. But even so, the men can be aggressive. Condoms can burst, and when they do, sex workers are often reluctant to seek healthcare. "Some of them are scared of going to the nurse for testing. They discriminate: There is that prostitute. And that name in public, it hurts," said Tania, who declined to give her real name fearing reprisals.

In a report published in 2015, researchers found that the HIV prevalence rate among sex workers, one of the most at risk groups, and their clients in Durban was 53 percent - far higher than the national adult HIV prevalence rate of 19.2 percent. Yet stigma is still one of the biggest obstacles to ending the AIDS epidemic three decades after it began, experts say. In South Africa, sex workers speak of nurses that laughed at them, dismissed or shamed them for coming to a health clinic, even in a country with the highest number of people living with HIV - 7 million - and the largest number of people accessing anti-retroviral treatment - 3.5 million.

Deputy director of UNAIDS Dr Luis Loures, who saw his first AIDS case in 1981, said medical advances in creating lifesaving drugs to treat HIV were "a historical achievement for humanity." "But when I see how much we progress as societies, in

terms of achievements in discrimination, I feel we are still in the 1980s," Loures told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, referring to the start of the epidemic. "Having health systems that discriminate against gay men, sex workers and other key populations (means that) AIDS is coming back, in a very selective way," he said.

### 'Wake up the world'

Sixteen years after South Africa first hosted the International AIDS Conference, the biggest gathering of its kind returned to Durban last month. Some of the same campaigners who marched with President Nelson Mandela to break the silence around AIDS in 2000 were back. This time they were voicing alarm over unequal access to HIV treatment. "People with HIV are mostly poor, they're mostly marginalized," said leading activist Mark Heywood from South Africa's Section 27 rights group.

"They die in their homes, they die in hospitals," Heywood said as he marched to "wake up the world again" to the AIDS epidemic, which killed some 180,000 people in South Africa last year. South Africa had 380,000 new HIV infections in 2015, accounting for nearly 40 percent of new HIV infections in eastern and southern Africa, according to UN agency UNAIDS.

International AIDS funding fell for the first time in five years to \$7.5 billion in 2015 from \$8.6 billion in 2014. Only 17 million of the world's 36.7 million HIV-positive people having access to anti-retroviral treatment, UNAIDS says. Rights activist Nana Gleeson said in neighboring Botswana, health worker prejudice against those on the margins of society like prisoners, foreigners and transgender people was widespread.

"It's actually stigma that's killing people. It creates an opportunity for people to then not give people access to treatment or whatever they

need," she said. Oscar-winning South African actress Charlize Theron, who runs a HIV charity, has blamed racism, sexism and homophobia for fuelling the epidemic. "We value some lives more than others," Theron told the opening ceremony of the AIDS conference. "We value men more than women, straight love more than gay love, white skin more than black skin, the rich, more than the poor and adults more than adolescents," she said.

### Criminalization

Even as some 18,000 people attended this year's AIDS conference, a few kilometers (miles) away, staff at a center for Durban's poor and homeless noticed that its regulars were not coming to the clinic for checkups. "We know the police are regularly told to clear them away," said the manager of the Denis Hurley Centre, Raymond Perrier.

"Almost half of the people we see in our clinic are refugees, because they tell us they don't feel welcome in government clinics," he added. Human rights activists say the criminalization of sex workers makes them more vulnerable with women working the streets reporting frequent arrest for carrying condoms, attacks and detention by the police. Sex worker and activist Janet sees many sex workers who have given up seeking treatment and are rapidly deteriorating.

"Their skin is peeling off and it's like maize-meal when they scratch it," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Since June, Janet, who like Tania is HIV-positive, has been persuading women who are still negative to start taking Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), a daily pill that can cut the risk of getting HIV by up to 90 percent. But the drugs will only work if people have access to them, UNAIDS' Loures said. "The only way to face things like discrimination is through activism. There is no drug that will fix that," he said. —Reuters



**HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA, United States:** Dr Lance Osborne, an entomologist with the University of Florida, gives a presentation on July 22, 2016 in Homestead, Florida to growers. —AFP

## PESTICIDE-RESISTANT WHITEFLY COULD 'DEVASTATE' MANY US CROPS

**HOMESTEAD, United States:** A tiny, invasive whitefly that is resistant to pesticides and carries crop-devastating viruses has been found outdoors in the United States for the first time, raising concerns among fruit and vegetable growers. The Q-biotype whitefly turned up in April in the heavily manicured gardens of an affluent neighborhood in south Florida's Palm Beach County, where landscapers were spraying the flowers and shrubs regularly with insecticides. Its discovery outdoors comes more than a decade after it was first found in a US retail nursery in Arizona. Since 2005, the whitefly has also been found in about two dozen US states, but only in greenhouses.

It is already considered a major invasive pest worldwide. Now that the Q-biotype whitefly is outdoors in the United States, researchers say it poses a serious threat to crops such as tomatoes, beans, squash, cotton and melons. Having whiteflies outdoors makes the problem "much more difficult to control," and they may never be fully eradicated, said Lance Osborne, a professor of entomology at the University of Florida. "The resistance to pesticides—that is what really sets them apart," he told a few dozen growers who attended a recent session to learn about the whitefly in Homestead, an agricultural area south of Miami.

"The best single treatment we have kills 90-91 percent of them. That is as good as we can do without multiple applications." Whiteflies draw fluid out of a plant's leaves, and excrete a sticky residue that allows fungus to grow, turning the leaves black and making it harder for them to photosynthesize. The insects can also spread more than 100 viral diseases that weaken the plants and can make fruits and vegetables inedible. There are dozens of different kinds of whiteflies in the world. This one, known as Q-biotype whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*), looks exactly like the silverleaf whitefly, or B-biotype, but is a completely different species.

The Q-biotype whitefly is believed to originate in the Mediterranean region, particularly from tomato fields in Spain, Portugal and Israel, Osborne said. Since its discovery outdoors in Florida in April, they have been found in more than 40 locations across the state, including residences, wholesale nurseries and retail plant outlets, crawling on the leaves of hibiscus, eggplant, lantana, ficus hedges and porter weeds.

### 'A serious risk'

Whiteflies can live on 600 different kinds of plants, 300 of which are grown in Florida, according to the state agriculture department. "The reason we are worried about the Q is because it has such a huge host range and is resistant to pesticides," explained Osborne. "They attack so many crops—there is always something in the ground these things will attack." While the Q-biotype whitefly has not done any major damage yet in Florida, its emergence has kept agriculture officials busy organizing inspections, working on plans to control the bugs and imposing quarantines around positive finds as necessary, a spokesman said.

"With our climate, robust international trade and more than 100 million visitors a year, Florida is a hotbed for agricultural pests and diseases," Florida agriculture commissioner Adam Putnam said in an email to AFP. "The Q-biotype whitefly poses a serious risk to Florida's \$120 billion agriculture industry and the more than two million jobs it supports."

### Blamed for famine

Whiteflies have been blamed for worsening famine in Africa and for wreaking havoc on farming in the southern United States in the 1980s and 1990s. Back then, swarms of whiteflies of the B-biotype destroyed cotton, tomato and melon fields, causing hundreds of millions of dollars in losses. "The bottom line is, this can be devastating," said Osborne. To encourage growers to check their plants for whiteflies, the University of Florida has extended a pledge of secrecy to anyone who wants to find out what kind of whiteflies they have on their plants. Samples of whiteflies can be sent to their lab for DNA analysis, free of charge, and they promise the sender won't be identified except by county and the general type of location.

Meanwhile, inspectors are making random checks in farming areas, quarantining nurseries and stopping the sale of any products deemed to be infested. "It seems to me like it's a little bit of a witch hunt," said one grower at the meeting in Homestead, who asked to remain anonymous. He complained that an inspector had taken action against his business after finding just one tiny whitefly on a leaf. "If that is what you guys are going to do, it is going to make it very difficult for us, for our industry, to stay in business growing particular crops," he said. —AFP

## HAITI FINDS CASE OF MICROCEPHALY LINKED TO ZIKA VIRUS

**PORT-AU-PRINCE:** Haiti has identified its first case of the birth defect microcephaly linked to the Zika virus, a senior health ministry official said on Tuesday. Gabriel Thimothe, director general at the ministry of public health and population, said the case was confirmed on Saturday by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Haiti has confirmed 14 cases of the birth defect since March, up from previous reports of two cases, Raymond Grand Pierre, the director of the Department of Health and Family in the Ministry of Health, said.

In the other 13 cases, authorities have not established a link to microcephaly although the number may indicate Zika is more widespread in Haiti than previously thought. According to a chart provided by the Centers for Disease Control, Haiti has recorded nearly 3,000 Zika cases. But the World Health Organization says the overwhelming majority of cases of the virus in the island nation are suspected and not confirmed.

Thimothe said the baby with Zika-linked microcephaly was born in the city of Mirebalais earlier this summer. Boston-based Partners in

Health and its sister organization, Haiti-based Zanmi Lasante, said in a statement on Aug. 9 that two babies had been born with microcephaly in their University Hospital Mirebalais. US health officials have concluded that Zika infections in pregnant women can cause microcephaly. The World Health Organization has said there is strong scientific consensus that Zika can also cause Guillain-Barre, a rare neurological syndrome that causes temporary paralysis. The connection between Zika and microcephaly first came to light last fall in Brazil, which has now confirmed more than 1,600 cases of microcephaly that it considers to be related to Zika infections in the mothers.

Haiti's healthcare system is still suffering from the fallout of the 2010 earthquake that killed about 300,000 people and a still-ongoing cholera epidemic that began shortly afterward, killing about 8,600 people and infecting 707,000. Health facilities were also paralyzed this year by a months-long strike by medical residents over pay and working conditions, which Thimothe said had largely ended. —Reuters

## MASSIVE YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION CAMPAIGN BEGINS IN CONGO

**DAKAR, Senegal:** A massive emergency vaccination campaign began yesterday in Congo against the largest yellow fever outbreak in decades, trying to stop its global spread. Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children and dozens of other groups are joining Congo's government and the World Health Organization in targeting about 10.5 million people over the next 10 days. They are focusing on Congo's capital, Kinshasa, where only 2 million of more than 10 million people have been fully vaccinated, and the region between Kinshasa and the border with Angola. WHO has said the outbreak began in Angola's capital, Luanda, in February.

Eventually, the new vaccination campaign aims to reach more than 14 million people in both countries. The campaign, however, is affected by limited vaccine supplies, forcing groups to use one-fifth the standard dose, which will be effective for only a year. Save The Children has warned the outbreak could soon spread to the Americas, Asia and Europe and elsewhere in Africa. It has claimed nearly 500 lives in Congo and Angola amid thousands of suspected cases, the aid group said.

Health officials had estimated they would be short millions of doses, according to a recent Associated Press investigation that reported mismanagement in the initial response to the outbreak, including one million doses unaccounted for and delays in supplies. "This campaign is an essential step to containing the spread of the outbreak, but vigilance will remain crucial in the upcoming months," said Axelle Ronse, Doctors Without Borders emergency coordinator. There is no known cure for the mosquito-spread virus, which is easily prevented with vaccines. Once infected, people often fall ill with fever and muscle pain, but many recover after several days. The more toxic phase includes possible bleeding from the eyes, ears and nose, organ failure and jaundice. —AP



**KISENSO:** In this file photo residents of the Kisenso district of Kinshasa, receive yellow fever vaccines. —AP photos



**KISENSO:** Residents of the Kisenso district of Kinshasa, line up to receive yellow fever vaccines.





**HAWAII: Employees clean the Genki Sushi conveyor belt restaurant chain Tuesday in Aiea, Hawaii. —AP**

## HAWAII SUSHI CHAIN TIED TO HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK TOSSES FOOD

**HONOLULU:** A popular restaurant chain in Hawaii that serves sushi on a conveyor belt threw out food and scrubbed its counters Tuesday after state authorities identified its raw scallops as the probable source of a hepatitis A outbreak. Genki Sushi was ordered to close its 10 restaurants on Oahu and one on Kauai, said Peter Oshiro, Hawaii State Department of Health sanitation branch chief. The restaurants must dispose of their food supply and disposable items like cups and napkins and disinfect the facilities before they reopen. The department on Monday identified imported frozen scallops served raw at the restaurants as the source of the outbreak, which has sickened 168 people so far. The disease can cause fever, loss of appetite, nausea and other ailments.

The department said the tainted product is called "Sea Port Bay Scallops" distributed by Koha Oriental Foods. The box says the scallops are from the Philippines. US Food and Drug Administration spokeswoman Lauren Sucher said the agency is working to confirm the source. People can contract the virus by eating contaminated food, drinking contaminated water, close personal contact or sex. Oshiro praised Genki Sushi for being a "good partner" in its investigation into the source of the outbreak. He said the company hasn't tried to hide any information and showed authorities invoices and distribution records.

The company immediately complied with the department's order, said Mary Hansen, Genki Sushi USA chief administrative officer. "We continue to work with the Department of Health to ensure we're in compliance so we can reopen our restaurants as soon as possible," she said. Genki

Sushi patrons select their sushi items by taking them off a conveyor belt that moves around tables and counters. Its Maui restaurant in Lahaina and another on the Big Island are not being ordered to close because state health authorities have not verified that shipments of the raw scallops were delivered there.

The state health department first announced the hepatitis A outbreak on July 1, but it struggled to identify the source because of the disease's long incubation period. It's been difficult for those infected to remember everything they ate and all the people they had contact with. Dr Sarah Park, the state's epidemiologist, said one key piece of information was that 70 percent of those infected had eaten at Genki Sushi, but only 22 to 23 percent of those who replied to a department survey had. She said health officials didn't get a response like that for any other restaurant, food chain or grocery store. Park said the department is concerned the scallops may have been served or distributed to places other than Genki Sushi because a small number of patients say they didn't eat at the chain.

Park said the distributor said it only provided the scallops to the Genki Sushi. Park said the health department has notified other US health agencies so doctors around the country can consider travel history to Hawaii if their patients report hepatitis A symptoms. Attorneys for an Oahu resident, Brant Mauk, on Tuesday filed a lawsuit against Genki Sushi and Koha Oriental Foods alleging negligence and seeking damages. Hansen said Genki Sushi hadn't seen the lawsuit and didn't have any comment. A voice-mail message left for Koha Oriental Foods wasn't immediately returned.

## MORE EVIDENCE TRAMPOLINE PARKS ARE DANGEROUS PLACES FOR KIDS

**NEW YORK:** Trampoline parks may be a lot of fun for kids, but a new study of injuries from one hospital in Australia adds to growing evidence suggesting these facilities can also be dangerous for children. The hospital is located just about three and a half miles from an indoor trampoline park that opened in July 2014. In the first six months after the park opened, the hospital treated 40 children under age 17 for trampoline injuries sustained at this facility. Most children had soft tissue injuries, though about one-third had fractures, researchers report in the journal Injury Prevention.

Failed landings were usually the culprit, said lead study author Christopher Mulligan of Sydney Children's Hospital and the University of New South Wales' Neuroscience Research. "When children were injured bouncing alone on a trampoline, this was most often due to failed landings after summersaults or tricks,

though there were also a few cases of kids landing outside the trampoline areas, such as on the surrounding padding mats," Mulligan said by email. "When more than one person jumps on a small trampoline at the same time, they increase the risk of direct collision," Mulligan added. "With the increased weight and energy of another person, the smaller sized jumper can also be projected higher and further than expected, which increases the risk of a failed landing."

The study is small, and it's possible only the more seriously injured children from the trampoline park landed in the hospital, the authors note. This might exaggerate the proportion of fractures and serious accidents. But the findings come on the heels of a US study this month documenting a surge in injuries that has mirrored the growing popularity of trampoline parks. —Reuters

# NUCLEAR PLANT DELAY MAY SHIFT UK ENERGY POLICY

'AN IMPORTANT DECISION THAT WE HAVE TO GET RIGHT'

**LONDON:** Britain's decision to stall a Franco-Chinese project to build its first nuclear power plant in a generation has fuelled speculation that the new government is reviewing its energy strategy to boost the role of renewables. Prime Minister Theresa May has given no clear reason for delaying final approval of the Hinkley Point plant, with her spokesman saying only that it was "an extremely important decision that we have to get right". Critics cite the enormous cost of the £18-billion (21-billion-euro, \$23 billion) project as well as security concerns about the involvement of China's major energy group CGN.

They also question whether France's EDF energy giant can deliver on the latest EPR reactors which have been plagued by delays and cost overruns at projects in France and Finland. Others have asked if a new nuclear plant is the best way to address Britain's energy needs during a time of advances in renewables, particularly wind power, a promising source of energy on an island nation. Peter Williamson, professor of international management at the University of Cambridge, said the reasons for the delay were "multiple and complicated".

"Not only the questions some people have raised about security but also the question of the economics and the high guaranteed price for the electricity," he told AFP. EDF would be guaranteed £92.50 per megawatt hour produced by Hinkley Point over 35 years, but that is looking increasingly generous as energy prices fall. There was also "the question of whether we should opt for a few large nuclear plants or consider new 'mini-nuclear' technologies or other energy alternatives", Williamson said.

### Climate change targets

The Hinkley Point plant in Somerset, south-west England, is projected to provide seven percent of Britain's electricity needs, filling a gap in capacity while also helping the country meet its climate change targets. The British government has set itself an ambitious goal of cutting carbon emissions by 57 percent on 1990 levels by 2030. "The challenge is to deal with the phasing out of coal plants and the decommissioning of old nuclear power stations," said Olivia Gippner, researcher in renewable energy at the London School of Economics. "I would see this point in time as an opportunity to invest much more heavily in energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy."

In 2015, about 30 percent of Britain's electricity came from burning natural gas, and another 30 percent from coal. A further 19



**UNITED KINGDOM : (FILES)** An undated handout image released by EDF Energy in London, shows a computer generated image (CGI) of the French energy producer's proposed two nuclear reactors, Hinkley Point C (HPC), at their Hinkley Point power plant in south-west England. —AFP photos



**UNITED KINGDOM:** People walking on the beach as the wind turbines stretch out into the sea in Redcar, north east England.

percent came from nuclear reactors and 19 percent from renewables such as hydroelectricity, solar and biomass. But of the eight existing nuclear power stations, only one will still be operational after 2030, while the most polluting coal-fired power plants are due to be closed. The National Grid, Britain's main transmission company, was obliged to take out contracts with 10 power stations due to be closed to prevent the risk of blackouts this winter.

### Off-shore wind farms

Hinkley has been on the table for years and EDF was poised to

start construction after its board overcame management splits, union opposition and the loss of partner Areva to finally approve the scheme on July 28. But the new government in London, formed after May took over in the wake of the Brexit vote, said it would be taking another look and make a decision in the autumn. Experts have now called for the development of less polluting gas-power stations, and for investment in electricity storage that would make wind power more viable.

On Tuesday, the government approved plans by Denmark's Dong Energy to expand a wind

farm in the North Sea that, if constructed, would produce almost as much electricity as the two reactors at Hinkley Point. The company agreed in February to construct Hornsea Project One, which would have a capacity of 1.2 gigawatts by 2020. It has now received planning permission for Hornsea Project Two, which promises up to 1.8 gigawatts. "The UK's offshore wind industry has grown at an extraordinary rate over the last few years, and is a fundamental part of our plans to build a clean, affordable, secure energy system," said energy minister Greg Clark. —AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



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# IES CELEBRATES INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Indian Educational School (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan), Kuwait celebrated the 70th Independence Day of India in the most befitting way on August 15, 2016 on the school premises. Under the aegis of the Department of Physical Education, the celebration was the first of its kind among the fraternity of Indian Schools in Kuwait. The event unfurled with the hoisting of the pride of India, the tricolor, Tiranga by the Principal, T Premkumar amidst thunderous applause followed by an enthusiastic Jai Hind delivered by the students and the staff members. Attired in tricolor, a group of vibrant teachers sang the Indian national anthem.

Reading excerpts from the message delivered by the President of India, the Principal extolled the school's maiden attempt to celebrate such an eventful day in its historical saga of excellence. He also urged the student community to pay homage to the thirty-five thousand soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the other Indians to live in peace and pros-

perity. He further enlightened the spectators on the history of the Indian flag and underscored the contribution of its designer, Sri Pingali Venkayya Garu, a true Gandhian who lived in poverty his entire life and breathed his last in a hut in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. Principal, T Premkumar also congratulated the ace swimmer, Aaron Mathew Sherry of Grade X, who took part in a swimming competition held in Germany and won a gold medal and 2 silver medals and made his alma mater extremely proud of his incredible achievement. The Principal also wished him all success in the forthcoming CBSE national swimming meet.

Meenakshi Nayyar, the HoD of Social Science, delivered the Independence Day speech. She urged the student community to uphold the thought of the day, 'Ask not what the country has done for you, ask what you have done for the country'. She implored the students to uphold the fundamental rights and enjoy the freedom gained for us but to give back to the fantabulous country the

best they can as the citizens of tomorrow. The patriotic songs rendered by the teachers' choir sensitized the patriotic zeal in the students and the teachers. The IES environs reverberated with the delightful and nostalgic tunes of Vande Mataram, Sare Jahaan Se Acha Hindustan Hamara, Hum Honge Kaamyaab and so on and so forth.

Inspired by the relevance of the day, as part of the initiative taken by the CBSE, the students of IES would prepare greeting cards for the daring soldiers of the country, who are always on alert and vigilance to safeguard our motherland. Chairman of Bhavans Middle East, NK Ramachandran Menon said that the school would take the initiative to send it across the soldiers, as a mark of respect and great affection, for safeguarding the lives of crores of Indians. The program which lasted for nearly an hour left indelible imprints in the minds of the students and the teachers. Savoring the sweets and exchanging warm greetings, the program was solemnly wound up.



## KERALA CULTURAL ACTIVIST RELEASES SHORT STORY COLLECTION

A collection of short stories known as "Ormacheppilaye Chirikuttukal" written in Malayalam by Santhosh Nooranad in Kuwait was released by Sam Pynumoodu well known cultural activist and writer handing over the first copy to poet Ragiya Menon. Famous dramatist Sunil Cheriyan introduced the book to the audience. Shantanu Chettikad presided over

the function. Poet Jyothi Das, Manoj Mavelikara, Raju Venmony, Binoy Chandran, Rajeev Naduvilemury, Sajeew M George, Ajaykumar, Abdul Salam, Biju Antony made felicitation speeches. The function was conducted at Folk Hall Abassiya. Hari Kulangara welcomed the audience. Saikatham Books, Kerala are the publishers of the book.







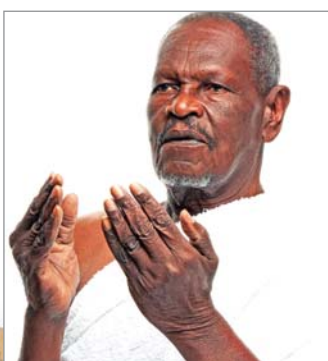
## HOME CENTRE BRINGS COLOR AND CHARACTER TO KIDS' ROOMS



With a new academic year around the corner, children are gearing up to return to school. Home Centre's kids' collection has been designed to keep kids inspired and refreshed through the year. This collection features bright and colorful accessories, fancy furniture and storage compartments showcasing adventurous and playful themes such as pirates, fairy-tales, football and more. It also includes a variety of playful lunch boxes, fun cutlery and creative stationary that are sure to motivate children to look forward to school. The vibrant kids' collection is available across all Home Centre outlets located at Al Rai, Shuwaikh, The Avenues, Kuwait City, Fahaheel and Sama Mall.



The Direct Aid Society launched its hajj and sacrificial campaign for the year 1437 AH - 2016 AD, within its annual campaigns. The society allocated KD 827,000 for the sacrificial project as the number is 34,000 heads for nearly 1.20 million people including the poor, widows and those with special needs in 31 African countries.



## BASHAR AL KADHI NAMED CEO OF HILL+KNOWLTON STRATEGIES MENA

Hill+Knowlton Strategies has named Bashar AlKadhi as the new Chief Executive Officer MENA, overseeing H+K's business across the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey. He will assume the position in September. AlKadhi joins from the role of COO at H+K's fellow WPP company ASDA/Burson-Masteller, a position he has filled since 2010. Prior to that he held several senior PR posts across the Middle East, serving as Senior Vice President and group controller at the i2 Group, director of public affairs at The Coca-Cola Company and a founding member of Intermarkets PR. AlKadhi will also join H+K's EMEA management team and serve as Senior Vice President, EMEA.

"I am very pleased to have Bashar AlKadhi onboard; he comes very highly recommended from clients, colleagues and senior executives alike. Bashar brings with him a number of qualities to our company, including a dynamic and entrepreneurial spirit and a keen intellect. But first and foremost he is a client man and I look forward to having him engage with our existing and new clients in the region," said Lars Erik Gronntun, Chairman and CEO H+K EMEA.

"I am truly excited to take on this new challenge. Hill+Knowlton Strategies was the first international PR company to establish in the Middle East and has a long history in the region. Now it is my turn to be the steward of this legacy and take the company into the next phase. I look forward to getting to know the people and the clients and build on all the great things I know H+K stands for," said AlKadhi.

Sconaid McGeachin, current CEO, will transition in to the role of Senior Vice President, EMEA where she will have a special responsibility for talent and professional development in the EMEA region. She will also oversee H+K's African operations, in addition to her considerable client engagements. "I want to thank Sconaid for her dedicated service. Sconaid has, since assuming the CEO position in 2012, worked tirelessly for the company and the region. I am very pleased to have Sconaid continue in my management team with an expanded remit and look forward to working even closer with her going forward," said Gronntun.



## DSP HOSTS SIXTH ANNIVERSARY



The sixth anniversary function of "Deiva Sekkizhar Peravai" a literary forum, was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm by its members and guests on Monday ie, August 15th 2016, at block 4, Mangaf, Kuwait. The function was inaugurated with the lighting of traditional lamp by OAnuradha Madhavan and devotional rendering of Devaram by Dr Chidambaram Ambalavanan, Engineer Chiniia Thambi Mohan and Murugayyan Jagannadham. Mrs. Mohana Kavjsae Sekhar, Mrs Selvi Pandi rendered "Tamil Thai Vazhthu", while Tamil poets of Kuwait Madhivanan, Santhakumar, Kavisaie Sckhar, Pazhamalai Krishnamoorthy, Mohd. Ibrahim presented poems on India's 70th Independence Day.

An audio CD on shri shirdi Sai Baba written by Kavisaie Sekhar has been released by the members of the forum which was sung by Ms Swath Shaker, a classical vocalist and upcoming playback singer from India, has been a special invitee to the event. The singer has been awarded the title 'SAI SRISHTI' by DSP Forum. A Book titled "Kadhal Kadhalai", poetry on global love written by the founder of the forum Kavisaie Sekhar has also been released on this special occasion. The function was concluded with a vote of the thanks by Engineer Madhavan, joint Secretary of the forum followed by a delicious dinner served by Vasantham Restaurant, Mangaf.





BBC  
FIRST

03:20 Mad Dogs  
04:05 Doctors  
04:35 Eastenders  
05:00 The Musketeers  
05:00 Eastenders  
06:30 Holly City  
07:30 Death In Paradise  
08:25 Call The Midwife  
09:25 The Musketeers  
10:20 Doctors  
10:55 Eastenders  
11:25 Death In Paradise  
12:20 Call The Midwife  
13:15 The Musketeers  
14:10 Doctors  
14:45 Eastenders  
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 Death In Paradise  
21:00 I Want My Wife Back  
21:30 Rev.  
22:00 Stag  
22:55 Hebburn  
23:25 Hebburn  
00:00 Doctors  
00:30 Eastenders  
01:05 Death In Paradise  
02:00 I Want My Wife Back  
02:30 Rev.

COMEDY  
CENTRAL

03:00 Nathan For You  
03:25 Nathan For You  
03:50 Impractical Jokers  
04:15 Impractical Jokers  
04:40 Ridiculousness  
05:05 Ridiculousness  
05:30 Tosh.0  
05:55 Tosh.0  
06:20 Tattoo Disasters  
06:50 Tattoo Disasters  
07:15 Hungry Investors  
08:05 Ridiculousness  
08:30 Ridiculousness  
08:55 Nathan For You  
09:20 Nathan For You  
09:45 Impractical Jokers  
10:10 Impractical Jokers  
10:35 Key And Peele  
11:00 Workaholics  
11:25 Lip Sync Battle  
11:50 Lip Sync Battle  
12:15 Nathan For You  
12:40 Nathan For You  
13:05 Impractical Jokers  
13:30 Impractical Jokers  
13:55 Ridiculousness  
14:20 Ridiculousness  
14:45 Tattoo Disasters  
15:10 Tattoo Disasters  
15:35 Lip Sync Battle  
16:00 Lip Sync Battle  
16:30 Nathan For You  
16:55 Nathan For You  
17:25 Workaholics  
17:50 Impractical Jokers  
18:15 Impractical Jokers  
18:39 Key And Peele

18:30 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown  
19:20 Running Wild With Bear Grylls  
20:10 Storage Hunters UK  
20:35 Dallas Car Sharks  
21:00 Dark Woods Justice  
21:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown  
22:40 Mega Shippers  
23:30 Fast N' Loud  
00:20 Kindig Customs  
01:10 Dark Woods Justice  
02:00 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown  
02:50 Mega Shippers

DISCOVERY  
SCIENCE

03:00 Mega Engineering  
03:48 Smash Lab  
04:36 Secret Space Escapes  
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 Engineering  
09:50 How Do They Do It?  
10:14 Food Factory  
10:38 Secret Space Escapes  
11:26 Smash Lab  
12:14 How The Universe Works  
12:42 How Do They Do It?  
13:26 Food Factory  
13:50 Mega Engineering  
14:38 Secret Space Escapes  
15:26 Smash Lab  
16:14 How The Universe Works  
17:02 Mega Engineering  
17:50 Smash Lab  
18:40 How The Universe Works  
19:30 Battle Factory  
19:55 Battle Factory  
20:20 How Do They Do It?  
20:45 Food Factory  
21:10 Industrial Junkie  
21:35 Industrial Junkie  
22:00 Battle Factory  
22:25 Battle Factory  
22:50 How The Universe Works  
23:40 Smash Lab  
00:30 How Do They Do It?  
00:55 Food Factory  
01:20 Battle Factory  
01:45 Battle Factory  
02:10 How The Universe Works

DISNEY  
JUNIOR

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  
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse

Disney  
JUNIOR

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:20 Calimero  
03:35 Zou  
03:45 Loopydoo  
04:00 Art Attack  
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:50 Calimero  
05:00 Loopydoo  
05:15 Art Attack  
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:50 Calimero  
06:00 Zou  
06:20 Loopydoo  
06:35 Art Attack  
07:00 The Hive  
07:10 Zou  
07:25 Loopydoo  
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 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 Loopydoo  
00:05 Art Attack  
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:45 Calimero  
01:00 Zou  
01:15 Loopydoo  
01:30 Art Attack  
02:00 Calimero  
02:15 Zou

Disney  
XD

06:00 Boyster  
06:10 Super Matrak  
06:35 Super Matrak



## THIS IS 40 ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

Kardashians  
07:50 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
08:20 El News  
08:45 El News  
09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
09:45 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
10:40 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

20:30 Ace Of Cakes  
21:00 Andy Bates Brazilian Street Feasts  
21:30 Andy Bates Brazilian Street Feasts  
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
23:00 Iron Chef America

H2  
HD

03:40 Last Days Of The Nazis  
04:30 WWI: The First Modern War  
05:20 Ancient Aliens  
06:10 Ancient Discoveries  
07:00 Dogfights  
08:00 Ancient Discoveries  
09:00 The Universe  
10:00 World War II: Lost Films  
11:00 WWI: The First Modern War  
12:00 Ancient Aliens  
13:00 Dogfights  
14:00 Ancient Discoveries  
15:00 The Universe  
16:00 World War II: Lost Films  
17:00 WWI: The First Modern War  
18:00 Ancient Aliens  
19:00 Dogfights  
20:00 Ancient Discoveries  
21:00 The Universe  
22:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.  
23:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents  
00:00 Ancient Aliens  
01:00 Dogfights  
02:00 Ancient Discoveries

H  
HD  
HISTORY

03:40 Big Rig Bounty Hunters  
04:30 Pawn Stars  
05:00 Time Team  
06:00 Shipping Wars  
06:25 Shipping Wars  
06:50 Swamp People  
07:40 Mountain Men  
08:30 American Restoration  
08:55 Big Rig Bounty Hunters  
09:45 Ice Road Truckers  
10:35 Alone  
11:25 Time Team  
12:15 American Pickers  
13:05 Storage Wars  
13:30 Storage Wars  
13:55 Counting Cars: Best Of Car Hunters  
14:45 American Restoration  
15:10 American Restoration  
15:35 Shipping Wars  
16:00 Swamp People: Swamp Christmas  
16:50 Mountain Men  
17:40 Swamp People  
18:30 Time Team  
19:20 American Pickers  
20:10 Pawn Stars  
20:35 Pawn Stars  
21:00 Criss Angel: Mindfreak  
21:25 Barry'd Treasure  
21:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar  
22:40 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses  
23:30 Criss Angel: Mindfreak  
23:55 Barry'd Treasure  
00:20 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar  
01:10 Leupu And Pitbull

itv  
hd  
CHOICE

03:25 Vera  
05:15 Eggheads  
05:45 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway  
07:05 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
08:00 Vera  
09:50 Murdoch Mysteries  
10:45 Eggheads  
11:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
12:10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway  
13:25 Emmerdale  
14:00 Coronation Street  
14:20 Coronation Street  
14:45 Murdoch Mysteries  
15:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
16:30 Don't Tell The Bride

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC  
CHANNEL HD

03:50 Science Of Stupid  
04:15 Science Of Stupid  
04:45 Incredibly Small World  
05:40 Money Meltdown  
06:05 Money Meltdown  
06:35 Terraced Fields  
07:30 Explorer  
08:25 Salmon Wars  
09:20 Incredibly Small World  
10:15 Inside: Reinventing Taipei  
11:10 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey  
12:05 Life On Mars: The Amazing Rovers  
13:00 UFOs: The Untold Stories  
14:00 Brain Games  
14:30 Brain Games  
15:00 Hacking The System  
15:30 Hacking The System  
16:00 Machine Impossible  
17:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey  
18:00 Fly Me To The Stars: Japan's Space Challenge  
19:00 Science Of Stupid  
19:30 Science Of Stupid  
20:00 Machine Impossible  
20:50 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey  
21:40 Fly Me To The Stars: Japan's Space Challenge  
22:30 Science Of Stupid  
22:55 Science Of Stupid  
23:20 Money Meltdown  
23:45 Money Meltdown  
00:10 Machine Impossible  
01:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey

## 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  
13:00 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

OSN MOVIES HD  
COMEDY

04:00 Odeio O Dia Dos Namorados  
06:00 Father Of The Bride  
08:00 Father Of The Bride Part II  
10:00 Odeio O Dia Dos Namorados  
12:00 Spy Hard  
14:00 Indian Summer  
16:00 Father Of The Bride Part II  
18:00 Under The Tuscan Sun  
20:00 Out Cold  
22:00 This Is 40  
00:15 Dom Hemingway  
02:00 Under The Tuscan Sun

## OSN FIRST HD

03:00 The Simpsons  
03:30 Black-ish

04:00 Life In Pieces  
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
06:00 George Lopez  
06:30 The Bill Engvall Show  
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
08:00 Life In Pieces  
09:00 The Simpsons  
09:30 Young & Hungry  
10:30 The Bill Engvall Show  
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
12:00 George Lopez  
12:30 Life In Pieces  
13:30 The Bill Engvall Show  
14:00 Black-ish  
14:30 Young & Hungry  
15:30 Fresh Off The Boat  
16:00 Grandfathered  
16:30 George Lopez  
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
18:00 Two And A Half Men  
18:30 Two And A Half Men  
19:00 Angie Tribeca  
19:30 Angie Tribeca  
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
21:00 Fresh Off The Boat  
21:30 Grandfathered  
22:00 South Park  
22:30 South Park  
23:00 Family Guy  
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
00:30 Fresh Off The Boat  
01:00 Grandfathered  
01:30 South Park  
02:00 South Park  
02:30 Family Guy

OSN MOVIES  
ACTION

04:00 Ladder 49  
06:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
08:00 The Taking Of Pelham 123  
10:00 Jurassic Attack  
12:00 Ladder 49  
14:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
16:00 The Taking Of Pelham 123  
18:00 Into The Storm  
20:00 Non-Stop  
22:00 Zero Tolerance  
00:00 Predator 2  
02:00 7500

OSN MOVIES HD  
COMEDY

04:00 Odeio O Dia Dos Namorados  
06:00 Father Of The Bride  
08:00 Father Of The Bride Part II  
10:00 Odeio O Dia Dos Namorados  
12:00 Spy Hard  
14:00 Indian Summer  
16:00 Father Of The Bride Part II  
18:00 Under The Tuscan Sun  
20:00 Out Cold  
22:00 This Is 40  
00:15 Dom Hemingway  
02:00 Under The Tuscan Sun

OSN MOVIES HD  
FAMILY

03:15 The Adventurer: The Curse Of The Midas Box  
05:15 Atlantis: The Lost Empire  
07:15 Inspector Gadget  
09:00 Night At The Museum: Battle Of The Smithsonian  
11:00 Bolt  
13:00 Herbie Fully Loaded  
15:00 Mars Needs Moms  
17:00 Night At The Museum: Secret Of The Tomb  
19:00 Turner & Hooch  
21:00 Big Fat Liar  
23:00 Mars Needs Moms  
01:00 Turner & Hooch

## OSN MOVIES HD

03:00 Bears  
05:00 The Best Of Me  
07:00 The Cobbler  
09:00 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes  
11:15 Life Of A King  
13:15 Le Weekend  
15:15 Into The Woods  
17:30 The Love Punch  
19:30 Kingsman: The Secret Service  
22:00 Ted 2  
00:00 Dope  
01:45 Sniper: Legacy



## PREDATOR 2 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

19:03 Workaholics  
19:27 TUT  
20:13 TUT  
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
21:30 Matt Braunger: Shovel  
21:55 Fighter  
22:18 Inside Amy Schumer  
22:42 South Park  
23:05 Underground With Dave Attell  
23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
00:00 TUT  
00:50 TUT  
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
02:05 Anthony Jeselnik: Caligula

Discovery  
CHANNEL  
HD

03:15 Wheels That Fail  
03:40 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition  
04:05 Storage Hunters UK  
04:30 Dallas Car Sharks  
05:00 How Stuff's Made  
05:30 How Do They Do It?  
06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
06:50 Kindig Customs  
07:40 Fast N' Loud  
08:30 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition  
08:55 Storage Hunters UK  
09:20 Dallas Car Sharks  
09:45 How Stuff's Made  
10:10 How Do They Do It?  
10:35 Mythbusters  
11:25 World's Top 5  
12:15 Incredible Engineering  
Blunders: Fixed  
13:05 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition  
13:30 Storage Hunters UK  
13:55 Dallas Car Sharks  
14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
15:10 Kindig Customs  
16:00 Fast N' Loud  
16:50 How Stuff's Made  
17:15 How Do They Do It?  
17:40 Dark Woods Justice

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  
09:25 Hannah Montana  
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 Bunk'd  
18:40 Mako Mermaids  
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  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Hank Zipzer  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Violetta

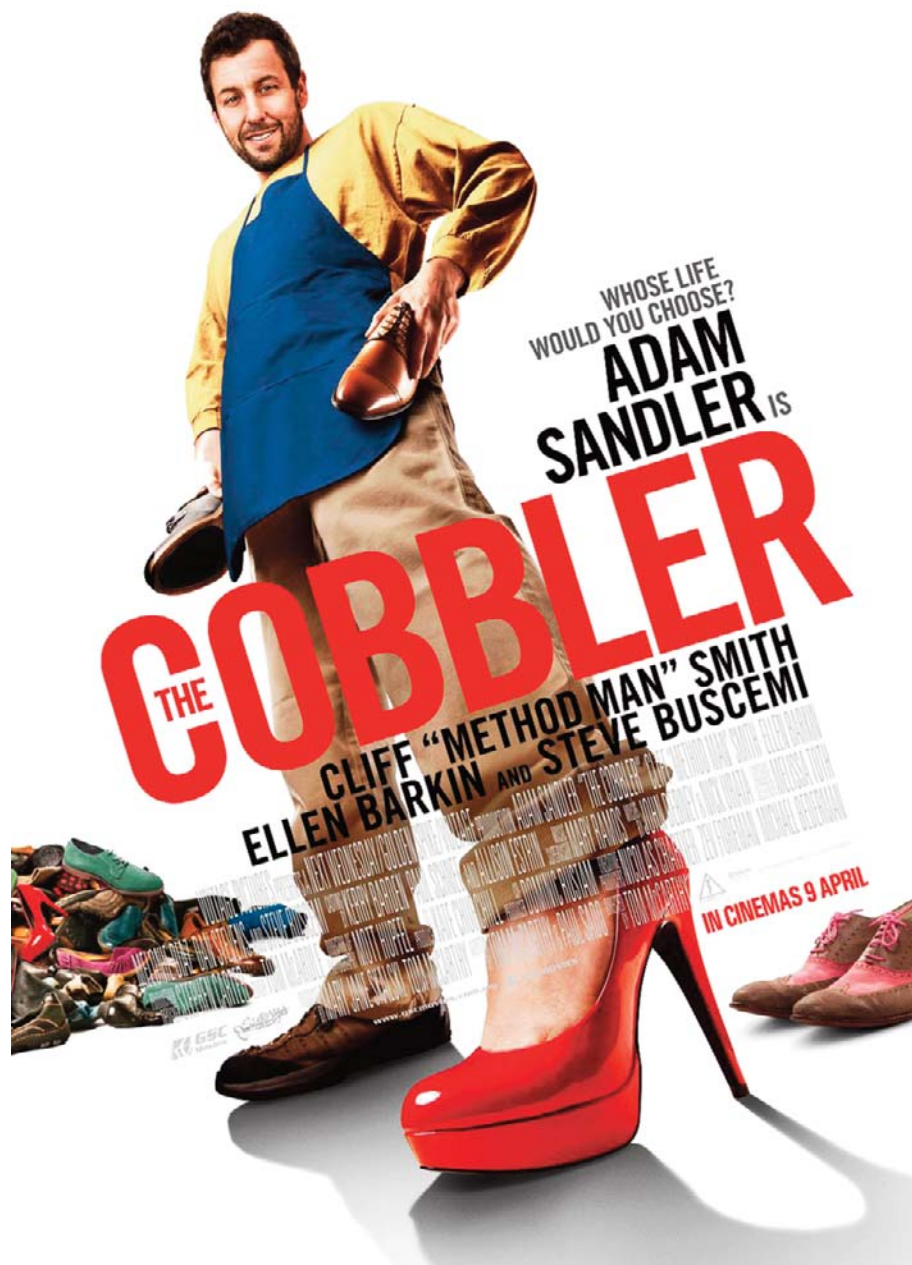
07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova  
07:25 K.C. Undercover  
07:50 Supa Strikas  
08:15 Phineas And Ferb  
08:40 Camp Lakebottom  
09:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
09:10 Gravity Falls  
09:35 Lab Rats  
10:00 Rocket Monkeys  
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man  
10:50 Boyster  
11:20 Boyster  
11:45 Pair Of Kings  
12:10 Pair Of Kings  
12:35 Lab Rats  
13:00 Lab Rats  
13:30 Phineas And Ferb  
13:55 Phineas And Ferb  
14:20 Kickin' It  
14:45 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 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...  
18:40 K.C. Undercover  
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
19:10 Gravity Falls  
19:35 Pickle And Peanut  
20:00 Lab Rats  
20:25 Supa Strikas  
20:55 K.C. Undercover  
21:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...  
21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble  
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

## EHD

03:15 WAGs  
04:10 WAGs  
05:05 WAGs  
06:00 Fashion Bloggers  
06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
06:50 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
07:20 Keeping Up With The

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 The Pioneer Woman  
10:30 The Pioneer Woman  
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 The Pioneer Woman  
17:30 The Pioneer Woman  
18:00 Chopped  
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
20:00 Ace Of Cakes



## THE COBBLER ON OSN MOVIES HD



# CLASSIFIEDS



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## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (18/08/2016 TO 24/08/2016)

<b>SHARQIA-1</b> THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE BFG SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 6:30 PM 9:00 PM 11:45 PM	<b>JAHEEM FI ILHIND</b>  <b>FANAR-2</b> WAR DOGS WAR DOGS SKIPTRACE WAR DOGS WAR DOGS SKIPTRACE	12:05 AM  12:15 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	<b>NOTUE</b> Special Show*THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS* THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE	4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b> THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D JAHEEM FI ILHIND PMTHE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND	1:00 PM 3:15 5:30 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM	<b>FANAR-3</b> RABID DOGS SUICIDE SQUAD RABID DOGS MOHENJO DARO - Hindi THE BFG SUICIDE SQUAD	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:45 PM	<b>AVENUES-1</b> LIFE ON THE LINE LIFE ON THE LINE LIFE ON THE LINE LIFE ON THE LINE LIFE ON THE LINE LIFE ON THE LINE	1:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b> SKIPTRACE THE LEGEND OF TARZAN SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM	<b>FANAR-4</b> THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE BFG RABID DOGS	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 1:00 AM	<b>AVENUES-2</b> THE BFG -3D-4DX THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX THE BFG -3D-4DX THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX THE BFG -3D-4DX SUICIDE SQUAD -3D-4DX	12:15 PM 2:45 PM 5:15 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b> THE BFG MOHENJO DARO - Hindi THE LEGEND OF TARZAN SUICIDE SQUAD THE BFG SUICIDE SQUAD	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	<b>FANAR-5</b> LIFE ON THE LINE LIFE ON THE LINE THE LEGEND OF TARZAN RABID DOGS LIFE ON THE LINE RABID DOGS LIFE ON THE LINE	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 6:30 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM	<b>AVENUES-3</b> SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b> SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE THE BFG JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND	12:45 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM	<b>MARINA-1</b> SUICIDE SQUAD THE BFG THE LEGEND OF TARZAN THE BFG SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD	12:15 PM 2:45 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM	<b>360°1</b> THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D THE BFG RIOT	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 1:00 AM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b> THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM	<b>MARINA-2</b> SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND SKIPTRACE JAHEEM FI ILHIND	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 6:30 PM 8:45 PM 11:15 PM	<b>360°2</b> SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD THE CONJURING 2	1:00 PM 3:30 PM 6:00 PM 8:30 PM 11:00 PM
<b>FANAR-1</b> SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE MIN 3D SANA JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM	<b>MARINA-3</b> THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	11:45 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM	<b>360°3</b> LIFE ON THE LINE LIFE ON THE LINE LIFE ON THE LINE LIFE ON THE LINE LIFE ON THE LINE LIFE ON THE LINE LIFE ON THE LINE	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM

### ACCOMMODATION

For Filipino ONLY near Gulfmart Block 1 Farwaniya, street 72. Available on August 25, Contact 94418396 or 94033908

One spacious room available in a 2 bedroom flat, from end of August for a Working Lady, Couple or an Executive Bachelor with a single lady lives in the other room. Location: Behind the petrol pump on the 4th Ring Road, close to the small Jamya. Accessible to Bus No. 999, 66, 88, 77 & 15. Interested please call on 9952 1635  
**18-8-2016**

### SITUATION WANTED

Indonesian oil field expert with 22 years experience seeks a job in Kuwait (currently in Indonesia) email: [mmsembodo@yahoo.com](mailto:mmsembodo@yahoo.com) / WhatsApp +62811192337. (C 5203)  
**17-8-2016**

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Husain, holder of Indian Passport No. H2427557, resident of Laxman Ganj Bazar Dargah Galiakot, Rajasthan, India. Have changed my name from Husain to Husain Zoyab Ali Mitha. In future, I will be known as Husain Zoyab Ali Mitha. (C 5202) 15-8-2016

### EMERGENCY



112

### REQUIRED

## Competent Executive Secretary

- University graduate
- Good communication skills with Excellent command of English Language
- Good knowledge in Microsoft office
- Minimum 10 years experience
- Strong analytical and presentation skills
- Transferable Residency in Kuwait

Please email C.V. (Maximum 2 Pages) to the following address:  
**[executive.sec2016@gmail.com](mailto:executive.sec2016@gmail.com)**

### REQUIRED

A German company in Kuwait is looking for a suitable candidate for a vacant position in Tendering Dept.  
We need an **expert tendering staff** who can work on Electrical and I&C Inquiries from our clients (Oil & Gas).  
The candidate must have (18 No.) transferable AQAMA.

Please send your CV on below email address:  
**[villalan.kaliya@bilfinger.com](mailto:villalan.kaliya@bilfinger.com)**

### PRAYER TIMINGS

<b>Fajr:</b>	<b>03:53</b>
<b>Shorook</b>	<b>05:18</b>
<b>Duhr:</b>	<b>11:52</b>
<b>Asr:</b>	<b>15:27</b>
<b>Maghrib:</b>	<b>18:26</b>
<b>Isha:</b>	<b>19:48</b>



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

### DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 18/8/2016				Departure Flights on Thursday 18/8/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	JZR	FEG	786	Riyadh
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	UAE	872	Istanbul	14:10
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	PAL	669	Dubai	14:15
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	AXB	394	Manila	14:45
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KNE	382	Kozhikode	14:45
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	773	Taif	14:55
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	KAC	673	Riyadh	15:00
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	GFA	222	Dubai	15:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:05	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:15	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	SVB	102	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	02:25	BON	146	Sarajevo	16:05
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:25	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
RBG	551	Alexandria	04:05	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	SVB	511	Riyadh	18:15
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	FDB	8054	Dubai	18:40
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	KAC	563	Amman	19:00
KAC	8511	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	THY	1283	TZX	19:05
QTR	8112	Doha	06:40	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
BAW	157	London	06:40	JZR	238	Amman	19:15
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
IRA	673	Ahwaz	07:15	KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	JAV	622	Amman	19:45
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
SVB	512	Riyadh	07:50	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	ABY	122	Sharjah	20:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:20	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:30
RJA	648	Amman	09:30	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:45
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
SYR	341	Damascus	10:05	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	THY	1401	ADB	22:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
FDK	801	Damascus	12:15	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	ETD	310	Bahrain	23:00
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	GFA	220	Abu Dhabi	23:05
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	ETD	312	Cairo	23:10
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	NIA	152	Doha	23:20
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	MSC	502	Alexandria	23:30



CROSSWORD 1346

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ACROSS

1. United States architect (born in China in 1917).
4. The Uto-Aztec language spoken by the Aztec people.
11. A native or inhabitant of Finland.
15. A transuranic element that has not been found in nature.
16. An inland sea in northwestern Turkey.
17. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
18. Weight to be borne or conveyed.
20. A formal association of people with similar interests.
21. Excessively fat.
22. A hairdo formed by braiding or twisting the hair.
24. French romantic writer (1766-1817).
26. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
27. Infestation of the pubic hair by crab lice.
29. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
31. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
33. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
34. Fairly small terrestrial ferns of tropical America.
38. Any of various spiny trees or shrubs of the genus *Acacia*.
42. Any of various long-tailed rodents similar to but larger than a mouse.
43. United States sculptor and architect whose public works include the memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War in Washington (born in 1959).
44. Not only so, but.
45. The fourth month of the Hindu calendar.
47. Of the appetites and passions of the body.
51. Disposed to please.
53. (Mexican) Corn and cornmeal dough stuffed with a meat mixture then wrapped in corn husks and steamed.
55. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
56. Feline mammal usually having thick soft fur and being unable to roar.
58. A unit of pressure.
59. An informal term for a father.
62. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
64. A small cake leavened with yeast.
67. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
69. Traveling on horseback.
73. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
77. A federation of North American labor unions that merged with the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1955.
78. A bachelor's degree in theology.
79. A wooden peg that is used to fasten timbers in shipbuilding.
80. A sharp hand gesture (resembling a blow).
81. Grass mowed and cured for use as fodder.
82. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
83. An edge tool with a heavy bladed head mounted across a handle.

DOWN

1. Any soft or soggy mass.
2. An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.
3. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
4. Before noon.
5. An angular shape characterized by sharp turns in alternating directions.
6. (medical) A bandage consisting of a pad and belt.
7. Expel, as of gases and odors.
8. A region of southern Italy (forming the toe of the Italian 'boot').
9. Type genus of the Ardeidae.
10. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
11. Of or relating to Fabianism.
12. A distinct part that can be specified separately in a group of things that could be enumerated on a list.
13. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
14. A recurring sleep state during which rapid eye movements do not occur and dreaming does not occur.
19. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
23. A sock with a separation for the big toe.
25. A digital display that uses liquid crystal cells that change reflectivity in an applied electric field.
28. The cry made by sheep.
30. A town in northern France on the Strait of Dover that serves as a ferry port to England.
32. Pertaining to one of the small sacs (as in a compound gland).
35. A peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.
36. One of two flaps attached to a cap to keep the ears warm.
37. (Greek mythology) Goddess of wisdom and useful arts and prudent warfare.
39. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
40. Liquid excretory product.
41. The Muskogean language of the Choctaw people.
46. The Greek lyric poet of Lesbos.
48. Informal terms for a mother.
49. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
50. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
52. A woman sahib.
54. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
57. Someone given to teasing (as by mocking or stirring curiosity).
60. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
61. Not contained in or deriving from the essential nature of something.
63. A Hindu disciple of a swami.
65. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
66. Being or befitting or characteristic of an infant.
68. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
70. A Hindu prince or king in India.
71. The second largest city in Tunisia.
72. A river in central Europe that arises in northwestern Czechoslovakia and flows northward through Germany to empty into the North Sea.
74. A nucleotide derived from adenosine that occurs in muscle tissue.
75. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
76. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.

Yesterday's Solution

F	S	B		C	A	T	A	C	A	L	A		A	S	K	
L	I	R		A	L	A	B	A	M	A	N		G	C	A	
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A	G	A			H	U	A	R	A	C	H	E		E	M	U

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may be especially dynamic and assertive just now and you may want to insert caution if you are rushing through your work. There is a lot of energy and drive available for accomplishing what you set out to do, one-step-at-a-time. This is a good time to move forward in your career decisions. You will be able to see both sides of an issue and figure out resolutions to opposing views. This is a real time to buckle down and strengthen your career. It is easy for you to organize and make a beautiful presentation. This afternoon you may enjoy escaping from the busy world of work and people by enjoying one of your hobbies. Some of you may enjoy a sewing, weaving or art class. Later, you can join your family for a dinner away from home.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a time when life circumstances seem to catch you by surprise but you are smiling. There are opportunities to complete and work out difficulties and projects that have, until now, required both long-term effort and a high degree of discipline. Things have a way of working out smoothly. You come up with new solutions to some old problems. Breakthroughs in your career could also open up now. Improved solutions and insights create opportunities that you will not want to overlook. Family issues find easy solutions this evening, particularly with regard to subjects of budget. When young people make a researched presentation to plea for more allowance, they learn about business. You will be impressed by their industriousness.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You could find yourself communicating techniques and methods to others today. You have a natural ability to see what is needed and you respond in a professional manner. You are in the mood to accomplish quite a lot-very little will sway you from your goals. Seeing both sides of an issue and figuring out resolutions to opposing views are important assets in the office and in the home, particularly with young minds that seem totally motivated by their feelings. This afternoon you may try to clear away the cobwebs from these young minds. You may also help guide young people to see the difference between reality and fiction. There are new opportunities to either teach or take a class with a loved one in some creative learning.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You have a natural sense for communicating with others, especially those younger than you. Clear thoughts about the past may also be flowing in today. There is a growing self-confidence. In summary, from this time forward, expect a more confident, outgoing attitude. A growing sense of direction and self-worth will find you reaching out and establishing yourself. Close personal ties to other people are an important area you navigate. This may mean that you have company visiting throughout this week and you look for different ideas on entertainment, food, etc. There is a greater than usual interest in relationships, social connections and the arts. Keep your balance; agree to a reasonable request by a family member-patience.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You communicate with skill and it is stimulating just being with you. Your self-reliance is impressive and the cooperation you exhibit today will gain you rewards. Your ambitions go hand-in-hand with communication and using the mind. You may have difficulty in sitting still for any amount of time . . . You are primed and ready to do your share of the work. Your dreams and ideals are very important to you and you methodically go about putting them into practice. It surprises you when you receive recognition for your creativity. This evening the spotlight falls on social activity, entertainment and a surprise event. You will want plenty of pictures so don't forget your camera. Enjoy the celebration.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You appear quite charming today. Now is the perfect time to set dates, apply for a job or otherwise make yourself known. You are insightful-never shy about working with the most sensitive and vulnerable areas of the human psyche. You love new and different ways of self-discovery and transformation. You may now be considering a different type of company to work for or you realize that this is the perfect time to apply for a change within your own company. Marriage, celebrations or a reunion is in the forecast for the near future. You strive for harmony and beauty now and may decide that this is the time to consider plans for redecorating your home or planting new shrubbery or trees around your home. You want more wildlife.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a good day to use your active imagination and creativity when it comes to leading others. You show off your ability to put your thoughts into words and captivate any listener. Gathering and exchanging information is important in developing your strategies. This is a mentally active day. A tremendous sense for taking care of business is upon you. This amounts to a passion and benefits you in all business situations. This evening you may find yourself in a group meeting, facing the concerns of homeowners or renters in the same area in which you live. Finding ways to help through land or housing improvements may be topics to consider. The weather may be nice enough to enjoy open windows this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Today morning may consist of reorganizing, making phone calls, contacts and appointments. This may prove to be a fairly productive day. You can appreciate the difficulties of others and be understanding of the problems they may be having. You value a certain amount of self-sacrifice. You can discriminate between superficiality and the reality beneath it. A new cycle begins for you, signaling a greater than usual interest in relationships; social connections and the arts will be on a more intellectual level than in the past, most likely. If an unusual opportunity presents itself, consider it very carefully; it just may be the experience for which you have been waiting. This opportunity will probably be in expressing your talent.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Expect a sense of support and goodwill from those around you. If it is your turn to make the presentation in some office meeting today, your co-workers friends will support you. Your family members know about your hard work and send you positive thoughts. Whatever your endeavors, you will have positive support. You will enjoy and value your own life situation today. A fun time with a friend at the noon break keeps your energy and confidence level high. This afternoon you enjoy working hard and being organized. You exercise your skill and discipline in anything that affects your career and reputation. There are breakthrough flashes of insight with tremendous originality and independence, which are typical now.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

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 principles and techniques to others. Some of the planetary energies present now suggest that you are comfortable with established values. You know and understand more than you let on today-changes in the workplace will not surprise you. There are big changes throughout your life in matters of organization and responsibility. Make it a point to be thorough, to finish things and take care of all the loose ends that keep popping up. Close relationships take on more emotional depth. Romance is in the air tonight.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is a tendency to be very strict with yourself when it comes to responsibilities and carrying out instructions-others could learn from your actions. Your ambition is intensified. You appreciate people who have been successful and may surround yourself with those in power whenever the opportunity presents itself. Your sense of quality and discrimination may amount to some sort of livelihood for you. You understand about choices and can spot the right ones. Seeing both sides of an issue becomes very important to you. You may get into some touchy conversations today but you will be able to come up with the appropriate words. Family, possibly brothers or sisters, will help you create a lovely surprise for a family friend tonight.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This could be an action-filled day when time seems to slow down as you encounter some of your more sensitive areas. This kind of intensity and vulnerability points to inner change and growth. Ideas for writing, perhaps a little work toward a book, short story or poetry, appeal to you this afternoon. There could be research into religious or very idealistic subjects now. You are very sensitive, even vulnerable when it comes to expressing yourself. Periods of intense creativity enable you to go through changes and inner growth. This creative intensity could be in your expression for music. When your mind is not disciplined, you know the problems that seem to accumulate. Relationships are important to you and you seek and find most positive people.

WORD SEARCH

Cooking 1 - Word Search  
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

N	B	K	X	R	I	T	S	Y	R	G	W	O	A	G	S	D
D	R	K	F	K	V	R	E	C	G	H	C	A	O	P	L	F
P	O	V	C	D	E	F	E	S	I	A	R	B	N	D	H	N
L	W	N	E	M	N	E	R	T	C	B	S	B	O	I	L	H
B	N	G	M	C	E	I	N	Y	R	T	H	E	R	Z	B	D
O	L	I	Y	R	U	Z	R	E	T	G	R	Z	E	S	G	M
D	S	E	U	R	L	D	A	G	J	X	E	A	S	B	N	I
I	Y	P	N	X	A	D	E	J	D	U	D	L	C	B	O	B
F	F	H	V	D	P	E	B	R	R	C	L	G	S	T	X	D
N	I	V	W	Q	Z	Q	S	O	D	O	I	L	Q	I	Z	
R	R	Q	D	R	X	A	A	B	W	A	K	A	E	C	S	K
J	A	P	S	E	A	S	O	N	E	T	H	U	E	N	Y	F
I	L	E	T	D	T	U	V	U	T	M	I	N	C	E	N	S
G	C	E	J	G	P	O	K	L	S	R	V	D	E	J	V	E
BLEND	BOIL	BRAISE	BREAD	BROWN	CLARIFY	COAT	DICE	FRY	GLAZE	GRIND	JULIENNE	MINCE	POACH	PUREE	REDUCE	ROAST
																SEAR
																SEASON
																SHRED
																SIMMER
																STEW
																STIR

Large Print Word Search Puzzles  
Cooking 2 - Solution

K	B	Q	R	Z	N	I	D	D	O	G	S	R	H	X	N	F	
K	K	E	H	F	Y	M	Q	B	W	I	A	V	V	M	H	L	
Z	E	R	O	C	S	H	R	M	H	N	U	J	A	T	S	U	
G	W	R	Q	F	C	O	E	A	E	T	A	R	G	A	T	T	
M	R	M	R	N	I	E	C	K	P	M	I	P	D	E	E	E	
Z	I	A	I	A	L	S	Z	W	H	A	N	T	K	D	B	E	M
X	E	L	L	N	W	I	G	Q	A	L	P	E	O	E	P	A	
J	B	P	K	L	Q	L	V	T	G	P	P	N	L	L	R	E	
L	V	A	U	E	B	E	E	S	Y	A	N	L	E	L	E	R	
S	T	R	A	I	N	M	E	B	U	C	S	E	U	T	I	C	
W	Q	E	I	Y	A	A	W	P	D	H	P	T	U	N	Y	F	
C	I	M	J	H	X	R	Z	H	O	S	D	A	E	Z	M	D	
B	A	S	T	E	U	A	A	V	I	H	S	V	O	A	A	M	
B	N	B	A	U	N	C	B	W	S	P	C	D	L	R	M	O	
BASTE	BEAT	BLANCH	BROIL	CARAMELIZE	CHOP	CREAM	CUBE	FILLET	FLAKE	FLUTE	GRATE	GRILL	MARINATE	MIX	PARE	PEEL	
																SAUTE	
																SCORE	
																STEAM	
																STEEP	
																STRAIN	
																WHIP	

Daily SuDoku

1			9	6		4						8
		8									4	
		4					9	2	6			
					1		3					4
						8						
8				5		6						
		7	5	3						9		
		9								8		
3				4		5	7					2



For labor-related inquiries  
and complaints:  
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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 Ikhlās 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

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DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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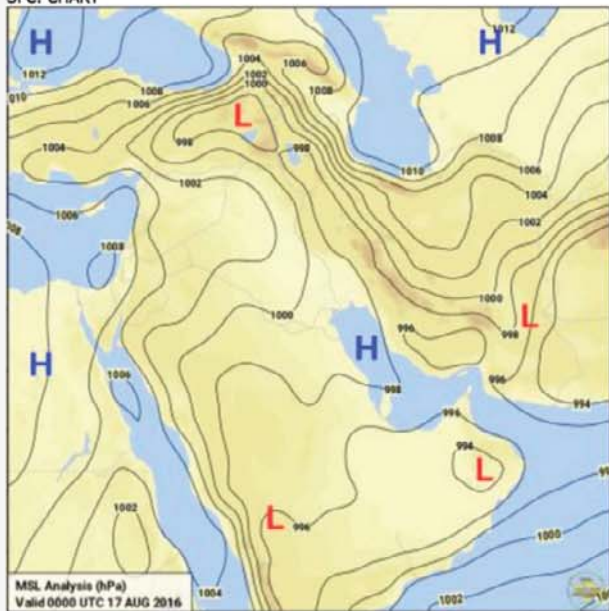
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 17/08/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 48 °C

**By Day** : Very hot with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for raising dust over open areas.  
**By Night** : Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly to northerly wind, freshening over coastal areas at times with speed of 15 - 40 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather	very hot	very hot	very hot	very hot
Min Temp °C	32	32	33	33
Max Temp °C	48	47	49	49
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly to light variable
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 38	15 - 38	15 - 40	08 - 30

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	35	48
KUWAIT AIRPORT	33	48
ABDALY	27	48
BUBYAN	30	49
JAHRA	34	49
FAILAKA ISLAND	33	46
SALMIYAH	35	44
AHMADI	36	46
JAL ALIYAH	30	48
QAROH ISLAND	36	40
UMM AL-MARADEM	35	42
NUWAISIB	33	48
WAFRA	32	48
MANAGISH	30	48
SALMY	30	47
MUTRIBA	31	49

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	49
Min Temp (°C)	34
Max Rel Hum (%)	21
Min Rel Hum (%)	07
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	53 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:18
Sunset	18:27

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:53
Sunrise	05:18
Zuhr	11:52
Asr	15:27
Sunset	18:27
Ieha	19:50

INTERNATIONAL  
CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	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		



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons	Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor 25622444	Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272	Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea 25752222	Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700	Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888
Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171	Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60	Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999	Family Doctor	Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099	Physiotherapists & VD
Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700	Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581	Dr. Snaa Maarroof 25713514	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223	Psychiatrists	Dr. Pradip Gujare 23713100	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees 22666288
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223	Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047	Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282	Rheumatologists:
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0	Dermatology	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner 24555050 Ext 510	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali 25644660	DrAdrian arbe 23729596/23729581	Dentists	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel 25646478	Dr.Verginia s.Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321	Dr Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581	DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah 25311996	Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539	Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2	Dr. Mohammed Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory 25731988	Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami 25343406	Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226	Assistant Professor Of Medicine
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary 22620166	Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272	Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer 22561444	Head, Division of Cardiology
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz 25651426	Dr. Salem soso 22618787	Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557	Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667
General Practitioners	General Surgeons	Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888	Consultant Cardiologist
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi 24555050 Ext 123	Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044	Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan 25653755	Dr. Farida Al-Habib 2611555-2622555
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312	Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148	Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111	Inaya German Medical Center
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaeem 23926920	Internists, Chest & Heart	Neurologists	Te: 2575077
Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465	Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939	Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324	Fax: 25723123
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadad 25655528	Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300	Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875	
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi 24577781	Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004	Gastrologists	
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae 25333501	Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515	Dr. Sami Aman 22636464	
Urologists	Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446	Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy 22641534	Dr Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3	Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali 22633135	
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul 22639955			
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi 22616660			
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) 25313120			
Dr. Leons Joseph 66703427			

Psychologists  
/Psychotherapists

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William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677  
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677



# Rare original Mahler score goes on show in Hong Kong



A member of security walks past glass cabinets containing musical manuscripts of Austrian late-Romantic composer Gustav Mahler's Second Symphony, the "Resurrection", at the Sotheby's showroom in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP photos

A rare musical score written by classical great Gustav Mahler went on show in Hong Kong yesterday ahead of a landmark auction by Sotheby's. The hand-written complete version of Mahler's lauded "Resurrection Symphony" will go on sale in London later in the year with a £3.5 million (\$4.5 million) price tag-the highest ever estimate for a musical manuscript, according to the auction house. The 19th century Austrian composer and conductor wrote 10 symphonies, but Sotheby's said none had ever gone under the hammer in its entirety.

"No complete symphony by Mahler, written in the composer's own hand, has ever been offered at auction, and probably none will be offered again," said Simon Maguire, senior specialist in books and manuscripts at the auction house. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire a manuscript of truly outstanding historical importance." Fans will view the 232-page exhibit until next Wednesday at Sotheby's central gallery in Hong Kong. Among the first visitors yesterday was Anthony Cheng, co-founder of the Mahler Society of Hong Kong, who said the complete set was made particularly rare because it has Mahler's conducting notes written across the margins.

"It's not easy to see a complete symphony written by him or the complete set (like) we can see here," he told AFP, adding that he believed the manuscript would hit its asking price at auction. "Mahler is the bridge between late romantic music and 20th Century music... and his influence is still felt in the 21st Century today," he said. "He is an icon in both conducting and composing." Sotheby's said the manuscript was being offered by the estate of the American economist and businessman Gilbert Kaplan, who became "infatuated" by the work, also known as Mahler's Symphony No. 2. Kaplan went on to conduct the symphony himself with some of the world's greatest orchestras before his death in January this year. — AFP

Musical manuscripts of Austrian late-Romantic composer Gustav Mahler's Second Symphony, the "Resurrection", are displayed in glass cabinets at the Sotheby's showroom in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP



# 'Ben-Hur'

## Film Review

When you watch the 1959 "Ben-Hur," a studio classic so big and stodgy and literal that even the dialogue seems square-jawed, there's something that tugs you right through the endless talk about high ideals and the birth of Christianity-and no, it's not just the promise that after three hours, you're going to get to see the chariot race to end all chariot races. It's the presence of an actor who's like an oak tree among twigs. As the title stud-slave, Charlton Heston projects a strength that's brawny but internal-sturdiness resolved into muscle. Even his soul is clenched.

He's like a Hollywood glamour god sculpted by Michelangelo. You'd think that this sort of gladiatorial hero worship would have gone out of style, but, of course, you'd be wrong. It's alive and kicking in a movie like "Gladiator," where Russell Crowe turns vengeance into a brooding art form, or in any of the "Mad Max" films, which are the real heirs to the ancient-world action epic. But in the new "Ben-Hur," when you watch the English actor Jack Huston take on the role of Judah Ben-Hur, the wealthy Jerusalem prince who is stripped, by the Romans, of his home and family and turned into a galley slave, you feel nothing primal in his presence. Huston, who comes from showbiz royalty (he's the grandson of John Huston), isn't a terrible actor, but he's soft. He doesn't pop.

### Macho charisma

When he's rowing, in chains, aboard that Roman war ship, he tells his captive comrades that they should no longer care, they should just survive-the kind of stoic advice you could imagine coming from Crowe's Maximus. Yet when Huston says it, it sounds like a message from Unicef. With his hair grown girlishly long, and a beard to match, and eyes peering out in more sadness than anger, Huston's Judah resembles no one so much as George Harrison on the cover of "All Things Must Pass." He's a slave who has turned himself into a doleful peacenik. Jesus Christ is a full-scale character in Ben-Hur (he's played, with a minimum of heavenly aura, by Rodrigo

Santoro), but you almost feel like the casting should have been flipped. Huston, who has a Christ-like beatitude (and physique), is way too saintly to be convincing as a guy who could drive four white horses with a whip and a sneer of death.

Minus a hero who has the macho charisma to wrap a movie around him like he owned it, the new "Ben-Hur" is an oddly lackluster affair: sludgy and plodding, photographed (by Oliver Wood) in nondescript medium close-up, an epic that feels like a mini-series served up in bits and pieces. Actually, there's one sequence that's better than that, and that's the chariot race. The director, the Kazakh-born kinetic stylist Timur Bekmambetov, who made "Night Watch" (2006) and the American schlock-on-overdrive movies "Wanted" (2008) and "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter" (2012), stages it with some of the same lucringly explosive instability of the original. Chariots spin around corners on one wheel, drivers get trampled to death, rows of horses fall like dominoes, and mounds of dirt spray at the camera like something out of a sputtering contempo battle sequence.

### Modern action cinema

The madly teetering ancient vehicles seem to be joining in the most violent ritual on earth. In 1959, though, this all looked like nothing less than the invention of speed. That's why the "Ben-Hur" chariot race is one of the three or four sequences that gave birth to modern action cinema, the others being the crop-dusting sequence in "North by Northwest" (a movie released the same year) and the car chase in "Bullitt" (1968). In the new "Ben-Hur," we're just watching a propulsive rerun, with Judah, his Jesus locks shorn for the race, now looking like Ben-Hur of Beverly Hills. His foe is Messala, his adoptive brother (in the Heston version, they were childhood friends), played by Tony Kebbell, who suggests a lean, glowering Tony Robbins in Roman bangs. He looks malicious enough that you wish the movie didn't need to spend its first half

laboriously setting up the estrangement between brothers. Messala storms off to stalk the world as an officer in the Roman Army, and when he returns, in red cape and copper breastplate, after five years of conquering battle, he's a true believer, sniffing out zealots to snuff. Judah, though he tries to stake out the reasonable middle ground, maintains the classic rich-kid view: He doesn't want anything about his society to change-because, as Huston plays it, his life is fine as is. (Maybe that's what you project when you come from showbiz royalty.) He doesn't want to rock the boat, and that's why he ends up in the galley, rowing the boat.

### Chariot race

When the fleet he's forced to join is attacked by the Greek Navy, it's a grabber of a sequence, staged from the slaves' point of view, though the 3D mostly has the effect of enhancing how CGI-heavy it is. Judah is shipwrecked on a desert commune presided over by Ilderim (Morgan Freeman), who in his luxurious gray dreadlocks looks like a holy man. But really, he just wants to make money sponsoring entries in chariot races. How convenient for Judah. Freeman has a puckishness that momentarily wakes up the proceedings, but the movie can't seem to sustain anything.

Even after the high of the chariot race, it plunges back into slipshod soap opera, though with enough time to accent the Crucifixion. The 1959 "Ben-Hur" was directed, by William Wyler, with a kind of fake classicism, and that was part of its cardboard studio-system majesty. It didn't need to be subtle; it worked as mythological machismo. But the new "Ben-Hur" tries to "humanize" everything, starting with Huston's overly moist Judah, and the result is that this story seems a lot less human than it did 57 years ago. It's become a chariot of mire. — Reuters

## Toby Kebbell, the reluctant star finally shining

He has worked for Oliver Stone and Steven Spielberg, playing lead roles in some of the biggest blockbusters of recent years, but you might not recognize Toby Kebbell in the street. Many of the British actor's most high profile characters-a vengeful ape, a Marvel supervillain or an eight-foot Orc chieftain-are camouflaged by heavy make-up or computer wizardry. The 34-year-old has been Agenor in "Wrath of the Titans," Koba in "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes," Dr Doom in "The Fantastic Four" and Durotan in "Warcraft," amassing big pay days and approving reviews when the films often haven't.

With his lead role in the hotly-anticipated remake of the 1959 epic "Ben-Hur"-a milestone in movie history-Kebbell's career is tipped to go stratospheric, but he's keeping his feet on the ground. "I'll see you on the down side of things," he says at the end of an interview with AFP at a Beverly Hills hotel to discuss his latest role as Roman soldier Messala, the movie's antagonist. He may have swapped his rented council flat in London for somewhere rather more palatial in Los Angeles, but Kebbell doesn't feel like a film star, and hopes he never will. "I don't do social media for that exact reason, because that's a thing that really promotes you as a star. I've no interest in being important to anyone," he says. "I have no interest in getting the best table at a restaurant. If I like the food, I'll have the take-out. It doesn't matter to me."

### 'It has to stop'

He is not trying to be "overly humble," he says, but doesn't want to build a pedestal from which he could one day fall. "I know it's going to stop. It has to stop, it always does-all those good things come to an end," he insists. "So I'm just trying to get to a point where I've afforded a house and I can figure out something else." Kebbell's childhood-crammed with three older brothers and a half-sister into a small three-bedroom house England's East Midlands-was the archetype of humble beginnings. Born to landscape gardener Michelle and engineer Robert, his parents divorced when he was 18 months old and the family was raised in a Catholic household by his single mother. "I was an altar boy because I had a fantastic priest, Father O'Sullivan, and Father O'Sullivan said 'You know, if you come to church and be an altar boy there might be a pound coin in it for a funeral or a wedding,'" he recalls. Kebbell dropped out of school as a rebellious 15-year-old, finishing his exams at a sixth form college in Nottingham, and began attending weekly acting workshops. His portrayal of the autistic Anthony in his first film, Shane Meadows' 2004 melodrama "Dead Man's Shoes," earned him a nomination for most promising newcomer at the British Independent Film Awards (BIFA). He was soon working for Stone in "Alexander" and Woody Allen in "Match Point" before winning a BIFA for playing Joy Division's manager in the 2007 Ian Curtis biopic "Control."

### 'I sold out'

His big Hollywood breakthrough, playing the antagonist Garsiv in Mike Newell's "Prince of Persia: Sands of Time" in 2010, was a formative, "heartbreaking" experience. "I was given a bad guy and he was nuanced and he was interesting and I thought 'wow - how fantastic that you get this!'" he recalls. "And that got diluted and diluted to nothing. So my ambition from then on was that if I get a bad guy again I want him to have what I know to be true, which is that people make terrible mistakes, but they're still people." Kebbell evidently drew from this lesson for his interpretation of Messala in "Ben-Hur," portraying the Jewish prince's adoptive brother turned deadly nemesis, a man who made some poor choices but isn't evil personified.—AFP



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Morgan Freeman as Ilderim, left, in a scene from "Ben-Hur."



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Rodrigo Santoro as Jesus, foreground left, and Nazanin Boniadi as Esther in a scene from "Ben-Hur."— AP photos

## Rape case from the past casts pallor on 'Birth of a Nation'

A 17-year-old rape accusation and recent reports that the female accuser who continued to be haunted by the case committed suicide in 2012 has cast a shadow over Nate Parker's upcoming "The Birth of a Nation," a film that was expected to be one of the year's most important. "The Birth of a Nation," a drama about Nat Turner's 1831 slave rebellion, has been pegged as an Academy Awards candidate since its award-winning debut at last January's Sundance Film Festival, where it fetched a record \$17.5 million acquisition price from Fox Searchlight.

"The Birth of a Nation," which Parker stars in, co-wrote, co-produced and directed, is a film some believe will help sweep in a more diverse field of Oscar nominees, along with providing a breakthrough for Parker. But after a handful of trade interviews in which Parker discussed the rape charges he faced and was then acquitted of as a student at Penn State University in 1999, Parker's past is what's drawing headlines well before the October release of "The Birth of a Nation." Attention has only intensified with the news Tuesday from The Hollywood Reporter and Variety that the accuser, who was not named, killed herself in

2012 at the age of 30 after a few prior attempts that same year, according to court documents.

### Sexual assault

Late Tuesday, Parker posted an essay on his Facebook page in response to the latest developments. "I myself just learned that the young woman ended her own life several years ago and I am filled with profound sorrow," Parker wrote. "I can't tell you how hard it is to hear this news. I can't help but think of all the implications this has for her family." The woman's family issued a statement to the New York Times Tuesday as well noting that while appreciative that the men are "being held accountable for their actions" they are "dubious of the underlying motivations that bring this to present light after 17 years." The family said they "will not take part in stoking its coals" and asked for privacy on behalf of the woman's son.

As a 19-year-old wrestler at Penn State, Parker and his roommate Jean Celestin (who has a story credit on "The Birth of a Nation") were charged with raping the 18-year-old student. The woman said she was unconscious at the time and didn't consent to the sex. Parker, who testified that he and the woman had pre-

viously had sex, and Celestin maintained that it was consensual. He reiterated this point in his post Tuesday night. Parker was acquitted in 2001. Celestin was convicted of sexual assault, but that was later overturned when the woman opted not to testify again for a 2005 retrial. She sued Penn State and was awarded a settlement out of court.



In this Aug 4, 2016 file photo, Nate Parker arrives at the Hollywood Foreign Press Association Grants Banquet in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP

### Assaults on campus

Her suffering reportedly continued, however. The Hollywood Reporter on Tuesday spoke to S. Daniel Carter, a sexual assault victim advocate, who said the accuser was "tormented" by "the constant contact and fear of seeing her assailants on campus." The accuser's brother, identified only as Johnny, also spoke about his sister. "If I were to look back at her very short life and point to one moment where I think she changed as a person, it was obviously that point," Johnny told Variety. "The trial was pretty tough for her." After the trial, Johnny said, his sister moved around frequently and became a mother to a son with her boyfriend.

"I think the ghosts continued to haunt her," he said. The case largely escaped notice at Sundance, but in a pair of trade interviews published Friday, Parker confronted it straightforwardly. "I was sure it would come up," Parker told Deadline. "I stand here, a 36-year-old man, 17 years removed from one of the painful moments in my life. And I can imagine it was painful for everyone. I was cleared of everything, of all charges. I've done a lot of living, and raised a lot of children. I've got five daughters and a lovely wife." —AP



Actor Toby Kebbell attends the Paramount premiere of "Ben Hur" in Hollywood, California. — AP





Singer Madonna walks along a street in Havana, where she is celebrating her 58th birthday. — AP/AFP photos



Singer Madonna walks along a street in Havana.

## Madonna celebrates 58th birthday dancing in Cuba

Pop singer Madonna celebrated her 58th birthday Tuesday strolling and dancing in Cuba, the latest US star to visit the communist island since it restored ties with Washington last year. In a white shawl, black sunglasses and Panama hat, the singer wandered through the streets of Havana with her bodyguards. Locals took pictures of her with their phones and one group sang "happy birthday," an AFP photographer saw. "She is in Cuba to celebrate her 58th birthday in Havana along with her children, relatives and close friends," state news website Cubadebate said.

Madonna posted a photograph on Twitter of herself in a black dress with a design of yellow flowers and the Spanish message "Cuba Libre" or "Free Cuba." A video posted on Instagram showed her in the same dress dancing on a table to

Cuban music in a restaurant in Havana's old city. "It was great. I think she had one of her best birthdays ever," said one local man, Jasel Rey, 26, who said he was present at that celebration on Monday evening.

"The best was that she started dancing on a table," Cuban state newspaper Granma said. Madonna was accompanied by her daughter Lourdes Leon, 19, whose father Carlos Leon is a US-based Cuban dancer and trainer. After decades of hostility, Cuba formally restored diplomatic relations with the United States last July and eased travel restrictions. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio and singer Beyonce have been among the other US stars to visit. — AFP



People wait to get a glimpse of US performer Madonna as she arrives to a restaurant where she is celebrating her 58th birthday.



In this Jan 31, 2010, file photo, Drake, Eminem, and Lil Wayne perform at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

## Eminem joins Drake on stage to quash rumored quarrel

Drake and Eminem have knocked down rumors of bad blood by appearing on stage together at Drake's show in Eminem's hometown of Detroit on Tuesday night. The rappers have been the topic of online conversation this month amid a beef between Drake and Joe Budden, who is a part of Eminem's Shady Records.

The Detroit Free Press reports Eminem

rose from below the stage near the end of Drake's concert at Joe Louis Arena. The newspaper reports Eminem's rhymes on Drake's "Forever" were drowned out by a wildly excited crowd. Drake told the crowd Eminem was the "greatest rapper" to ever get on a microphone. The two also posed for a picture posted on Eminem's Instagram. — AP

The restraining order was issued on the day that Depp's latest film, "Alice Through the Looking Glass," opened in theaters. It was a commercial failure, earning less than \$76 million in its first six weeks in theaters. A multiday hearing on the case had been scheduled to begin Wednesday. Details about the settlement were not immediately available. Heard's attorney, Pierce O'Donnell, and Depp's lawyers Laura

## Johnny Depp and Amber Heard settle divorce case

Johnny Depp and Amber Heard settled their contentious divorce on Tuesday and the actress withdrew her allegations that the actor had been physically abusive toward her one day before a restraining order hearing was scheduled to begin. "Our relationship was intensely passionate and at times volatile, but always bound by love," a joint statement released by Heard and Depp said. "Neither party has made false accusations for financial gain. There was never any intent of physical or emotional harm."

Heard filed for divorce in May and days later obtained a temporary restraining order accusing the "Pirates of the Caribbean" star of hitting her during a fight in their Los Angeles apartment in May. Depp, 53, denied he abused her, and police said they found no evidence of a crime. The 30-year-old Heard, who came to court with a bruise on her right cheek below the eye, accused Depp of repeatedly hitting her and throwing a cellphone during the fight, and a judge ordered Depp to not contact Heard and stay 100 yards away from her.

The restraining order was issued on the day that Depp's latest film, "Alice Through the Looking Glass," opened in theaters. It was a commercial failure, earning less than \$76 million in its first six weeks in theaters. A multiday hearing on the case had been scheduled to begin Wednesday. Details about the settlement were not immediately available. Heard's attorney, Pierce O'Donnell, and Depp's lawyers Laura



In this Jan 2, 2016 file photo, Amber Heard, left, and Johnny Depp arrive at the 27th annual Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala in Palm Springs, Calif. — AP

Wasser and Blair Berk, were also not immediately available to comment on the case. Heard said she would donate proceeds from the divorce to an undisclosed charity.

"Amber wishes the best for Johnny in the future," the statement said, without a corresponding message of support from Depp for the actress. Heard had accused Depp of being physically and emotionally abusive throughout their relationship, which began after they met on the set of the 2011 film "The Rum Diary." "During the entirety of our relationship, Johnny has been

verbally and physically abusive to me," Heard wrote. "I endured excessive emotional, verbal and physical abuse from Johnny, which has included angry, hostile, humiliating and threatening assaults to me whenever I questioned his authority or disagreed with him." Heard filed to divorce Depp on May 23, citing irreconcilable differences. They have no children together. It was his second marriage and her first. — AP

## Guns N' Roses extend reunion tour to Japan, Australia

Guns N' Roses on Tuesday announced concerts in Japan and Australia, extending a long-awaited reunion tour into 2017. The hard rock legends said they would play three shows in Japan in January — one in Osaka and two at Saitama Arena near Tokyo — followed by five Australian dates. Guns N' Roses, whose 1987 "Appetite for Destruction" remains the top-selling debut album ever, in April reunited with their classic lineup of singer Axl Rose and guitarist Slash for the first time since 1993. The rockers — who had passed up years of lucrative reunion offers amid bad blood between Rose and Slash — are touring North America and afterward plan shows in Latin America.

The reunion has gone smoothly, with longtime fans of Guns N' Roses startled that the notoriously hard-partying band is even starting sets on time. The band is taking a break after the North American dates as Rose tours with Australian rock elders AC/DC, replacing singer Brian Johnson who risked hearing loss if he kept performing. The Guns N' Roses reunion is nonetheless without Izzy Stradlin, the rhythm guitarist and writer of some of the band's best-known songs, who has declined to participate. — AFP



Guns N' Roses

2015  
MUSIC AWARDS

File photo shows singer Britney Spears at the 2015 Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

### Britney Spears to perform at MTV Video Music Awards

Britney Spears is returning to the MTV Video Music Awards stage after 10 years. MTV said Tuesday that Spears will perform her latest single, "Make Me..." at the Aug 28 show at New York's Madison Square Garden. Spears last performed at the 2007 VMAs. Rapper G-Eazy will hit the stage alongside the pop star this year. The 34-year-old Spears will release her new album, "Glory," two days before the VMAs. Spears's VMA career has included five wins and 28 nominations.

Beyonce is this year's leading nominee with 11, followed by Adele, who earned eight nominations. They will compete for video of the year along with Kanye West, Justin Bieber and Drake. Rihanna will also perform at the live show and receive the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. — AP

## DeGeneres defends herself after posting photo with sprinter

Ellen DeGeneres says she's not racist after receiving backlash on social media for posting an edited photo of herself riding on the back of Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt. The talk show host said Tuesday on Twitter that she's "highly aware of the racism that exists in our country" but that's "the furthest thing from who I am." DeGeneres posted the photo Monday with the caption: "This is how I'm running errands from now on."

The image of a white woman riding a black man was criticized by many users on social media. The original photo of Bolt smiling while running went viral following his gold medal win in the 100-meter dash. The comedienne frequently posts photos of herself edited into topical moments and scenes from popular films and TV shows. — AP



File photo shows Ellen DeGeneres arrives at the 26th Annual GLAAD Media Awards held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP



# The benefits of essential oils



**S**ummer vacation is almost over, well for the most of us! Now we all fly back home and try to absorb reality all over again, the worst feeling ever! Every time I come back from vacation, especially if I've been tanning, I notice how my skin has dried up, probably flaking from all the sun, and how my nails and hair are just damaged from all the dryness. Living in the Middle East can also be harsh on our skin, nails and hair, with all the extreme heat it's sometimes almost impossible to stay hydrated.

This is why every girl should consider using essential oils, we all know that oils are the black-sheep of the beauty world, not many like the nature of oils however, they cannot disagree with the fact that they're really good for you, and not only for your skin, but also in your diet! Maintaining and locking in moisture in your skin and hair is the only way you will be able to repair them, we constantly damage our skin and hair by styling, exposing it to extreme weather and sun, as well as using many commercial products on a daily basis. Here are a few oils I recommend to use, but of course you definitely need to check for allergies before using them:

**Argan Oil**  
It first claimed fame as a savior for dry, damaged hair, the oil also works wonders on the face

and body but the fatty acids help our skin cells make healthy membranes, reduce inflammation, and promote healthy collagen. Which is a great option to consider for fine lines and dry skin and hair.

**Avocado Oil**  
This oil is high in vitamin E and omega-3 fatty acids, which helps proper cell function and decrease inflammation, it is just perfect for people who suffer from dry, aging and itchy skin.

**Coconut Oil**  
It's the number one oil my beautician always recommends me to get straight from the supermarket to use as a moisturizer. Its 12-carbon fatty acid structure allows it to penetrate the hair cuticle and help provide flexibility and strength. It is also ideal for people who have sensitive skin, eczema, and dry hair.

**Flaxseed Oil**  
Not a very common oil here in the Middle East, but definitely useful and healthy! It has anti-inflammatory properties, and studies have shown that if you take it on a daily basis it can improve skin conditions such as eczema in just three months. You can either intake flaxseed along with your food and diet as it's packed with heart-

healthy omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, flaxseed is important for a healthy heart and complexion, or you can use the oil as a moisturizer. Flaxseed oil would work great on people with irritated, sensitive skin, and conditions such as eczema and dermatitis.

**Tea Tree Oil**  
I was first introduced to Tea Tree Oil when I was younger and first trying out products from The Body Shop and noticed a skincare line that was revolved around the ingredient Tea Tree Oil, after trying it out and also reading up about it I realized that it is really healthy for your skin and works wonders especially if you have acne-prone skin. It's found in many natural acne remedies, it helps kill bacteria in the pores and hair follicles that lead to blemishes, and, luckily for those who can't find relief fast enough, it penetrates the skin quickly.

Educate yourself with these oils, and read about them just like I do. I'm always reading up online about new beauty products and to me, I see those natural ingredients come hand in hand with out beauty regimen because if you don't maintain your skin, body and hair, you won't be able to keep up with the image you have for yourself in a healthy way! Try out things that work for you and don't always follow what everyone else is.

## Romances by women authors in Nigeria challenge traditions

**N**estled among vegetables, plastic kettles and hand-dyed fabric in market stalls are the signs of a feminist revolution: Piles of poorly printed books by women that advocate forcefully against conservative Muslim traditions such as child marriage and quick divorce. They are part of a flourishing literary movement centered in the ancient city of Kano, in northern Nigeria, where dozens of young women are rebelling through romance novels. Hand-written in the Hausa language, the romances now run into thousands of titles. Many rail against a strict interpretation of Islam propagated in Nigeria by the extremist group Boko Haram, which on Sunday posted video showing dozens of the 218 girls militants abducted from a remote school in April 2014.

"We write to educate people, to be popular, to touch others' lives, to touch on things that are happening in our society," says author Hadiza Nuhu Gudaji, whose views have gained a recognition unusual for women in her society. Gudaji's novellas are so popular that she is invited to give advice on radio talk shows. She describes how she was able to influence the future of a 15-year-old who called in, begging the novelist to persuade her father not to force her into marriage. "We said: 'The father of this girl, you are listening to us, you hear what your girl is saying,'" Gudaji recounts. "If you force her, maybe the marriage will not end so well, maybe the girl will run away and come to a bad end."

### Accessible to the illiterate

A few weeks later, the girl called to say thank you, and that she was back in school - a striking example of the kind of power the author wields. The novellas are derogatorily called "litattafan soyayya, meaning "love literature," Kano market literature or, more kindly, modern Hausa literature. Daily readings on about 20 radio stations make them accessible to the illiterate. "It's a quiet revolution," says Ado Ahmed Gidan Dabino, a male novelist, essayist, actor and head of the Kano branch of the Nigerian Writers' Association. "Nothing hard-hitting, but small, and gradually challenging."

They have become so popular that young girls call in to say they're learning to read because they want to follow more stories. That is no minor feat in a region that has more children out of school than almost anywhere on earth. In northeast Nigeria, the birthplace of Boko Haram, only one in five girls has had any formal education. Parents routinely pull 13- and 14-year-olds out of school to get married, and even the name Boko Haram means "Western education is sinful." Boko Haram denounces the Western influences that are inextricably entwined with the romance genre - an argument Gudaji firmly rejects. Her 16-year-old son was blinded in one eye and took seven bullets during a 2014 Boko Haram attack on Kano's Grand Mosque. Boko Haram has also kidnapped girls from the Chibok school and married them off to militants.

### Violet-colored henna

"What they are preaching and doing is not in the Quran, it's un-Islamic," she says, waving a hand with a flower painted into the palm in violet-colored henna. "They are not really against education their problem with the education

of girls (masks) their own agenda." Although the romance industry caters largely to women, it's often men who profit. The best-known reader on the radio is a man, journalist Ahmad Isa Koko, who raises his voice an octave to imitate a woman's. Book hawker Adamu Said buys 70 novellas at the market one recent day, boasting that he can deliver them via motorbike to villages inaccessible by car. He purchases them for about 130 naira (65 cents) and sells them for 200, and has been doing so for 12 years. "I make a comfortable living," says the 30-year-old, who makes enough to support his wife and 6-year-old boy.

The Maharazu Bookshop has piles of paperback novels reaching to the ceiling, some gathering dust on the floor. Two teenage girls look at posters of just-published books but are unable to read the titles. They say they just like the pictures. Owner Suleiman Maharazu is going through a list from a middle-aged woman reader who is too shy to be interviewed without the permission of her absent husband. They have titles that translate as "The Importance of Love," "Big Tragedy," "Your Face is Your Passion," "The Beauty of a Woman is in Cooking," and "The Woman Who Lost Control."



**Khadija Gudaji, a Physics student of Northwest University listens to daily radio talk show on her mobile phone in Kano, Nigeria.**

"I don't read them, I just sell them," says Maharazu. Only a couple of the Hausa novels have been translated into English. "Sin is a Puppy that Follows You Home" was translated by Indian publishers and subsequently made into a Bollywood movie. The book is available on amazon.com, which describes it as "an Islamic soap opera complete with polygamous households, virtuous women, scheming harlots, and black magic." Author Balaraba Ramat Yakubu, a veteran founder of the movement, was herself a child bride twice, after her first husband returned her to her family, and she only learned to read and write as an adult.

### Reaction is violent

Critics say the novellas give girls unrealistic expectations, inspire rebellion and are un-Islamic. The most famous disgraced book is "Matsayin Lover," about lesbian love at a girls' boarding school, dating back to 1998. Abdulla Uba Adamu says his own friends and fellow writers

forced him to remove the book from the market, though he insists it reflects reality. The books may sound dramatic, but they often mirror life. In one recent Kano court case, a prosecutor sought the death sentence for a girl forced into marriage at 13 to a 38-year-old man whom she poisoned and killed. A human rights lawyer managed to get the girl freed, but her family rejected her because they had to return the bride price paid for her.

Sometimes the reaction is violent. Last year, one young writer was badly beaten. Young men gang-raped another in her home after she published a book about women's rights in politics, according to Gidan Dabino. Some books are also banned or censored for steamy content. Gudaji says the Censorship Board has seized many books from the market. She hasn't had problems because she's careful. "If I want to write about a husband and wife, there is a limitation," she explains. "A kiss is allowed but nothing deeper, or I will be fighting with that Censorship Board."

Gudaji has an iPad and smartphone, but says she writes best by hand, lying on her stomach on her bed. The completed story is taken to a business center, where a clerk types it up and puts it on a memory stick. With that, she's ready to go to a bookseller or publisher and bargain. Sometimes, a bookseller will buy a book and have it published himself. Often, however, the writers pay a printer and then take the books to a seller. The romances are cheaply printed with covers of photo-shopped stars from Nollywood, Nigeria's burgeoning film industry, or Bollywood, the Indian variety some writers are accused of plagiarizing. Many writers end up losing money.

### Problematic husbands

Gudaji's first novel challenged a tradition where poor rural parents will send a child to family members in the city, hoping the child will be educated. Often they are turned into domestic slaves instead, ill-treated and raped by men in the home. Her second novel addresses the scourge of divorce and how to deal with problematic husbands. In northern Nigeria, a man can divorce a woman simply by pronouncing three times, "I divorce you." When that happens, the former wife leaves alone and may not know what has happened to her children. Not all the romances challenge the status quo. They range from the universal Cinderella story of a poor girl marrying a prince to how to behave when your husband takes a second wife.

And even for Gudaji, tradition still holds. Happily married, she still has to seek the permission of her husband to allow two male journalists into her home. She was not a child bride, she insists, though she is 38 and her oldest daughter, Khadija, is nearly 21. Khadija is studying physics at Kano's Northwestern University. Gudaji explains the role of a dutiful daughter when parents want to arrange an unwelcome marriage. "A girl may love a boy but if they don't suit, you have to stop her, and a girl has to obey her parents - 100 percent," she says, looking at her daughter and brooking no argument. "She must obey your rules and regulations."—AP



**Author Hadiza Nuhu Gudaji, reads through one of her novels in her bedroom in Kano, Nigeria. — AP photos**



**Author Hadiza Nuhu Gudaji, left, during a radio talk show on her novels in Kano, Nigeria.**



**Ado Ahmed Gidan Dabino, a novelist, essayist, actor and head of the Kano branch of Nigeria writers Association during an interview in Kano, Nigeria.**



**Suleiman Maharazu, centre, the owner of Maharazu Bookshop, sells books to young girls in his shop in Kano, Nigeria.**



**Author Hadiza Nuhu Gudaji, composes a novel while resting on her bed with an exercise book and a ball-point pen in Kano, Nigeria.**



## flower carpet on show in Brussels

**T**he Brussels Flower Carpet show continues its legacy of being one of the most mesmerizing events in Belgium which turns the grand square in the city into a flourishing rosy garden. The 20th Flower Carpet event was held recently and it focused on the 150th anniversary of Belgian-Japanese relations. During this year's event, a carpet, made up of 600,000 flowers, was on display at the Grand Place.

It was 75 meters long and 24 meter wide. Eight hours was the duration in which a team of 100 volunteers assembled the carpet. It was conceived by a young Japanese designer, Fuji Suzuki, who drew inspiration from representations of flowers, birds, the wind, and the moon to depict the beauty of nature. — KUNA





Photo shows the Wing Lei Palace main dining area at the Wynn Palace in Macau. — AFP photos



This undated handout photo shows a Garden Villa bedroom at the Wynn Palace in Macau.



This undated handout photo shows the Cafe Fontana entrance at the Wynn Palace in Macau.

# Wynn bets big on new Macau mega-resort

A giant lake with musical fountains and cable cars, dizzying mirrored halls of marble and psychedelic floral sculptures-welcome to casino enclave Macau's latest addition, the Wynn Palace. Speaking ahead of next week's grand opening, US tycoon Steve Wynn attempted to blow away the stubborn storm clouds over Asia's gambling hub. A corruption crackdown by China's President Xi Jinping, combined with a slowdown in the Chinese economy, has driven away many high rollers from the mainland who propped up VIP tables in Macau - the only part of China where it is legal to gamble.

Mass market tourism has been held up as the potential savior of Macau as authorities are under pressure from Beijing to diversify away from gambling-there is now a three percent cap on annual gaming table growth across the territory.

Recent resort openings by Galaxy and Studio City have upped the non-casino element, including everything from river rapids to a figure-eight ferris wheel. For its part, the Wynn Palace is a sprawling six million square foot (560,000 square meters) of entertainment, with over 50 shops, 13 restaurants and 1,700 rooms, starting at under \$300. Some suites overlook the lake, which has a fountain show every 15 minutes. Cable cars glide above it, stretched across towering struts in the shape of golden dragons. There is still a central casino, with slot machines and gaming tables. There are also members' gaming rooms and private VIP salons.

But Wynn, 74, insists gambling is no longer the focus. "Casinos are a passive place, they have no power," he says. "Guest experience is key." He acknowledges headwinds from China will affect tourism, but still sees mainland growth as stable. "What we're seeing now is a more normalized kind of market," he tells reporters. "I remain convinced that our future is within our control."

His optimism comes despite the fact the Macau authorities only allowed the new resort 100 tables-far short of the 400 it applied for. Wynn says there will be 350 tables-some moved across from sister casino Wynn Macau-including up to 60 for VIPs. Analysts remain cautious over whether the mass appeal of the new mega resorts can really make up for the high rollers that helped Macau overtake Las Vegas as the world's casino capital in terms of revenue, after the sector was opened to foreign competition in 2002. It still leads its US counterpart despite the downturn. Even Wynn admits he is not going to turn away big spenders. "Why would we turn our back on a customer that wants to gamble for a lot of money?" he says. "We've got something for everybody here." — AFP



This undated handout photo shows the Carousel Floral Sculpture by Preston Bailey at the Wynn Palace in Macau.

The semi-autonomous southern Chinese enclave is now in its third year of gaming revenue decline. But that has not stopped Wynn from going big on the US\$4 billion project. "My reality is the experience people get in this building-when that is perfect, the money takes care of itself," he says.



This undated handout photo shows the Wing Lei Bar at the Wynn Palace in Macau.



North Korean defector Choi Sung-Guk (left) sketching an image during the recording of a weekly YouTube video program devoted to defector-related issues at a cafe in Seoul.



North Korean defector Choi Sung-Guk editing his weekly online comic cartoon called 'Rodong Simmun (Labour Interrogation)' at his office in Seoul.— AFP photos



North Korean defector Choi Sung-Guk (second right) talking during a recording for a weekly YouTube video program devoted to defector-related issues at a cafe in Seoul.



North Korean defector Choi Sung-Guk editing his weekly online comic cartoon called 'Rodong Simmun (Labour Interrogation)'.

# A North Korean defector's life ... in webtoons

When North Korean defector Choi Sung-Guk decided it was time to go public with his experiences, he avoided the well trodden "harrowing memoir" route in favor of a cartoon strip. Drawing skills and some online space provided Choi with everything he needed to reach a young Korean-speaking audience that might otherwise have little attention to spare for a 36-year-old escapee from over the border. Choi, who spent eight years making cartoons at Pyongyang's SEK animation studio, now posts a weekly online comic strip, or "webtoon", on South Korea's largest internet portal, Naver.

The strip is called Rodong Simmun (Labour Interrogation) — a play on the name of the North Korean ruling party's official mouthpiece Rodong Sinmun (Labour Newspaper) — and details the struggles of North Korean defectors adapting to life in the capitalist South. A lot of the material is based on Choi's own experiences since arriving in Seoul as a 30-year-old defector in 2010. "When someone first suggested I try it, I thought it would be impossible to compete with thousands of other webtoon artists," Choi said. "But the response was phenomenal," he told AFP in his Seoul office.

## Glowing reviews

Choi only started posting his strips in May and, in what is a crowded and highly-competitive field, they are already averaging around 20,000 views and garnering fawning reviews from a growing number of South Korean fans. The webtoon's protagonist is Yong-Chol, a late twenty-something defector whose efforts to assimilate are portrayed in comic set pieces which often carry a bittersweet or, in some cases, downright sinister subtext. Many focus on cultural misunderstandings, including one episode in which Yong-Chol mistakes the routine politeness of a female, South Korean co-worker as a de-

claration of love and ends up proposing marriage after just one date.

A darker episode is set in a facility run by the South's National Intelligence Service (NIS) who spend several months screening all defectors in order to root out any spies. One scene shows a defector waiting to be questioned and trembling with fear at the prospect of being tortured-only to be offered a cup of coffee instead. The margins of Choi's strips are studied with explanatory boxes regarding aspects of life in the North, such as one stating that "anyone being interrogated must walk with his head down and is not allowed to make eye contact."

## A new take

The style and tone is very different from the typical defector "memoir"-usually a harrowing, ghost-written account of persecution, suffering and eventual escape. "I'm not trying to prove what's right or wrong. I want to show that we're different, but also the same," he explained, adding that the key to success was maintaining a light touch even when the subject matter was quite grim. "On the internet, people lose interest if it gets too serious or heartbreaking," Choi added. "You have to make it witty and humorous so people can identify with it."

Choi originally placed his cartoons in a monthly magazine put out by Koreaura, the publishing house where he works in Seoul, but the response was muted. "We have a limited readership," said company founder Park Chang-Jae who actively pushed Choi to post his work as webtoons on the Naver platform. "But the internet has no boundary, so people everywhere and of all ages can see it," Park said.

## Disney work

The SEK animation studio where Choi worked in

Pyeongyang has an international reputation and has contributed work to big budget animated features including Walt Disney's Pocahontas and The Lion King. Choi said he had viewed it as a "dream job" with monthly rations of meat and sugar, until he discovered just how badly paid he was compared to foreigners working in the same studio. He left and "made a lot of money" selling pirate CDs of South Korean films and TV dramas until he was caught in 2006.

Potentially a very serious offence, Choi said he was let off lightly because some of his customers were influential officials. His punishment was expulsion from Pyongyang, after which he worked as a computer instructor in South Hamgyeong province before defecting to the South in 2010 via China. For the last two years, Choi has also been a regular participant on a weekly YouTube video program devoted to defector-related issues. The program includes a roundtable discussion among three defectors and a South Korean moderator, with issues ranging from South Korean fashion from a defector's perspective to new habits they have picked up in the South.

In a regular segment, Choi uses his illustrating skills to draw a scene he recalls from life in North Korea and then discuss it with another defector. One recent video saw him sketch an image of two students sitting side by side in a library to illustrate the true story of an interracial student couple a North Korean man and a Russian women-he had known in Pyongyang. The YouTube channel has more than 21,000 subscribers-many of them Korean living overseas in countries like the United States.—AFP



North Korean defector Choi Sung-Guk editing his weekly online comic cartoon called 'Rodong Simmun (Labour Interrogation)'.





Participants struggle to reach the prizes on the top of greasy slippery poles in Jakarta yesterday, as part of Indonesia's celebrations to mark its 71st independence day anniversary. — AFP

## Italy's tourist jewel feels strain of fame

**H**iking the coastal path that links the medieval fishing villages of Italy's Cinque Terre on its northwest coast is a stop-start affair these days. Nestled between azure expanses of sea and dry-stone terraced mountains that cascade into the Mediterranean, the rocky way is barely a foot (30 centimeters) wide in places. And as visitors arrive in ever greater numbers to see why this corner of the Riviera features on so many travel bucket lists, pedestrian traffic jams made the going slow on a sweltering August morning.

But Chinese student Hardy Yang has no complaints on the crowded path between Monterosso and Vernazza, two of the five villages that make up Cinque Terre. "Words fail me, it is so amazing," the 18-year-old told AFP as he and his family, from Yunnan province, took a breather. "Are there too many people? No. You know, in China, everywhere you go there are so many people. (For us) there are few people here."

A surge in the number of Chinese visitors is only one of the reasons that the Cinque Terre, a UNESCO world heritage site that is home to some 5,000 people, attracted 2.5 million tourists last year. And with instability and security concerns placing countries like Tunisia and Turkey off limits for many holiday operators, the total is set to be 20 percent higher in 2016, according to Vittorio Alessandro, president of the Cinque Terre National Park.

### No barriers, for now

Other iconic Italian settings, like Venice, Florence and the celebrity hangout of Capri, are feeling similar strains, triggering debate about the possibility of capping access. "The relationship

between visitors and residents is in danger of becoming a conflictual one," Venice mayor Luigi Brugnaro recently warned. Brugnaro is spearheading a campaign for local authorities responsible for the most saturated sites to be given special powers to limit access - a measure Italy's Centre-left government is considering. Alessandro made waves earlier this year when he unveiled plans to monitor the numbers of people entering the 43 square kilometers (17 square miles) of the Cinque Terre. Ticket prices to access the coastal paths were raised to 7.50 euros (\$8.40) per day and visitors are now made to pay higher rail ticket prices than locals.

The initiative sparked headlines about the spectre of quotas leading to tourists being turned away at road barriers or denied access to the trains that ferry the hordes to quayside lunches of 'spaghetti alle vongole' (spaghetti with clams). To date, nobody has been turned away. Alessandro says the objective is only to reduce the numbers at peak times to more manageable levels. "We don't have gates, we don't have barriers, the park is open, the stations are open," Alessandro told AFP TV. "But this is a small and fragile territory and, yes, influxes have to be rationalized."

"This landscape can only be preserved by people living in it, otherwise it becomes nothing more than a cinema set." Efforts so far have been focused on expanding train services to spread the flow of arriving and departing visitors more evenly. Train operator Trenitalia kicks back some of its increased revenue to the National Park, which uses it to maintain the walking paths and the terraces which shaped the region's celebrated landscape.

### Asians extend season

Alessandro says the system is working well with this year's increased numbers generating fewer incidents of painfully log-jammed village streets or dangerous overcrowding on train station platforms. But, he says, challenges remain, particularly in dealing with cruise ship crowds. It's like "organizing a party at your house with no idea of how many people are going to turn up," he said. "Sustainable tourism is something that benefits the area, the host and the visitor. But a tourism that is so quick and frantic leaves nothing to the territory." Chiara Gasparini, a native of the region who guides walking groups, says most locals have benefited from the Cinque Terre's fame, highlighting how the new interest from Asia had helped extend the season into the traditionally quiet months of January and February.

"Obviously it depends who you talk to," she said. "But there are many people who work in tourism and it is thanks to tourism that people have the opportunity to stay and work in their homeland." French visitor Camilla Leconte has seen the region transformed in the 30 years she has been visiting. "For good or bad? I really don't know. I said to someone in Vernazza, 'There are really a lot of people here,' and she replied: 'There are never enough.' 'I suppose charging for the hiking paths is a way also of limiting numbers because the price is not insignificant. 'But limiting things by money also raises questions. Does that mean those who can afford can come, those who can't, can't?' — AFP



## Official album release: '9ARAT' by Flipperachi & Daffy

**O**fficially released on July 21st, 2016, "9arat" is an album by hip hop artists Flipperachi (Bahrain) and Daffy (Kuwait), both of whom are signed to Outlaw Productions. The album release will follow the surprise drop of the music video of the single "EeLaa" by Flipperachi on July 6, which features several familiar faces from the region and has passed 1 million views on YouTube three weeks after its release. "EE LAA" has also topped the iTunes MENA top 10 songs charts, hitting the No.1 spot on both the overall chart and the hip hop chart after a day of its release.

A fusion of hip hop and elements of Arabic music, "9arat" introduces a new sound to the local and regional music scene. The mixture of sounds makes the album stand out to an international audience while still being locally relate-able. The content of the album is varied and includes lyrical rap songs, humorous hip hop tracks, soulful RnB, and club bangers, including hit single "Samboosa".

The album is produced and mixed by Bahraini hip hop music producer and Outlaw Productions' founder, DJ Outlaw. It also features the work of a couple of regional and international producers and songwriters including Trippy The Astronaut, Kajmir, and Lil Eddie who has written songs for the likes of Usher, Janet Jackson, and Jessie J among others. The mastering of the album is done by world-renowned mastering engineer, MazenMurad from Metropolis Studios, London, who has mastered major albums for Sade, M.I.A, Björk, Muse and The Rolling Stones to name a few.

The album is now available for pre-order across all digital stores, including iTunes US, Spotify, Google Play, Tidal, and more. Physical copies can also be purchased at Virgin Megastore, Bahrain City Center on Sunday, July 24th.



File photo shows wine fields near the village of Manarola in the "Cinque Terre" area. — AFP photos



A cruise ship off the village of Manarola in the "Cinque Terre" area.