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# Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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## IRAQI PM HAILS 'DISTINGUISHED', 'EXEMPLARY' TIES WITH KUWAIT

IRAQI FM: KUWAIT HAS GAINED GULF, ARAB, GLOBAL CLOUT



Min 26°  
Max 46°  
High Tide 02:21 & 14:42  
Low Tide 09:11 & 21:05

### AL-SAFAT INVESTMENT CO RETURNS TO PROFITS

KUWAIT: Al-Safat Investment Company held its ordinary General Assembly yesterday to approve its balance-sheet for the year ending Dec 31, 2015 and elect a new board of directors for the next three years. Chairman of the Board Abdullah Hamad Al-Terkait presided over the meeting and welcomed shareholders and attendees.



Abdullah Hamad Al-Terkait

The chairman said Al-Safat Investment Co, despite the difficulties and challenges it faced, witnessed several developments in 2015, resulting in becoming profitable after several years of losses, apart from the growth of the company as well as its revenues, and its success in bringing down its general and administrative expenses.

Profit for the financial year ending Dec 2015 was KD 1,875,021, which is equivalent to 7.31 fils per share. Total company assets as of Dec 31, 2015 reached KD 58.9 million. Shareholders' equity reached KD 33.0 million as the book value of a share reached 128.2 fils. Total company debt as of Dec 31, 2015 stood at KD 25.2 million. (See Page 21)



BAGHDAD: Iraqi Prime Minister Dr Haidar Al-Abadi meets a delegation of Kuwaiti journalists. —KUNA

BAGHDAD: Iraqi Prime Minister Dr Haidar Al-Abadi praised deep-rooted Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations, describing them as "distinguished and exemplary" and expressing his pride in these relations. Abadi said during a meeting Monday night with a delegation of Kuwaiti journalists, which is on a visit to the Iraqi capital, that relations between the two countries have moved from the status of litigation because of the former regime's policy, to understanding, harmony and fraternal relations between the two neighboring countries, and "our government looks forward to further cooperation". He said the vision of the Iraqi government is that the

region cannot be developed without cooperation and overcoming the divisions of the past, and "we ought to resolve these problems and work on developing our relations in other areas of cooperation and to keep small differences aside".

"We look at our differences with Kuwait through the framework of brotherhood and cooperation," Abadi said, adding that resolution of many of the disputes is hindered by red tape at state institutions. He said that Iraq had gone through a transitional stage after the collapse of the state in 2003 and now it is exposed to abnormal terrorist attacks from gangs boasting of

killing and terrorizing citizens that are fed by sectarian polarizations, adding that "we are achieving victories over them and are able to liberate our lands from them".

Abadi pointed out that the so-called Islamic State (IS) or 'Daesh' is a threat posed against all countries in the world, so the help of the international community is needed in order to eliminate such a threat. He said many of those who are fighting with terrorist groups in Iraq come from abroad, "and we are now indulged in fierce fighting with terror and we are closer to achieving the final victory through Mosul and the Syrian border operations".

Continued on Page 2

# Shrimpy



KD 3.300

### Grill Fiesta Combo

4 pos Grilled XL Shrimps, 3 pos Grilled Fish, Fries, Coleslaw, Tartar, Bread & Cola



KD 9.750

### Family Summer Fiesta

20 pos Fried Shrimps, 10 pos Monster Shrimps, 8 pos Fried Fish, Family Fries, Family Coleslaw, 4 Tartar, 4 Bread & 2.25 Liter Cola



KD 5.600

### Shrimps Fiesta Combo

45 pos Fried Shrimps, Fries, Tartar, Bread & Cola



KD 4.950

### Shrimps & Calamari Fiesta Combo

30 pos Fried Shrimps, 10 pos Fried Calamari, Fries, Tartar, Bread & Cola



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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Mohammad Al-Rashidi. —Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Mohammad Al-Mukaimi.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Fahad Sulaiman Al-Sanafi.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Khalid Al-Ajmi.

## AMIR RECEIVES ACADEMICIANS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was presented yesterday with a PhD thesis on public health by Dr Mohammad Al-Rashidi. His Highness was also presented with a PhD thesis on marine geochemistry by Dr Mohammad Al-Mukaimi, another on marine physics by Dr Fahad Sulaiman Al-Sanafi and one on statistics by Dr Khalid Al-Ajmi. —KUNA

## KFAED SIGNS \$138 MILLION DEAL WITH BAHRAIN

MANAMA: The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) signed yesterday a \$138 million agreement with the Bahraini government to fund development projects in the GCC country. Deputy Director General of KFAED Hamad Al-Omar, who signed the agreement with Bahrain Minister of Finance Sheikh Ahmad bin Mohammad Al-Khalifa, said that a sum of \$32 million will be used to develop infrastructure at the Salman industrial city, a key project for the growth of the Bahraini economy. A sum of \$106 million will be used to develop a housing project in Bahrain, said the KFAED top official. The fund previously provided \$890 million in 2013 to develop projects in Bahrain. The total sum of agreements signed with Bahrain in the development domain had reached \$996 million. The estimated amount of Bahrain's ambitious development project is at \$4.6 billion with KFAED contributing to about 21 percent. —KUNA



MANAMA: Deputy Director General of KFAED Hamad Al-Omar (left) and Bahrain's Minister of Finance Sheikh Ahmad bin Mohammad Al-Khalifa are pictured during the signing ceremony. —KUNA

## LEGISLATION CATALYST FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

VIENNA: Kuwait yesterday underscored that anti-corruption efforts will only come to fruition when propped up by legislative action and measures that ensure integrity and transparency when dealing with public funds. Member of Kuwait's Public Anti-Corruption Authority (PACA) Salah Al-Rashid made those remarks at the Seventh Intersessional Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Prevention of Corruption, part of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations (UN) Convention against Corruption, held in the Austrian capital Vienna. Moreover, Rashid noted that legislative development was instrumental to palpable progress in Kuwait's efforts to fight corruption and money laundering, adding that the country has formed independent and national authorities tasked with stifling the spread of corruption. Speaking on measures taken by Kuwait to prevent corruption, Rashid said that the country has introduced a slew of laws aimed at protecting national institutions from the ill effects of corruption, as he espoused the merits of such virtues as transparency and integrity. He also spoke of Kuwait's cognizance of the importance of implementing the "Marrakech Declaration on the Prevention of Corruption," saying that the country has spared no effort to rid society of any modicum of corruption. —KUNA



Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari meets with a delegation representing the Kuwait Journalists Association.

## IRAQI PM HAILS 'DISTINGUISHED', 'EXEMPLARY' TIES WITH KUWAIT

Continued from Page 1

The premier said that "with Syria, we want to deal with state institutions rather than armed groups to control the borders", pointing out that any partition of Syria is a serious matter and "it will be a tragedy and another challenge for us."

He said the real problem in the liberation of Mosul is the humanitarian aspect due to the population density, a matter that makes it a difficult task for the Iraqi army to carry out its humanitarian mission. He said he was optimistic for the next stage, and such optimism lies in cooperation and coordination with each other in order to maintain mutual interests.

Abadi pointed out that Iraq shares a very long border with Iran, "and we have interests with it and we are not prepared to enter any war, since war destroys people and infrastruc-

ture". On the issue of foreign control of Iraqi decisions from outside, the premier said that there is no state that is immune from outside influence, noting that each country has interests beyond its borders and "we try to maintain these interests to our advantage."

### New page

Meanwhile, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari said Kuwait has gained Gulf, Arab and worldwide weight and with its cooperation with Iraq and the rest of Arab and non-Arab countries, and a new page of diplomatic relations for the good of the region and the world can be drawn.

Jaafari said during a meeting on Monday night with the Kuwaiti media delegation that the Kuwaiti aid to the Iraqi people is a 'letter of gratitude' from the Kuwaiti people to their Iraqi counterparts, and that Kuwait's positions

are always the focus of pride for all Iraqis. He pointed to the great support provided by HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for Iraq and his announcement during the 27th Arab summit hosted in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott about Kuwait's intention to hold a donors conference for Mosul.

He said Iraq will not forget those who stood with it and helped it in these special circumstances, indicating that Iraq is actually in need for such support for the construction of hospitals, schools and others. He added that the Iraqi and Kuwaiti media have a great responsibility to shoulder at this time and must be the kind of media that investigate facts, come up with studies, recommendations and criticisms while offering solutions. He described Kuwaiti media as diverse, brave and having a good culture, and is considered a window on all

political, economic, cultural and other aspects.

### Corruption

Jaafari said Iraq is suffering from administrative corruption, bureaucracy and administrative monotony, which drive investors away despite the presence of very large investment opportunities in Iraq following a series of wars, stressing that Iraq possesses abundant oil, agricultural, water and tourism wealth. He pointed out that neighboring countries are welcome to invest in Iraq, a matter that would strengthen ties between these countries and Iraq that were affected by the previous regime.

He said that the security situation drives tourists away from Iraq despite the variety of tourist attractions, stressing that the government is working seriously and intensively to fight administrative corruption, in addition to restoring security in Iraq, a matter which is

noticed by everyone as security has improved a bit.

He added that the real infrastructure of national security and economy is the culture, saying that everything in the community, whether good or bad, reflects on the culture of the country, stressing that Iraqis do not have the culture of division or separation, adding that all partition attempts would be faced by Iraqis' unity, pointing out that this concern does not exist as before.

The Kuwaiti delegation included President of Kuwait Journalists Association Adnan Al-Rashid, Deputy Director General for the Editorial Sector and Editor-in-Chief of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Saad Al-Ali and head of the local section of Kuwaiti daily Al-Qabas Ibrahim Al-Saidi. Also present was Kuwait's Ambassador to Iraq Ghassan Al-Zawawi and other diplomats. —KUNA



## KUWAIT PROVIDES AID TO NEEDY PEOPLE IN KURDISTAN

IRBIL: Kuwait's Consulate General in Irbil announced yesterday the arrival of a Kuwaiti medical aid shipment through Kuwait Society for Relief to displaced Iraqis in Iraq's Kurdistan region. Omar Al-Kandari, Kuwait's Consul General in Irbil, said in statement that the shipments were handed to the Ministry of Health in Kurdistan region to the displaced which included medicines and medical supplies to meet their needs. Kandari added that that shipments were directed by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for aiding affected Iraqis.

Meanwhile, official in charge of displaced persons and refugees in the Kurdistan Ministry of Health said that the shipment provided by Kuwait will alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi displaced people and meet their medical needs, thanking Kuwait for its continuous support. The State of Kuwait started its humanitarian campaign in Iraq last year, where 80,000 food parcels were handed over to the displaced people in Kurdistan. Since the start of this year, some 45,000 food packages had been provided to the needy in several Iraqi Kurdish regions. —KUNA



## KFH WINS STP AWARD 2016 FROM CITI BANK

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) won STP award 2016 from Citi Bank, as the best financial institution in the Middle East to deal with Citi Bank, yet the bank that has achieved the highest rates in the award-winning criteria. STP is an award for 'Straight Through Processing' without manual intervention for remittances to Citi.

Present at KFH Headquarters to hand over the award to KFH were Mohamed A Al-Hammadi, Vice President Correspondent Banking Group, Mohannad Barakat, Vice President Treasury and Trade Solutions, and Raad Shukri, Wholesale Banking and Investment at Citi. Group Chief Strategy Officer, Fahad Khaled Al-Mukhaizeem, Group Chief Treasury Officer, AbdulWahab Al-Roshood and Group Chief Operations Officer, Abdullah Abu Alhous at KFH received Citi delegation.

"We would like to congratulate KFH on the occasion of winning the STP award from Citi Bank for the year 2016. This award is yet another testimony of KFH's robust and leading position in this field. KFH has deservedly won the award for it met the criteria of winning the award" said Hammadi. He added in a press statement that KFH is ranked among the best banks, and the STP award is a clear-cut evidence of its excellence as this award is only given to prestigious financial institutions that implement advanced and secure systems as per international standards.

Meanwhile, Group Chief Operations

Officer at KFH Abdullah Abu Alhous said that the award reassures the advanced systems at KFH, yet affirms the competencies and skills of KFH's human resources. He added that Citi Bank is one of the largest financial institutions in the world. It has a network of relationships with financial institutions at the global level. Citi sets professional and accurate criteria to measure the competency of the remittances processing and the electronic payment of financial institutions. It awards the best institutions that comply with the award winning criteria. KFH achieved the highest rates of the set criteria, thus won the award. KFH takes pride in STP award as it comprises an impetus for further achievements in the field of human resources skills and technological advancement. He illustrated that the criteria is based on the accuracy and security in conducting transactions in line with the regulatory requirements, not to mention the competency and quality of data and information.

Group Chief Treasury Officer, AbdulWahab Al-Roshood said that this award confirms KFH's excellence in dealing with the global financial institutions, while it reflects the confidence of those global financial institutions in KFH. Also, the award reflects the confidence in the Islamic banking transactions. He stressed the importance of optimally utilizing technology for the best interest of customers and human resources.



KFH officials receiving the award from Citi delegation

## KUWAIT FOLLOWS THROUGH WITH SME INVESTMENT

OBG SPECIAL REPORT

**KUWAIT:** With low oil prices continuing to take their toll on the Kuwaiti economy, the government is hoping investment in the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector begins to pay dividends.

There is significant room for growth in Kuwait's SME sector: it contributes just 3 percent to GDP, compared to an average of 50% in high-income economies, according to the latest World Bank figures. Furthermore, SMEs account for roughly 23% of Kuwait's workforce, about half of the average in high-income and emerging economies.

### National fund

In a bid to foster growth in the sector, the KD2bn (\$6.6bn) National Fund for SME Development was founded in 2013 as the first single entity for SMEs in the Gulf region. The fund assumes responsibility for everything from business licensing to financing up to 80% of capital for feasible projects.

Since November 2013 the fund has been overseen by the World Bank's two-year technical assistance project, which includes creating a "one-stop shop" to ease the process of acquiring an operating license, as well as promoting business development.

In June the fund launched the 136 Call Centre to address regulatory uncertainty and excessive time spent dealing with government regulations, which have been identified as among the most significant barriers to SME growth, according to a 2014 World Bank survey. The purpose of the centre is to provide callers with information on establishing a new business in Kuwait.

More recently, in early August the fund signed a memorandum of understanding with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) to address a backlog of 250 patent applications at KFAS, which would be either partially or fully financed by the fund.



### Boosting entrepreneurship

One of the largest challenges to increasing the number of SMEs and their contribution to the workforce has been the fostering of an entrepreneurial culture in Kuwait, according to Mohammad Al-Zuhair, executive chairman of the National Fund for SME Development.

"The government, the private sector and the youth share an unwillingness to take risks," he told OBG last year. "To develop the proper ecosystem in Kuwait, the start-up scene has to be fuelled. This means taking risks and celebrating unsuccessful initiatives as learning opportunities."

In an attempt to address this issue, the fund has established a relationship with Wamda, a Dubai-based company that works to develop entrepreneurial ecosystems across the MENA region. The partnership with Wamda has led to the creation of Nuwait, an online platform that encourages innovative thinking in

Kuwait by highlighting specific SME success stories and supplementing this content with tips and advice from entrepreneurship experts.

Additionally, the fund hosted the country's first national SME Forum and the "Exploring Entrepreneurship" program, which helps young entrepreneurs develop their ideas into business ventures.

### Regulatory changes

Meanwhile, recent changes to legislation are expected to bring about a more formalized SME sector through protection of intellectual property. Last December, Kuwait became the first country to implement the GCC Trademark Law, a piece of intellectual property legislation long discussed in the region.

With the passing of Ministerial Decision No. 500 of 2015, the official fees for trademark applications in Kuwait form-filling to registration increased from roughly \$80 to

around \$1035. The fees are roughly three times those of the US, where the cost of applying to register a trademark stands at between \$293 and \$325, regional media sources reported in mid-July.

While the new regulations, soon to be implemented throughout the GCC, will create a more efficient, internationally recognized and better-regulated trademarking system, some stakeholders have raised concerns that the cost increase might discourage smaller businesses from legally taking ownership of their ideas, according to press reports.

However, the prices are likely to be offset by shorter waiting times. The new regulation mandates that the Kuwait Trademark Office must issue an initial examination report within 90 days of the filing date, an improvement of a process that previously took between six and eight months. This Kuwait economic update was produced by Oxford Business Group.

## COMMERCE MINISTRY TO MONITOR FAKE REAL ESTATE TRADING

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has formed a committee to supervise the phenomenon of fake real estate sale by brokers recently in Kuwait. Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for Technical Affairs and Trade Development Abdullah Saqer Al-Enezi said in an interview that there are some wrong practices by citizens when they request practicing or attaining real estate brokerage, which can cause a legal violation.

He stressed that the Ministry took the actual steps through the formation of a committee to follow-up and investigate this phenomenon as well as to receive any complaints related to real estate brokers' wrong practices.

He added that the committee meets twice a week to monitor the developments of the real estate operations, adding that the committee has called off some fraud licenses and referred the violators to the commercial prosecution.

Enezi criticized the lack of regulation in the real estate market and procedures for assessment of properties, which currently rely on non-specialists' estimates, stressing the need for a competent public authority to manage and organize the real estate market. The real estate trading value amounted to more than KD 7 billion and its vital sector continues to remain the single largest contributor to Kuwait's GDP, he added. —KUNA

## MONEY SUPPLIES RISE 0.9 PERCENT IN MAY: CBK

**KUWAIT:** Money supply (M2) in broad sense had risen 0.9 percent in May to reach KD 36.3 billion, compared to April, according to figures released by the Central Bank of Kuwait on Monday. The CBK monthly bulletin said private sector deposits with local banks in Kuwaiti dinar came up 0.5 percent to KD 31.1 billion in May, while deposits in foreign currency came up 2.3 percent to KD 3.6 billion.

The overall Kuwaiti banks claims to CBK funds (CBK bonds) remained, from April, at KD 1.8 billion, while the overall budget of Kuwait banks came to KD 59.3 billion, up by 0.1 percent. Net foreign assets of local banks came up 1.2 percent in May, at KD 9.2 billion, while time

deposits with CBK rose 15.5 percent to KD 3.3 billion.

Non-residents' deposits in Kuwaiti dinar came up 1.5 percent while deposits in foreign currency went down 5.5 percent to KD 2.4 billion. Credit facilities for residents came up 0.1 percent to KD 33.5 billion while average interest rate, on 1-year (average interest rate on one year) treasury bonds stayed at 1.250 percent. The bulletin also showed that the USA greenback kept slipping in May to reach 301.42 fils per dollar, a slip of 0.1 percent since April. M2 is a comprehensive measure used as a key factor to forecast inflation in any economy. —KUNA



## TRIO ARRESTED FOR ARMED ROBBERY

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Farwaniya detectives arrested a gang of three Syrians for armed robberies. A complaint was filed by a Syrian who was robbed by three unidentified persons who took KD 11,250 from him after he left an exchange bureau in Farwaniya. Detectives carried out their investigations and found a gang that targeted exchange shops. Detectives placed the gang under surveillance, and followed them to Nugra Sunday evening and arrested them. The three are Syrians and they confessed to committing another similar robbery, in which they mugged an Asian man in Jabriya, robbing him of KD 9,000. They were sent to concerned authorities.



### Municipality campaign

Farwaniya municipality's emergency team carried out a campaign during which 23 citations were issued in relation to advertisement violations, 13 for expired licenses, six for lack of license, four signs without a license, while 58 ads were removed.

## MINISTRY CHANGES PLANS TO BUILD NUCLEAR PLANT

PLANS TO REVIVE ALIEN PRACTICES COMMITTEE

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) retracted its plan to build a nuclear power plant, as Kuwait had planned earlier to obtain a license from the UN in this regard. MEW said its decision to scrap the project was because studies proved it was unfeasible and of high cost, in addition to having alternative projects that are better in production and cost such as solar energy and wind. An official said Kuwait needs water desalination stations, but as for power stations, plans provide for several stations.

Some of them will be built soon, and some between 2020 and 2030.

### Treatment abroad

The Health Ministry witnessed yet another problem with regards to the issue of patients' treatment abroad, over bringing them back aboard Kuwait Airways Company (KAC), after the finance ministry asked not to extend patients' stay after their treatment is over and only keep cancer patients. Hundreds of patients and their relatives gathered at the health offices in London, Germany, France and US to get tickets, but KAC informed them there were no seats

until after Eid Al-Adha. The ministry asked offices to allow patients to fly on any airline, and not only KAC.

### Alien Practices

MP Humoud Al-Hamdan said there are parliamentary moves to agree on reforming the Alien Practices Fighting Committee at the National Assembly during the upcoming term. He said the committee is important and was not formed because the parliamentary majority said it is better to deal with this problem through the main committees, as each will discuss the subject that concerns it.



**KUWAIT:** Police carried out a campaign in Kuwait's governorates that resulted in arresting 120 wanted people, 28 for civil cases, 37 absconders, 18 with expired residencies, one wanted to serve a three-year jail sentence, two wanted for robberies, two on drugs charges, 33 without IDs while 316 traffic citations were issued. —By Hanan Al-Saadoun

## MINISTRIES DISCUSS GAS PRICE INCREASE IMPACT ON TAXI FARES

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The interior and commerce ministries held a meeting yesterday to discuss the impact of the gasoline price increase on public transportation, including taxis. The meeting addressed the decision's possible effect on taxi fares in Kuwait, considering the fact that taxis top the list of gasoline consumers in Kuwait. The gasoline price increase goes into effect Sept 1. The committee did not make a public statement on the results of the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Salaf Forum rejected the government's decision to

increase petrol prices, and found it strange it did not consider the recommendations of the National Assembly's finance committee, which called for compensating citizens for the increase, adding that the timing of the increase lacks wisdom and experience.

### Officer sentenced

The criminal court sentenced a police officer to 15 years in jail, while it sentenced his father to five years. The officer gained Kuwaiti nationality by forgery and paid money for it, adding his name as the son of a Kuwaiti citizen in cooperation with his father.

In Brief

**SPEAKER CONDEMNS GAZIANTEP ATTACK**

**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent a cable of condolences Monday to Turkish Parliament Speaker Ismail Kahraman over victims of the terrorist attack against a wedding in the city of Gaziantep. Ghanem described the attack as 'cowardly criminal' one, and expressed strong condemnation as well as solidarity with the Turkish people. He called for further cooperation at regional and international levels to fighting terrorism. — KUNA



**INTERIOR MINISTER MEETS MP TURAJJI**

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met yesterday with MP Dr Abdullah Al-Turajji, who gifted him a copy of his book titled 'The Basics of Security Strategy and Planning.' Sheikh Mohammad appreciated Turajji's contribution, saying that the book is a valuable addition that helps researchers in the security field. Meanwhile, Turajji expressed appreciation to the minister's role in supporting research in the field of security.



**KUWAIT SELECTED THEME COUNTRY FOR TRAINING**

**NEW DELHI:** Kuwait has been selected as Theme Country for the 130th International Training Program conducted by the International Centre for Information Systems and Audit (ICISA) under the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of India. In his address to a ceremony held by ICISA, Kuwait Ambassador to India Fahad Ahmad Alawadhi said that the annual international training program under SAI is contributing positively to the mutual understanding among the participating countries. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT:** The photo shows old buildings in Hawally. The scene of decaying old buildings that remain inhabited can be seen in different areas around Kuwait. Most of these buildings are inhabited by low-wage bachelor workers, which often raises complaints from families living in nearby buildings. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



**AMMAN:** Media Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Major General Abdulaziz Al-Rais (right) attends a seminar held as part of the third Jordanian festival for Arab media. — KUNA

**COMBATING TERROR NEEDS CAREFULLY CRAFTED MEDIA CAMPAIGN: EXPERT**

**AMMAN:** A Kuwaiti Military and Media figure stressed yesterday the importance of a carefully-crafted media campaign aimed at combating terrorism in the Arab region. Media Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Major General Abdulaziz Al-Rais made his remarks in a seminar on the sideline of the third Jordanian festival for Arab media. During the forum, Rais asserted the importance of awareness campaigns as part of the general plan in combating terrorism, affirming that there was a need for coordination among experts in the media field. "Specialized training for media figures

and planned media campaigns are essential when it comes to combating terrorism in general," Rais added. The official added that the role of Arab women was also critical in raising awareness regarding terrorism especially within the framework of the family and children. The Arab States Broadcasting Union's (ASBU) chief Mohammad Al-Awwash is taking part in the four-day Arab media festival. Other Kuwaiti officials and artists are present in the festival, which is organized by Jordan Media Commission (JMC) in collaboration with the Arab League. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** The Retirees Care Division at the Interior Ministry's Service Centers General Department hosted retired officers in their weekly meeting yesterday, in attendance of Major General Adeb Al-Suwaidan, Director of the Service Centers General Department, and Colonel Saif Al-Mutairi, Director of the Retirees Care Division.

## TECHNOLOGICAL WAVE IN KUWAIT INDUCES BOOM IN EDUCATION

**KUWAIT:** More than two decades have elapsed since Kuwait's second educational boom, set in motion by the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on August 24, 1991, after a technological wave buttressed education in the country.

After schools shut down and learning stopped for a year as a result of the invasion of 1990, Sheikh Jaber felt that it was crucial for students to get back to school and for the country to not only resume normalcy, but to progress.

Moreover, this educational boom in Kuwait was based on reforming the educational curriculum, modernizing programs and integrating technology through meticulously planned development programs.



**Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa**

### Tangible development

Kuwaiti Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa said that there was tangible development in the quality of education during those years, as the pupils themselves were the core of the educational system.

Furthermore, teachers were no longer merely lecturers as they interacted with students in ways that enabled them to hone their skills and pinpoint their interests, Essa noted, adding that varied and renowned curriculums remedied any flaws in the quality of education.

Meanwhile, Essa pointed to a significant difference in the quality of education prior to and after the invasion, noting that in the 1960s and 1970s, those who were literate were far outnumbered by the illiterate, as the level of technology then was rudimentary at best.

### Post invasion era

Speaking on the period post the invasion, Essa said that education witnessed a resurgence as the Ministry of Education sought to acquire the services of the most adept and qualified teachers, while the educational curriculum was overhauled to ensure much needed progress.

In addition, Essa listed the students, teachers, curriculum, evaluation and ideology as the five most vital factors that contribute to the development of education, as he underscored that the ministry has begun to take all those points into account in its quest to ensure top-notch education.

The Ministry of Education's Undersecretary of Research and Curriculums Dr. Saud Al-Harbi told KUNA that education is one of the tenets of human rights, adding that the level of compulsory education was enhanced due to this educational boom.

Harbi also noted that the introduction of a compulsory education law plunged illiteracy rates in the country to an all-time low, as he foreboded that plans to incorporate electronic education (e-education) and new programs would propel the development of education to new levels. — KUNA



**KISR Director General Dr Samira Omar**

## KUWAIT STRIVES TO SET UP CRISES MANAGEMENT PRE-PLANS: KISR

**KUWAIT:** Director General of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Dr Samira Omar said yesterday that the Institute is working on setting up pre-plans for crises management in Kuwait and the region through its risk prediction facilities for natural and man-made disasters.

Omar said in a statement that the Institute seeks to develop its programs and facilities for predicting the risk of disasters and to respond to any emergency that may affect Kuwait and the region. She stressed that the Institute, and as part of its plans in this regard, looks into ways of future cooperation and exchange of experiences and information with the Kuwait-based Gulf Emergency Management Institute to rapidly respond to emergencies and disasters. She explained that a delegation from the Gulf Emergency Management Institute had visited KISR recently to take advantage of its research facilities and access to the latest technologies including its geographic data base, remote sensing, Kuwaiti national network for monitoring earthquakes and early warning systems to radiation.

She added that the Institute's facilities also include the national network of climate information, laboratories and facilities for air pollution control, coasts and seas monitoring utilities and analytical services provided by advanced laboratories in KISR. She stressed that the Institute bears the responsibility to develop the capacity and human resources of the national cadre that contribute to supporting research and development of system solutions to cope with crises and disasters in Kuwait and the region, pointing out that the Institute strives to apply its strategic plans in support of the decision-maker for the management of environmental disasters. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** This file photo taken on August 24, 1991 shows His Highness late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah lighting a torch to signify the resumption of education in all the country's schools following the country's liberation from Iraqi invasion. — KUNA

## KUWAIT MARKS 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF RESUMING EDUCATION AFTER INVASION

**KUWAIT:** The 25th anniversary of His Highness late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah lighting of a torch to announce resumption of education in all the country's schools following the country's liberation from Iraqi invasion back in 1991 falls today. From August 24, 1991 till now, Kuwait has been working hard to boost and develop the field of education with all possible means.

As Kuwait celebrates its liberation from the Iraqi invasion on February 26, 1991, the country exerted all possible efforts to reconstruct and develop all educational domains. Kuwait considers education as one of the most important factors as the total

spending on education has reached KD 1.7 billion which makes 9.5 percent of the state's expenditures. Education in Kuwait in the past relied heavily on the Arabic language, basic mathematics and Holy Qur'an in simple classrooms called 'Katateeb'. The first formal school in Kuwait was 'Al-Mubarakayah' which was founded in 1911, and later came 'Al-Ahmadeyah' school which was established in 1921. In 1953, the first high school for males was founded in 'Shuwaikh' area, while the first high school for females was established in 'Al-Merqab' area.

The largest university in the country is Kuwait University which has over 1, 500 faculty members and approximately 30,000 stu-

dents. There are also a number of private universities such as American University of Kuwait (AUK) and Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) and others.

The public school system is undergoing a revamp due to a project in this regard in conjunction with the World Bank. In April 2013, the Kuwaiti government partnered with the World Bank to launch a pilot project in 48 schools across the state called the National Curriculum Framework. The curriculum is set to be implemented in the next two or three years. The Kuwaiti government sends many citizens to universities in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany and other countries.

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## News

In brief

**KD 20 allowance for citizens mulled**

**KUWAIT:** The government is considering a proposal to pay KD 20 a month for each Kuwaiti employee as an allowance to combat the effects of the gasoline price hike, which comes into effect on September 1. The proposal was made by a number of lawmakers among others that include giving coupons or free gasoline liters to Kuwaitis through their ration cards. The government reportedly rejected the other proposal out of fear that they might lead to manipulation and the creation of a black market for subsidized gasoline. — Al-Qabas

**Costly weddings**

**KUWAIT:** The total cost of weddings for Kuwaitis is estimated at over KD 235 million a year, with an average of KD 35,000 for middle class families, while there are around 50 very wealthy families which spend between KD 250,000 and KD 1 million on at least one of their children's weddings, according to a study prepared by a top wedding organizer in Kuwait. — Al-Qabas

**Sulaibiya hottest worldwide**

**KUWAIT:** Eight areas in Kuwait were among the top 10 cities in the global heat index earlier this week. Sulaibiya was the first worldwide with a temperature of 49.6 C degrees, while Mutraba came third with 49 C degrees, Jahra fourth with 48.7 C degrees, Wafra fifth with 48.4 C degrees, and Manaqeesh sixth with 48.3 C degrees. Meanwhile, Sabiriya came in eighth place with a temperature of 48.1 C degrees, while Julaiah and the Kuwait International Airport area were tied in tenth place with a temperature of 47.6 C degrees. — Al-Rai

**Payroll increase**

**KUWAIT:** Several MPs urged the government to take on measures to prevent an expected increase in the public sector's payroll in the coming years following the decision to increase gasoline prices. The measures include a complete halt of hiring expatriates in the public sector, putting controls on Kuwaitis' rent allowance to limit it to those paid less than KD 1,200 a month, establishing new residential areas behind Kuwait International Airport or in Kabd, and making the private sector more attractive for national manpower. They also asked the government about the labor market's plans to absorb more than 60,000 university graduates by 2030. — Al-Rai

**Fines increase in the works**

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait has plans to increase fines collected from drivers who commit serious violations such as failure to fasten the seatbelt or using the phone while driving. This was reported by Al-Jarida yesterday quoting Major General Fahad Al-Shuwaia, the Acting Assistant Director for Traffic and Licenses Affairs at the Traffic General Department, adding that the project is yet to be sent to the National Assembly for debate. Meanwhile, Shuwaia said that there are no plans to increase fees for services that the traffic department provides. Furthermore, he reiterated that there is a possibility that a decision might be made in the future to limit the number of vehicles an expatriate can own, as one of the solutions mulled for the traffic jams' problem. — Al-Jarida

**Justice ministry translators on strike**

**KUWAIT:** Translators at the Ministry of Justice went on strike in protest of their unpaid dues for the last six months, legal sources said, warning that this situation threatens the legality of investigations in cases in which suspects cannot speak Arabic. The law obliges investigation bureaus and courts to provide a translator for non-Arabic speaking suspects. Investigations in such cases has been on hold since last Thursday because of the translators' strike, the sources said. "The problem needs to be resolved as soon as possible in order to avoid cases in which the legality of investigations are challenged due to the lack of a translator," they added. — Al-Jarida

**2017 elections**

**KUWAIT:** Some members of the opposition who boycotted the past two parliamentary elections plan to meet early September to discuss whether to participate in next year's polls or not. Several well-known names among the opposition or currently investigating whether they are able from a legal standpoint to announce their participation in the elections, sources said. — Al-Anbaa

**WASHINGTON HEALTH OFFICE EMPLOYEE JAILED**

**KUWAIT:** A Kuwaiti employee who worked at the Kuwait health office in Washington was sent to the central prison for 21 days accused of squandering public funds after she was referred along with two others in December to the public prosecution by Health Minister Ali Al-Obaidi. The FBI had arrested her at the airport as she was leaving. After she arrived in Kuwait at dawn Thursday, she was sent to detectives for questioning until Saturday, then was ordered jailed at the central prison for 21 days. The FBI stopped the woman on charges of money laundering and making suspicious transfers a few months ago. Otaiabi referred the employees at the Kuwait health office in Washington to the public prosecution on charges of money squandering and other violations following a report by a team of specialists. — Al-Rai

**SUSPECT TURNS SELF IN**

A man who escaped from the Palace of Justice with the help of his son gave himself up to the public funds prosecution. A security source said the father was arrested immediately following interrogations. The source said the suspect's son, the lawyer who helped him to escape, decided to return to the country tomorrow from New Zealand. — Al-Rai

**Treatment overseas**

Al-Jarida

**التقسي**

Al-Qabas

**THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN KUWAIT**

By Mohammad Nasser Al-Sanousi

It is necessary to create an authority to guarantee the quality of education under the prime minister, within a national plan to reform education and spread the culture of quality in educational establishments and society to reach international standards, and gain the society's confidence in those institutions and increase their ability domestically and internationally, and achieve sustainable development, so it becomes important to take the necessary measures to improve educational institutions and achieve comprehensive development.

**The role of the authority in achieving quality**

It must be understood that the authority is not a supervisory body, rather it is body to approve educational institutions that are able to fulfill requirements of specifications and quality, and is keen on offering guidance and support to those institutions and help them for continued improvement and quality of graduates through self-correction. At the same time, the authority must seek international recognition and decisions known for its credibility and objectivity, and be able to develop itself in order to guarantee quality of education and achieve excellence and competitiveness. Our problem is that education in Kuwait has a long way to go, and the ministry knows about the percentage of quality in our schools, institutions and university. The current problem is the teacher who is careless towards his job, with the absence of conscience in some. Continued training is needed, in addition to introducing modern technology.

Our first problem now is making people do their required jobs only, and this is part of the basic of quality in education, and it requires raising the teacher's salary, and we have the best teachers and best education in the world. Finland stipulates a long qualification process for the teacher and receiving a master's degree before he enters a classroom, so he gets the highest salary in the state to a point that the judiciary is demanding equality with him. Then comes Germany in second place worldwide, because education is the foundation of any development, and we must be careful about its quality.

**How are the authority's goals achieved?**

The aim is for the authority to seek fulfillment of goals at the near and far levels, and the clear goal is to seek the future of education by planning for education and manage the educational process through viewing the future. The student in the elementary stage must learn and be prepared for the future marketplace, expected 10 years or more later, and not for the current marketplace. Education abroad is built on this principle, while at the same time the future vision of education is in the state's commitment to presenting high quality education for all, as one of the basic right of the Kuwaiti citizen. The authority is a basic pillar to guarantee this right, because it is responsible for the culture of quality in the educational institutions, the society and the competitive ability of these institutions locally and internationally.

**When and how quality fulfills its goals at educational institutions?**

Quality and credence aim at creating a human being who innovates, thinks and learns, and the responsibility is that of the education and training organization and its institutions, which should reach quality levels in what goes inside, their operations and graduates.

Quality represents an important aspect in the world today, to a point that made intellectuals named this era as the "quality era", until it became the most important method to improve the quality of education in this era, as it is no longer a luxury needed by educational institutions, rather it became an urgent living necessity and an evidence of the educational institutions continuing their contemporary role. The future vision of education in Kuwait is in the state's commitment to present high quality education for all as one of the basic rights to the Kuwaiti citizen.

**What is the field role of the educational institutions to enhance quality?**

The authority, through courses and international workshops for post- and undergraduate education, and technical and religious education with the participation of international education experts from Germany, England, France, Italy, Spain and quality authorities from seven Arab countries in addition to world organizations including the German Authority for Scientific Exchange, British Cultural Center, UNESCO, Industrial Training Center and European Training Organization, look at the latest international experiences in the field of quality education, and use the help of major experts and university rectors and

present their experiences to those handling the education process in Kuwait.

There should a future plan for the authority and how to implement it at all levels. This means higher education in Kuwait is moving as planned, and the authority should seek international recognition, then recognition of the authority's accreditations, which will contribute to changing the image of education in Kuwait,

and a better way to achieve Kuwait's vision, as the authority is a cornerstone in building Kuwait with our national institutions. The authority should lay the principles of accrediting undergraduate educational institutions, following it up, and make sure about reaching quality, and giving it to the objective and fair institution, because results of accreditation should not differ with applicants and depend on an objective basis. Then, clarity and transparency, in a way that the accreditation procedures be clear and in the open, and the reports should be backed up with meetings with officials and those concerned. Accreditation relies on accurate

information systems, and there should be workers able to deal efficiently with them. They should have all indicators, standards and fields covering the accreditation processes. Institutions should aim towards the sought-after goal step by step, and the accreditation provides development by stimulating the institution to always carry out self-evaluation, and support the making of development plans for comprehensive performance, and link between the institution and local society. So the accreditation certificate should be the society's confidence in the institution, and results of the institution's accreditation reflect on the performance of the school community and local society. Among the authority's duties also is the systemic follow up and review of educational institutions that were approved by the authorities during the validity of the accreditation certificate through annual reports submitted by the institution to the authority or through periodic visits by the authority to the institutions to make sure that they continue their activity and revoke the license in case of violation. The authorities' board should issue a decision to cancel the accreditation certificate in case any of the basic conditions is violated, or if the institution commits grave violations in educational programs they present, or if it is proven that information or documents presented to receive the accreditation were incorrect, or if the institution received the accreditation certificate through cheating.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

**The following are some reports published in the press recently concerning the topic of education in Kuwait:**

"Not a day that goes by without reading about the deteriorating condition of education. Are the graduation certificates for prestige only? Millions of dinars are spent, but education institutions are going downwards, and much is made about buying certificates and living with distinction, and after the scientific leave we do not find researches that elevate our higher education institutions. Researches are for promotion only, not for development."

Al-Qabas newspaper - Saturday 6/8/2016

"The finance ministry agrees to raise the education budget to KD 82 million for the next school year, and increase "education" rewards by KD 30 million, KD 50 million for outstanding performance, KD 12 million for training and exams, KD 6 million for additional jobs, KD 12 million for other jobs and KD 6 million for attending committee meetings."

Al-Seyassa newspaper - Saturday 6/8/2016

"Ministry office boys without salaries for three months."  
"Shortage in the education ministry budget, delays payments to retirees."

Al-Anbaa newspaper - Saturday 6/8/2016

"Planning secretariat: Weakness of the teacher and the lack of curriculum consistency behind the deterioration of education in Kuwait."

"KD 186 million, the cost of enhancing the quality program in the 2015/2020 plan. The higher planning and development council put out the most important strategies for the quality of education program and the reason for its drop during the past years."

—Al-Jarida newspaper

## Crime

Report

**DIAMOND RING STOLEN**

**KUWAIT:** Capital detectives are gathering information about two women who stole a diamond ring while flirting with a salesman in a jewelry store. The women's actions led the salesman to lose concentration, which allowed them to take the ring, according to his statements. A security source said a bedoon who has a power of attorney from the store owner said an Indian salesman told him two veiled ladies stole the ring, and he submitted a video showing the women flirting with the Indian and leaving.

**Death**

A female citizen died under unknown circumstances in Ardiya. Operations received a call about the body of a woman, and forensics men detected burns on the deceased's face and hands, which suggests foul play behind the death. The prosecution is investigating.

**Suicide**

A citizen jumped to her death from a flat she rented 10 days earlier in Salmiya. Police received a call about the woman who threw herself from the 10th floor of the building. Hawally police and paramedics rushed to the scene and found the woman had died of her injuries, and the body was recovered by the coroner. The woman was a 46-year-old citizen, and the haris said she rented the flat 10 days before the incident took place. Investigations are underway to find the reasons and motives behind her suicide.

**Drugs, weapons possession**

Three firearms, 250 gm of hashish, 160 illicit tablets and 250 gm of shabu were confiscated and three citizens, two of whom are brothers, were arrested by weapons detectives. A security source said detectives learned about a citizen trading in weapons in Sabah Al-Salem, so his house was raided and three firearms, ammunition and 250 gm of hashish were found. The suspect was taken to the weapons detectives department. Meanwhile, detectives received tips about another citizen in Jahra so they went to his house and found 160 illicit tablets and 250 gm of shabu. They also found he has been sentenced to four years in jail on a felony case. When he was being taken to the police car, his brother attempted to free him from them. He was also found wanted on a KD 15,000 debt, so he was arrested too and sent to concerned authorities.

**Officers assaulted**

A Jahra police patrol asked a car to stop, but the driver sped off instead, so they chased him. The chase ended in front of a house, in which the driver ran into. When policemen asked him to come out, three of his brothers came out and attacked the two policemen, preventing them from reaching the suspect. The policemen had to fire into the air before asking for backup. The three brothers were arrested. Meanwhile, the two policemen went to hospital, got medical reports and lodged complaints at Naem police station. The main suspect is still at large, and is being sought by police authorities.

**Ex-husband charged**

A citizen beat his ex-wife and four of her relatives and insulted them verbally after he stormed into their home in Waha, then escaped before the arrival of policemen. The five persons who were beaten went to Jahra Hospital, brought medical reports to the police station and lodged complaints against the suspect.

**Fight**

A citizen who bought a cable from a Jahra phone store wanted to return it a day later, claiming that it was faulty. But the salesman, an Egyptian, refused, and an argument took place that soon turned into blows, until the fight was broken up by passersby. The salesman was injured in the forehead, while the customer suffered several bruises. Both went to the hospital, got medical reports, then went to Jahra police station.

**Search for harasser**

A citizen in her thirties complained against an elderly man for harassing her in Fintas. She said that he kept trying to give her his number despite admonishing him. A security source said the woman stated that when she wrote down his car's license plate number, he drove behind her until she entered the police station parking lot, then escaped. Police are working on arresting him for questioning.

**'Fowl' play**

A thief stole 20 pigeons from a citizen's farm in Salmiya valued at KD 5,000. A security source said a citizen told Taima police he was surprised by the loss of 20 birds from his farm. Detectives took over the case.

**KD 24,000 car stolen**

Jabriya police station investigator put out the descriptions of a 2014 model luxury car, while at the same time issued a traffic citation for leaving the car running while being away from it. These actions were taken when a woman told police that she left her car running in front of a pharmacy to buy medicine, then a stranger got in the car and drive off. The car is worth KD 24,000. The woman said she left the car running because the weather is hot, adding she only spent one minute inside the pharmacy.

**Suicide prevented**

Interior Ministry operations received a call about a Kuwaiti prisoner attempting suicide by drinking bleach, and he was rushed to Jahra Hospital in a prison patrol. The prisoner is serving a jail sentence for using drugs. —Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



Man who swallowed 40 knives blames 'spiritual powers'

## WIKILEAKS SPILLS SECRETS; PRIVATE LIVES EXPOSED

**CAIRO:** WikiLeaks' global crusade to expose government secrets is causing collateral damage to the privacy of hundreds of innocent people, including survivors of sexual abuse, sick children and the mentally ill, The Associated Press has found. In the past year alone, the radical transparency group has published medical files belonging to scores of ordinary citizens while many hundreds more have had sensitive family, financial or identity records posted to the web.

In two particularly egregious cases, WikiLeaks named teenage rape victims. In a third case, the site published the name of a Saudi citizen arrested for being gay, an extraordinary move given that homosexuality is punishable by death in the ultraconservative Muslim kingdom. "They published everything: my phone, address, name, details," said a Saudi man who told AP he was bewildered that WikiLeaks had revealed the details of a paternity dispute with a former partner.

### Info could destroy people

"If the family of my wife saw this ... Publishing personal stuff like that could destroy people," WikiLeaks' mass publication of personal data is at odds with the site's claim to have championed privacy even as it laid bare the workings of international statecraft, and has drawn criticism from the site's allies. Attempts to reach WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange were unsuccessful; a set of questions left with his site wasn't immediately answered yesterday.

WikiLeaks' stated mission is to bring censored or restricted material "involving war, spying and corruption" into the public eye, describing the trove amassed thus far as a "giant library of the world's most persecuted documents." The library is growing quickly, with half a million files from the US Democratic National Committee, Turkey's governing party and the Saudi Foreign Ministry added in the last year or so. But the library is also filling with rogue data, including computer viruses, spam, and a compendium of personal records.

The Saudi diplomatic cables alone hold at least 124 medical files, according to a sample analyzed by AP. Some described patients with psychiatric conditions, seriously ill children or refugees. "This has nothing to do with politics or corruption," said Dr Nayef Al-Fayez, a consultant in the Jordanian capital of Amman who confirmed that a brain cancer patient of his was among those whose details were published to the web.



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange

### Personal info exposed

Dr Adnan Salhab, a retired practitioner in Jordan who also had a patient named in the files, expressed anger when shown the document. "This is illegal what has happened," he said in a telephone interview. "It is illegal!" The AP, which is withholding identifying details of most of those affected, reached 23 people - most in Saudi Arabia - whose personal information was exposed. Some were unaware their data had been published; WikiLeaks is censored in the country. Others shrugged at the news. Several were horrified.

### Medical records

One, a partially disabled Saudi woman who'd secretly gone into debt to support a sick relative, said she was devastated. She'd kept her plight from members of her own family. "This is a disaster," she said in a phone call. "What if my brothers, neighbors, people I know or even don't know have seen it? What is the use of publishing my story?" Medical records are widely counted among a person's most private information. But the AP found that WikiLeaks also routinely publishes identity records, phone numbers and other information easily exploited by criminals.

The DNC files published last month carried more than two dozen Social Security and credit card numbers, according to an AP analysis assisted by New Hampshire-based compliance firm DataGravity. Two of the people named in the files told AP they were targeted by identity thieves fol-



PARIS: In this photo, a selection of private medical files published by transparency website WikiLeaks is shown in Paris. — AP

lowing the leak, including a retired US diplomat who said he also had to change his number after being bombarded by threatening messages.

The number of people affected easily reaches into the hundreds. Paul Dietrich, a transparency activist, said a partial scan of the Saudi cables alone turned up more than 500 passport, identity, academic or employment files. The AP independently found three dozen records pertaining to family issues in the cables - including messages about marriages, divorces, missing children, elopements and custody battles.

Many are very personal, like the marital certificates which reveal whether the bride was a virgin. Others deal with Saudis who are deeply in debt, including one man who says his wife stole his money. One divorce document details a male partner's infertility. Others identify the partners of women suffering from sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and Hepatitis C Lisa Lynch, who teaches media and communications at Drew University and has followed WikiLeaks for years, said Assange may not have had the staff or the resources to properly vet what he published.

Or maybe he felt that the urgency of his mission trumped privacy concerns. "For him the ends justify the means," she said. Initially conceived as a Wikipedia-style platform for leakers, WikiLeaks' initial plan was for a "worldwide community of informed users" to curate the material it released wholesale, according to the site's now defunct question-and-answer page. Prominent transparency advocate Steven Aftergood privately warned Assange a few days before the site's debut that the publish-everything approach was problematic.

### Aggression or oppression

"Publication of information is not always an act of freedom," Aftergood said in an email sent in late 2006. "It can also be an act of aggression or oppression." Those concerns were heightened after WikiLeaks published a series of documents leaked by US Army intelligence analyst Bradley Manning, now known as Chelsea, in 2010. The publication provided explosive evidence of human rights abuses in Iraq and Pakistani cooperation with the Taliban in Afghanistan - among many other revelations - but it also led to allegations that civilians in war zones had been endangered.

Assange insisted WikiLeaks had a system to keep ordinary people's information safe. "We have a harm minimization policy," the Australian told an audience in Oxford, England in July of 2010. "There are legitimate secrets. Your records with your doctor, that's a legitimate secret." Assange initially leaned on cooperating journalists, who flagged sensitive material to WikiLeaks which then held them back for closer scrutiny.

But Assange was impatient with the process, describing it as time-consuming and expensive.

"We can't sit on material like this for three years with one person to go through the whole lot, line-by-line, to redact," he told London's Frontline Club the month after his talk in Oxford. "We have to take the best road that we can."

Assange's attitude has hardened since. A brief experiment with automatic redactions was aborted. The journalist-led redactions were abandoned too after Assange's relationship with the London press corps turned toxic. By 2013 WikiLeaks had written off the redaction efforts as a wrong move. Withholding any data at all "legitimizes the false propaganda of 'information is dangerous,'" the group argued on Twitter. But some private information genuinely is dangerous, courting serious consequences for the people involved.

Three Saudi cables published by the WikiLeaks identified domestic workers

who'd been tortured or sexually abused by their employers, giving the women's full names and passport numbers. One cable named a male teenager who was raped by a man while abroad; a second identified another male teenager who was so violently raped his legs were broken; a third outlined the details of a Saudi man detained for "sexual deviation" - a derogatory term for homosexuality. Scott Long, an LGBT rights activist who has worked in the Middle East, said the names of rape victims were off-limits.

### AKP emails

And he worried that releasing the names of people persecuted for their sexuality only risked magnifying the harm caused by oppressive officials. "You're legitimizing their surveillance, not combating it," Long said. WikiLeaks was criticized last month after it released what it described as "AKP emails," a reference to Turkey's governing Justice and Development Party, known by its Turkish acronym AKP. But dissidents' excitement turned to scorn when they realized the 300,000 documents were little more than a vast collection of junk mail and petitions.

Vural Ero, 66, was one of many people who'd written to the AKP, complaining in 2013 that his car had been towed from his lawn by authorities in Istanbul. He was startled to find that WikiLeaks had published the message along with his personal number. "I would like to know for what purpose they exposed me," he said in a phone interview. Prominent anti-censorship campaigner Yaman Akdeniz, who reviewed hundreds of messages like Ero's, said there was nothing newsworthy in any of them. Ero said he admired WikiLeaks for exposing wrongdoing but said, "they should try to protect innocent civilians. They should screen what they leak."

Experts say WikiLeaks' apparent refusal to do the most minimal screening is putting even its own readers at risk. Vesselin Bontchev, a researcher at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences' National Laboratory of Computer Virology, said he was startled to find hundreds of pieces of malicious software in WikiLeaks' dumps - suggesting the site doesn't take basic steps to sanitize its publications. "Their understanding of journalism is finding an interesting document in a trash can and then dumping the can on your front door," he said.

Even Assange's biggest backers are getting uncomfortable. Journalist Glenn Greenwald, one of the site's leading allies in the media world, has distanced himself from WikiLeaks over its publication strategy. National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden, whose asylum in Russia WikiLeaks helped broker, recently suggested the site should take more care to curate its work.

Others are disillusioned. Dietrich, the transparency activist, said he still supported WikiLeaks "in principle" but had been souring on Assange and his colleagues for a while. "One of the labels that they really don't like is being called 'anti-privacy activists,'" Dietrich said in a phone interview. "But if you want to live down that label, don't do stuff like this!" Satter reported from Paris and London. — AP

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## IN IRAQ, NIGERIA AND NOW TURKEY, CHILD BOMBERS STRIKE

**ISTANBUL:** The boy looked scared and younger than 16 when Iraqi police grabbed him on the street in the northern city of Kirkuk. Pulling off his shirt, they found a two-kilogram bomb strapped to his skinny frame. That was last Sunday. Less than a day earlier, Turkey was less fortunate: A teenage bomber detonated his suicide vest among dancing guests at a Turkish wedding party, officials say, killing 51 people, nearly half of them children themselves.

Saturday's attack at the wedding in Gaziantep marked not only Turkey's deadliest this year, but also the first time in Turkey that militants may have deployed a child bomber in a way already used to deadly effect in wars from Africa to Syria. In Afghanistan, the Taliban has long used children. One 14-year-old bomber on a bicycle hit the Kabul NATO base in 2012 killing six people; two years later a teenager blew himself up at French cultural centre in the Afghan capital.

### New tactics

Researchers and officials say Islamic State and other militants are now increasingly using the same tactics, perhaps to build ranks depleted by losses, preserve adult fighters or simply catch security forces off guard. In West Africa,

Boko Haram has preyed on displaced children or young girls it kidnapped to force them to become bombers. In Iraq and Syria, activists say Islamic State took in children from towns it captures or recruited families to its territory, and indoctrinated their children in its schools and camps.

Islamic State in particular, highlights its child recruits for its "Cubs of the Caliphate" brigades, publishing images and videos on social media of children receiving training and indoctrination, and carrying out bombings or executions. "Child recruitment across the region is increasing," said Juliette Touma, a UNICEF regional spokesperson. "Children are taking a much more active role ..., receiving training on the use of heavy weapons, manning checkpoints on the front lines, being used as snipers and in extreme cases being used as suicide bombers."

Little has been publicly released about the attacker in the Gaziantep bombing. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday that the bomber was between 12 to 14 years old, and said Islamic State was probably responsible. The blast tore into celebrations at a Kurdish wedding on the street late at night. As many as 22 of the dead were under the age of 14. No one



**In this file photo released by a militant website, young boys known as the 'lion cubs' hold rifles and Islamic State group flags as they exercise at a training camp**

claimed the attack, but Islamic State in the past has targeted Kurdish gatherings to stir ethnic tensions.

Turkey's prime minister was more cautious on Monday, saying it was too early to say who carried out the attack, though security sources say witnesses reported the bomber was a child. Turkish authorities are also investigating whether militants may have placed the explosives on the suspect, without his or her knowledge before detonating them long distance. That tactic has been used before in Iraq, where children or even

mentally disadvantaged adults have been dispatched as unwitting bomb couriers into markets and checkpoints before they are blown up from afar.

### Teenage recruits

In the failed attack in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk a day later, local television images and photographs showed the boy crying and screaming as he was grabbed by Iraqi security forces near an interior ministry building. Security officials said the boy is 16 years old, though local media reports said he was much

younger. He is an Iraqi national from Mosul, the largest urban centre still under militant control, which Iraqi and Kurdish Peshmerga forces backed by US air strikes are moving to liberate. Hisham Al-Hashimi, an analyst and author who advises the Iraqi government on Islamic State, says militants this year had reactivated their Heaven's Youth Brigade, in reaction to the group's battlefield losses in Iraq and Syria.

"Teenagers are easier to recruit for suicide missions, especially in moments of suffering or despair having lost loved ones," he said. "They also attract less attention and less suspicion than male adults." Child recruits who have escaped from Islamic State ranks in its base in Syria's Raqqa have described how they were taught to handle weapons, and also how to detonate suicide belts. A study in February for Combating Terrorism Center at West Point military academy that examined Islamic State propaganda on child and youth 'martyrs' between January 2015 and 2016, found three times as many suicide operations involving children over the year.

"They represent an effective form of psychological warfare-to project strength, pierce defenses, and strike fear into enemy soldiers' hearts," the study said. — Reuters

## SYRIAN KURDISH GROUPS SEIZE NEARLY ALL HASAKA

### TURKEY SHELLS KURDISH POSITIONS IN MANBIJ

**BEIRUT:** Kurdish forces were in near full control of Syria's city of Hasaka yesterday after battling pro-government militias, though some government officials remained holed up in buildings in the city centre, a Kurdish official and monitoring group said. The battle over Hasaka marks the most violent confrontation between the Kurdish YPG militia and Damascus in more than five years of civil war, and victory would be a major boost for the Kurds despite Turkish efforts to curb their gains.

Ankara, which its fighting militants from its own Kurdish minority, has begun to step up

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights Director Rami Abdulrahman said. "Even if they (pro-government militias) keep a symbolic presence, it is a big defeat for the regime in Hasaka," said Abdulrahman.

The YPG, a critical part of the US-backed campaign against Islamic State, controls swathes of northern Syria where Kurdish groups have established autonomy from Damascus since the start of the Syria war in 2011. "The overwhelming majority of the city is under the control of the People's Protection Units (YPG) and the Asayish, apart from the

al solution to the Syrian war to safeguard their autonomy. The Kurdish forces also seized five villages from pro-government militiamen, the Observatory said. YPG-controlled areas of northern Syria include an uninterrupted 400 km stretch of the Syrian-Turkish border from the frontier with Iraq to the Euphrates river, and a pocket of territory in northwestern Syria called Afrin.

Turkey's military returned fire with artillery at targets across the border in northern Syria on Tuesday, after mortar shells and rockets from Syria hit two Turkish frontier towns, broadcaster NTV said citing the military. NTV said Turkey's military fired 40 shells at four Islamic State targets in northern Syria, near where Turkish-backed Syrian rebels are preparing to battle Islamic State for control of the strategic town of Jarablus.

### Military leader assassinated

Kurdish influence spread further this month when a US-backed alliance of militias including the YPG captured the city of Manbij from Islamic State, west of the Euphrates. Turkey has said it expected Kurdish fighters to withdraw back to the east bank of the Euphrates. Turkey is backing an expected operation by Syrian Arab rebel groups to seize the Islamic State-held Jarablus at the border, an assault that would prevent that town also falling to groups allied to the YPG. Jarablus is 40 km north of Manbij. Turkey's military fired on Syrian Kurdish targets 20 times with artillery at Manbij on Monday, a Turkish official said. In addition, they targeted Islamic State targets in Jarablus. The official said the aim was to open a corridor for the rebels. The Arab rebel groups due to take part in the Jarablus operation are themselves hostile to the YPG, having fought with it further west near Aleppo this year. The US-backed alliance including the YPG is known as the Syria Democratic Forces (SDF). The leader of the newly declared "Jarablus military council", set with the aim of mounting its own campaign to seize Jarablus with SDF support, was assassinated on Monday, the Observatory said. Mansour, the Kurdish official, said two "agents of Turkey" had been detained over the killing. — Reuters



**DOUMA:** Photo shows the body of a Syrian child before he is wrapped in shrouds at a makeshift hospital following a reported air strike on the rebel-held town of Douma, east of the capital Damascus. — AFP

efforts to curb the growth of Kurdish influence in Syria, where it backs Sunni Arab groups that are also hostile to the YPG. Yesterday Hasaka's remaining government officials were confined to a few buildings in the city centre while the rest of the city was under Kurdish control,

security zone," said Naser Haj Mansour, the Kurdish official, adding that some fighting was still underway. The Asayish is a YPG-affiliated security force.

He described the outcome as a "step forward" for the Kurdish groups that want a feder-

### TURKEY STRIKES IS; SYRIA BORDER TENSIONS FLARE

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey yesterday pounded Islamic State (IS) jihadists in Syria with new artillery strikes as expectations grew of a major Ankara-backed offensive against the group after a deadly suicide bombing on its soil. With tensions flaring on the Turkey-Syria border following the bombing in the nearby city of Gaziantep that left 54 people dead, Turkish howitzers on Monday hit jihadist and Kurdish rebel targets across the frontier. Turkey has been shaken by one of the bloodiest years in its modern history, with a string of attacks by IS jihadists and Kurdish militants and the botched July 15 coup.

In new fighting on Tuesday, two mortar rounds fired from an IS-controlled area in Syria hit the southeastern Turkish town of Karkamis while three more hit the centre of the Turkish border town of Kilis, the state-run Anadolu news agency said. There were no reports of injuries although 21 people in Kilis have been killed by fire from Syria in recent months. Turkish artillery responded to the fire on Karkamis by hitting four IS positions around the jihadist-controlled Syrian town of Jarablus with around 60 shells. The army also responded to the fire on Kilis.

### 'May begin any time'

The shelling came as activists said hundreds of Ankara-backed rebels were preparing an offensive against the IS group to seize control of Jarablus. But this could potentially put them on collision course with the militia of the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) which Ankara vehemently opposes and who also have designs on Jarablus after seizing the strategic Manbij area in northern Syria from IS. Rami Abdul Rahman, the head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the "Turkish shelling in Syria aimed to prevent the advance of troops backed by Kurds from Manbij towards

Jarablus". He told AFP the commander of Kurdish-dominated forces headed to Jarablus, Abdel Satar Al-Jader, was also "assassinated" on Monday after announcing he planned to resist the Turkish advance. There was no confirmation of this from Turkish sources. Abdulkadir Selvi, a well-connected columnist for the Hurriyet daily, said the Turkey-backed offensive "could begin at any moment".

### 'New page on Syria'

The movements have come at a critical juncture for Turkey in Syria's five-and-a-half-year war, with signs growing it is on the verge of a landmark policy shift. Ankara has always called for the ouster of President Bashar Al-Assad as the key to ending the conflict, putting Turkey at odds with his main supporters Iran and Russia.

However Prime Minister Binali Yildirim at the weekend for the first time acknowledged that Assad was one of the "actors" in Syria and may need to stay on as part of a transition.

On Monday, he urged world powers including Iran, Russia and the United States to join together to rapidly open a "new page" in the Syria crisis. But he also warned it was "unacceptable" for Kurds to seek to establish any kind of separate entity in northern Syria. Turkey regards PYD as a terror group, although Washington, Ankara's ally in the fight against IS, sees its People's Protection Units militia (YPG) - as having an important role in the fight. US Vice President Joe Biden is due to visit Ankara Wednesday to meet Turkey's leadership with agreeing a unified strategy on Syria set to be a crucial issue. — AFP



**KARKAMIS:** A Turkish army tank and an armored vehicle are stationed near the border with Syria, in Karkamis, Turkey yesterday. — AP



**DOUMA:** An injured Syrian child receives treatment at a makeshift hospital following a reported air strike on the rebel-held town of Douma yesterday. — AFP

## WILL SYRIA GAS PROBE NAIL ASSAD REGIME?

**UNITED NATIONS:** A yearlong investigation to determine who is behind deadly chemical attacks in Syria takes center stage at the United Nations this week when the panel presents its much-awaited findings. The Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) set up by the UN Security Council has been collecting evidence in nine cases of alleged noxious gas attacks on Syrian villages in 2014 and 2015.

Diplomats are hoping that the 24-member panel tasked with identifying those responsible will finally point the finger at President Bashar Al-Assad's forces. "I expect absolute clarity that there have been these chemical weapons attacks in Syria, and to the extent that the evidence allows it-absolute clarity about who is responsible for each one," said British Ambassador Matthew Rycroft.

"We are very keen indeed to ensure full accountability. Whoever uses chemical weapons in Syria needs to be held accountable," he said. French Deputy Ambassador Alexis Lamek said "this is a very important report" and stressed that the council will have to follow up on "whatever its findings will be." The report will be presented today to the council, which will then discuss the findings at a meeting on August 30. The JIM has presented two reports to the council including an update in June in which it reported progress, but stressed that identifying the perpetrators hinged on gathering sufficient information.

The panel is looking into nine attacks on seven villages in the Hama, Idlib and Aleppo provinces. The probe dates back to the April 2014 attack on the rebel-held village of Kafr Zita, followed by a string of alleged use of noxious gas in Idlib province

on the towns of Talmenes, Al-Tamana, Qmenas, Binnish and Sarmin. Several people including children died in the attacks and dozens were hospitalized suffering from vomiting and shortness of breath, according to rights groups that have documented witness accounts. Blame could also be assigned to Islamic State militants suspected of using mustard gas on the town of Marea in Aleppo province on August 21 last year.

### Chlorine barrel bombs

Most of the cases point to the alleged use of chlorine gas in barrel bombs dropped from helicopters. The United States, Britain and France maintain that only the regime has helicopters, but Russia, Damascus' ally, insists that there is no concrete proof that Assad's forces carried out the attacks. To build its case, the JIM has had full access to evidence gathered by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) which has sent fact-finding missions to Syria.

JIM investigators traveled to Syria twice this year, in March and May, to question government officials and interview witnesses. If the panel concludes that the Assad regime was responsible for some of the chemical attacks, the Security Council would then decide whether to impose sanctions or possibly ask the International Criminal Court to take up the matter as a war crime. Many diplomats say Russia appears unlikely to back such a move. Paul Walker, a director at Green Cross International, a think tank founded by former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said he believed Russia would not block efforts to punish those responsible for chemical weapons use.

## NORTH KOREA PLANTS MINES NEAR KOREA BORDER VILLAGE

**SEOUL:** The American-led UN Command in South Korea yesterday accused North Korea of planting land mines near a truce village inside the Demilitarized Zone that divides the two Koreas. Much of the border, one of the world's most dangerous flashpoints, is strewn with land mines and laced with barbed wire. But South Korean media said no land mines had been planted in the area of the truce village of Panmunjom until North Korea placed an unspecified number there last week. The UN Command said in a statement that it "strongly condemns" any North Korean action that jeopardizes the safety of personnel in the DMZ.

It said it wouldn't speculate on why North Korea placed the mines there. Yonhap news agency, citing an unidentified South Korean government official, said the North apparently planted the mines to prevent front-line North Korean soldiers from defecting to South Korea via Panmunjom. North Korea's state media didn't immediately respond to the UN Command statement. Panmunjom, jointly overseen by North Korea and the UN Command, is where an

armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War was signed and is now a popular tourist spot for visitors from both sides.

Under the Korean War armistice, the two sides are barred from carrying out any hostile acts within or across the 4-kilometer-wide DMZ. Still, they have accused each other of deploying machine guns and other heavy weapons and combat troops inside the zone. More than a million mines are also believed to be buried inside the DMZ. North Korean mines occasionally have washed down a swollen river into South Korea, killing or injuring civilians. In August 2015, land mine blasts maimed two South Korean soldiers and caused tensions between the two Koreas to flare. The UN Command statement came a day after US and South Korean troops began annual drills despite North Korean threats to retaliate against the exercises, which it says are a rehearsal for an invasion. This year's drills come at a time of intensified animosity between the rivals over the defection of a senior North Korean diplomat in London and a US plan to install a sophisticated missile defense system in South Korea. — Agencies



# BRAZIL'S ROUSSEFF FACES FINAL IMPEACHMENT BATTLE

**BRASILIA:** Brazil's suspended president Dilma Rousseff enters her final battle to win back power yesterday, when senators open an impeachment trial expected to remove her from office for good. That would formally end 13 years of leftist rule in Latin America's biggest economy. During a trial expected to last several days, the former Marxist guerrilla, 68, will take the stand to defend herself against charges that she fiddled state accounts. She denounces the impeachment drive as a "coup" by her rivals, led by her replacement, former vice president Michel Temer.

"In the Senate, I will argue not only for democracy and respect for the direct vote of the Brazilian people, but also for justice," Rousseff said yesterday. But media estimate that most senators will vote to remove her. "This will be the last chance she has to defend herself. For our part, we will treat her with respect," said one of the senators seeking to impeach Rousseff, Cassio Cunha Lima. "It will also depend on her attitude. If she is aggressive and provocative, there will be a reaction," he said.

### Schedule

The trial opens tomorrow, four days after the

Olympic Games closing ceremony in Rio de Janeiro. Rousseff is scheduled to appear in person to defend herself on August 29. Senate president Renan Calheiros said the final vote would likely take place on August 30. If two thirds of the senators vote against her, she will be out. "Dilma would need a miracle for that not to happen," said political analyst Everaldo Moraes from Brasilia University. "Even her own allies can see that."

### Torture survivor

Rousseff survived torture in the 1970s under Brazil's military regime. She later beat cancer and became the country's first woman president. But she was unable to resist the turning of the political tide as she struggled to cope with a recession that hit in 2014 and failed to maintain alliances. "She made every kind of mistake that a president can make," said Sergio Praca, an analyst at the Getulio Vargas Foundation. "She failed to keep her campaign promises, didn't pay enough attention to her coalition, ignored her own party and didn't listen to anyone."



Brazilian suspended President Dilma Rousseff

### Petrobras scandal

Political chaos and scandal have compounded Brazil's recession. A probe into corruption in the state oil firm Petrobras has implicated Rousseff's rivals and allies. The impeachment, however, is not linked to the scandal. Instead, she is accused of manipulating the public accounts to hide the size of Brazil's deficit while

she was running for re-election in 2014. "Those who commit crimes must be held responsible for them," Senator Aécio Neves, whom she defeated in that election, said this month. "The conditions are firmly in place for removing Dilma Rousseff." He spoke as the Senate voted to hold the trial. It had already approved her temporary suspension in May.

### The risks

If Rousseff is removed from office, Temer will be president until the next elections in 2018. His approval ratings are almost as low as Rousseff's. Demonstrations for and against him have broken out and he was booed at the opening ceremony of the Rio Olympics. Some analysts say investors are optimistic Temer can strengthen Brazil's giant economy in the medium term. But they warn that he too risks getting caught up in the Petrobras affair. Temer's opponents complain his pro-business austerity policies will hurt the poor. He is working to pass public spending limits and pension reforms. He urged the Senate this month to move quickly to remove Rousseff. "People need to know who the president is," he said.— AFP



**SOKOTO:** US Secretary of State John Kerry (right) speaks with Sokoto Sultan and President-General of the Nigerian National Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar outside the Palace of the Sultan in Sokoto yesterday. — AFP

## TOP BOKO HARAM FIGHTERS KILLED; KERRY IN NIGERIA

**SOKOTO:** Nigeria's air force said it had killed a number of senior Boko Haram fighters and possibly their overall leader as US Secretary of State John Kerry arrived for talks on tackling the militants. Government planes had attacked the Islamist group inside the Sambisa forest in its northeast heartland on Friday, the air force said, adding that it had only just confirmed details of the raid. "Their leader, so called 'Abubakar Shekau', is believed to be fatally wounded on his shoulders," the statement by military spokesman Colonel Sani Kukashka Usman added, without going into details on the source of its information.

The military has reported the death of Boko Haram's Shekau in the past, only to have a man purporting to be him appear later, apparently unharmed, making video statements. There was no immediate reaction from the group, which communicates with the media only by videos. Kerry did not make a direct reference to the reported air raid on his arrival yesterday, but his administration has paid close attention to the fight against a militant group that has declared allegiance to Islamic State and attacked Nigeria's neighbors. On his first stop in the northern city of Sokoto, the top US diplomat said the struggle against Boko Haram would only succeed if it tackled the reasons why people join militant groups and gained the public's trust. "It is understandable that, in the wake of terrorist activity, some are tempted to crack down on anyone and everyone who could theoretically pose some sort of threat. But extremism can't be defeated through repression or fear," he said. Nigeria has been pushing the United States to sell it aircraft to take on Boko Haram - a group that emerged in northeast Borno region seven years ago. The militants have killed an estimated 15,000 people in their fight to set up an Islamist state.

Under Nigeria's last president, Goodluck Jonathan, the United States had blocked arms sales and ended training of Nigerian troops partly over human rights concerns such as treatment of captured insurgents. But the new administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has argued its human rights record has improved significantly enough to lift the blockade. In May, US officials told Reuters that Washington wanted to sell up to 12 A-29 Super Tucano light attack aircraft to Nigeria in recognition of Buhari's reform of the country's army. Congress needs to approve the deal. Kerry was due to visit President Buhari later in the capital Abuja, officials said. — Agencies

# CLINTON'S HEALTH: TRUMP'S SHARPENS FOCUS OF ATTACK

## HILLARY 'NOT HEALTHY ENOUGH' TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT

**NEW YORK:** On the skids in the polls and under fire for not releasing his tax returns, Donald Trump's campaign is sharpening a new attack on Hillary Clinton: claiming she is not healthy enough to serve as president. The Internet is awash with conspiracy theories claiming that she may have a brain tumor, Parkinson's or dementia, or complaining that she has "seizure-like facial expressions" or allegedly twitches. Trump, who at 70 is 16 months older than his Democratic adversary, his spokespeople and surrogates have used innuendo and fabrication to peddle their theories that she is not physically or mentally fit. "#Where'sHillary? Sleeping!!!!!" he tweeted over the weekend. Last week, he told voters in Iowa that Clinton was "not strong enough to be president." On another occasion, he maintained that she "importantly also lacks the mental and physical stamina to take on ISIS, and all of the many adversaries we face."

Former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, a Trump supporter, stepped up the attack on Monday, telling Fox News that Clinton was "tired" and "looked sick." Over the weekend, he came under fire for telling viewers to google Clinton's health. "Go online and put down 'Hillary Clinton illness,' take a look at the videos for yourself," he said on Fox News. Trump spokeswoman Katrina Pierson, who is not a doctor, last week diagnosed Clinton with dysphasia, a disorder that impairs speech and comprehension, and pushed conspiracy theories about her health promoted by some conservatives. Team Clinton vehemently denies any health concerns, and released a letter from her doctor in July 2015 giving her an "excellent" bill of health.

But the root of the conspiracy theories lies in 2012, when Clinton was nearing the end of her stint as secretary of state and a stomach virus and dehydration prompted her to faint, causing what her doctor said was a concussion. They said they found a blood clot on the brain and Clinton complained of double vision. She appeared in spectacles featuring a prism when testifying before Congress on Benghazi in January 2013. But she was later given the all-clear. Her test results were normal, and her cancer screening evaluations all negative, said a letter released by her physician Lisa Bardack last year.

### Gender overtones

Health is a legitimate subject of debate in presidential elections - Americans want to know that the person they are going to elect to one of the toughest jobs in the planet is up to the task both mentally and physically. But history is also peppered with coverups. The public had no idea John F. Kennedy had Addison's disease. The severity of Woodrow Wilson's stroke was concealed in 1919, as were concerns about Franklin D. Roosevelt's health before his fourth re-election-just months before he died in 1945. Ironically enough, Trump would be the oldest person ever elected US president if he wins. Clinton would be the second oldest after Ronald Reagan. In 2008, then aged 71, Republican nominee and cancer survivor John McCain released more than 1,500 pages of medical history in a bid to lay to rest suggestions that he was either too old or too unhealthy to serve as president. Jeanne Zaino, professor of political science at Iona College in New York, says Clinton may follow suit in releasing more medical records or have her doctor continue to reiterate her good health. — AFP



**OHIO:** Supporters of Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump leave a political rally at the James A Rhodes Arena in Akron, Ohio. Trump currently trails Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in Ohio, a state which is critical to his election bid. — AFP

## IN DRY, WINDY WEST, CREWS TARGET FLAMES IN US STATES

**SAN SIMEON:** Growing wildfires fed by windy, dry conditions have destroyed buildings and forced evacuations in central California, eastern Washington, Oregon and elsewhere. Crews in both states fought to contain the blazes, with firefighters making headway in the Golden State while authorities counted at least 16 homes burned in the Northwest. Here's a look at major wildfires in the West:

### CALIFORNIA

A growing wildfire in central California had charred over 50 square miles by Monday, while a destructive blaze in Southern California was mostly under control. Nearly 1,900 structures were threatened by a blaze in coastal San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties, where more than 2,400 people were under evacuation orders. Despite its being well over a week old, the fire surged with new activity on Monday and threatened to jump the lines that were containing it, though by day's end containment remained at 35 percent. The fire has destroyed 34 homes and 14 other buildings. Eighty miles up the coast, California's biggest fire grew to nearly 135 square miles in rugged wilderness coast along Highway 1 north of Big Sur. More than 400 homes remained threatened by the fire. Meanwhile, a 58-square-mile fire that destroyed 105 homes in Southern California was almost entirely contained and all evacuation orders were lifted.

### WASHINGTON

Wildfires in the Spokane area have burned more than a dozen homes and forced evacuations. One blaze west of the eastern Washington city had destroyed at least six homes and scorched more than 9 square miles by Monday morning, the Department of Natural Resources said. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office said 11 structures were destroyed near the town of Davenport, a figure that includes homes, garages and outbuildings. The fire jumped the Spokane River and threatened the small community of Wellpinit on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Residents were told to evacuate after the town lost power. Another wildfire, south of Spokane near the town of Spangle, destroyed at least 10 homes and numerous other buildings Sunday, according to the Washington State Patrol. A third blaze was burning on the north-

east side of the city. That fire had scorched 250 acres, and officials said some homes were likely destroyed.

### WYOMING

The largest fire in Yellowstone National Park in northwest Wyoming grew to about 35 square miles amid windy, warm weather, but tourists could still visit the popular park during the busy summer season. All the park's main tourist facilities and roads were open Monday, although the fire was creeping toward a key road linking the West Entrance with the park's interior. The blaze has charred mostly remote forest between West Yellowstone, Montana, a border town just outside the park's western boundary, and the Madison Junction recreational area within the park. The flames expanded by nearly 10 square miles Sunday. It's one of four fires burning in Yellowstone, and warm, windy weather was expected again Monday.

### MONTANA

Authorities ordered people in a rural area of northwestern Montana to evacuate before dawn Monday after a wildfire doubled in size in one day. The Sanders County Sheriff's Office told people to leave their homes outside the small town of Thompson Falls. Wind gusts of up to 40 mph were expected to blow across the dry, hot terrain, stoking extreme fire behavior. Some 20 homes and other buildings were threatened, and other residents were told that the evacuation area may spread. Some 317 firefighters are responding to the blaze, which grew by 41/2 square miles Sunday to nearly 11 square miles.

### OREGON

A wildfire spotted Sunday afternoon in eastern Oregon has quickly become one of the state's largest active blazes. Fire officials say the fire has scorched nearly 50 square miles of brush and grass near the Idaho state line. Officials say the fire's size was reduced from 80 square miles due to better mapping. Bureau of Land Management spokesman Larry Moore says the wildfire is burning two miles east of the Owyhee Reservoir, and it's threatening Succor Creek State Park. One hundred firefighters battled the fire Monday morning. Forecasters were expecting afternoon wind gusts of 25 mph. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined. — AP



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# MAN BLAMES 'SPIRITUAL POWERS' FOR SWALLOWING 40 KNIVES

## INDIA COWS GET GLOW-IN-THE-DARK HORNS TO STOP CRASHES

**NEW DELHI:** An Indian policeman who spent two months swallowing knives and had 40 of them surgically removed said yesterday that "spiritual powers" made him do it. The father of two underwent a successful five-hour operation to remove the knives from his stomach in the northern city of Amritsar after complaining to doctors of severe abdomen pain. "I don't know why I did it but there was some spiritual power behind it," the 42-year-old said from Amritsar in Punjab state, declining to be named.

"It started in June when I swallowed the first knife and I enjoyed the feeling. It soon became a habit," he said. Doctors said they initially thought he was suffering from a tumor after body scans showed a large solid mass. But on further investigation, they discovered dozens of folding knives with metal and wooden handles and measuring up to 18 centimeters unfolded. "We immediately prepared him for surgery and removed the knives. There was bleeding as some of them were unfolded,"

Rajinder Rajan, one of the surgeons at Corporate Hospital said.

Rajan said he suspected the patient, who told doctors he passed two more knives in his stools, was suffering from depression. Although recovering well from Friday's surgery, he would undergo a psychological assessment before being discharged from the hospital, Rajan said.

Doctors were not ruling out the possibility that he had pica disorder in which the sufferer feels compelled to consume non-edible things. But the man said he would not do it again. "I consumed a knife a day for about two months. I never felt it was going to harm me but when it pained, I came to the hospital. I will not repeat it. I am glad they saved my life and I want to go back to my family."

### Cows in central India

In another development, Police in central India are sticking glow-in-the-dark strips on the horns of stray cattle to prevent motorists from crashing into



**AMRITSAR:** Police constable Surjeet Singh, lies under a table displaying the 40 knives removed from his stomach in a hospital in Amritsar, India yesterday. — AP

the animals as they wander across roads at night, an officer said yesterday. Following a spate of road accidents,

traffic police in one district of Madhya Pradesh state have stuck orange radium reflective bands on the horns of 300

cows and bulls to help drivers spot them. Stray cattle are a major traffic menace in India, with hundreds of bovines roaming freely on roads across the country. "Many drivers injured themselves or killed the cattle after running over them at night," Kailash Chauhan, traffic police inspector for Balaghat district said.

"There was an urgent need to prevent such accidents," he said. Because of the success of the scheme, officers say they now plan to buy permanent radium paint to cover cows' horns, as the plastic bands only last for a few weeks.

Authorities have also asked farmers to fix glow-in-the-dark bands on their own cattle to help them be seen more easily. In 2015 more than 550 people were killed in India in accidents involving stray animals, according to road ministry figures. A World Health Organization report in 2013 said more than 231,000 people die on India's deadly roads each year. — Agencies

# SPAIN BALCONY-JUMPING CRAZE: MOST ARE DRUNK BRITS: STUDY

## 'BALCONING' BECOMING ENDEMIC

**MADRID:** They're young, on holiday, drunk and sometimes high, and they decide to jump from their hotel or apartment balcony into the pool. But some miss and end up in hospital... or worse, dead. The so-called "balconing" craze has taken off to such an extent in Spain's Balearic Islands that doctors at the Son Espases hospital in Palma de Majorca a major trauma centre decided to study the phenomenon. "It's endemic," says Xavier Gonzalez, head of surgery at the hospital who participated in the study.

"It seems that... it's like an initiation rite for some tourists, whose parents already came here when they were young." The 2010-2015 study only covers patients who were treated in hospital and not those who died while "balconing"—a term that refers to people who throw themselves into pools or fall while trying to get to another balcony or simply leaning over. Altogether, the hospital treated 46 patients during that time, more than 60 percent of whom were British, followed by Germans and then Spaniards, the study found.

Only one woman was involved, all the others were men, aged 24 on average. The fall itself was from an average height of eight meters. Alcohol was involved almost every time, and in close to 40 percent of the cases, drugs also played a role. Altogether, the craze has cost 1.5 million euros (\$1.7 million) in hospital fees, Gonzalez says, as patients can remain in intensive care for a long time, some ending up paraplegic. It is unclear exactly how many people have died from "balconing", but Spanish media have reported more than a dozen deaths over the past five years.

### 'Hit every balcony'

The craze also happens on Spain's northeastern Costa Brava, but it is most prevalent in the Balearic archipelago, which includes Magaluf and Ibiza among its famous resorts, Gonzalez says. Further afield, Bulgaria has also been hit by "balconing". In a bid to curb the trend, authorities in the Balearic Islands have implemented measures-

printing preventative leaflets and handing out fines to people caught trying to jump from balconies.

"As a precaution, when they see a group of young people arrive, hoteliers no longer put them on top floors but on the ground floor," adds Gonzalez. Britain has also tried to warn its nationals of the dangers of throwing themselves off balconies. In 2012, the British foreign ministry published leaflets called "Booze and Balconies Don't Mix," using the story of Jake Evans from Liverpool.

Drunk, he fell from the seventh floor of his flat in Magaluf in 2011. "I hit every balcony on the way down, as they jutted out like steps," he was quoted as saying. "I landed on a sun lounger which broke my fall and probably saved my life. I fractured my skull, broke front teeth which pierced through my upper lip, snapped my right wrist and broke all the fingers on my right hand," he said. "The accident has changed my life... I have recurring problems with my back and right wrist and doctors have told me I probably always will." —AFP

## BRITON FLEW INTO A RAGE AS HE HIT INDONESIAN COP

**DENPASAR:** Indonesian police said yesterday that a Briton flew into a rage and repeatedly hit a Bali police officer over the head with a beer bottle after accusing him of being a "fake cop". Traffic policeman Wayan Sudarsa was found dead last week with wounds to his head and neck on a popular beach in the south of the Indonesian resort island.

Briton David Taylor and his Australian girlfriend Sara Connor were arrested and have been named as suspects, a step in the Indonesian legal system meaning investigators believe they have enough evidence to consider filing charges. Taylor, a DJ, admitted in questioning Monday to having a fight with Sudarsa on the beach after accusing him of stealing Connor's bag. He hit the officer with bottles, binoculars and a phone after being pushed, according to his defense lawyer.

Giving his account of how the fight began, Hadi Purnomo, police chief in the Balinese capital Denpasar, said Taylor had "searched the victim, accused him of being a thief, and called him a fake cop even though he was wearing a uniform". Taylor got "mad" and they started to fight on the beach, with the Briton repeatedly hitting the policeman's head with a bottle until it broke, Purnomo said. "David was hitting violently, in a rage, with the bottle," said the police chief. Connor, a mother from New South Wales, has maintained her innocence, saying she only sought to separate the fighting men. However Purnomo said Tuesday he believed that she had taken part in the killing. A day after the policeman's body was found, the couple checked out of their hotel and burned their clothes, the police chief said. They had initially tried to deny any confrontation with Sudarsa and had offered a series of confusing and contradictory accounts of what had happened, he said. They could face up to 15 years in jail if found guilty of murder. Bali, a pocket of Hinduism in Muslim-majority Indonesia, is a popular tourist destination known for its tropical climate and palm-fringed beaches. Petty crime is common but murders are rare. — AFP

## REPORT ACCUSES MEXICAN PRESIDENT OF PLAGIARISM

**MEXICO CITY:** Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto has been accused of plagiarizing his law school thesis by a news website which says it detected the work of a dozen others in his writing. Investigative website Aristegui Noticias concluded that 197 of the 682 paragraphs in Pena Nieto's thesis from 25 years ago were plagiarized, based on analysis and speaking with professors. Presidential spokesman Eduardo Sanchez said the issue was a matter of 'style errors such as quotations without quotation marks or a lack of reference to authors (cited) in the bibliography.' Pena Nieto studied at Mexico's Panamerican University, which released a statement Monday afternoon that said it had not been consulted by the journalists and specified that it was 'in charge of studying the question' of possible plagiarism. The controversy arises as Pena Nieto's popularity is at an all-time low, with only 23 percent of Mexicans holding a positive opinion of the leader, according to a recent survey published by the newspaper Reforma.



Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto



**GAZA:** Palestinian masked members from the Izzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, a military wing of Hamas, hold their launcher of a rocket-propelled grenade, or RPG during a rally along the street of Rafah refugee camp, Gaza Strip. — AP

# ISRAEL UNCOVERS PALESTINIAN WEAPONS-MAKING NETWORK

**JERUSALEM:** Israel has uncovered an illegal Palestinian weapons manufacturing network in the West Bank in one of its largest raids during a months-long crackdown on illicit arms, the military said yesterday. Since the start of the year, Israel has seized dozens of weapons, shuttered arms-making factories and arrested weapons dealers in a clampdown in the West Bank meant to quell a spate of Palestinian violence.

The military said that the latest raid overnight found seven weapons factories, 22 weapons-making machines and dozens of arms, which it said was a significant haul since it began targeting illegal weapons manufacturers. Among the seized arms were crude guns based on the Swedish "Carl Gustav" submachine gun, which the military says has been a preferred weapon for Palestinian attackers.

The military says that since January, it uncovered 29 weapons factories and seized 49 weapons-making machines and more than 300 firearms. More than 140 arms dealers and manufacturers have been arrested during that time. The crackdown

comes amid an 11-month wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence which has largely tapered off in recent weeks. Israel says the weapons' crackdown is making it harder and more expensive for Palestinian assailants to acquire guns.

Some 34 Israelis and two visiting Americans have been killed in Palestinian attacks, mostly stabbings but also shootings. More than 206 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, the majority said by Israel to have been attackers. The rest were killed in clashes with Israeli troops. Israel says that Palestinian incitement has fueled the violence. The Palestinians say that nearly 50 years of Israeli occupation and a lack of hope for gaining independence are driving attacks. The attackers have overwhelmingly been in their teens or 20s, often acting alone without the support of militant groups, making it difficult for Israeli forces to stop them.

### Jews stoned

Meanwhile, Israeli security forces rushed to the West Bank city of Nablus yesterday to rescue ultra-Orthodox Jews stoned by Palestinians

as they visited a Jewish shrine, police said. A statement said that about 60 members of a Hassidic sect went on a pre-dawn trip to Joseph's Tomb, in a Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of the city, which many Jews believe holds the remains of the biblical patriarch Joseph (PBUH).

Palestinians believe an Islamic cleric, Sheikh Yussef Dweikat, was buried there two centuries ago and the Palestinian office of religious sites considers it to be an Islamic archaeological monument. Patriarch Joseph, son of Jacob, (PBUH) was sold into slavery by his brothers, before rising to become vizier of Egypt. Once a month, the Israeli army runs escorted nighttime visits to the tomb by Jewish pilgrims but there are frequent attempts at wildcat pilgrimages. "During the course of the night about 60 Hassids entered Joseph's Tomb without authorisation," the police statement said. "Disturbance broke out at the scene and stones were thrown at them." Israeli media said the bus carrying the worshippers was brought to a halt by Palestinian protesters before it actually reached the shrine. — Agencies

## News

In brief

### Japanese dad stabs son to death over studies

**TOKYO:** A Japanese father stabbed his 12-year-old son to death after complaining the boy was failing to study for a school entrance exam, media said yesterday. Kengo Satake, the boy's 48-year-old father, told police that he 'argued with his son for not studying' before a test to enter a private junior high school, public broadcaster NHK reported. Competition for entry to the best schools in Japan is intense. Admission to a prestigious one is seen as having a decisive impact on a child's future prospects. The son, named Ryota, was taken to hospital Sunday after the stabbing but died from loss of blood, Aichi prefectural police in the central city of Nagoya said. "The father stabbed his son in the chest with a kitchen knife," a police spokesman said, declining to provide details of the motive. The father was arrested after police got a call from hospital staff, he said. Satake reportedly told police he had stabbed his son "by mistake."

### Homeless illnesses in LA blamed on 'spice' drug

**LOS ANGELES:** Synthetic marijuana is suspected to be behind an illness that has sent dozens of homeless people from a downtown Los Angeles neighborhood to emergency rooms in recent days, authorities said Monday. Eighteen people from the Skid Row homeless district were treated by firefighters on Monday and 14 were taken to hospitals, Los Angeles Fire Department spokeswoman Margaret Stewart said. That came after the department on Friday evaluated about 50 people in the neighborhood, transporting 38 to hospitals. Although the cause of the illnesses has not yet been confirmed by toxicology tests, authorities said it was likely a type of synthetic marijuana called "spice." Local television news showed multiple men passed out in the street, many of them being treated by firefighters or other health personnel. "Because it's synthetic, nobody for sure knows what active ingredients are in there, the strength is variable," Marc Eckstein, the Los Angeles Fire Department medical director, said in a statement.

### Peru report finds police 'death squad' killed 20

**LIMA:** A so-called "death squad" established within the Peruvian National Police has executed at least 20 criminals extrajudicially, amid a growing wave of insecurity in the South American country, the interior ministry found. Earlier this month the ministry announced a probe into the alleged abuses after they surfaced in media reports. "There are serious indications of the existence of an irregular group formed by officers and noncommissioned officers of the National Police of Peru," Ruben Vargas, deputy minister of internal order, said Monday. Those officers "falsified intelligence information feigning confrontations in order to take out people in at least six cases," he said. The killings were carried out for economic gain and promotions, which are generally given for capturing gang members, the report found. Most of the killings were carried out between 2011 and 2016, with the squad leader receiving two promotions and six awards in recognition of fighting crime. The report said at least 20 suspected criminals were executed in six different instances, across a number of towns.

### Deaf driver shot dead by US police

**MIAMI:** Authorities in the southern US state of North Carolina said Monday they are investigating the death of a deaf man who was fatally shot after a trooper tried to pull him over for speeding. Daniel Harris, 29, who used sign language to communicate, led trooper Jermaine Saunders on an eight-mile chase on Thursday that started on an interstate highway and ended outside his home in Charlotte, local television station WSOC reported. The driver exited his vehicle in the neighborhood and an "encounter took place" that led to a shot being fired, North Carolina State Highway Patrol spokesman Sergeant Michael Baker said in a statement. The driver died at the scene, Baker said. No weapon was recovered from Harris, the State Bureau of Investigation told WSOC. Saunders has been placed on administrative leave while investigators review evidence, including dashboard and body camera videos.

### No democracy, rule of law in Venezuela: OAS

**WASHINGTON:** The head of the Organization of American States denounced corruption and violence in Venezuela on Monday, saying a 14-year prison term for an opposition leader there marked the end of democracy in the country. In an eight-page letter to opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, Luis Almagro highlighted the climate of "intimidation" against the political opposition in Venezuela and those working to recall leftist President Nicolas Maduro. "No regional or subregional forum can ignore the reality that today in Venezuela there is no democracy or rule of law," Almagro said, calling Lopez a "friend." "Under no circumstances should power be used... to prevent the sovereign will of the people from being expressed."

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## HOW TECHNOLOGY KILLED PAKISTAN'S HISTORIC RED LIGHT DISTRICT

**LAHORE:** Pakistan's oldest red light district was for centuries a hub of traditional erotic dancers, musicians and prostitutes. Pigalle with a Mughal twist, deep in the heart of vibrant Lahore. But as an e-commerce boom revolutionizes how Pakistanis conduct the world's oldest profession, locals say the historic Heera Mandi district is under threat. Balconies where beautiful women once stood are now empty, while rust eats away at the locked doors of vacant rooms. The only stubborn hold-outs are shops selling instruments that once facilitated the aperitifs of music and dance.

Men now can book a rendezvous online through escort websites or even directly with women over social media, instead of searching out streetside solicitation. With location rendered meaningless, prostitutes like Reema Kanwal—who says the business “runs in my blood”—have abandoned Heera Mandi. The district, whose name translates as “Diamond Market”, is close to the echoing, centuries-old Badshahi Mosque.

During the Mughal era, the great Islamic empire that ruled most of India and Pakistan in the 15th and 16th centuries, Heera Mandi was a centre for mujra, traditional singing and dancing performed for the elites. The wealthy even sent their sons to the salons of tawaifs, high-class courtesans that have been likened to Japanese geishas, to study etiquette. Later, when the British came, distinctions between

courtesan or mujra dancer and prostitute were blurred.

Dance and sex became intertwined, and Heera Mandi began its long slide into sordidness—but even so, Reema remembers “glorious” days. Reema's mother and grandmother were also prostitutes, making her part of Heera Mandi's generations of women who danced and pleased men in the market. “People used to respect the prostitutes of Heera Mandi, we were called artists,” she says—but all has changed over the last decade. “Now we don't have any honor.” She blames the loss on a rush of girls without her family background taking up the profession who have not been taught “how to treat people” the way she has.

### Diamonds in the rough

Such girls, she says, need nothing to market themselves but a mobile phone, with which they can advertise on Facebook or Locanto, some offering services over Skype for as little as 300 rupees (\$3). Dozens of escort services with online bookings claim to serve thousands of clients in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad—some even in Dubai and Singapore. In a deeply conservative Muslim country where prostitution is banned and sex outside marriage is criminalized, one website says it caters to roughly 50,000 customers.

With the old traditions falling by the wayside, girls also no longer need an entourage of musicians and teachers, say

the owners of the music shops that are the final remnants of old Heera Mandi. The intricate mujra dancing that was such a foundation of the red light district required years of teaching and live musicians. Now girls learn easy but provocative dance moves via YouTube. “They take a USB or sometimes they don't even need that, they have songs in their cell-phones, they plug a cable and play the music,” laments Soan Ali, one of the music shop owners. Like Reema, Ali's family has also been in Heera Mandi for generations, and he proudly recalled his father's “hospitality” as he attempted to lure clients for his mother. He takes a deep breath. “We are having a lot of difficulties,” he admits. “Whoever is in this field is going through hard days.”

### 'Heera Mandi is no more'

For those who have migrated beyond Heera Mandi, however, the future is bright. Mehak, who declined to give her full name, is a cosmetic surgeon by profession, a feminist by ideology, and by night one of Pakistan's most elite madams. Seven sleek Persian cats prowl among the expensive wooden furniture of her home, which doubles as a brothel for upper-class Pakistanis in a wealthy residential neighborhood of Lahore. Mehak, who is in her mid-50s, says she recruits most of her girls through elite parties—but adds “this online thing has really changed the business.” “A girl no longer needs a pimp to market her, she

has Facebook, Twitter,” she says.

“Heera Mandi is no more... even if a girl is from Heera Mandi she would never reveal it because the client would never risk sexually transmitted diseases and the bad image associated,” she added. Outside of the Diamond Market, she says, business is good. “Medical stu-

dents and MBAs have the highest rates, they get a hundred thousand (rupees, or \$1,000) for one night,” she says. Now she plans to expand and offer male prostitutes. “Girls from the elite class come to me and beg for boys,” she says. “They say they are ready to pay, but they need strong boys.” —AFP



**LAHORE:** Rashid Bhatti (center) - a dance instructor, teaches students dance steps at his dance academy in Lahore. Pakistan's oldest red light district was for centuries a hub of traditional erotic dancers, musicians and prostitutes—Montmartre with a Mughal twist, deep in the heart of vibrant Lahore. —AFP

# TOP DIPLOMATS KICK OFF JAPAN, CHINA, SOUTH KOREA MEETING

COUNTRIES AT ODDS OVER TERRITORIAL DISPUTES

**TOKYO:** Foreign ministers from Japan, China and South Korea kicked off a two-day meeting in Tokyo yesterday with their countries at odds over territorial disputes, a US missile defense system and perennial regional problem North Korea. Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, China's Wang Yi and South Korea's Yun Byung-Se met for dinner at a Tokyo hotel ahead of the start of formal talks today. The three shook hands and smiled for cameras without making any remarks before starting their meal.

The talks are the first since March of last year and come ahead of the Group of 20 summit in China early next month. “It is extremely important for the foreign ministers of the three countries that play major roles in the region to gather together and exchange opinions frankly,” Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters earlier. The meeting comes as Sino-Japanese tensions over a territorial dispute have spiked this month, while China and South Korea have sparred over the planned deployment in the latter country of a US anti-missile system.

The Tokyo-Seoul relationship is also prone to periodic tension due to the legacy of Japan's wartime aggression. Japan and China are locked in a long-running dispute over uninhabited islets, called the

Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China, in the East China Sea, with tensions over them a frequent hindrance to closer ties. Tokyo has lodged more than two dozen

protests through diplomatic channels since August 5, saying there have been about the same number of intrusions by Chinese vessels into its territorial waters.



**TOKYO:** Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (center) Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) and South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se pose for a photograph ahead of an official banquet at the trilateral Foreign Minister's meeting in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

“We will deliver Japan's thinking directly and clearly,” a foreign ministry official said regarding the dispute with China. “It is important for us to send our message firmly.” The visit by China's Wang marks the first by a Chinese foreign minister to Japan since Xi Jinping became president in March 2013. Separately, China has complained about the planned deployment of the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in South Korea, arguing the missile shield goes against its own national security interests and warning it will heighten regional tension.

South Korea, wary of offending China, had wavered, but went ahead in the face of North Korea's continued missile development. North Korea, meanwhile, is likely to be a key topic at the meeting, though finding common ground will be difficult. Japan and South Korea regularly condemn Pyongyang for its nuclear and missile development, and feel frustrated by what they see as a lack of pressure on the country by China, seen as its economic lifeline. Bilateral meetings between Kishida and his Chinese and South Korean counterparts are also scheduled. The three-way meeting is expected to be followed later this year by a summit. The leaders met in November last year in South Korea. —AFP

## News

in brief

### 2 soldiers die in blast in Turkey's southeast

**ISTANBUL:** A Turkish military vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device in southeast Sirmak province, killing two soldiers, security sources and private Dogan news agency said yesterday. No one claimed responsibility for the blast in Uludere town near the Iraqi border. Turkey's southeast has been hit by a surge in violence since a ceasefire with militants from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) ended last year. The PKK claimed responsibility for a suicide car bomb attack targeting a police station in the eastern Turkish city of Elazig last Thursday that killed three officers. The attack was the largest in a series of bombings which killed a total of 10 people, mostly police and soldiers, and wounded 300 more within less than 24 hours. It was an escalation of violence in southeastern Turkey that officials blamed on PKK militants, who Turkey, the United States and European Union label as a terrorist organization.

### Crocodiles dumped in Australia school

**DARWIN:** Australian police are searching for four men who left three malnourished saltwater crocodiles in a school, after breaking in to steal computer equipment. Northern Territory Police said the men entered the Taminmin College in Humpty Doo, 40km south of Darwin, early on Sunday after pushing the crocodiles through a broken window. CCTV footage released by police showed the men stealing a computer monitor before running away. Parks and Wildlife rangers said the reptiles, who had their mouths taped shut, had probably been taken from a nearby crocodile farm but were unlikely to survive as they were in such poor health. “Basically skin and bones, not much meat left on them; they were really quiet and easy to catch,” ranger Luke McLaren told ABC radio. “We'll determine what farm they're from and we'll try to take them back to that farm but looking at their condition it's likely they'll have to be destroyed.”

## POLICE ABDUCT TOP ISLAMIST LEADER'S SON

**DHAKA:** Police have abducted the son of a top Bangladeshi war crimes convict, his family said yesterday, the latest in a series of forced disappearances of opposition leaders' children. More than 30 plainclothes officers seized Abdullahil Amaan Azmi, formerly a decorated brigadier general in Bangladesh's powerful army, from his home in the capital Dhaka on Monday evening, his family said in a statement. “The officers cordoned off the whole street before breaking down the door and forcibly entering the family home, blindfolding the caretaker and severely beating him until he fell unconscious,” the statement said.

The police had no warrant and gave no reason for arresting Azmi, the family said. “No official acknowledgement of his arrest has yet been made, without which there are credible fears for a possible extrajudicial abduction,” the statement said. Azmi's father Ghulam Azam, the former head of Bangladesh's largest Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel), was sentenced to 90 years in prison in 2013 for war crimes during the 1971 independence war against Pakistan. He died in prison in 2014.

The alleged abduction came weeks after similar incidents—involving two other sons of opposition leaders convicted of war crimes—which were blamed on plainclothes policemen in Dhaka. “We don't know anything about these incidents,” a national police spokesman said. Bangladesh's highest court is also set to decide the fate of another top Islamist leader who was sentenced to death in 2014 for war crimes. If Mir Quasem Ali, who was a top financier of the Jel, loses his final appeal, with hearings expected to start Wednesday, he will be executed within weeks.

His son Mir Ahmed Bin Quasem, who was part of his legal defense team, was allegedly abducted earlier in August. Critics say the abductions are an attempt by police to sow fear and prevent Islamists from staging protests against Ali's imminent execution. “The government must investigate (the families') claims. Unfortunately there has been no visible move to find out their whereabouts,” leading rights activist Nur Khan Liton said. The United Nations yesterday urged the government to annul Ali's death sentence and to give him a retrial in compliance with international standards. Five opposition leaders, including four top Islamists, have been executed for war crimes in the past three years despite rights groups' criticisms that their trials were flawed. —AFP

## FLOODING IN INDIA HOLY CITY HALTS CREMATIONS

**LUCKNOW:** India's holy city of Varanasi has been forced to halt cremations along the banks of the sacred river Ganges as deadly floods from monsoon rains hit parts of the country, an official said yesterday. More than 100,000 people have been forced from their homes in recent days in northern Uttar Pradesh and neighboring Bihar states as rain-swollen rivers burst their banks.

Over 20 people have been killed in the two states from the floods that hit swathes of India every year during the monsoon season. Floods have inundated the ghats or platforms on the edge of the Ganges in Varanasi, forcing families to cremate loved ones on the terrace roofs of nearby houses, Uttar Pradesh government spokesman Shailendra Pandey said. “As the ghats are not available for cremation, the roofs of havelis (old mansions) and oth-

er old houses along the ghats are being used for cremation, but with great difficulty,” Pandey said.

Varanasi is India's most sacred Hindu city where thousands flock to cremate relatives in the hope of attaining nirvana, before scattering the ashes in the Ganges. Cremations have been affected in the Hindu holy city of Allahabad, also in Uttar Pradesh, where pyres were being lit in nearby congested alleys, an official there said. In flooded Banda district, a woman gave birth on a boat Monday while on her way to a medical centre, sparking criticism that local authorities provided little assistance.

A senior official said severe water logging meant it was extremely difficult to send medical help in time, leading the baby to be born in an inflatable dinghy amid the floodwaters. “The child is fit and fine. We are extending all pos-

sible help to the family. Even if we had sent an ambulance there was no way it could have reached that place,” police superintendent R K Pandey said. At least nine people have died in Uttar Pradesh state and another 15 in eastern Bihar over the past two days as floods hit rural areas as well as some cities, disaster management officials said.

A total of 130,000 people were sheltering in relief camps across the two states, the officials there told AFP, and additional emergency workers have been deployed to help with rescue and relief efforts. Several people have also been killed in central Madhya Pradesh state from flooding in the last 24 hours, according to the Press Trust of India news agency. Floods and landslides from the monsoon running from June to September claimed more than 50 lives last month, mostly in the remote, northeast state of Assam. —AFP



**VARANASI, India:** Indian mourners perform a cremation on the roof of a building overlooking The Manikarnika Ghat in Varanasi yesterday. —AFP



**TOKYO:** Photo shows a fallen tree blocking a railway station in Tokyo. —AFP

### Typhoon Mindulle dumps heavy rain in north Japan

**TOKYO:** A strong typhoon dumped heavy rain that caused flooding on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido yesterday after killing one person near Tokyo and injuring dozens. Typhoon Mindulle, which made landfall near Japan's capital on Monday, flooded rivers, submerged roads and damaged farms in Hokkaido, TV footage showed. A woman in Sagamihara city outside Tokyo died on Monday as a result of the storm, according to the Kanagawa prefecture government. Neither the police nor local authorities had immediate details as to how she died, but media reports said the 58-year-old caregiver was riding a bicycle when swept away by flood water. The death came after another storm, Typhoon Kompasu, hit Hokkaido on Sunday, killing a man in his 40s. His body was found Monday near his vehicle, which was stranded by flood water, according to the national Fire and Disaster Management Agency. Kompasu was downgraded to a temperate depression by early Monday and moved out over the Sea of Okhotsk.

### Facebook users indicted for mocking Thai leader

**BANGKOK:** A Thai military tribunal yesterday indicted eight people with sedition for running a Facebook page that mocked the kingdom's junta chief, making them the latest victims of the regime's crackdown on dissent. Thailand's generals have clamped down on politics and severely curbed free expression since their 2014 power grab, jailing scores of critics of the government and monarchy—often for comments posted on social media. The eight Facebook users were arrested in April by military raids in Bangkok and northeast Khon Kaen province, according to Human Rights Watch.



Sunrise silhouettes the US Marine Corps Memorial in Arlington, Virginia on a cloudless summer morning in the nation's capital area yesterday. —AP

News

in brief

Iran rounds up 450

TEHRAN: Iran has "arrested or summoned" around 450 social media users over their online activities, a website linked to the powerful Revolutionary Guards said yesterday. Gherdab, the cyber arm of the Guards, said the people targeted administered pages on social networks including smartphone applications such as Instagram, Telegram and WhatsApp. "These people were carrying out immoral activities, insulted religious beliefs or had illegal activities in the field of fashion," said Gherdab. It said the suspects would be put on trial without specifying how many exactly have been placed under arrest.

British-Australian bailed

DUBAI: A British-Australian man detained in Dubai last month for highlighting the work of an Afghan refugee charity on social media has been released on bail, a campaign group said yesterday. Scott Richards, 41, had been held at a Dubai police station since his arrest on July 28 for allegedly breaching a new law on promoting foreign charities. UK-based support group Detained in Dubai said in a statement on Facebook that Richards was home with his family in Dubai after being "finally bailed". The group did not provide any details about bail conditions or potential charges against Richards, who had been denied bail on three previous occasions.

TOP COURT TO EXAMINE BURKINI BAN

FRANCE SEES 7% TOURISM DROP

PARIS: A ban on the Islamic burkini swimsuit by several French towns will come before France's highest administrative court tomorrow, the tribunal said. The Human Rights League (LDH) is appealing a decision by a lower court in the Riviera city of Nice which upheld a ban on the outfit by the town of Villeneuve-Loubet. Villeneuve-Loubet, just west of Nice, was among the first of some 15 French towns to ban the burkini, triggering a fierce debate in France and elsewhere about the wearing of the full-body swimsuit, women's rights and secularism.

The Nice tribunal ruled on Monday that the ban in Villeneuve-Loubet was "necessary, appropriate and proportionate" to prevent public disorder after a succession of jihadists attacks in France, including one in Nice on July 14. The burkini was "liable to offend the religious convictions or (religious) non-convictions of other users of the beach," and "be felt as a defiance or a provocation exacerbating tensions felt by" the community, it added.

The ruling by the State Council, France's highest administrative court, will provide a legal precedent for towns to follow around the country. The ban has raised questions over what constitutes unacceptable beachwear: the actual trademarked full-body swimsuit - much like a wetsuit but with a head covering - or merely being fully clothed on the seashore.

A mother of two told AFP yesterday she had been fined on the beach in the resort of Cannes wearing leggings, a tunic and a headscarf. Her ticket, seen by AFP, read that she was not wearing "an outfit respecting good morals and secularism". "I was sitting on a beach with my family. I was wearing a classic headscarf. I had no intention of

swimming," said the 34-year-old who gave only her first name, Siam.

'Go Home'

A witness to the scene, Mathilde Cousin, confirmed the incident. "The saddest thing was that people were shouting 'go home', some were applauding the police. Her daughter was crying," she told AFP. One of the world's most secular countries, France strongly separates religion and public life, and overt religious symbols or clothing are considered incompatible with French values. Islamic dress has long been a subject of debate in France, which was the first European country to ban the Islamic face veil in public in 2010, six years after outlawing the headscarf and other conspicuous religious symbols in state schools. However ordinary citizens are allowed to wear the headscarf in public. The LDH and other rights groups believe the burkini ban is a "serious and illegal attack on numerous fundamental rights" including freedom of religion. "It is the expression of a political project, a counter-society, based notably on the enslavement of women," French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said of the burkini Wednesday.

Tourism Tanks

Meanwhile, the number of tourists visiting France has dropped seven percent since January, with foreigners deterred by terror attacks but also by bad weather and transport strikes, Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said Monday. "Tourist arrivals since the start of the year have fallen by seven percent across

the country," with Paris worst-hit, said Ayrault, who is also tourism minister. France is the world's top tourist destination. The sector accounts for around nine percent of its gross domestic product (GDP).

The industry has been struck a severe blow from attacks by Islamic State militants, shuttering festivals and other public events and prompting jittery visitors to stay away. "The attacks partly explain these disappointing trends. The perception of risk has an influence on some clients, notably the wealthiest or those from Asia," said Ayrault. He said that economic difficulties in countries such as Russia and Brazil have also affected visitor numbers from those countries.

Pictures of flood-ridden streets - the result of 50 more days of rain in the second quarter compared to normal levels - and public-sector strikes also played a part, he added. Paris alone has seen an 11.4-percent drop in hotel nights and a loss of one billion euros (\$1.1 billion) in income since January, said Francois Navarro, of the Regional Tourism Board. He said there had been falls of 46.2 percent in Japanese tourists to the Paris region, 35 percent in Russian visitors and a 27 percent drop in the number of Italians.

A terror attack in Paris in November last year that killed 130 people led to a drop in tourist numbers. Officials had hoped the trend would reverse after the successful hosting of the Euro football championship in July. But just days after the end of the competition a Tunisian believed to be acting for the Islamic State group rammed a lorry into a crowd celebrating Bastille Day in the Riviera city of Nice, killing 86 people. The attack led to numerous summer events being cancelled due to security fears. —AFP

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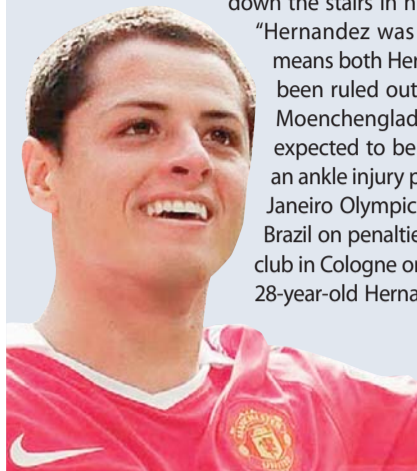
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## FRACTURED HAND RULES HERNANDEZ OUT OF OPENER

**BERLIN:** A fractured hand, from falling down the stairs at home, means Mexico striker Javier 'Chicharito' Hernandez will miss Bayer Leverkusen's opening game of the new season, his club announced yesterday. "Chicharito" suffered a fractured right hand falling down the stairs in his flat last night," said Leverkusen in a statement. "Hernandez was successfully operated on this morning." Injury means both Hernandez and Leverkusen captain Lars Bender have been ruled out of Saturday's German league match at Borussia Moenchengladbach, the club's first of the season. The pair are expected to be sidelined for the next fortnight. Bender suffered an ankle injury playing for Germany in the men's final of the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games last Saturday, when the Germans lost to Brazil on penalties. His injury was confirmed by an MRI scan by his club in Cologne on Tuesday morning after his return from Brazil. The 28-year-old Hernandez joined Leverkusen from Manchester United in August 2015 and was the club's top-scorer in his first season in Germany with 17 goals in the Bundesliga. Bender has won 19 caps for Germany and has made 174 league appearances for Leverkusen since joining in 2009. —AFP



## BAYERN BOOST SECURITY, BAN BOTTLES, LARGE BAGS

**BERLIN:** Bundesliga giants Bayern Munich have tightened security measures at their stadium, banning spectators from carrying big bags and bottles, ahead of Friday's home match—the first of the new German league season. Germany's league champions have stepped up measures for the 2016/17 season as they prepare to host Werder Bremen, with a sell-out crowd of around 70,000 expected at Munich's Allianz Arena in a high-profile match. "Handbags and backpacks larger than the A4 format, and all bottles, thermos flasks and liquids can no longer be brought in," said Bayern in a statement with new coach Carlo Ancelotti set to take charge of his first Bundesliga game. The German national team was particularly shaken by the November 13 attacks in Paris, as they were playing at the Stade de France in Paris when suicide bombers sought to get into the stadium. A few days after the Paris attacks that left 130 people dead, a friendly between Germany and the Netherlands in Hanover was scrapped at the last minute over a terror threat. —AFP

## ASTON VILLA SIGN BELGIAN DE LAET

**LONDON:** Belgian defender Ritchie de Laet has left Premier League champions Leicester City for a move across the Midlands to Championship side Aston Villa, it was announced yesterday. De Laet, 27, has arrived at Villa Park on a three-year contract for an undisclosed fee, having helped Leicester win the Premier League title last season as well as being a member of the Middlesbrough team that gained promotion to the top flight while on loan to the north-east side. He spent the first half of last season at Leicester, making 12 league appearances for the title-winning Foxes, before joining Championship side Boro on loan in February. In all, De Laet made 129 appearances for Leicester in four years after joining from Manchester United, while also winning promotion to the Premier League with the Foxes in 2014. Villa manager Roberto di Matteo said: "I'm very pleased to have brought Ritchie to the club. He is another player who not only has Championship experience but has also played a part in helping a team win promotion back to the Premier League." —AFP



Alexandre Geniez (right).

## FRANCE'S GENIEZ CLIMBS TO VUELTA THIRD STAGE WIN

**DUMBRIA:** France's Alexandre Geniez stormed to victory on stage three of the Vuelta a Espana on Monday as Ruben Fernandez moved into the overall lead.

Geniez took the 176.4km stage from Marin to Dumbria in just under four-and-a-half hours with Fernandez in second and his Movistar teammate Alejandro Valverde third.

Tour de France winner Chris Froome finished fourth to rise to third in the overall standings, but it was another day to forget for three-time Vuelta champion Alberto Contador.

Contador is looking to match Roberto Heras's record of four Vuelta wins on home soil but, having lost 52 seconds in the opening stage time trial, finished 28 a further seconds behind red jersey rivals Froome and Valverde. Valverde moved ahead of Froome thanks to four bonus seconds for finishing third on the stage, to go second overall, seven seconds behind Fernandez. Valverde's Movistar teammate Nairo Quintana finished a further six seconds back to sit fifth in the general classification.

Geniez had been part of the break-away group from early on in the stage and broke clear on his own up a punishing final climb, the first of 10 summit fin-

ishes over the 21-stage Tour.

"A win after such a finish is more satisfying," said Geniez. Fernandez raised his arms in celebration as he crossed the line, appearing to be unaware that Geniez had beaten him to the finish by 21 seconds. However, the Spaniard wasn't left without reward as he took over the leader's red jersey. "My goal here was working for Nairo and Alejandro. However, I was told in the finale to ride by myself...and here we are, wearing red and the leader's jersey in my second Grand Tour," said Fernandez. "I celebrated out of pure joy, because of the general classification lead; by the earpiece I was told I would sit first overall after the stage...I couldn't be happier."

Froome looked in trouble at one stage as teammate and previous race leader Michal Kwiatkowski was dropped on the final climb, but the Briton worked his way back through the field to ensure his quest to become the first man to win the Tour de France and Vuelta in the same year since Bernard Hinault in 1978 remains unharmed.

Astana, who won last year's race with Fabio Aru, suffered a huge blow when their main general classification rider Miguel Angel Lopez suffered a heavy crash eight kilometres from the end and needed to be guided to the finish by his teammates. —AFP

## PARK AND PAK SHARE LEGACY IN SOUTH KOREAN WOMEN'S GOLF

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Se Ri Pak could hear the burst of noise from 500 yards away and it wasn't hard to figure out what was causing the commotion. Inbee Park had made one last birdie. Pak could hear it from the back of the 18th green at Olympic Golf Course. She was the team leader for South Korea at the Olympics, the player who inspired a nation that has become the most formidable in women's golf. Pak with a gold medal around her neck only affirmed that.

Long ago, in another big moment for women's golf in South Korea, their roles were reversed. Park was fast asleep in her apartment outside Seoul when she was jarred awake in the middle of the night. The 9-year-old girl came downstairs to find her parents in front of the TV, cheering wildly as Pak won the 1998 US Women's Open at Blackwolf Run, a landmark moment for golf in South Korea.

Two days later, Park wrapped her hands around a golf club for the first time. Ten years later, she was the youngest US Women's Open champion ever. That was the first of seven majors for Park, and a big reason why this year she became the youngest player (27) to qualify for the PGA Hall of Fame. Her most recent major was the Women's British Open last year to complete the career Grand Slam.

And now she's an Olympic champion. "I've won majors, but I haven't won a gold medal," Park said after her five-shot victory over Lydia Ko, the No. 1 player in women's golf. "So this feels very, very special, nothing I want to exchange. ... Being able to receive the gold medal on the golf course was an unforgettable moment."

She had been coping with a ligament injury in her left thumb that led her to take two months off from the PGA Tour - including the US Women's Open and her title defense at the Women's British Open - to get ready for the Olympics. She wanted to test her thumb in competition, so she played a Korean LPGA event and missed the cut.

All that did was spark chatter that she should give up her spot in Rio to another South Korean, and it created unnecessary confusion and doubt for Park. She responded with a quiet determination.

"I really wanted to do well this week to show a lot of people that I can still play," Park said. But this victory was more than just validation. An

Olympic gold medal, particularly under these circumstances, should allow Park to take her place among the best in LPGA history.

### START A FAMILY

Think about it. She had not faced top competition in two months and had not broken par in any round since April, the last time she even finished a tournament. She wasn't sure she could play the Olympics amid speculation she

Stacy Lewis, her rival from two years ago. She played in the final group with Ko, another four-time winner and major champion this year.

None had a chance. Park kept the ball in play and let her putter to do the rest. "Inbee Park is the coolest individual," said Peter Dawson, the former R&A chief who now is president of the International Golf Federation. "And I think she is the best putter in the world, male or female."

Park wants to start a family, so maybe retire-



**KOHLER:** At left, in an Aug. 20, 2016, file photo, Inbee Park, of South Korea, holds up her gold medal after the final round of the women's golf event at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At right, in a July 6, 1998, file photo, South Korea's Se Ri Pak holds up the U.S. Women's Open trophy following the championship in Kohler, Wisc. Park is an Olympic gold medalist now, and while Pak will always be revered as South Korea's pioneer, Park at least earn a spot next to her in history. —AP

might not ever play again, especially after she fulfilled her final requirement in June for the Hall of Fame.

"There was nothing guaranteed because I haven't played that well this season, and I haven't really played that many events with the injury," Park said. "So I had to overcome a lot of obstacles."

And then over four days in Rio, it was as if she had never left. She was one shot behind after the first round to Ariya Jutanugarn, the No. 2 player in the world with four victories and a major this year. She had a one-shot lead over

ment is closer than she lets on. She said on a couple of occasions last week that she had no retirement plans.

Then again, how much longer Park plays is no longer relevant. She already has earned a spot in the same conversation as Pak. There will never be another like Pak, whose legacy goes beyond her five majors and 25 victories on the LPGA Tour. She was the pioneer, whose exploits woke up a little girl in South Korea and inspired greatness.

Just to be alongside her speaks to what Park has achieved. —AP

## WOZNIACKI LOSES OPENING MATCH AT CONNECTICUT OPEN

**NEW HAVEN:** Four-time champion Caroline Wozniacki is out of the Connecticut Open. The former top-ranked player from Denmark lost 7-5, 6-2 to Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia on Monday in the first round of the final warmup for the US Open.

Wozniacki, now ranked 51st, was coming off a second-round loss to Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic at the Olympics. Kvitova advanced Monday with a 1-6, 6-1, 6-3 win over American Louisa Chirico.

Ostapenko, 19, reached the final at Doha in February and won the Wimbledon junior girls tournament in 2014. The key moment Monday came in the first set when Wozniacki's serve twice in taking the next four games, then reeled off another four straight wins in the second set to close out the win.

"After that, the match turned the other way," Ostapenko said of her service breaks. "She's a great player ... so I just played like I had nothing to lose."

The 39th-ranked Ostapenko will face top-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland in the second round. Wozniacki served for set point up 5-3 but mishit a return, giving Ostapenko a chance to rally.

"The thought was there, but the execution wasn't there," Wozniacki said. Wozniacki, who has missed time with injuries this season, said it wasn't her best match, but added "you have to give (Ostapenko) credit where credit is due."

"It's been a really weird year for me, something I'm not used to," she said. "It's frustrating when you practice well and can't really execute in the matches. ... At least when I know when I'm playing my best level, if someone beats me, that's fine. But what's frustrating is when you're not playing your best and then you get beat."

Wozniacki's early exit leaves the tournament with four players in the WTA's Top 20 - Radwanska, Roberta Vinci of Italy, Kvitova of the Czech Republic and Elena Vesnina of Russia.

Vesnina and Eugenie Bouchard of Canada won their opening matches. Bouchard rolled past Annika Beck of Germany 6-2, 6-1, while Vesnina beat Camila Giorgi of Italy 6-1, 6-4.

The 20th-ranked Vesnina arrived in New Haven on the heels of a doubles gold medal at the Rio Olympics with Ekaterina Makarova. She reached her first major singles semifinal at Wimbledon.

In other matches Monday, Anastasiya Sevastova beat Nicole Gibbs of the United States 7-5, 6-0, and Caroline Garcia of France completed a rain-delayed 6-1, 6-4 victory over Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania. —AP



**NEW HAVEN:** Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark and Klaudia Jans-Ignacik of Poland during their doubles match against Tímea Babos of Hungary and Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan on day 2 of the Connecticut Open at the Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale on Monday. —AFP

## SCHILLER STEPPING DOWN FROM AMERICA'S CUP ROLE

**SAN DIEGO:** Harvey Schiller, a former executive director of the US Olympic Committee, is stepping down as commercial commissioner of the America's Cup. Will Chignell, the chief marketing and communications officer with the America's Cup Event Authority, said Monday that it was Schiller's decision to leave.

Schiller has held the position for two years. He didn't immediately respond to calls or an email from The Associated Press seeking comment Monday. America's Cup boss Russell Coutts didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Schiller's last day will be Aug. 31. It's not known if Schiller's departure is related to a case Emirates Team New Zealand brought against ACEA before an arbitration panel.

It's believed that the arbitration panel recently heard the case brought by the Kiwis after the ACEA pulled a qualifying regatta that had been planned for Auckland next year. In March 2015, Schiller notified Team New Zealand that it was losing the qualifier in part because it had supported another syndicate in a dispute over Coutts' plan to downsize the boats that will be used in the 2017 America's Cup in Bermuda.

Schiller was hired to supervise, manage and protect the commercial interests of the America's Cup. Among his duties was to secure international broadcast agreements. Under his watch, some traditional sponsors, such as Louis Vuitton, returned after being turned off by the 2013 regatta.

Schiller formerly served as commissioner of the SEC, president of Turner Sports, chairman and CEO of YankeeNets and president of the International Baseball Federation. —AP

# WILL POWER WINS INDYCAR RACE AT POCONO

**LONG POND:** Will Power continued his late-season surge, holding pole-sitter Mikhail Aleshin at bay after a final restart and won the IndyCar race at Pocono Raceway on Monday.

It was the fourth win in the past six races for Power, 29th of his career, and cut the lead of Team Penske teammate Simon Pagenaud to 20 points in the standings with three races remaining in the season.

After crashing late, Pagenaud finished 18th in the 500-mile race, which was

postponed a day by rain.

Defending race winner Ryan Hunter-Reay finished third, Josef Newgarden was fourth, and Sebastien Bourdais fifth thanks to late-race tire strategy. Scott Dixon, Carlos Munoz, Juan Pablo Montoya, Tony Kanaan and James Hinchcliffe rounded out the top 10.

A year ago, Hunter-Reay won a crash-filled race at Pocono that took the life of Englishman Justin Wilson. He suffered a severe head injury when struck in the helmet by debris from a late-race crash

and died the day after the race.

Pocono Raceway painted JW on the track at the finish line and Union Jacks flew at half-staff in honor of the Englishman. Both Wilson and open-wheel driver Bryan Clauson, who was killed two weeks ago in a crash in Kansas, were remembered in the pre-race prayer and with a moment of silence.

Hunter-Reay and Aleshin took turns in the lead for the first two-thirds of the race, with Hunter-Reay content to ride second as both drivers methodically had

a flawless race on the track and in the pits. Hunter-Reay passed Aleshin for the lead on lap 134, and the 29-year-old Russian began dropping back. He was fourth on lap 142 after Power surged past.

The complexion of the race and the points race changed after Pagenaud hit the wall to bring out a caution. His No. 22 bottomed out and he lost the steering before crashing.

Hunter-Reay took the lead on the restart, and after zooming through the

first turn began to slow with electrical problems. He coasted through the pits trying to restart it, got it going again, but fell a lap down.

That gave Power the lead, and after a debris caution on lap 176, Power exited the pits in first place as Hunter-Reay got back on the lead lap with a chance. He just ran out of laps after weaving his way back to third.

Aleshin tried to challenge one final time but Power pulled away over the final 20 laps. —AP



**ST PETERSBURG:** Mookie Betts #50 of the Boston Red Sox slides to second base on a steal as Logan Forsythe #11 of the Tampa Bay Rays waits for the ball during the ninth inning of their game at Tropicana Field on Monday in St Petersburg, Florida. — AFP

# RED SOX BEAT RAYS TO MOVE INTO FIRST PLACE TIE

**ST PETERSBURG:** David Price limited his old team to two hits in eight scoreless innings, helping the Boston Red Sox beat the Tampa Bay Rays 6-2 on Monday night to move into a tie for first place in the AL East. Price (12-8) walked two, struck out eight and didn't allow a runner past first base while extending Tampa Bay's scoring drought against Boston to 25 innings dating to a series at Fenway Park before the All-Star break. Evan Longoria stopped the streak with a two-run homer off Matt Barnes in the ninth. Blake Snell (4-6) allowed two runs and needed 94 pitches to get through 3 2/3 innings. The victory was the ninth in 11 games for the Red Sox and lifted them into a tie with Toronto, which was idle Monday.

### ORIOLES 4, NATIONALS 3

Mark Trumbo hit his major league-leading 38th home run, Jonathan Schoop also went deep and Baltimore won a matchup between neighboring contenders. Rookie Dylan Bundy (7-4) pitched six innings of three-hit ball for the Orioles, who had lost five of their previous six games - all at home. The victory lifted Baltimore within two games of first-place Toronto and Boston in the AL East. Zach Britton worked a perfect ninth for his 38th save. The left-hander has not allowed an earned run in 43 games since May 5. The Orioles did all their scoring against A.J. Cole (0-1) in his season debut. Cole was recalled from Triple-A Syracuse to replace scheduled starter Stephen Strasburg, who was placed on the 15-day disabled.

### DODGERS 18, REDS 9

Adrian Gonzalez hit three of the Dodgers' seven homers - driving in a career-high eight runs - and rookie Corey Seager had a noteworthy homer as well. The NL West leaders enjoyed their biggest home run spurge in 10 years. They've won 10 of their last 12 games against Cincinnati. Gonzalez started it with a three-run shot in the first inning off Homer Bailey (2-2), who had his worst showing since returning from Tommy John surgery. The first baseman also had a solo shot in the fifth, when the Dodgers connected four times overall. Gonzalez's three-run shot in the seventh tied his career high for homers. Joey Votto singled home a run off reliever Jesse Chavez (1-0), one of his four RBIs.

### INDIANS 1, ATHLETICS 0

Carlos Carrasco and Andrew Miller combined on a four-hitter, Carlos Santana homered in the eighth inning and Cleveland beat Oakland. Carrasco (9-6) was masterful while limiting the A's to four hits over eight innings. The right-hander had nine strikeouts, retired the side in order five times and allowed only one runner to reach second base. Miller struck out the side in the ninth for his 11th save. Neither team did much offensively until Santana's one-out home run off reliever Ryan Dull (5-4), his 27th of the season.

### CUBS 5, PADRES 1

Kris Bryant, Addison Russell and Jason Heyward all homered to back Jon Lester's strong outing for Chicago. Bryant's solo shot in the fifth inning was his 32nd of the year, tying him with Colorado's Nolan Arenado for the National League lead. Lester (14-4) limited the Padres to a run and five hits in six innings. He struck out eight and walked two in winning for the 10th time in his last 11 decisions. Edwin Jackson (3-4) gave up five runs and seven hits in five innings.

### MARINERS 7, YANKEES 5

Mike Zunino and Kyle Seager

each hit a three-run homer and Nelson Cruz added a solo shot as Seattle rallied to beat New York. The Yankees got two homers apiece from rookie catcher Gary Sanchez and Starlin Castro, but three of them were solo shots. Zunino, recalled from Triple-A Tacoma on July 20, answered in the bottom half with his ninth home run - off Anthony Swarzak (1-2) - to put Seattle ahead 6-5. Nick Vincent (3-3) retired all three batters he faced, and rookie Edwin Diaz survived a shaky ninth for his 10th save in 10 chances.

### ASTROS 3, PIRATES 1

Doug Fister pitched seven scoreless innings of three-hit ball, Teoscar Hernandez hit a two-run homer and Houston beat Pittsburgh. Hernandez connected off fellow rookie Jameson Taillon (3-3) in the fifth inning after A.J. Reed's leadoff walk. Alex Bregman, another Astros rookie, hit his fourth homer in the ninth inning off Neftali Feliz. Fister struck out six, walked one and retired 11 of the first 12 batters. Ken Giles got his fourth save despite allowing David Freese's RBI single in the ninth.

### DIAMONDBACKS 9, BRAVES 8

Paul Goldschmidt hit a solo homer in the ninth inning to lift Arizona over Atlanta. Goldschmidt hit his 19th homer off John Gant (1-3) deep into the left-field seats to lead off the inning, helping Arizona overcome a five-run deficit and a two-homer night from Freddie Freeman. Freeman hit a solo homer off Enrique Burgos (1-1) to tie it in the ninth.

### BREWERS 4, ROCKIES 2

Chris Carter homered and Jimmy Nelson won for the first time in seven starts. Nelson (7-13) gave up two runs and seven hits in six innings. Carter's solo homer to left in the third, his 30th of the season, off Chad Bettis (10-7) extended Milwaukee's lead to 4-1. — AP



**MILWAUKEE:** Ryan Braun #8 of the Milwaukee Brewers reaches on an error in the first inning against the Colorado Rockies at Miller Park on Monday in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. — AFP

MLB Results/Standings									
LA Dodgers 18, Cincinnati 9; Houston 3, Pittsburgh 1; Baltimore 4, Washington 3; Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2; Milwaukee 4, Colorado 2; Arizona 9, Atlanta 8; Cleveland 1, Oakland 0; Chicago Cubs 5, San Diego 1; Seattle 7, NY Yankees 5.									
American League Eastern Division					National League Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Boston	70	54	.565	-	Washington	73	51	.589	-
Toronto	70	54	.565	-	Miami	65	59	.524	8
Baltimore	68	56	.548	2	NY Mets	62	62	.500	11
NY Yankees	63	61	.508	7	Philadelphia	58	67	.464	15.5
Tampa Bay	52	71	.423	17.5	Atlanta	45	80	.360	28.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	72	51	.585	-	Chicago Cubs	79	45	.637	-
Detroit	65	59	.524	7.5	St. Louis	66	57	.537	12.5
Kansas City	64	60	.516	8.5	Pittsburgh	62	60	.508	16
Chicago W Sox	59	64	.480	13	Milwaukee	54	70	.435	25
Minnesota	49	75	.395	23.5	Cincinnati	53	71	.427	26
Western Division					Western Division				
Texas	73	52	.584	-	LA Dodgers	69	55	.556	-
Seattle	67	57	.540	5.5	San Francisco	68	56	.548	1
Houston	65	60	.520	8	Colorado	60	65	.480	9.5
Oakland	53	72	.424	20	San Diego	53	72	.424	16.5
LA Angels	52	72	.419	20.5	Arizona	52	73	.416	17.5



**SAN ANDRES:** Direct Energie's French cyclist Lilian Calmejane celebrates on the podium after winning the fourth stage of the 71st edition of "La Vuelta" Tour of Spain, a 163.5 km route between Betanzos to San Andres de Teixido yesterday. — AFP

# TURKMEN PRESIDENT BLASTS SPORTS CHIEF OVER LATEST OLYMPIC FLOP

**ASHGABAT:** Turkmenistan's president Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov gave his sports chief a public dressing-down yesterday after the Central Asian country's athletes once more came home empty-handed from the Olympics.

"It's disappointing that even with all the facilities provided, you could not justify the trust of the nation," Berdimukhamedov told the sports committee chief Kaakbay Seidov in an angry encounter shown on state television.

Oil-rich Turkmenistan, with a population of five million, has never won a single Olympic medal, unlike its four neighbours in ex-Soviet Central Asia.

At Rio, none of its nine athletes got past the qualification rounds. The president told the sports chief, whose position is the equivalent

of minister, that he had failed to do all he could "to increase the sporting authority of the fatherland." The president also warned Seidov to "make good on these shortcomings in the near future or face the sack," state television reported.

In 2012, Berdimukhamedov, who is a keen horseman, fired a previous sports committee head after a similarly poor performance by the national team at the London Olympics.

The only Turkmenistan-born athlete to claim a medal at this year's Games-silver-winning weightlifter Daniyar Ismayilov-did so representing Turkey, where he now lives permanently.

Berdimukhamedov, 59, has spent billions in building world-class sports facilities for the country to host the Asian Indoor and Martial

Arts Games in September 2017, while British running legend Sebastian Coe's company has given advice on planning.

The Turkmen leader oversees a "month of health and happiness" every spring in which state officials and ordinary citizens are forced to take part in mass group exercises in public.

He took power in the tightly-controlled country after erratic predecessor Saparmurat Niyazov died of a reported heart attack in 2006.

This year, Turkmenistan's neighbours Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan both enjoyed their best-ever medal hauls at Summer Games, taking 17 and 13 medals respectively.

A weightlifter from Kyrgyzstan was the first athlete excluded for doping, stripping the country of its only medal. — AFP



## TRINIDAD BOARD LAUNCHES PROBE AFTER WASHOUT

**MUMBAI:** The Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board has launched an investigation after only 22 overs could be played over five days in the fourth and final test between West Indies and India at the Queen's Park Oval due to a soggy outfield.

The lack of action meant India won the four-test series 2-0 but surrendered top spot in the International Cricket Council (ICC) rankings to Pakistan, less than a week after taking over the number one position from Australia. Rain halted play on the first day of the test after West Indies

had reached 62 for two wickets and no further play was possible over the next four days despite periods of sunshine. "As hosts, the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board and QPCC (Queen's Park Cricket Club) regret that limited play was possible in the 4th Test Match between WI and India at the Queen's Park Oval," TTCB President Azim Bassarath said in a statement after the match.

"We have jointly launched an investigation to determine what occurred with a view to remedying the situation so that this does not occur in the future."

"Once this has been done, it will be presented to the WICB (West Indies Cricket Board)."

The abandonment and lack of modern equipment at the ground have been panned by critics and former cricketers as the test format struggles to attract spectators in the Caribbean. Former West Indies captain Viv Richards was among those critical of the organisers.

"Folks here have some questions to answer," the batting great said on television commentary. "Not having a Super Sopper (mechanical mop) is unacceptable."

The ground might also face action from the governing ICC if Sri Lankan match referee Ranjan Madugalle submits an adverse report against the venue.

According to ICC regulations, the governing body will make the match referee's report public if he has rated it 'poor'. "It is not for the BCCI to comment or look into matters of foreign cricket boards or their facilities," Indian cricket board (BCCI) secretary Ajay Shirke told Reuters. "If at all, it is a matter for ICC to look into if it so desires." —Reuters

## AZHAR HOPES PAKISTAN TRANSFER TEST FORM INTO ENGLAND ODIs

**LONDON:** Pakistan one-day captain Azhar Ali wants to see the team take the form that had made them the world's number one-ranked Test side into their one-day series against England. Azhar was a member of the Pakistan team that secured an impressive 2-2 draw in a recent four-Test series against England and is now looking for his side to hit similar heights in a five-match one-day international series starting in Southampton today.

Pakistan, following their results in England, and India's rain-affected fourth Test draw with the West Indies in Port-of-Spain, are now number one in the Test rankings for the first time in history.

By contrast, they are just ninth in the ODI standings and in danger of missing out on automatic qualification for the 2019 World Cup in England. But Azhar is confident the team's white-ball fortunes can be turned around following what was, to many observers, their surprise effort in winning two Tests in English conditions.

"Confidence is very high and belief is there, obviously coming from the Test series, we had a very good couple of months here," Azhar told reporters at Southampton on Tuesday. "We take that confidence into the one-day internationals as well."

"Being number one is a massive boost and a proud moment for Pakistan cricket and the whole nation is very happy about it, and as players the team is really happy about it."

"It's definitely a good thing for us. Our one-day ranking is not great right now but

we will take the opportunity and the way the team is performing, hopefully we can convert it into ODIs as well."

England's one-day cricket has been on an upward curve since their embarrassing first-round exit at last year's World Cup and Azhar is among those who've been impressed by how Eoin Morgan's side have bounced back in the 50-over format.

"The way England started playing after the World Cup, they played a lot of attacking, fearless cricket and they've been performing very well," he said. "We know that and we have to be aggressive against them as well. "We are all very confident. No one rated us very highly—a few people said we would be competitive but there were doubts if we could win the Test matches here."

"But the boys really believed in the Test matches, so here also we believe we can do it." After the Test series, Pakistan thrashed Ireland by 255 runs in an ODI at Malahide on Thursday-Saturday's second fixture in a two-match series was washed out-but they are now set to face the fit-again Durham duo of fast bowler Mark Wood and all-rounder Ben Stokes, although the latter will be deployed as a batsman only at Southampton.

"Wood is definitely a very good bowler and Stokes a very good all-round player, and a good batsman too," Azhar said.

"Every player they have could be a match-winner for them, so we have to focus on each and every player. If we do that and bring our plans in, we can definitely challenge England." —AFP



**WELLINGTON:** This file photo taken on March 25, 2012 shows Mark Boucher of South Africa playing a shot on day three of the third and final five-day international cricket Test match between New Zealand and South Africa at the Basin Reserve in Wellington. Former South Africa wicketkeeper Mark Boucher, whose career was cut short by a freak eye injury, was named coach of Pretoria-based franchise Titans on Monday. —AFP

## S AFRICA, N ZEALAND FIRST TEST WASHOUT

**DURBAN:** South African captain Faf du Plessis and New Zealand coach Mike Hesson both expressed disappointment after the first Test between South Africa and New Zealand was abandoned as a draw due to poor ground conditions yesterday. No play was possible on days three, four and five because of a wet, soft outfield which the umpires decided would be dangerous for players. No play took place after rain fell during the lunch break on the second day on Saturday, when New Zealand were on 15 for two in reply to South Africa's first innings total of 263. Rain continued throughout the rest of Saturday and into early Sunday morning.

The weather cleared and there was no further rain but the outfield conditions did not improve sufficiently for play to resume. "We were dying to get out there," said Du Plessis. "New Zealand were in a spot of bother on a wicket which was giving a lot of assistance." Despite that Du Plessis said that he respected the decision of the umpires. "There were areas that were muddy and loose underfoot. The message was clear from the umpires that the players' safety was their main concern," he said.

"Both teams were very keen to play," said Hesson. "But we respect the decision of the umpires."

The series will now be decided in the second and final Test starting at Centurion on Saturday.

"It's disappointing that a Test series becomes a one-off," said Du Plessis.

"Test cricket is about longer, stronger, who can do it for the longest time." But he said there were several positives for South Africa going into Centurion for the decider.

"Winning the toss on a greenish wicket, our opening pair had a real solid partnership against a quality seam attack. Looking back we had a good score in the conditions although it was disappointing that we didn't score 300 or 350," he said. "We got ourselves into positions where we just needed one guy to bat a bit longer."

Du Plessis said opening bowlers Dale Steyn and Vernon Philander, both returning after injuries, had been outstanding in the six overs

each which they had bowled.

"The guys were relentless. They hit excellent areas and didn't give the New Zealand batsmen any free runs."

Following Monday's washout, Cricket South Africa chief executive Haroon Lorgat blamed unseasonal rain and a re-laid outfield for the loss of play at the Kingsmead ground.

He said the outfield had been re-laid in June following complaints by players about conditions during a Twenty20 international and a one-day international there in August 2015, also involving New Zealand.

"However, the unseasonal rain at this time of year impacted our preparations of the newly laid outfield," he added. —AFP

### SCOREBOARD

<b>DURBAN, South Africa:</b> Final scores in the drawn first Test between South Africa and New Zealand yesterday after rain prevented play:		
<b>South Africa first innings, 263</b> (H Amla 53; N Wagner 3-47, T Boult 3-52)	Extras	0
<b>New Zealand first innings (overnight: 15-2)</b>	Total (2 wkts, 12 overs)	15
M. Guptill lbw b Steyn	Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Latham), 2-12 (Guptill)	
T. Latham c Amla b Steyn	Bowling: Steyn 6-4-3-2, Philander 6-1-12-0	
K. Williamson not out	Did not bat: H. Nicholls, B. Watling, M. Santner, D. Bracewell, T. Southee, N. Wagner, T. Boult	
R. Taylor not out	Result: Match drawn.	



**COLOMBO:** Australia's Travis Head bats during a training session at The R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium in Colombo yesterday, ahead of the second one day international cricket match against Sri Lanka. —AFP

## FLOODLIGHT FAILURE MARS INDIA'S PINK BALL DEBUT

**NEW DELHI:** India's experiment with the pink ball in the Duleep Trophy domestic championship met with major embarrassment after floodlight failure interrupted play for over an hour in the day-night match yesterday. The Duleep Trophy, a four-day triangular competition which traditionally heralds the start of the Indian cricket season, is seen as a possible precursor to day-night Tests in cricket's biggest market. But the first match on the outskirts of the capital New Delhi witnessed three of the six light towers go out twice in the post dinner session, forcing the players to leave the field. The first interruption happened just after the dinner interval when play was delayed by 17 minutes due to insufficient light while the second break stretched to about 50 minutes.

The organisers refused to answer any queries after the fiasco as play carried on well past 9pm, the original time for end of play. "There was some problem in the main electrical circuit of the floodlights, which was tripping," a ground official told AFP on condition of anonymity. Earlier the players taking part in Tuesday's match, between teams that have been

rebranded India Red and India Green, were excited at the prospect of the longest format of the game also being played after dark in India. "I think it is pretty exciting and something to look forward to," said veteran all-rounder Yuvraj Singh, who has enjoyed great success for the national team under lights in ODI and T20 cricket. "The New Zealand-Australia Test match (first day-night Test played in Adelaide last year) I saw was pretty exciting. The ball was swinging a bit much. It will be challenging if it swings a lot, playing under lights," added Singh, who is captaining India Red.

Suresh Raina, the captain of India Green who is trying to force his way back into the Indian team, was similarly enthusiastic. "The Duleep Trophy has not been played with the pink ball before and it's a good challenge. All the boys are keen to (perform) and this is a good platform ahead of the season," said Raina.

### EAGER FANS

Singh's team won the toss and chose to bat first in the afternoon in front of a cheering crowd who had filed in to watch a piece of cricketing history. "It's a

novel idea. Local people are eager to watch the pink ball game under lights. We are just hoping that all goes well," Rajeev Tyagi, one of the ground's administrators, told AFP before the floodlight failure. India had been expected to stage their first day-night Test during a tour by New Zealand starting next month. But the plans were shelved to give more time for trials of the pink Kookaburra ball.

Designers say the pink ball is far more visible under lights than the red ball that has traditionally been used in Tests. The white ball used in limited-overs cricket is not viable for Tests as it clashes with the players' white clothing and sight screens as well as being less durable. The Australia-New Zealand match is the only Test so far to have been played under lights. But Pakistan are also set to stage day/night contests against Australia and the West Indies in the Gulf later this year. India, who have just been toppled by Pakistan at the top of the rankings, are about to embark on an extensive round of Test match cricket by hosting series against New Zealand, England, Bangladesh and Australia. —AFP



**GREATER NOIDA:** 'India Green' cricketers appeal for a leg before wicket (LBW) decision against 'India Red' batsman Abhinav Mukund during a Duleep Trophy cricket match between 'India Green' and 'India Red' in Greater Noida yesterday. India's Duleep Trophy domestic championship began staging its first match under floodlights, experimenting with a pink ball in a likely precursor to the advent of day-night Tests in cricket's biggest market. —AFP

## LEICESTER READY TO MAKE FURTHER INVESTMENTS IN SQUAD

**LEICESTER:** Leicester City are ready to spend to make further additions to their title-winning squad if the right opportunity arises, the club's vice-chairman Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha has said.

Leicester have signed striker Ahmed Musa, midfielder Nampalys Mendy, goalkeeper Ron-Robert Zieler, defender Luis Hernandez and Poland winger Bartosz Kapustka in the current transfer window.

Striker Jamie Vardy and winger Riyad Mahrez were among those from the historic Premier League winning squad to commit their future to the club, but mid-

fielder N'Golo Kante moved to Chelsea in the close season.

British media reports have linked Austrian defender Aleksandar Dragovic over a possible move to King Power Stadium. "Several of our players made long-term commitments to the club during the summer months and I'm delighted," Srivaddhanaprabha was quoted as saying by the Leicester Mercury.

"I'm already excited by the strength and vibrancy of the squad and we are ready to make to make further investments if the right opportunities arise."

Leicester picked up their first point of the new season after a goalless draw against Arsenal last weekend and will welcome Swansea City in their next league fixture on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Southampton will take time to adapt to the diamond midfield formation set out by new manager Claude Puel, midfielder Dusan Tadic has said as the club seek their first win in the new Premier League campaign.

The 54-year-old Frenchman Puel was named Southampton manager in end June, succeeding Ronald Koeman on a

three-year contract. The club began the season with a 1-1 draw against Watford and then suffered a 2-0 defeat at Manchester United last week. "We are disappointed. We need to see what is good and what is not good and to clean our mistakes," Tadic told the club's website (www.saintsfc.co.uk).

"This specific system, players didn't play so much that system and then you need always to learn from that system and this needs time. We are still learning things from that system." "The coach tries to explain to us and it's hard, it's dif-

icult, but we still try our best to do good things." The Serbian playmaker, who signed a new four-year deal with Southampton earlier this month, said it was vital to get back to winning ways when they face Sunderland on Saturday.

"We just want to see what is good and what is not good in this game, and try now to win the game against Sunderland. This is most important," the 27-year-old added. "It's important to win some games, then you get extra confidence and for the rest of the season you can do better things." — Reuters

## GUARDIOLA CONFIRMS BRAVO ON HIS WAY TO REPLACE HART

**MANCHESTER:** Pep Guardiola insisted yesterday that he will continue working with Joe Hart at Manchester City, even as Barcelona goalkeeper Claudio Bravo flew in to replace the unwanted England international. Hart has been the most high-profile victim of Guardiola's new reign as manager of the Premier League club, with the City boss publicly announcing his preference for a goalkeeper who can play better with the ball at his feet. Willy Caballero replaced Hart for City's first three competi-

ive games, all victories, that Spanish manager Guardiola has overseen. Bravo flew in to Manchester from Barcelona on Tuesday to complete his reported £17 million (\$22 million, 20 million euros) transfer from the Spanish club, a move that will see Hart, England's undisputed first-choice goalkeeper during this year's European Championships, relegated to third choice at the Eastlands.

Hart's plight has been compounded because potential moves to Everton and Sevilla appear to

have fallen through, at least in part due to his high salary which makes even a loan move prohibitive for many potential suitors. "I have an excellent relationship with Joe. We are clear-him with me, I with him. We spoke about football," said Guardiola who was photographed talking to Hart during training ahead of City's Champions League qualifying tie with Steaua Bucharest on Wednesday.

"So I can't deny what everybody knows. Barcelona, seven to 10 days ago, were the first ones to announce contact with Manchester City. "But I'm sorry guys, until the deal is complete or not complete (I can't speak), but at the moment the player (Bravo) is not our player," Guardiola also told reporters.

"Until August 31, all the players here are my players, and I will work with them like there is no end, so after that we can speak about everything." "The situation with Joe, I spoke about in the last two press conferences. I am not able to speak about negotiations."

## STRONG STERLING

Meanwhile, Guardiola has backed forward Raheem Sterling to cope with the abuse he is receiving from opposition supporters after he was roundly booed in the weekend victory at Stoke.

Sterling suffered more than most from England's disappointing European Championship campaign and attracted unwanted attention off the field, but Guardiola has no doubt his player will prevail.

"The fans may boo because they know how good he is," said the manager. "He has shown us, he has shown me, that in this team he is mentally strong and can focus on his job from the beginning of the game. "He will make good things happen for us and for the England national team, I'm pretty sure of that," the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss added. "When people stop talking about him for what happens off the pitch and talk about him for what happens on the pitch then everything is going well." The City manager has made an impressive start to the new campaign despite being without injured captain Vincent Kompany and pre-season signings Ilkay Gundogan and Leroy Sane, although he expects the trio to be available for the Manchester derby on September 10.

"Now we have this week and then 10 days to work with them in training sessions to improve their physical condition," said Guardiola. "Hopefully when we come back from the international break they will be fully part of our training sessions." — AFP



Pep Guardiola

## ALLARDYCE PONDERES ENGLAND RECALL FOR JOHN TERRY

**BURTON-ON-TRENT:** New England manager Sam Allardyce will consider ending former captain John Terry's four-year international exile, he revealed on Monday.

Terry, 35, retired from England duty in September 2012 after the Football Association charged him with racially abusing Queens Park Rangers defender Anton Ferdinand. He was later fined and given a four-game ban.

Roy Hodgson, Allardyce's predecessor, said in March that England had still not successfully replaced the Chelsea centre-back and Allardyce has not ruled out handing him a recall.

Asked if Terry might be in line for an England return, Allardyce said:

"Maybe so. I think it depends on what John said.

"Maybe if I get the opportunity, I might have to give him a ring. But until I come to that selection or that process, we'll wait and see.

"I don't know what the political side of that might mean, if there is a political side. I'll have to have that conversation if I feel that John Terry may be a possibility."

Terry, capped 78 times, signed a one-year Chelsea contract extension in May and has played in their two games to date under new manager Antonio Conte.

Allardyce, 61, was appointed England manager in July after Hodgson stepped down following England's humiliating elimination

by Iceland at Euro 2016.

He begins his tenure with a 2018 World Cup qualifying match against Slovakia in Trnava on September 4 and will name his first squad on Sunday.

Allardyce, known as 'Big Sam', confirmed goalkeeper Joe Hart will be selected, despite having lost his place at Manchester City under new manager Pep Guardiola.

But Allardyce warned it is "critical" for Hart to secure regular first-team football if he is to remain England's first-choice goalkeeper.

"If it goes for a longer period of time, then I think it's difficult to select them," Allardyce told reporters at the St George's Park national football centre in Burton,

central England. Guardiola has expressed reservations about Hart's passing ability and Allardyce said he would speak to the City manager about the matter.

## ROONEY ROLE

Another England player now under Guardiola's orders is centre-back John Stones, who recently joined City from Everton.

Allardyce expressed hope that Guardiola will improve Stones's defending, citing his work with Gerard Pique at Barcelona as an example. "Potential is something that's going to be great in the future," Allardyce said of Stones, 22. "I want it right now and I think he's got a great chance of becoming 'right now'." Allardyce must also decide whether to persist with Wayne Rooney as captain. He said he had made up his mind on the issue, but would not make an announcement until next week.

Rooney, 30, played in midfield for England at Euro 2016, but has been operating in a number 10 role at Manchester United since the appointment of Jose Mourinho as manager.

"I think his best position is where he's being played now because that's the manager of Manchester United telling him where he wants him to play, with Zlatan (Ibrahimovic)," Allardyce said.

Rooney's United team-mate Marcus Rashford has disappeared from view under Mourinho, having broken into England's Euro squad after his stunning emergence last season.

Allardyce said the 18-year-old might be best served by dropping into England's Under-21 squad in order to build up playing time.

Asked to explain England's recurrent failings at major tournaments, Allardyce said the collective problem was "psychological".

But he vowed to eschew a softly-softly approach and said the way to get more from the country's under-performing players was to challenge them.

"I might be slightly more demanding as a manager," he said.

"My idea of coaching and managing the players is: yes, we get on well, we communicate well together, but at the end of the day, to try and push them a little farther than they've already been pushed. "For me, they get everything they need. But when you get everything you need, it means you can demand more." — AFP



SHANGHAI: Wu Lei (R) of China's Shanghai SIPG fights for the ball with Lee Jae Sung of South Korea's Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors during their AFC Champions League quarter-final football match in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

## HULKLESS, GOALLESS SHANGHAI SIPG HELD BY JEONBUK HYUNDAI

**SHANGHAI:** Injured Brazilian forward Hulk sat out again as his Shanghai SIPG side drew 0-0 at home to Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors in the Asian Champions League quarter-final first leg on Tuesday. The powerfully-built attacker played just 21 minutes of football before being injured on his debut on July 11 after a high-profile 55 million euros (\$61 million) transfer from Zenit St Petersburg.

The Shanghai side's coach, former England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson, had hoped at the weekend that Hulk might be fit to make his comeback in the Champions League clash.

But Hulk's name was absent from the teamsheet Tuesday along with that of another key player, Argentine playmaker Dario Conca, who could be out for the season, the club said, after sustaining a knee injury in a domestic match on Friday.

Despite their missing stars, SIPG started brightly and had the better of their South Korean opponents in a match played in humid 30 Celsius temperatures at Shanghai Stadium.

The first decent chance did not fall until the 21st minute when a long ball was expertly-controlled by Chinese internation-

al forward Wu Lei whose square pass into the box fell just short of his strike partner Elkeson. Just two minutes later the Brazilian front man, who won the Asian Champions League last season with Guangzhou Evergrande, had the 33,000-strong crowd screaming for a penalty when he fell at the edge of Jeonbuk's box. However Australian referee Benjamin Williams gave a free-kick outside the 18-yard area which Elkeson blasted straight against the wall. In the 37th minute, Jeonbuk's Brazilian forward Leonardo hit the post with a curling effort from outside the box.

A whipping free-kick from Lu Wenjun almost put SIPG ahead but Jeonbuk goalkeeper Kwoun Sun-Tae pushed the effort wide in the 54th minute. SIPG enjoyed a spell of heavy pressure towards the end as an unusually-animated Eriksson urged his charges on from the touchline. His exhortations almost paid off when Wu Lei went close with a backwards header from inside the box two minutes from time. "I think it was an acceptable outcome," Eriksson told reporters after the match. "They had some chances, we had some chances, so it was even." — AFP

## VENTURA TO FRESHEN UP ITALY SQUAD

**ROME:** New Italy coach Giampiero Ventura said yesterday that he wanted to build on the foundations laid by his predecessor Antonio Conte by adding more youth to the squad. An ageing Italy outfit impressed in Euro 2016, where they chalked up excellent wins over Belgium and Spain, only to be beaten in the quarter-finals by Germany after a marathon penalty shoot-out. Eight of the players who started the match against Germany last month are now aged 29 or over, with 38-year-old goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon indicating he is likely to retire after the 2018 World Cup.

"In two years we would like to have a group of players aged 21 to 23," former Torino coach Ventura said ahead of Italy's friendly against France in Bari on September 1.

"We have a lot of young talent. They need to play and develop in their clubs. They also need to be encouraged. As soon

as a youngster plays badly here he's massacred." Conte left to take charge of English Premier League side Chelsea after the Euros, and the 68-year-old Ventura will lead the national team for the first time next week. "We will continue the work that Conte started," added Ventura. "I'm sure we can carry on playing good football. We are not starting from scratch like Conte had to do when he took over. "I can really focus 80 percent on the details and the other 20 percent is all I need to look at the general organisation of the team. That's what gives me hope for the future.

"I need time but that's the only thing that I'm lacking. We only have a couple of days to prepare each match, but I have a solid group of players who are all available to me." After the France friendly, Italy get their 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign underway with a trip to Haifa to play Israel on September 5. — AFP



EINDHOVEN: PSV Eindhoven's Dutch midfielder Siem de Jong takes part in a training session in Eindhoven yesterday. Dutch football club PSV Eindhoven rented Siem de Jong for a season from the English football club Newcastle United. — AFP



AL-AIN: Uzbekistan's Lokomotiv club midfielder Server Djeparov (R) fights for the ball against UAE's Al-Ain defender midfielder Lee Myung Joo during their Asian Champions League quarter-final football match at the Hazza Bin Zayed Stadium in Al-Ain yesterday. — AFP



**JAKARTA:** Indonesia's badminton mixed doubles gold medallists Tontowi Ahmad (R) and Liliyana Natsir (L) bite their medals during their arrival following the Rio Olympics at the Sukarno-Hatta airport in Tangerang, outskirts of Jakarta yesterday. Indonesian Olympic gold medal winners Tontowi Ahmad and Liliyana Natsir were given a hero's welcome yesterday by hundreds of flag-waving fans as the Badminton champions returned home. — AFP

## HERO'S WELCOME FOR INDONESIAN GOLD MEDALLISTS

**JAKARTA:** Indonesian Olympic gold medal winners Tontowi Ahmad and Liliyana Natsir were given a hero's welcome yesterday by hundreds of flag-waving fans as the badminton champions returned home.

They arrived at Jakarta airport to enthusiastic scenes from the waiting crowd, before travelling through the capital in an open-top, double-decker bus.

Ahmad thanked the sports minister and others who supported the players for "helping us achieve this success".

"Hopefully our success can be repeated by our juniors and other athletes, hopefully this will motivate them," he said.

At the welcoming ceremony, Sports Minister Imam Nahrawi hailed the players' victory as "the answer to eight years of yearning for an Olympic gold medal".

Ahmad and Natsir were Indonesia's only gold medal winners in Rio, beating Chan Peng Soon and Goh Liu Ying of Malaysia in the badminton mixed doubles.

It was the country's first Olympic gold since the Beijing games in 2008. The players will both receive a tax-free bonus of five billion rupiah (\$380,000) for winning gold, as well as 20 million rupiah a month for the rest of their lives.

Indonesia pays the second-highest cash bonuses to its athletes who win Olympic gold, with only Singapore giving bigger payouts.

Also present at the welcoming ceremony were Indonesian weightlifters Sri Wahyuni and Eko Yuli Irawan, who both won silver in Rio. Indonesia won a total of three medals. — AFP

## ENDURING IMAGES OF THE 2016 RIO GAMES

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** The enduring images of the 2016 Rio Games:

### SEALED WITH A KISS

Swimming great Michael Phelps regained his cherished 200m butterfly Olympic crown, dominating a grudge match with Chad le Clos in which the 2012 champion from South Africa was relegated to fifth place. Phelps, 31, held off the challenge of young rivals Masato Sakai of Japan and Tamas Kenderesi of Hungary — then enthralled the Olympic Aquatics Stadium crowd with a climb into the stands to share his moment of triumph with three-month-old son Boomer, snuggled in the arms of his mother Nicole Johnson with Phelps's mother Debbie, at their side.

### DINIZ DRAMA

World record-holder Yohann Diniz's courageous effort in the 50km race walk ended in an eighth place finish and a stretcher. The Frenchman set a torrid pace in the sultry heat and led by one minute, 40 seconds at the halfway stage. He soldiered on through severe intestinal trouble before collapsing at the 38km mark, only to rise and finish the race, five minutes and 45 seconds behind winner Matej Tóth of Slovakia.

### ANOTHER WORLD

The Rio Olympics threw the economic disparities of Brazil into sharp relief. The August 5 opening ceremony at Maracana was low on technology and high on invention thanks to the economic constraints faced by the recession-hit nation. But the festivities seemed a world away from those watching the fireworks from a terrace in the Mangueira favela, a slum where some of the nation's poorest live less than a kilometer from the iconic stadium.

### TO OUR LEADER

North Korean gymnast Ri Se-Gwang had tears in his eyes as he stood to attention on the podium, giving a military-style salute as his national anthem blasted out in honor of his men's vault gold. The two-time world champion crushed his rivals with the hardest combination then lauded North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un. "It does not mean anything to me," he said. "It is a gift that I present to my country."

### SHATTERED

A horrifying injury to French gymnast Samir Ait Said in men's vault qualifying shocked competitors and prompted questions about a scoring system that pushes

athletes to try increasingly dangerous moves. Ait Said snapped the lower part of his left leg in an awkward landing, suffering a double tibia and fibula fracture. He was in agony as his leg flopped to one side to gasps of horror from the crowd and other gymnasts. Ait Said, who missed the 2012 games after breaking his right leg in a vault, was out and about in Rio on crutches before the Games ended, visiting France House and insisting "The adventure of Tokyo 2020 is still possible".

### WORTH THE PAIN

Middleweight Misael Rodríguez begged for money on Mexico City's streets and buses to fulfil his dream of reaching the Rio Olympics, saying the trip was "well worth all the pain" despite coming away not with gold but bronze in a division won by Cuba's Arlen Lopez.

### HANDSHAKE SNUB

Egyptian judoka Islam El Shehaby was jeered out of the Olympic arena after refusing to shake hands with his Israeli opponent Or Sasson, or make the customary post-bout bow. The snub reverberated beyond the bounds of Rio, with the International Olympic Committee saying the Egyptian Olympic committee "strongly condemned" El Shehaby's action and he was given a strong reprimand.

### VILIFYING LAVILLENIE

French pole vault star Renaud Lavillenie was reduced to tears on the medal podium as a hostile crowd showered him with boos for a second time. Lavillenie had lashed out at fans who subjected him to deafening booing and catcalls during his dramatic duel with Brazilian Thiago Braz da Silva which the home favorite won. Lavillenie compared it to the treatment of black runner Jesse Owens at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. But pleas for sportsmanship and respect for the Olympic spirit brought no relief as he accepted his silver medal.

### THREE TIMES THREE

Usain Bolt danced for joy with his Jamaican relay teammates after anchoring the squad to a 4x100m victory that sealed his Olympic "triple-triple"-his third straight sweep of the 100m, 200m and 4x100m golds. Bolt, who says Rio was his last Olympics, departed the Games with nine gold medals, level with Carl Lewis and Paavo Nurmi for most among track and field athletes. "We wanted to win to make Usain immortal and he is immortal," relay teammate Yohan Blake said. — AFP

# SPONSORS DROP LOCHTE AFTER RIO SCANDAL

**WASHINGTON:** Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte lost four sponsorship deals Monday—a major financial hit for the embattled gold medalist stemming from his spurious claim of being robbed at gunpoint in Rio, a story later discredited by Brazilian police.

Global swimwear brand Speedo and US fashion label Ralph Lauren topped the list of companies that ended their relationships with the 32-year-old Lochte, with the former noting his actions had not reflected the "values" it wished to promote.

Mattress company Airweave and Syneron Candela, the parent company for a laser hair removal system that Lochte promoted, quickly followed suit. Lochte claimed he and three of his teammates—all of them gold medal winners in Rio—were mugged by robbers pretending to be police after a night out, but the story quickly unraveled as new witness testimony and surveillance video surfaced.

Police said the group had been detained over the vandalization of a gas station bathroom, apparently led by a drunken Lochte—a major embarrassment for Team USA, an Olympic swimming powerhouse. "Speedo USA today announces the decision to end its sponsorship of Ryan Lochte," the company said in a statement, noting that the company will donate \$50,000 of Lochte's fees to Save the Children, to go towards helping Brazilian youths.

"While we have enjoyed a winning relationship with Ryan for over a decade and he has been an important member of the Speedo

team, we cannot condone behavior that is counter to the values this brand has long stood for," it said. "We appreciate his many achievements and hope he moves forward and learns from this experience," Speedo USA said of Lochte, who has won a total of 12 medals in Olympic competition during his career, six of them gold. In a statement to E! News, Lochte said he was "grateful for the opportunities" afforded to him by his ties with Speedo—a 10-year deal that was due to end this year, according to ESPN.

Ralph Lauren, which outfitted Team USA for the Olympic opening and closing ceremonies in Rio, said it too was finished with Lochte, noting that their agreement was specific to the Rio Games and his contract would not be renewed. "Ralph Lauren continues to proudly sponsor the US Olympic and Paralympic Team and the values that its athletes embody," it added in a statement. Airweave said on Twitter it was ending its partnership with Lochte, which was also limited to the Rio Olympics.

And Syneron Candela said in a statement to ESPN: "We hold our employees to high standards, and we expect the same of our business partners. We wish Ryan well on his future endeavors and thank him for the time he spent supporting our brand."

### 'OVEREXAGGERATED'

After issuing a written apology that was widely ridiculed online as half-hearted, Lochte admitted in an interview with NBC aired

Saturday that he had "left details out" and "overexaggerated some parts of the story." He also admitted he was still intoxicated when he gave his initial account of the incident, adding: "I let my team down."

Following the incident, Lochte flew back to the United States, while the other three—Gunnar Bentz, Jack Conger and Jimmy Feigen—stayed in Brazil. On Thursday, police released closed-circuit TV footage and other evidence about the events at the gas station.

The athletes, who appeared intoxicated, stopped in a taxi at the gas station to use the bathroom during the early hours of the morning. Lochte and the others then vandalized the area near the bathroom and, according to the manager, urinated on the walls. Confronted by a security guard, they tried to leave. When the confrontation escalated, the security guard took out his pistol and made them sit on the ground.

After paying about \$50 in compensation for the damage to the station, they left unharmed and returned to the athletes' village. "There was no robbery of the kind reported by the athletes," the head of Rio's civil police, Fernando Veloso, told a press conference. Lochte's claims caused the Olympic authorities huge embarrassment, highlighting security worries at a Games where Brazil deployed 85,000 police and soldiers—double the number used in the 2012 London Games. He could yet face disciplinary action over the incident—both USA Swimming and the International Olympic Committee could sanction him. — AFP



**NEW YORK:** (L-R) Members of the "Final Five" US Women's Gymnastics Olympic Team, Gabby Douglas, Madison Kocian, Aly Raisman, Simone Biles and Laurie Hernandez visit the Empire State Building in New York, yesterday. — AFP

## S AFRICA RECEIVES HERO'S WELCOME

**JOHANNESBURG:** South Africa's Olympic medallists including track star Caster Semenya received a hero's welcome yesterday when they arrived from the Games in Brazil.

Hundreds of people gathered at Johannesburg's main airport cheered for the team which received a total of 10 medals, with gold from Wayde Van Niekerk for his world record setting 400-metres race.

Van Niekerk, the new world champion is due to compete in the Diamond League and did not arrive home with the team as he had to travel to Lausanne, Switzerland for the Games.

But it was Semenya who received the loudest cheers from the crowd for her 800-metres victory, with chants "Caster, Caster". "It's great to come home and receive such a welcome. I will always do my best," she told journalists.

"I hope that in four year's time there will be more people to fill the entire airport," she said referring to the next Olympic games in Tokyo in 2020. Semenya, 25, first shot to international stardom in 2009 when she won the 800-metres at the World Championships in Berlin. The star athlete has been dogged by questions around her gender, with suggestion that her body produced higher levels of male hormones. Her competitors had raised concern that the condition gave her an unfair advantage.

The country's Sports Minister Fikile Mbalula told the crowd that the country was proud of Semenya, a university student who has become a national icon. In Rio, South Africa equalled its record of 10 medals achieved in Antwerp in 1920 and Helsinki in 1954. — AFP

## INDIA RUNNER SLAMS OFFICIALS FOR WATER

**NEW DELHI:** India ordered an inquiry yesterday after an athlete said national officials failed to give her water during the Olympic marathon leading her to collapse, heaping further embarrassment following a poor showing in Rio.

Runner O.P. Jaisha, 33, told media she collapsed after the women's marathon because Indian officials failed to provide refreshments at designated country stations during the race.

"I could have died there... Only once in 8 kilometers did we get water (from the Rio organisers) which did not help at all," Press Trust of India quoted her as saying.

"All the countries had their stalls at every 2 kms but our country's stall was empty," she said. The allegations prompted the sports minister Tuesday to announce an investigation. "Sports minister constitutes two-member committee to inquire into the allegations of marathon runner O.P. Jaisha," a statement issued by Sports Minister Vijay Goel's office said.

A string of below-par performances saw India win

just two medals—a silver and a bronze—at the Rio Games, fewer than the six clinched during their best-ever performance in London in 2012.

Jaisha's allegations were yet another blow for Indian officials at Rio Games who—including the sports minister Goel—have been widely panned by local media for their behaviour.

The Rio organising committee slammed the minister's entourage as "aggressive and rude," and warned him for repeatedly trying to get unaccredited people into the Olympic venues.

The Indian Express newspaper accused Goel of spending his time in Rio taking selfies with "exhausted Indian athletes".

Indian athletes complain of substandard training facilities and a lack of government investment in sport in the country of 1.25 billion. Jaisha finished 89th in the women's marathon with a time of 2 hours 47 minutes and 19 seconds.

India sent a 118-strong athlete contingent to Rio, its largest ever for an Olympic Games, and the sports ministry had set a target of 10 medals. — AFP



**AMSTERDAM:** Netherlands' Olympic medal winner Dafne Schippers looks on during a ceremony award in the RAI, in Amsterdam, yesterday as the Dutch team returns to Netherlands after the 2016 Rio olympic games. — AFP



**PARIS:** French boxers Tony Yoka (R) and his bride-to-be French boxer Estelle Mossely, wearing their gold medals, give an interview yesterday, in Paris. France's Olympic team landed in Paris yesterday after winning 42 medals in Rio, including 10 golds, a postwar record for the overall medal count. — AFP

# Sports

Guardiola confirms  
Bravo on his way  
to replace Hart

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Hero's welcome  
for Indonesian  
gold medallists

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RED SOX BEAT RAYS TO MOVE INTO FIRST PLACE TIE

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LONDON: Members of the the British Olympic Team pose for a photograph with their medals after they arrive back from the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil on a gold-tipped Boeing 747, at Heathrow airport in London yesterday. Twenty years after a stinging Olympic failure, Britain has risen from the ashes to become a sporting "superpower". Rival nations have been left confounded by Team GB's cool performance with 27 golds out of 67 won in Rio which gave them second place in the medals table behind the United States. —AFP

## BRITS RETURN HOME IN GOLD-NOSED PLANE

LONDON: Great Britain's triumphant Olympic team returned home from the Rio Games in a gold-nosed aircraft yesterday, as officials trumpeted their success the "best sporting achievement" in the country's history.

Some 320 athletes and support staff travelled back from Brazil in the British Airways Boeing 747 with "victORIOUS" emblazoned on the side, and the airline ordered an extra 77 bottles of champagne for the 11-hour flight. Team GB's medal haul was its biggest for more than a century, with 67 in all including 27 gold, putting them behind only the United States in the overall standings in Rio.

"I think it is the best sporting achievement by any team in British sporting history," said British chef de mission Mark England, flanked by team members, at a press conference at London's Heathrow Airport. Adam Peaty,

who started the British gold rush by smashing his own world record to win the 100 metres breaststroke swimming title added: "It's great to be back on British soil again and I can't wait to inspire the next generation of British athletes."

### 'UNITE THE COUNTRY'

Meanwhile rower Katherine Grainger said she was glad the team had been a source of joy for the country after a year of political upheaval. "The lovely thing is that after London 2012 we thought it could not be replicated, that feeling of uniting a nation, but the reaction here at Heathrow is just a small taste of what is to come," she explained. "It's felt like it's been a tough year for the country and the good thing about sport is that it unites the country with some good news, for a short time

at least," added Grainger, whose career five medals make her Britain's most decorated female Olympian.

Some of the medallists' families were present to watch them land, along with Hugh Robertson, Britain's sports minister at the time of the 2012 Games in London.

### 'SURPASSED EXPECTATIONS'

Britain's performance in Rio was the best by any country that had hosted the immediate preceding Olympics and Robertson, now a vice-president of the British Olympic Association (BOA) said the knock-on effect from London had played a part.

"One of the objectives was to leave a legacy for UK athletes for generations to come," he told AFP. "Rio has surpassed all our expectations," added Robertson, who flew back

from Brazil last Friday.

"This plan wasn't drawn up on the back of a fag (cigarette) packet, although that isn't perhaps the most apposite analogy to use for sports." Cycling saw Britain's "golden couple" of Jason Kenny and fiancée Laura Trott triumph in the velodrome.

Kenny matched British cycling great Chris Hoy's tally of six golds with three wins in Rio, while Trott won two of her own to take her total to four. Several British competitors defended titles won in London, notably Mo Farah who again took gold in both the 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres, with boxing's Nicola Adams and taekwondo's Jade Jones also repeating their victories of four years ago.

Double gold medal-winning gymnast Max Whitlock and Adams were first off the plane, posing and waving for photographers, before

the rest of the team followed to further cheers and applause from airport staff. Also on the plane were triathlon medal-winning brothers Alistair and Jonny Brownlee.

The United States finished with 121 medals in Rio, including 46 golds. But BOA chief executive Bill Sweeney cautioned against hopes Britain could replace them at the head of the standings at the 2020 Games in Tokyo. "Topping the Americans may be a long shot, it's just been an incredible moment," Sweeney said. "No team has done what we have-improve five Games in a row, medals-wise.

"Tokyo will be tough...Japan are stronger than the Brazilians, China will bounce back, there will be a full Russian team and Australia will be strong. However, we have a young team, so the potential is there." —AFP

## RUSSIAN BAN UPHELD, MOSCOW CRIES FOUL

GENEVA: A ban on Russian athletes competing in the Rio Paralympics was upheld yesterday, triggering anger in Moscow after the country lost an appeal against their exclusion over a vast, state-run doping programme.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) dismissed an appeal filed by the Russian Paralympic Committee, which sought to overturn the August 7 ban by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev denounced the doping charges as a "thick and very nasty cocktail" and said the Paralympic ban constituted a "cynical" attempt by rivals to remove strong competitors from the Games. The IPC took the tough action after the release of a bombshell report commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), detailing drug-cheating directed by government officials and affecting dozens of sports. Citing evidence compiled by WADA lead investigator Richard McLaren, the IPC argued that Russia's disabled athletes had failed to comply with global anti-doping codes.

The Lausanne-based CAS said Russia in its appeal "did not file any evidence contradicting the facts on which the IPC decision was based." In a statement, the court "confirmed" Russia's ban from the Rio Paralympics, which run from September 7 to 18.

### TRADITIONAL ENEMY

Medvedev, however, said on Facebook in Russian the decision showed "a number of states and their political and sports establishments were looking for a traditional enemy and found it once again."

However IPC president Philip Craven said the decision "underlines our strong belief that doping has absolutely no place in Paralympic sport." The ruling was applauded by the president of Germany's National Paralympic Committee, Friedhelm Julius Beucher.

"The judgement is a sign of consistent zero-tolerance on doping," he said. The Paralympics ban was the latest blow to Russian sport, which has been condemned by a mountain of doping allegations in recent months. The country narrowly escaped an outright International Olympic Committee ban from the just-concluded Rio Games, but still saw dozens of its athletes barred, including almost the entire track and field

team. Russia continues to deny the findings of the McLaren report, including the involvement of the sports ministry and the Russian secret service in doping fraud at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

### 'DISGUSTING ATTITUDE'

Russian Paralympic Committee president Vladimir Lukin had sought to portray his athletes as independent from the Moscow government. But the IPC said it did not believe that disabled Olympic hopefuls were untouched by the pervasive cheating in the country. Craven said previously that Russia's "thirst for glory at all costs has severely damaged the integrity and image of all sport." "Their medals over morals attitude disgusts me," Dmitry Svishchev, who heads the lower house of Russian parliament's sports and physical culture committee, told AFP: "I really don't like this decision. "I think that it is baseless and cruel. The athletes against whom this decision was taken did not deserve this."

The Paralympics, held every four years for athletes with disabilities, has taken place in various forms since 1948 but has grown in importance over the past 20 years.

An estimated 250 Russian competitors had been slated to take part in Rio and many had continued training ahead of the CAS decision. That included 19-year-old backstroke swimmer Alexander Makarov, who suffers from arthrogryposis, a congenital condition that limits the limbs' movements. He told AFP last week that he was trying "not to think" about being barred from Rio, as he churned through 50 laps during a morning training session outside Moscow.

However, former Russian Paralympian Mikhail Terentyev, a federal lawmaker and member of the Russian Paralympic Committee's executive board, told R-Sport:

"The IPC's decision is tragedy for the 267 athletes who had already made the team and went through a crucible and many anti-doping tests." Nearly 4,300 athletes from 164 countries took part in the 2012 London Paralympic Games.

The 2016 Rio Paralympics will see athletes compete in 23 disciplines over 11 days. —AFP



LONDON: Members of the the British Olympic Team pose for a photograph with their medals after they arrive back from the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil, at Heathrow airport in London. —AFP



PARIS: French modern pentathlete Elodie Clouvel holding her silver medal poses for photographers with her boyfriend French modern pentathlete Valentin Belaud yesterday in Paris. France's Olympic team landed in Paris on August 23, 2016 after winning 42 medals in Rio, including 10 golds, a postwar record for the overall medal count. —AFP



**THE ULTIMATE IN LUXURY: VISION MERCEDES-MAYBACH 6**



**KUWAIT:** Al-Safat Investment Company Chairman of the Board Abdullah Hamad Al-Terkait (third left) addresses the ordinary general assembly meeting yesterday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

**AL-SAFAT INVESTMENT CO HOLDS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING  
STRATEGIC WORK MODEL PUT COMPANY ON GROWTH PATH: AL-TERKAIT**

**KUWAIT:** Al-Safat Investment Company held its ordinary General Assembly yesterday to approve its balance-sheet for the year ending Dec 31, 2015 and elect a new board of directors for the next three years. Chairman of the Board Abdullah Hamad Al-Terkait presided over the meeting and welcomed shareholders and attendees. He thanked members of the former board of directors and the executive and financial management for the efforts they exerted in the interests of the company and the rights of its shareholders.

The chairman began the meeting by discussing the agenda and reading the board of directors' report, through which he said Al-Safat Investment Company, despite the difficulties and challenges it faced, witnessed several developments in 2015, resulting in becoming profitable after several years of losses, apart from the growth of the company as well as its revenues, it succeeded in bringing down its general and administrative expenses.

The chairman noted the role of the board in managing the company through working jointly and independently, and giving enough time to carry out its responsibilities with good intentions and absolute dedication to the interests of the company and its shareholders. The company's board of directors looks positively towards the future through building a strong professional entity in order to increase returns to the shareholders. Terkait promised to continue the continuous contacts with shareholders in total transparency and committed to creating a sustainable work model that supports development and growth of the company as well as make profits.

Terkait said the tangible improvement in results,

and the company's financial indicators, were due to Almighty Allah's guidance, then the efforts of the board of directors and the executive management team, as well as the result of approving a comprehensive strategic plan to rewrite the company's strategy and work model. The new strategy of Al-Safat Investment Company includes a clear program for the strategic transformation and the plan of restructuring and development of the company's activities, as well as its internal organizational and operational environment.

**Restructuring**

Work has begun on restructuring its satellite companies and concentrating on improving their status towards achieving sustainable growth and restructuring the company's investments portfolio, and exit from investments that are outside the field of these strategic sectors at the right time for the best returns, while using the income resulting from exiting these investments in building new investment centers and take over majority shares of satellite companies that have operational revenues and work towards accelerating the pace of growth in them.

Terkait presented the financial results of the company as of Dec 31, 2015, and pointed to the return of Al-Safat Investment Company following hard work and following years of problems and difficulties that caused many losses, to making profits for the financial year ending Dec 2015 of KD 1,875,021, which is equivalent to 7.31 fils per share, compared to a loss of KD 10,278,616, equivalent to 40.07 fils per share for the fiscal year ending in Dec 2014. The total company assets as of Dec 31, 2015

reached KD 58.9 million compared to KD 63.8 million on Dec 31, 2014.

Shareholders' equity reached KD 33.0 million, compared to KD 31.8 million on Dec 31, 2014, as the book value of a share reached 128.2 fils compared with 41.1 fils per share on Dec 31, 2014. Total company debts as of Dec 31, 2015 stood at KD 25.2 million compared to KD 31.2 million as of Dec 31, 2014. He explained that the declared company profits of KD 1,875,021 include losses due to reduction of investment values of KD 1,323,311.

The amount the company owes to a credit agency reached KD 21.1 million as of Dec 31, 2015 until the issuance of the report, and this represents the existing agency with Qatar National Bank. Terkait explained in detail that the investment agency contract dated 26/11/2007 between the company and Qatar National Bank, and the resulting legal dispute with regards to liquidating the agency contract and the legal conditioning of its contracts, which resulted in a verdict from the court of first instance in 2013 of rejecting the lawsuit.

Then an appeals ruling was issued in 2016 with correct legal conditioning by considering it as an investment agency, and the ruling of first instance was nullified, but it wrongly applied it as a relation of creditor and debtor, and ordered the company to return the agency's original amount plus 12 percent interest. As this ruling was in contravention of the law and similar cassation rulings, and the conditions and rules of the investment agency, this prompted the company to appeal the ruling at the cassation court (411, 408, 416 / 2016). The court ruled on April 6, 2016 to stop enforcement of the previous appeals ruling issued on Jan 27, 2016 until the appeal is

decided, and evidence on the correctness of this opinion is that the court found the reasons for the appeal are serious, and that the efforts of the company management to deal with this issue in a way that safeguards shareholders' rights are known to all.

Terkait said the company has prepared a future strategy that relies on having a supervisory mechanism within investment operations and is working on deciding promising and available investment opportunities in various sectors, and boosting the value of current company investments, as well as organizing and redistributing its capital towards investments and new acquisition operations both locally and regionally through the study and selection of suitable opportunities.

**Future investments**

Al-Safat Investment Company is keen to be a strong investor through its future investments in a way that guarantees reaching its vision through the strategy used in managing its agencies and the way of supporting its management team, and concentrate on the core growth and the sectors of value, in addition to completing the restructuring of its satellite companies. Terkait spoke about the reduction of the company capital, adding that he is dealing with the last obstacle the company faced, and working towards overcoming the past period.

An extraordinary meeting was held on May 11, 2016 during which the accumulated losses of KD 52,133,824 were written off as per the latest approved financial statements as of Dec 31, 2014, by reducing the company capital to become KD 25,693,940, which reflects positively on the capital structure of the company and helps it to grow

through investment in new projects that make enough profits to meet the shareholders' ambitions in increasing the shareholders' rights and returns, as well as achieve sustainability in growth, and search for rewarding investment opportunities that agree with the company's financial abilities.

In conclusion of the board of directors report, Terkait spoke about the company's final licensing at the Capital Markets Authority, as he said Al-Safat Investment Company received a final license for three years on April 21, 2016 by the CMA to engage in stock market activities, which means the company is committed to implementing all the laws and executive rules issued by the supervisory bodies, especially CMA.

Terkait then read out the governance and rewards reports, followed by the reports of auditors and the sharia supervision department and approved them and then the financial statements for the year ending on Dec 31, 2015 were approved by the shareholders. A new board of directors was elected for a new three-year term comprising seven members after receiving the CMA's approval of their nomination. The auditors and members of the sharia supervisory committee were reappointed for one year that ends on Dec 31, 2016.

Terkait thanked the supervisory bodies of Kuwait, particularly the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and CMA for their continued efforts and cooperation for the interest of the company, and wished the new board of directors more success in leading and managing the company. The new board held a meeting during which it elected Terkait as Chairman and Fahd Abdul Rahman Al-Mukhaizim as Vice-Chairman.

**GULF SLIDES WITH OIL  
BUT CLOSES OFF LOWS**

**MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS**

**DUBAI:** Most major Gulf stock markets fell yesterday after Brent crude oil dropped back below \$49 a barrel, but most closed well off their lows as investors bought blue chips in late trade.

The Saudi index closed 0.2 percent lower at 6,096 points, extending Monday's 1.7 percent slide. But gainers slightly outnumbered losers 77 to 74 and the index bounced from an intra-day low of 6,063 points, holding minor technical support on the April low of 6,066 points. Petrochemical blue chip Saudi Basic Industries rose 0.3 percent and Al-Rajhi Bank added 0.5 percent. Insurer Alinma Tokio rose 1.5 percent after the central bank approved one of its new products.

Dubai's index closed with a slight 0.04 percent decline at 3,534 points, off a low of 3,511 points. GFH Financial, which on Monday announced tentative plans to expand by taking a majority stake in a Bahraini bank, was the most heavily traded stock and jumped 5 percent.

Construction company Drake & Scull International, which had dropped 10 percent since it announced a big second-quarter loss in mid-August, was the second most active stock and closed flat.

A top executive of the company told

Reuters that it had asked advisers for proposals to review its business and find strategic investors. Abu Dhabi's index outperformed the region, rising 0.6 percent as First Gulf Bank climbed 1.7 percent.

Qatar's index dropped 0.9 percent and unlike the other markets, closed on its intra-day low. It has now erased all of the gains posted last week when stocks surged on hopes that they would be included in FTSE's emerging markets index when it upgrades Qatar to emerging market status next month.

In Egypt, the index slipped 0.7 percent in thin trade as government sources told Reuters that authorities plan to eliminate fuel subsidies within three years and aim to increase fuel prices to 65 percent of their actual cost this financial year. The reform would help Egypt to secure a badly needed \$12 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund but could dent consumer spending and corporate profits in the near term. Commercial International Bank lost 1.2 percent.

MENA Capital's Admiral Fund said that the IMF loan and reforms would be positive for Egypt but it was in no hurry to raise its exposure to the country. —Reuters

**IRAN SIGNALS WILLINGNESS FOR  
OPEC ACTION TO BOOST PRICE**

**DUBAI/LONDON:** Iran is sending positive signals that it may support joint action to prop up the oil market, sources in OPEC and the oil industry said, potentially aiding efforts to revive a global deal on freezing production levels at talks next month. OPEC's third-largest producer has been boosting output after the lifting of Western sanctions in January. Tehran refused to join a previous attempt this year by OPEC plus non-members such as Russia to stabilize production, and talks collapsed in April.

Though Iran has not yet decided whether to join a new effort, Tehran appears to be more willing to reach an understanding with other oil producers, the sources said.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Eulogio Del Pino last week toured oil-producing countries including Saudi Arabia and Iran to rally support for a deal. Despite rising this year, oil at around \$49 a barrel is less than half its level of mid-2014. "Iran is reaching its pre-sanctions production level soon and after that it can cooperate with the others," said a source familiar with Iranian thinking after del Pino's visit to Tehran.

"In general, Iran prefers more actions from the OPEC side rather than just freezing at the maximum production level of all members. If this freezing issue helps prices to improve, Iran by positive words of support, will help."

Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries are due to meet informally in Algeria next month on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum. Russia is also expected to attend the IEF. Venezuela, whose economy has been hit hard by the oil price collapse, has for months sought to rally producers towards an agreement to limit production. Del Pino was in Tehran on Aug. 15 before flying to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

Iran confirmed its participation in the OPEC meeting in Algeria, an OPEC source said yesterday.

**'POSITIVE SIGNS'**

Russia, which in April was ready to freeze production, now wants to see an internal agreement among OPEC before it commits to rejoining an initiative. "Negotiations are ongoing. I see positive signs coming from OPEC 'majors'," said a senior industry source familiar with the discussions, referring to Riyadh and Tehran.

"Russia wants to see an OPEC agreement before committing anything. So (OPEC members) are busy among themselves formulating an agreement."

OPEC sources say Iran's participation in a production pact has been the main stumbling block in reaching a deal. The previous attempt

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

Tehran insists it will be ready for joint action only once it regains pre-sanctions output of 4 million barrels per day (bpd). It pumped 3.6 million bpd in July, OPEC figures show.

Terkait thanked the supervisory bodies of Kuwait, particularly the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and CMA for their continued efforts and cooperation for the interest of the company, and wished the new board of directors more success in leading and managing the company. The new board held a meeting during which it elected Terkait as Chairman and Fahd Abdul Rahman Al-Mukhaizim as Vice-Chairman.

"The difficult question for all will be defining the freeze at what level of production. Agreeing a number may be a challenge - unless they all agree to allow some form of flexibility," the senior industry source said.

An OPEC source from a main Middle East oil producer agreed. "Freezing output now is difficult, everyone is raising production. And even if, and I am saying 'if' ... we agreed to a freeze, no one will commit to stick to it," the source said. —Reuters



## US NEW HOME SALES RACE TO NEAR NINE-YEAR HIGH

**WASHINGTON:** New US single-family home sales unexpectedly rose in July, reaching their highest level in nearly nine years as demand increased broadly, brightening the housing market outlook.

The Commerce Department said yesterday new home sales surged 12.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 654,000 units last month, the highest level since October 2007.

June's sales pace was revised down to 582,000 units from the previously reported 592,000 units. July's increase, however, likely exaggerates housing market strength as it has not been matched by robust housing starts. Still, sales were up 31.3 percent from a year ago. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast single-family home sales, which account for about 9.6 percent of overall home sales, slipping to a rate of 580,000 units last month.

Last month's surprise increase pushed new home sales well above their second-quarter average, pointing to sustained momentum in the market for new homes. Residential construction was a minor drag on economic growth in the second quarter. Housing market strength, marked by rising home values which are boosting household wealth, is helping to buoy consumer spending, cushioning the blow to the economy from a downturn in business spending as well as an inventory correction.

Tightening labor market conditions, which are steadily lifting wages, as well as mortgage rates near historic lows are supporting housing. Reports last week showed groundbreaking on single-family housing projects rising to a five-month high in July

and sentiment among homebuilders increasing in August. New home sales are likely benefiting from a chronic shortage of previously owned houses available for sale. Robust demand for new homes is boosting homebuilders like Toll Brothers, which yesterday reported a rise in revenue for the fourth straight quarter. The luxury homebuilder said it had sold more houses at higher prices.

The broader PHLX housing index, which includes builders, building products and mortgage companies, was trading up 1.0 percent, outperforming the overall US stock market. Shares in the nation's largest homebuilder D R Horton Inc were up 0.9 percent and Lennar Corp gained 1.8 percent. Toll Brothers rose 1.8 percent. The dollar trimmed losses against a basket of currencies, while prices for US government debt rose slightly. New single-family homes sales soared 40.0 percent in the Northeast and increased 1.2 percent in the Midwest. Sales in the populous South jumped 18.1 percent to their highest level since July 2007. Sales were flat in the West, which has seen a sharp increase in home prices amid tight inventories. Last month, the inventory of new homes on the market fell 2.9 percent to 233,000 units, the lowest level since November last year. This means builders will need to ramp up construction activity to meet demand. At July's sales pace it would take 4.3 months to clear the supply of houses on the market, the fewest since June 2013, and down from 4.9 months in June. Despite increased demand and tight inventories, the median price for a new home slipped 0.5 percent from a year ago to \$294,600. — Reuters



**ROSEWELL:** A home under construction and for sale is shown in Roswell, Ga. The Commerce Department reported on sales of new homes in July. —AP



**LADAKH:** A general view of the Himalayan Mountain Range in Ladakh in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir. —AFP

## DUTERTE SEEN SETTING UP ECONOMIC BOOM

PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT GETTING HIGH MARKS FROM BUSINESSES

**MANILA:** Less than two months in office, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte is getting high marks from the business community for policies that could engineer an economic surge and companies say they are making new investments as a result.

While Duterte may be getting headlines for a bloody war against drug dealers and users, less attention has been paid to one of Asia's few economic success stories. The groundwork was laid by Duterte's predecessor, President Benigno Aquino, who took growth above 6 percent over his six-year term, but executives are also cheering the new administration's focus on building new infrastructure and say it could spell the start of a long-term boom. Some even see Duterte's violent and highly controversial anti-drugs campaign as potentially positive.

"We are in a very good spot," said Antonio Moncupa Jr., president and CEO of East-West Banking Corp, one of the top 10 lenders in the country. "The pronouncement of government prioritizing infrastructure spending, accelerating it and cutting red tape, solving peace and order, I think all point to very good prospects ahead."

Last week, the government announced that the Philippines' economy grew at 7 percent in the second quarter from a year earlier, its highest level in three years. It makes the Philippines the fastest growing among all countries that have reported so far for the second quarter. When Duterte won the May presidential election, there were questions marks over how he would handle the economy - Duterte, who is nicknamed "the Punisher", has been unapologetic over unleashing the police on drug users and dealers. Philippine National Police Chief Ronald Dela Rosa said on Monday that there have been 1,800 drug-related deaths since Duterte took over as president, with 712 of those at the hands of the police.

The new president has launched a crackdown on online gambling, vowed to destroy oligarchs, warned that the country could live without a mining industry if environmental standards were not met and called the US ambassador a "gay son of a whore". But Duterte has a 91 percent approval rating in the latest public survey and businesses are lining up to announce expansion plans. The mainstays of the economy - remit-

tances and the outsourcing sector - are flourishing and boosting domestic consumption.

### DOMESTIC EXPANSION

Jollibee Foods Corp, the biggest fastfood chain in the country, plans to open 200 more domestic stores this year. So does Robinsons Retail, taking its total to over 1,500. BDO Unibank Inc, the country's biggest lender, plans to open 50-100 new branches this year.

"We are supportive and encouraged by the new administration's socio-economic agenda, which has a holistic approach for the benefit of all, including JFC," said Jollibee investor relations officer Cossette Palomar. However, the Philippines has a worrying precedent of a strongman leader. In the 1960s, when the country had one of the highest per capita incomes in Asia, Ferdinand Marcos took over as president. Two decades of dictatorship, corruption and

plunder by Marcos left the Philippines in a shambles. "Business will be good under this administration," BDO Unibank executive vice-president Luis Reyes said of Duterte. "Concerns centre more on the extra-judicial killings."

Supporters of Duterte say even as the long-term mayor of the southern city of Davao, where he earned his reputation for busting crime, he created the conditions for business to flourish.

Government data show that the Davao region's economy grew by 6.6 percent on average in 2010-14 compared with 6.3 percent for the whole country. According to one estimate, there were more than 20,000 people in outsourcing jobs in the city in 2013, and this sector was growing at more than 20 percent a year. Duterte's reputation of carrying out his promises has given businesses plenty to look forward to - for instance his vow to make spending on infrastructure a priority. — Reuters



Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte

## UK ECONOMY SUFFERS LITTLE IMMEDIATE BREXIT HIT

**LONDON:** Two months after Britain decided to leave the European Union, consumers seem to have taken the result in their stride but there are some signs that the challenge for the economy has barely begun. Below is a summary of various measures of the economy's performance since the country voted to leave the EU on June 23.

### CONSUMPTION

Shoppers shrugged off the Brexit shock in July, according to official data. Retail sales jumped by much more than expected as warm weather boosted summer clothing sales and overseas buyers took advantage of a cheaper pound.

Retailers Tesco, Next and John Lewis say they have not been affected so far by the referendum result. The British Retail Consortium also said spending in shops bounced in July, while grocery sales edged up in the 12 weeks to Aug. 14 and new car registrations were flat in July.

But the impact from Brexit on consumer spending is expected to take time to appear. The Bank of England has more than halved its forecasts for household spending over the next two years in light of the vote to leave the EU, one of the reasons it cut interest rates and announced more stimulus measures this month. British consumer morale saw its sharpest drop in more than 26 years and house prices also broadly fell following the vote. But one survey showed households in August recovered from a loss of

confidence about their finances.

### JOBS

For now, the labour market has shown little sign of a Brexit hit, with the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Britain unexpectedly falling in July and only a small fall in the number of job vacancies. But Britain's decision to leave the EU, and the long period of uncertainty that will ensue, could curb business investment and result in some companies, in particular in financial services, moving headquarters or jobs elsewhere in Europe.

Lloyds Banking Group, said in July it would axe a further 3,000 jobs and close an additional 200 branches to cushion against a more testing economic environment caused by Britain's vote to quit the EU. By contrast, online retailer Amazon said last week it would create 1,500 new jobs in 2017 in Britain.

A slower economy could cap wage growth, which together with higher inflation, would eat into consumers' spending power.

### INFLATION

Price pressures in factories - which feed through into consumer prices - jumped in July, reflecting the post-Brexit slump in the pound. Import prices rose at their fastest rate since late 2011 and overall input prices paid by manufacturers saw their biggest annual rise in three years. — Reuters

## EUROZONE BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRONG DESPITE BREXIT

**BRUSSELS:** Eurozone economic activity edged higher in August with few signs that Brexit-linked dangers were yet hurting the European economy, a closely watched survey showed yesterday.

Data monitoring company Markit said the eurozone economy maintained its resilience despite Britain's shock vote to leave the EU, with a strong showing from France as well as powerhouse Germany.

Markit said the preliminary August reading for its Composite Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for the eurozone rose to a seven-month-high of 53.3 points, up from 53.2 in July. The PMI measures companies' readiness to spend on their business and so gives a good idea of how the underlying economy is performing before official statistics are compiled and released.

Any reading above 50 points indicates the economy is expanding. Markit chief economist Chris Williamson said the eurozone economy "remains on a steady growth path in the third quarter, with no signs of the recovery being derailed by 'Brexit' uncertainty."

Williamson said the better-than-expected August figures suggested the eurozone economy was growing at "1.2 percent (over 12 months), which is similar to that seen on average over the first half of the year." The IMF said last month that eurozone growth this year would hit a stronger-than-expected 1.6 percent, instead of the previously forecast 1.5 percent. The fund warned however that growth in the currency bloc would drop to 1.4 percent next year as the Brexit effects kicked in. Howard Archer of IHS Insight said the "PMI data are pretty reassuring, suggesting that Eurozone economic activity is - for now at least - not being hampered by the UK's shock Brexit vote."

Nevertheless, the data "by no means give the all clear on Eurozone growth prospects as there were mixed developments", including slowing employment and lower growth in new orders by businesses, he added. — AFP

## CHINA'S RICHEST MAN SET TO SEAL 2BN US FILM DEALS

**BEIJING:** Real estate and entertainment conglomerate Dalian Wanda Group Co expects to seal two billion-dollar film-related deals in the United States this year, chairman Wang Jianlin said yesterday, as China's richest man steps up his push into Hollywood.

After completing the acquisition of two non-production film companies - each worth above \$1 billion - Dalian Wanda's next target would be a so-called "Big Six" movie studio, Wang told Reuters in an exclusive interview. "My goal is to buy Hollywood companies and bring their technology and capability to China," Wang said.

He declined to elaborate on the two deals in the pipeline, which would further bolster Wanda's motion picture empire. In January, Wang splashed \$3.5 billion to buy a controlling stake in U.S. film studio Legendary Entertainment, behind hits such as "Jurassic World", making Wanda the first Chinese firm to own a major Hollywood studio. Dalian Wanda, which was added to the Fortune Global 500 list this year, aims to triple revenue from its cultural division, led by entertainment, sports and tourism, to 150 billion yuan (\$22.6 billion) by 2020.

Reuters reported last month that Wanda has held talks with Viacom Inc about acquiring its stake in Paramount Pictures, one of Hollywood's "Big Six" studios that also include Twentieth Century Fox, Warner Brothers, Walt Disney, Universal Pictures and Columbia.

"We are interested not only in Paramount, but all of them. If one of the Big Six would be willing to be sold to us, we would be interested," Wang said. "Only the six are real global film companies, while the rest are not. If we are to build a real movie empire, this is a necessary step."

Dalian Wanda is leading a slew of Chinese firms that are investing in Hollywood. They include Fosun International, which has invested in Studio 8, a production company started by former Warner Brothers executive Jeff Robinov, and Huayi Brothers Media Corp, which is producing films with STX Entertainment, a

studio invested in by Chinese private equity company Hony Capital. Dalian Wanda would also start co-investing in global blockbusters next year, Wang added.

### A SCREEN NEAR YOU

The Chinese conglomerate, which began as a property developer in the northeastern city of Dalian, was also looking to extend the world's biggest motion picture theatre network, Wang said.

Following the completion of its acquisitions of London-based Odeon & UCI Cinemas Group and Carmike Cinemas Inc in the United States, Dalian Wanda would control 15 percent of global box office revenues, Wang said, and may reach its goal of controlling 20 percent earlier than its target of 2020. Wang, who has also bought Swiss sports marketing firm Infront Sports & Media AG and World Triathlon Corp, owner of the "Ironman" franchise, said he was primarily interested in acquiring entertainment and sports companies in the United States and Europe.

"If the target company fits our appetite, there is no upper limit for budgeting," he said. But he cautioned that too many investors were rushing into the "hot" film market. "Most of the money invested in China, and even the global film industry, is silly money. Only a little is smart money," he said. "As China's film industry growth slows to below 20 percent, or even 10 percent, 8 percent this year, some will be washed out. It's like Warren Buffett said, 'you only find out who is swimming naked when the tide goes out.'" Separately, Wang said that Dalian Wanda Commercial Properties Co, Wanda's real estate flagship, would re-list on the Shanghai stock exchange either through an initial public offering (IPO) or a backdoor listing. Shareholders of the Hong Kong-listed firm last week approved a buy-out offer that would see the firm privatized.

The company said earlier this month it planned to de-list from the Hong Kong stock exchange on Sept 20. Wang said both options were on the table for the planned Shanghai re-listing. — Reuters



**CHONGQING:** A construction worker operates a digger next to the Arhat temple in Chongqing yesterday. Claiming to be the world's largest building by floor space, the 1,760,000 square metres of the New Century Global Center are a monument to growing Chinese consumer power, packed with shoppers — and beach bathers a thousand kilometres from the coast. —AFP







Samir Cherfan, Managing Director, Nissan Middle East.

# NISSAN APPLIES INTELLIGENCE AND AUTOMATION TO FUTURE MOBILITY

MODERN DRIVER SAFETY AIDS ARE PAVING THE WAY FOR AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE CAPABILITY

**KUWAIT:** It's the news story that simply won't go away. The automobile industry has been busy investing in, and developing, automated driving technologies-this has been a constant headline for the past two years and the potential upheaval and impact autonomous driving technology will have when it becomes a day-to-day reality cannot be overstated and should not be underestimated.

We are seeing the results of this exciting new technology already filtering into contemporary production vehicles, with digital connectivity, safety and driver assist systems now transforming the way we drive, run and maintain our cars, vans and trucks. Yet still there is a common misconception that fully autonomous driving is still many years away. The reality, however, is that this technology is being developed at incredible speed by a number of manufacturers-and not just established car-makers, either.

Why the push for automated driving in the first place? There are two goals: aiming for zero emissions for a cleaner environment and zero road fatalities for enhanced safety on the roads. For as long as vehicles are propelled by the burning of fossil fuels this planet will face ecological problems and, while human beings are responsible for operating these vehicles, mistakes will be made and accidents will happen. To prevent either scenario is what responsible manufacturers are working toward, for the benefit of all.

As you might expect from a forward-thinking industry leader, Nissan is right at the forefront of this innovation and many of its cars are already equipped with technologies that would have seemed like science fiction only a few years ago. Certain Nissan cars have the ability to park themselves, warn their drivers of potential hazards, maintain a safe distance from other road users and automatically apply emergency braking - all extremely practical and useful for removing the stress from driving. But the company is not resting on its laurels.

Our CEO, Carlos Ghosn, had much to say on the future of mobility and Nissan's involvement in it, at the 2016 Geneva International Motor Show. He believed that our Intelligent Mobility vision is a

framework to move customers around the world toward a safer and more sustainable future, and in order to realise this vision, Nissan had launched a long-term strategy, supported by significant R&D investments. He added that this enabled Nissan to introduce the breakthrough LEAF, the world's first mass production EV, in 2010 - years before any of our competitors. It has also driven our development of cutting-edge autonomous drive technologies, which will be available in a range of mass production models by 2020. He finally reaffirmed that Nissan's aim, is to lead the way toward a new era of mobility.

#### Intelligent mobility

Nissan's commitment to developing intelligent mobility is evidenced on a local level through its SmartCar application and on a global level with its Autonomous Driving R&D. In Britain, Nissan is already manufacturing 'Piloted Drive' cars, with the award-winning Nissan Qashqai crossover being earmarked to be the first to offer it to customers. This is technology that's normally the preserve of expensive luxury cars but Nissan is determined to apply it to one of its most popular-and most accessible for many customers-making it readily available to potentially millions of people.

Intelligent mobility still has final hurdles to cross. But the race to introduce fully automated driving to our towns and cities is not far off on the horizon. Nissan has developed its own technologies and is in the process of refining them, with concrete plans to introduce vehicles equipped with autonomous drive technologies in 2017. These cars will be able to negotiate road hazards and even change lanes while driving and, by the year 2020, Nissan intends to introduce technology that will allow cars to drive themselves on busy intersections and crossroads, in complete safety for occupants and pedestrians alike.

Naturally, safety and security is at the front of everyone's minds right now and for Nissan these are vital attributes for our future autonomous vehicles. The company is investing enormous sums of money and resources to make our future cars as safe as possible. It's all about intelligent mobility, after all.





# STUDY OF AN ULTRA-STYLISH LUXURY-CLASS COUPÉ

## THE ULTIMATE IN LUXURY: VISION MERCEDES-MAYBACH 6

**STUTTGART/PEBBLE BEACH:** Every August classic car fans from around the world converge on Pebble Beach in California for a very special beauty contest. This gathering of magnificent classic cars is the perfect place to premiere the exclusive Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6, a sensational luxury-class coupé. The 2+2-seater is a homage to the glorious age of the aero coupés and consciously carries this tradition forward into the future. The coupé reinterprets classic, emotional design principles in an extreme way, following the Mercedes design philosophy of sensual purity.

The Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6, which measures almost six metres in length, is designed as an electric car. The drive system has an output of 550 kW (750 hp). The shallow underfloor battery allows a range of over 500 kilometres according to the NEDC (over 200 miles according to EPA).

The large coupé is set to make its debut at Monterey Car Week, which will take place on the Monterey Peninsula between 16 and 21 August 2016. The final event on 21 August will be the Pebble Beach Concours D'Elegance.

With its sensual, emotional design ("hot") and intelligent details ("cool"), the Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6 represents the ultimate in luxury. The classic aesthetic proportions of the show car - the extremely long bonnet, the low roof line and the rearward positioning of the greenhouse - recall the aero coupés of days gone by. But this is not retro design - this is a reinterpretation of classic, aesthetic principles.

At the same time the design is something unexpectedly new - cool, technoid and reduced. This is exemplified by the aerodynamically intelligent basic shape. Even without aids such as spoilers, the airflow hugs the contours of the vehicle body and only breaks away very late at the tail end of the vehicle. Then there is the surprisingly technoid character of the narrow lights, the partially transparent rims and the split rear window.

"Our sensational coupé, the Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6, represents the ultimate in contemporary luxury. It is hot and cool", states Gordon Wagener, Head of Design at Daimler AG. "With its intelligent appeal and reduced, technoid look, it perfectly embodies our design philoso-

phy of sensual purity and our pursuit of aerodynamic efficiency."

### Reinterpretation of classic, aesthetic principles: The exterior design

Clearly defined contours and organically formed wings stand in contrast to the sharply drawn, extended feature line on each side which defines the upper vehicle body from the radiator grille across the entire length of the vehicle to the rear. Below this, the main body has a bulging, muscular look, extending across the entire flank. There is also a striking contrast between the Maybach red paintwork and the chrome strips which sit above the wheel arches and in the centre of the bonnet and boot lid.

A reinterpretation of the Mercedes-Maybach radiator grille with its fine, vertical struts accentuates the front end. The grille was inspired by a pinstriped suit. The radiator grille rests on two aerodynamically shaped supports on the outer right and left of the bumper.

The distinctive 24-inch wheels are a development of the aero rim from the Concept IAA (Intelligent Aerodynamic Automobile). A transparent shield in the vehicle colour provides a view of the aluminium spokes behind it.

A further highlight is provided by the gull-wing doors, a hallmark Mercedes design element which has been brought up to date. They underline the sporty character of the vehicle's silhouette and feature innovatively designed aluminium trim. The exterior mirrors designed as cameras are supported on the wings.

The extended, round "boat tail" format of the Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6's rear recalls a luxury yacht, and narrow tail lights which emphasise the width of the vehicle are integrated in its outer edges. Above this sit the two extremely shallow rear windows ("split window"). Further distinctive features at the rear include the diffuser with aluminium frame and the air outlets behind the wheel arches.

### Luxurious 360 lounge featuring new materials: The interior design

The interior of the Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6 is a synthesis of intelligence and emotion and combines traditional Mercedes-Benz values with a new high-tech experience.

The dashboard wing curves across the door trim into the seat landscape, creating a 360 lounge. The new "inside out" spatial design adds a particular touch of finesse. The sitting surface forms a horizontal, which transitions into the vertical of the doors and finally becomes the underside of the dashboard wing.

In addition to the flowing contours, the material composition produces a luxury experience of the highest order. Authentic materials and colours such as rose gold are used to create luxurious accents. The interior, with its high-quality leather trim, has a cool colour scheme which perfectly underlines the digital innovations. The sitting surfaces have a Chesterfield look. In the doors and dashboard the traditional wood trim softens the appearance of the digital control and display interfaces. As a contrast to the digital world of the displays, elm is used in the floor area, creating a refined yachting look. Elm is the palest open-pore wood which Mercedes-Benz is currently working on for series use.

In the front luggage area of the Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6 is a set of two suitcases, exclusively created for the vehicle. Here too the designers have followed the sensual, pure design idiom of Mercedes-Benz. Plenty of space has also been provided for further additions such as picnic accessories or personal items.

### Dipping into the future: A fusion of analogue and digital experience

Ever since Mercedes-Benz invented the car 130 years ago, driving has been a source of enjoyment and delight. With the increase in digitisation comes a simultaneous need for sustainable analogue solutions, the design of which has been emphasised and in places exaggerated in the concept car. In the Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6 this can be seen above all in the "hyperanalogue" instruments with needles and circular, crystal-look displays.

The classic circular instruments are combined with deep displays and act as a reference to the unique history of Mercedes-Benz. In contrast, other display elements are digitally integrated into a continuous glass trim part. Information about the seat, for example, can be shown on this digital strip. Map information is also shown in the front area of the strip. Menu

content is extended along a digital line which extends to the sides as far as the occupants, who can set their own content ergonomically using touch control.

The front windscreen serves as a transparent display: driving-related data and geographical information is shown across its full width, augmenting the outside world with additional information. This information can be controlled and adjusted by the occupants using gestures.

The luxury padded leather upholstery is a particular highlight. Its traditional look is combined with future technology here - the buttons which would normally be trimmed in leather have been replaced in the upholstered surfaces by miniature "body sensor displays". These scan the passengers and monitor, for example, their vital functions. As a result, comfort features such as seat climate or the massage function, for example, can be activated or the seat settings adjusted to the passenger. The sensors embedded in the upholstery also record the incidence of light, the colour of the occupant's clothing and the ambient temperature. This information can be used to trigger new, emotional lighting effects in the interior.

The concept car aims to embody the ultimate in luxury, and this is underlined by the fact that the driver can switch to digital/autonomous mode. Another highlight is offered by the floating, transparent centre tunnel, which visualises the drive system's electrical energy flow for the occupants.

### Emission-free driving: Electric drive system generating 550 kW (750 hp)

The side sills, illuminated by LED light strips, clearly underline the fact that the Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6 is designed as an electric car. Thanks to its four compact permanent magnet synchronous electric motors, it features all-wheel drive. The output of the drive system, which is currently in series development, is 550 kW (750 hp). The shallow underfloor battery has a usable capacity of approx. 80 kWh. This not only allows performance characteristics typical of a sports car (acceleration from 0-100 km/h in under four seconds, top speed electronically governed at 250 km/h) but also a range of over 500 kilometres according to the NEDC (over 200 miles according to EPA).

### Vision: Add an extra 100 kilometres to the range in just five minutes

The quick-charge function is also visionary: as a result of DC charging based on the CCS standard, the system allows an impressive charging capacity of up to 350 kW. In just five minutes enough power can be charged to achieve an additional range of around 100 kilometres.

The battery can either be charged via a cable connection at a public charging station or a conventional domestic outlet or, for even more convenience, it can be charged wirelessly, via an electromagnetic field.

### The wow effect: Visionary show cars with long-term prospects

With its impressive dimensions, the Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6 (length/width/height: 5700/2100/1328 millimetres) is the first luxury coupé in the series of visionary design show cars from Mercedes-Benz. These include the Vision EnerG-Force (Los Angeles, November 2012), AMG Vision Gran Turismo (Sunnyvale, 2013) and Vision Tokyo (Tokyo, 2015). Thanks to the global nature of the Mercedes-Benz Design function, these concept vehicles take cues from local trends in design, culture and mobility and make these the focal point of the respective mobility concept. At the same time these show cars are looking far into the future.

### Mercedes-Maybach: Perfection blends with exclusivity

Mercedes-Maybach stands for the ultimate in exclusivity and individuality. The target group is made up of status-oriented customers. The current vehicles include the Mercedes-Maybach S 500 and S 600 models, launched in February 2015, which blend the perfection of the Mercedes-Benz S-Class with the exclusivity of Maybach. A special protection version, the Mercedes-Maybach S 600 Pullman, is the world's first passenger car to meet the highest ballistic protection level for civilian vehicles, VR10.

The most recent model is the Mercedes-Maybach S 600 Pullman with face-to-face seating. Launched at the beginning of 2016, it adopted the mantle of absolute top-of-the-line model.

## ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 17TH 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' DRAWS

**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 17th 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 23rd August, 2016 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw and is running until 30 September, 2016.

The winners this week are:  
1) Saad Duwaihan Amer Al-Rasheed, Hawally Branch  
2) Moinul Haque Muzaffarul Haque, Khaitan Branch

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw.

The next 'Double Your Salary' draw will be held on 30th August, 2016 where two new lucky winners will be announced. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names.



**KUWAIT:** Citibank representatives representing the award to NBK.

## NBK WINS CITI PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE AWARD IN GLOBAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS 2015

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has been awarded by Citibank the prestigious Citi Performance Excellence Award for leadership and excellence in global electronic payments 2015. The award recognizes NBK's exceptional quality in processing payments.

A delegation from Citibank presented the award to NBK recently. At the award ceremony held at NBK's head office, Citibank representatives congratulated NBK. This award emphasizes and underpins

NBK's commitment towards its customers and its credibility assuring fast and efficient payment services with funds reaching the counterparty as quickly as possible. This award is presented to leading financial institutions worldwide which have state-of-the-art international 'straight-through-processing' (STP) electronic payment services and meet Citi's stringent correspondent banking and processing accuracy criteria.

The Straight Through Processing (STP) is the

automated process of payments which increases processing speed resulting in efficient, rapid payment execution and credit for the bank and the customers it serves. NBK continues to collectively enjoy the highest credit ratings from the three international rating agencies; Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. The Bank's ratings are supported by its high capitalization, prudent lending policies, and its disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very

stable management team. NBK also maintains its position among the 50 safest banks in the world for the ninth consecutive time.

NBK Group has the widest banking presence in 4 continents worldwide. NBK's international presence spans many of the world's leading financial centers including London, Paris, Geneva, New York and Singapore, as well as China (Shanghai). Meanwhile, regional coverage extends to Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey.

## GOOGLE ROLLING OUT LATEST ANDROID TO NEXUS PHONES

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Google is ready to start sending out the latest version of its Android operating system to a handful of devices. The release announced Monday means many Nexus-branded devices should receive a free upgrade to Android 7.0, nicknamed "Nougat," during the next few weeks. The first models in line include the Nexus 6, Nexus 5X, Nexus 6P, Nexus 9, Nexus Player, Pixel C and General Mobile 4G. Other smartphones coming out this fall will be sold with Nougat already installed. The new version of Android has been in a testing phase since March as Google polished the system that will feature 72 new

emojis and the ability to reply to notifications without opening an app. Rival Apple is scheduled to release the latest operating system for the iPhone next month.

### Microsoft revs machine smarts

Meanwhile, Microsoft on Monday announced it bought a startup to boost its artificial intelligence capabilities, and rival Apple confirmed it has boosted its health focus with an acquisition of its own. Microsoft did not disclose financial terms of its deal to buy Genee, which specializes in using machine smarts to handle the time-

sucking task of scheduling meetings.

"Genee uses natural language processing and optimized decision-making algorithms so that interacting with a virtual assistant is just like interacting with a human one," Outlook and Office 365 corporate vice president Rajesh Jha said in a blog post. For example, Genee can be copied into an email exchange to act as a virtual assistant of sorts to pin down a time for a business or social meeting. Jha touted Genee as having designed "an intelligent virtual assistant specialized in the appointment decision." The technology was expected to be put to work in Office 365 software

that Microsoft offers as a service in the internet cloud. The team that started Silicon Valley-based Genee in 2014 will join the Microsoft and the existing service will be discontinued next month, according to the companies.

Apple confirmed press reports that it has bought startup Glimpse, which uses machine learning as part of its formula for letting people secure manage and share personal medical information. "Apple buys smaller technology companies from time to time, and we generally do not discuss our purpose or plans," Apple said in a statement. Glimpse offers a unique platform allow-

ing users to compile medical and health data from different sources, and share as needed with third parties, including doctors.

"We've built a magical machine," Glimpse said on its website. "It takes incomprehensible electronic medical records and turns them into understandable, standardized, coded elements and terminology that both humans and machines can easily understand and use." Apple has introduced features and software platforms for its mobile devices to be tools for people to manage and improve fitness and health. — Agencies

## MOBILEYE AND DELPHI TEAM UP TO DEVELOP ROBOT CAR SYSTEM

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli technology firm Mobileye and UK-based auto-equipment maker Delphi said yesterday that they were teaming up to develop an autonomous driving system which would be ready for vehicle-makers in 2019. A joint statement by the two companies said that Mobileye's vision and sensor systems would combine with Delphi's automated driving software to create what it called "the market's first turnkey Level 4/5 automated driving solution." The US-based Society of Automotive Engineers defines level 4 as "High Automation" in all but the most adverse driving conditions and level 5 as "Full Automation" "under all roadway and environmental conditions that can be managed by a human driver."

Last month, German car maker BMW announced that it was joining forces with Mobileye and US computer chip giant Intel on a self-drive project, also for "highly and fully automated driving" to be commercially available by 2021. There is growing interest in self-driving cars following tests over the past few years by Google and research by several major automakers. But on July 1, US electric car

company Tesla announced that a driver was killed in a car crash in Florida in May while using the "autopilot" self-driving mechanism on one of its models.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said it had opened a "preliminary evaluation" into the performance of the autopilot function in the wake of the crash. A major study released earlier this month said the looming arrival of self-driving vehicles is likely to vastly reduce traffic fatalities, but also poses difficult moral dilemmas. Scientists said autonomous driving systems will require programmers to develop algorithms to make critical decisions that are based more on ethics than technology, such as whether to sacrifice a driver or passenger rather than pedestrians.

Mobileye describes itself as the "global leader in the development of computer vision and machine learning, data analysis, localization and mapping for Advanced Driver Assistance Systems and autonomous driving." Delphi says it is "a world leader in automated driving software, sensors and systems integration." — AFP



MOSCOW: A man plays at the Pokemon Go augmented reality game in central Moscow. — AFP

## SUPER MARIO'S GLOBAL APPEAL

**NEW YORK:** Take that, Pokemon. On Sunday, the Japanese prime minister turned up at the Olympics closing ceremonies to promote the 2020 Tokyo games dressed up as Mario, the eponymous hero of the popular video game series created in 1985. Who is Mario and how did he come by his global appeal? Here's a closer look.

### Why Super Mario?

Japanese animation and game characters from Hello Kitty to Pac Man also made appearances in the closing ceremonies. But none of them may have the global reach of Super Mario, the game franchise that was a hit when Nintendo's video game system and Game Boy burst onto the scene in the 1980s. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's appearance as Super Mario was a crowd-pleasing reminder of how much the game helped spur on the videogame revolution in the U.S. and globally. Abe emerged from a green pipe in a big red Super Mario cap and costume, holding a glowing red ball kicked to him by famed manga soccer star Captain Tsubasa.

### How did Super Mario's appearance come about?

Tokyo 2020 organizers said in a statement that the Super Mario idea came up during a brainstorming session. Staff at Nintendo would say only that the government asked to borrow the character for the show.

### Mario's backstory

The franchise began in 1981, when Donkey Kong debuted as an arcade game. Donkey Kong soon became the hottest selling arcade game in the business. In that game, a character called "Jumpman," similar to Mario, tried to save a damsel from a big ape. Super Mario came a long four years later, packaged with the Nintendo Entertainment System, popularizing the side-scrolling videogame format. Mario's first job was carpentry, but later he became a plumber, and in many games he travels up and down in a world of underground pipes. In his book "Game Over: How Nintendo Conquered the World," David Sheff wrote that Mario was named after Nintendo's US landlord, who was demanding back rent from the company's fledgling US arm. Nintendo doesn't confirm or deny the story.

### By the numbers

There are more than 100 games, for various gaming systems, ranging from Donkey Kong to Super Mario Kart, in which Mario is the primary character, and many more in which he makes appearances. Mario Brothers is the best-selling video franchise of all time, with more than 490 million units sold since 1995, according to research firm NPD. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe poses just after removing the costume of the Nintendo game character Super Mario as he makes an appearance during the closing ceremony at the 2016 Summer Olympics. — AP

## POKEMON-MAD RUSSIANS HUNTING IVAN THE TERRIBLE WITH NEW APP

### APP'S CHARACTERS ARE FIGURES FROM RUSSIAN HISTORY

**MOSCOW:** A compass on the smartphone screen points towards Red Square. As the distance to the target narrows, the camera app pops up and zooms in on a bearded figure in a fur cloak. The routine is familiar to Pokemon hunters obsessed with the ultra-popular Pokemon Go game-but this is no Pokemon. Instead, it is Russia's brutal 16th-century tsar Ivan the Terrible, or rather, his digital 3D rendition in a new app developed by Moscow authorities. As the Pokemon Go craze sweeps the globe, city officials have launched an augmented reality app called Discover Moscow Photo, which is billed as Russia's answer to the Nintendo creation.

Instead of yellow and pink Pokemons, the app's characters are figures from Russian history-from modernising tsar Peter the Great to Napoleon Bonaparte, who briefly occupied Moscow in 1812, to Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin and national poet Alexander Pushkin and composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky. The app, available for Apple and Google Android devices, allows players to track down historical figures in places they once frequented and take a selfie with their 3D images. The app is part of an edu-

cational digital project called Discover Moscow, which maps historical buildings and makes it possible for locals and tourists to create personalized guided tours as well as offering quizzes and quests.

"The launch of Pokemon Go gave further impetus" to the Moscow game, which debuted in mid-August, said project leader Kirill Kuznetsov, who works for Moscow city hall. The game comes out as Pokemon Go is still not officially available in Russia, although thousands of Russians have already found ways to download it and their incessant Pokemon hunting has irked some officials and clerics.

### 'Educational version'

The Moscow government has invested one million rubles (\$15,600) in the app and does not deny its resemblance to Pokemon Go, calling it an "educational version" of the game in its publicity materials. "Some users have accused us of stealing the (Pokemon Go) idea," Kuznetsov said in a recent interview, explaining that in fact the Russian game has been in the making for three years, ever since the augmented reality technology became available. The game-so far only in

Russian though an English language version is planned-took a while to complete since developers were trying out various technologies to digitize the historical figures and make them three-dimensional, Kuznetsov said.

"Through this game, we hope to attract tourists to the main Discover Moscow app, so that they can learn something about the rich history of the city," he said. The game gives Muscovites "more reason to go for a walk," said a press release from city hall, which is on a quest to redevelop Moscow into a tech-savvy and modern capital, so far with mixed results. The game is set to add another dozen characters to the current nine, a difficult and delicate task as they have to be widely recognizable but not too controversial.

For Maxim Malyshev, the head developer at the game's producer Notamedia, "the most difficult thing is to find actors who resemble the characters as closely as possible." As augmented reality technology advances, there will be more and more possibilities for the game, he said: "We can make characters interact with objects or play with other parameters like perspective." — AFP

## FRANCE, GERMANY WANT LIMITS ON ENCRYPTION TO FIGHT TERRORISM

**PARIS:** France and Germany pushed yesterday for Europe-wide rules requiring messaging apps such as Telegram to limit encryption to help governments monitor communications among suspected extremists. Privacy advocates argue that encryption is essential to online security, notably for banking transactions. But encrypted apps are also increasingly used by extremists to hide their location, coordinate operations and trade weapons and sex slaves.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said French authorities have detained three people this month with "clear attack plans," but that police need better tools to monitor messaging apps the way they can tap phones. He said the three were among seven people detained with suspected links to extremist networks, without elaborating. He and German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said they're not pushing to ban encrypted services, but to work with companies that offer such apps or services to ensure they can't be abused by violent extremists. They want EU leaders to discuss a Europe-wide policy controlling encryption at a summit in Bratislava, Slovakia, next month. But they didn't elaborate on how exactly companies should limit encryption, and Cazeneuve acknowledged that his government doesn't even have any interlocutors at some companies.

He specifically mentioned concerns about Telegram, an encrypted app used around the world. Islamic State extremists are among its many users - including a 19-year-old who attacked a Catholic church in Normandy last month and allegedly posted about his impending plans on the app. Telegram says on its website that it blocks terrorist-related public channels, but doesn't intervene in private chats among participants.

US authorities have also pressed tech companies to work with the government against extremist activity online, with varying degrees of success. After deadly attacks in France and Germany this summer, the two interior ministers also stressed the need for a unified European system for sharing police information. "The fight against terrorism is the first priority for Europeans," Cazeneuve said. "It's imperative that police have a single interface." — AP



SAN FRANCISCO: This file photo taken on April 28, 2015 shows a Microsoft logo during the 2015 Microsoft Build Conference at Moscone Center. — AFP

## DEAL PUTS MICROSOFT APPS ON LENOVO SMARTPHONES

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Microsoft apps such as Office and Skype will be installed on Lenovo mobile devices powered by Android software under the terms of a collaboration announced late Monday. The US technology giant and the Chinese computer titan said they were "deepening their strategic relationship" with a move that could add to the ranks of people using Microsoft programs as services hosted in the internet cloud. "The marriage of Microsoft's apps and Lenovo's Android-based devices will enable customers around the world to be more productive, more connected and achieve even more," Microsoft corporate vice president Nick Parker said in a statement.

Lenovo is expected to ship millions of Android-powered devices in the next sev-

eral years. The deal includes cross-licensing that will allow patented Microsoft technology to be used in Lenovo and Motorola devices, according to the companies. "Our collaboration with Microsoft will create new opportunities for our customers to take advantage of some of Microsoft's most popular apps," said Lenovo leader of corporate alliances Christian Eigen. Microsoft and leading Android smartphone maker Samsung announced a deal last year to bring the US company's software to smartphone and tablets made by the South Korean firm. Microsoft built its fortune on packaged software but has made a priority of hosting applications as services hosted online and accessible from a broad array of internet-linked devices. — AFP

## US KIDS EATING 3X TIMES TOO MUCH ADDED SUGAR

**MIAMI:** US children eat three times as much added sugar as they should, a leading US health group said Monday, calling for stricter limits on sugar for kids. Babies and tots under two should eat no added sugar at all and older children should have the equivalent of a maximum 100 calories per day, according to recommendations from the American Heart Association (AHA). That would mean no cakes, cookies or ice cream for children until their second birthday, and fewer than six teaspoons (25 grams) per day of added sugar for those aged two to 18.

It would also require most kids to eat

about one-third of the added sugar they currently consume, often in the form of soda and sweetened cereal, according to the guidelines published in the journal *Circulation*. US kids and adolescents eat an average of 19 teaspoons of added sugar per day, said the AHA report, citing national survey research. The guidelines were written by a panel of experts following a comprehensive review of scientific research on the effect of added sugars on children's health.

"Eating foods high in added sugars throughout childhood is linked to the development of risk factors for heart disease, such as an increased risk of obesity

and elevated blood pressure in children and young adults," said the study. The new guidelines aim to offer a simpler recommendation than the previous AHA statement in 2009, which urged different limits according to various age groups. "There has been a lack of clarity and consensus regarding how much added sugar is considered safe for children, so sugars remain a commonly added ingredient in foods and drinks, and overall consumption by children remains high," said lead author Miriam Vos, nutrition scientist and associate professor of pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. "The typical American

child consumes about triple the recommended amount of added sugars," she added.

Early years are particularly important because that is when children develop their taste preferences, and they may opt for healthier foods if they are not exposed to sweets at a young age, said the report. Added sugars may be incorporated during processing—such as high-fructose corn syrup—or included at the table, in the form of honey or spoonfuls of sugar. Beginning in July 2018, the amount of added sugars in packaged foods will be listed on US food labels. "Until then, the best way to

avoid added sugars in your child's diet is to serve mostly foods that are high in nutrition, such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy products, lean meat, poultry and fish, and to limit foods with little nutritional value," said Vos. Children should not drink more than one eight-ounce (237-milliliter) sugar-sweetened drink per week, she added. The AHA did not make any recommendation about no- or low-calorie sweeteners such as aspartame, saccharine and sucralose in the diets of children because of a lack of research on their potential benefits and dangers. — AFP

## OVER 200 PEOPLE FALL SICK AFTER AMMONIA LEAK IN BANGLADESH



**CHITTAGONG:** A Bangladeshi resident (R) is treated in hospital following an explosion at a chemical factory. — AFP

**CHITTAGONG:** An explosion at a chemical fertilizer factory left over 200 people needing medical treatment after toxic gas spread across large parts of Bangladesh's second city Chittagong, officials said yesterday. Police and fire officials said hundreds of residents were also evacuated from their homes near the di-ammonia phosphate (DAP) plant in the port city where a 500-tonne capacity ammonia tank exploded late Monday. Mesbah Uddin, the district's chief administrator, said that 56 people had been admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital after the gas leak, none of whom was in a life-threatening condition.

"Eight have been discharged. Forty-eight people are still in the hospital today but they are out of danger," he told AFP. "Around 150 people were given first aid locally," he added.

Firefighters battled through the night to halt the leak and finally declared that the situation was under control in the mid-morning. "We used loudspeakers to urge people to evacuate the area. Hundreds did leave but they came back after the situation improved," said Uddin. The local police chief Rafiqul Islam confirmed that hundreds of workers from nearby factories had also been ordered to leave their premises.

Other officials said that strong winds blew the toxic gas across a 10-kilometre radius and there were reports of people being taken ill at the southern city's international airport. Authorities mobilized a special team of some 60 firefighters after the explosion triggered panic among people living nearby. "We saved two other tanks by spraying water," Abul Kalam Azad, a senior fire official told AFP, adding that the explosion occurred when a tank was being refilled with ammonia gas. The government has ordered an investigation into the explosion and a three-member inquiry team was scheduled to visit the fertiliser plant later yesterday, chief administrator Uddin said. — AFP



**PHOENIX:** Susan Contreras sits on her bed in a Phoenix-area shelter for victims of domestic violence. — AP

## BRAIN INJURIES PREVALENT IN DOMESTIC ASSAULTS CASES

**CHICAGO:** There are no bomb blasts or collisions with burly linemen in Susan Contreras' past. Her headaches, memory loss and bouts of confused thinking were a mystery until doctors suggested a probable cause: domestic violence. A former partner repeatedly beat her, she says. "He would hit me mainly in the head so that nobody would see the injuries. He'd hit me in the back of the head so the bruises wouldn't show," the Phoenix woman said. The abuse from her ex-partner took a heavy emotional toll, Contreras says. But even though he sometimes knocked her out, she hadn't considered that her brain might have been as damaged as her psyche. "Honestly, there's so many holes in my memory, thinking problems," she said. "My memory is really gone."

Brain trauma in domestic violence survivors has been overshadowed by concerns about injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan war vets, and by effects of repeated head blows in football players. Experts believe many cases go undetected and untreated in abused women, making them vulnerable to problems with thinking, mood and behavior. Advocates say the injuries leave some survivors so impaired that they can't manage their jobs and lives. Some even end up homeless.

### Severe physical assaults

About one-quarter of US women and 14 percent of men have experienced severe physical assaults by a partner in their lifetime, including hitting, punching, being slammed against something hard or pushed down stairs, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Head and neck injuries are among the most common, and data suggest that domestic assaults may cause traumatic brain injuries in at least 60 percent of survivors, according to a research review published this year in the journal *Family & Community Health*.

Traumatic brain injuries can result from even a single sudden blow to the head. The symptoms may be short-term or long-lasting, and repeated assaults increase chances for permanent neurological damage. Whether that damage can cause the downward spiral that domestic violence survivors sometimes get caught in is unproven, but studies have found these brain injuries are more common in homeless people than in the general population. And there's no dispute that they can cause life-changing disabilities. "This population is not unlike that of our athletes," said Dr. Javier Cardenas, director of a brain injury program at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix. He's a trauma consultant for the National Football League and also treats domestic violence survivors.

Cardenas cited Baltimore Ravens' running back Ray Rice's 2014 attack on his then-fiancee, caught on an elevator video camera. Much of the public discussion about the incident was about whether brain injuries in football players may be linked to violent behavior off the field. It overlooked a far more obvious injury. "When Janay Rice was knocked out cold in the elevator, attention was all about how Ray Rice had previous concussions. Nobody mentioned that the woman in the elevator suffered a brain injury right in front of everybody's eyes," Cardenas said.

Traumatic brain injuries include concussions and don't always cause loss of consciousness or damage that can be detected on imaging scans. Symptoms may not occur immediately but can develop over time, making it difficult sometimes to link them with previous abuse. The brain isn't a hard, fixed organ. It's more like jello, surrounded by cerebrospinal fluid that works like a shock absorber when the head is hit. A violent blow — from colliding with a linebacker's helmet, from blast pressure after

an explosion, or from a partner's angry fist — can damage brain cells at the point of impact and slam the brain against the skull, sometimes bruising tissue, tearing nerve fibers, or causing bleeding.

Repeated blows have been linked with a degenerative brain disease called chronic traumatic encephalopathy. CTE first made headlines several years ago when it was found in the brains of retired NFL players who had killed themselves. Research linking domestic violence with suicide is sparse, although several small studies have suggested that suicide attempts are much more common among battered women than among those who have not experienced partner abuse. CTE is linked with memory loss, confusion, mood changes including depression and eventually dementia. Some scientists think domestic violence survivors might be at risk.

### 'Punch-drunk'

"I have no doubt that there are many women who have been abused enough that some of them probably have CTE," said Dr Robert Cantu, a leading expert on football-related brain injuries and co-director of Boston University's Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy. He said medical literature contains just one published case about probable CTE linked with domestic violence — a 1990 *Lancet* report about an autopsy on an abused 76-year-old British woman who had developed dementia. Her brain showed abnormalities resembling those seen in the brains of "punch-drunk" boxers. Survivors often don't seek immediate medical attention, or when they do, they often fear disclosing what caused their injuries. Some wait years, when troublesome symptoms persist or emerge, and then, many victims and doctors don't connect the problems with domestic abuse, said researcher Jacquelyn Campbell, a professor at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.

Many physician groups recommend that doctors screen women for domestic violence in emergency rooms or doctor offices, and the Affordable Care Act says insurance plans should cover the screening with no copays. But when screening occurs, questions often don't address traumatic brain injuries, and symptoms are sometimes thought to be a psychological reaction to abuse, so doctors don't probe further, Campbell said. Jennifer Kershaw, a Columbus, Ohio-area school teacher who won a court victory last year in an abuse lawsuit against her ex-husband, says she doesn't remember doctors ever mentioning traumatic brain injury after her 2013 beating, despite her symptoms. "He put me in a headlock and punched me in the face I don't know how many times," she said. "Then he kneed me in the face." She said she went to the emergency room with a black eye, broken cheekbone, nausea and dizziness, and still has difficulty concentrating. Though it's not clear if she did have a concussion or other brain injury, her symptoms are among those many experts say should lead doctors to investigate further.

"If a woman comes in with a black eye" or is otherwise being assessed for domestic violence, "we need to provide some good neurological workups like the help that is being provided to our veterans with traumatic brain injury," Campbell said. That includes detailed questions about symptoms, physical and mental exams, and sometimes imaging scans if more severe brain injury is suspected. Susan Contreras, 47, didn't get that kind of exam until almost 10 years after her final beating, after she landed in a Phoenix homeless shelter. A therapist there was concerned about her symptoms and sent her last December to the Barrow institute. The neurological center has established an unusual program offering an array of free treatment to homeless domestic violence survivors. — AP

## PAKISTAN TO EXPAND ITS GLACIER MONITORS

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan will invest \$8.5 million to expand a network of glacier monitoring stations tracking the pace of glacial melt in the Hindu Kush, Karakoram and Himalayan mountain ranges, in an effort to strengthen early warning systems and reduce the impact of flooding in the South Asian country. Almost half of Pakistan's 5,000 glaciers, covering around 15,000 square kilometres, are in rapid retreat, scientists say. The rate of glacial melt, which has risen by about 23 percent in the previous decade, is among the fastest in the world, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD).

Last month, the government approved 892.5 million rupees for a four-year project to expand the network of monitoring stations as officials seek more accurate data on temperature, humidity, changing rainfall patterns and wind speed, while tracking the rate at which glaciers are melting. "The initiative is indispensable for enhancing the country's climate resilience, and vital to the meteorological department's ability to timely release warnings about the flood risk," Ghulam Rasul, director-general of the meteorological department, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an interview.

"Based on data from these weather stations, timely warnings will be issued to provide a lead time of 60 to 90 minutes to communities in flood-prone areas to respond effectively to early flood warnings," he said. Pakistan is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. In 2010, the country suffered the worst floods in a generation with more than 1,600 killed and over 14 million affected as floodwaters inundated over a third of the country. Investing in disaster preparedness not only saves lives but also money with each \$1 dollar spent saving \$7 in tackling the aftermath of disasters such as floods, development experts have said.

### SMS alerts

Pakistan's meteorological department also has submitted a six-year plan to modernize the country's aging weather forecasting system — at a cost of 16.6 billion rupees (\$159 million) — to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for approval. The plan proposes installing 22 meteorological radar stations across the country and 400 advanced automatic weather stations, while overhauling community-based weather observatory stations in 98 districts. "Our radar network — comprising seven flood warning radars — is now very poor and obsolete," Ghulam Rasul said.

Besides expanding early warning systems, disaster management officials are focusing on getting early warnings to as many people as possible as quickly as possible, said Ahmad Kamal, a spokesman for the National Disaster Management Agency. The agency has sought cooperation from the state-owned Pakistan Telecommunication Authority and bodies regulating print and electronic media to disseminate weather forecasts and early warnings by SMS and print media when disaster threatens.

Kamal said as many as 10 million SMS alerts were sent to disaster-prone communities in 2015, adding that SMS alerts had proven to be the most effective way of communicating with remote communities, particularly in mountainous regions. "Despite the same intensity of summer monsoon rains in 2015 as observed in the preceding years, loss of life and cattle in mountain areas was 80 to 90 percent less," Kamal said. In a country of 200 million people, more than 140 million are mobile phone users, he noted. "Loss of the life from disasters can be brought zero if one early warning SMS alert about any possible disaster is relayed to these big number of mobile phone users in the country," he suggested. — Reuters

## AUSTRALIAN UNEARTHES 'BEAST' OF A TRUFFLE

**SYDNEY:** An Australian has uncovered what is thought to be the largest black truffle ever discovered in the country, a 1,511-gram (53.3-ounce) monster that could also be a world-beater. Stuart Dunbar said he had known since February that a truffle had been growing in the spot where it was found, but its ripening aroma in warmer weather meant he started digging last Thursday. He said he had no idea of the size of the fungus as he worked for 45 minutes to remove it from the earth at his property in the state of Victoria. "It's an absolute beast," he told AFP yesterday.

Dunbar said he had previously dug up a "beautiful edible truffle" weighing about 720 grams but he was not aware of anyone else ever growing such a large black truffle in Australia, or anywhere else in the world. There have been larger white truffles but Dunbar's find appears to have eclipsed a 1,277-gram black truffle unearthed in

France in 2012 and described at the time as the largest ever found in the country's truffle heartland of Perigord. While the find reported to be worth some Aus\$3,000 (US\$2,300) — was celebrated, it was too big for Dunbar's regular chefs to accept on short notice.

"My regular customers had already taken truffles for the week," he said, noting that once unearthed, truffles are in their prime for just four to five days. The delicacy grows in the root systems of host trees, where in Europe specially trained pigs or dogs are used to sniff them out. The finest black truffles have a subtle aroma and an earthy flavour reminiscent of rich chocolate. Dunbar decided to pickle the truffle in vodka, meaning it remains preserved in one piece. "It's certainly more satisfying to be able to keep (and show) it, than simply being saying 'I once had a truffle that was...'" he wrote on his blog.



**YARRA VALLEY:** A hand out photo taken on August 19, 2016 shows a large truffle being weighted by Stuart Dunbar who removed it from the earth on his Victorian property in Yarra Valley. — AFP



NEW HAMPSHIRE: In this Wednesday Aug. 1, 2007 file photo black bear cubs are seen in Lyme. — AP

## NEW ENGLAND DROUGHT MEANS BOLDER BEARS, STRESSED FISH

**CONCORD:** Bears are bolder, mosquitoes are multiplying and stream-dwelling fish are stressed. Beyond hurting crops and helping the tourism industry, New England's hot, dry summer also is affecting the region's wildlife. All six New England states are experiencing at least moderate drought, according to the National Drought Mitigation Center, with severe patches in all but Vermont and pockets of extreme drought in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Low rainfall also means low stream flow levels across the region. The US Geological Survey says all six states have areas exhibiting moderate hydrologic drought, with severe spots in Massachusetts and one extreme area in Maine. Low and warm water stresses fish, such as trout and salmon, forcing them to seek out deeper pools or spring holes. On Friday, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection closed portions of the West Branch Farmington River and the Farmington River to fishing through Sept 15 after several fish kills.

"This is the first time in memory that we have found it necessary to take action like this to protect our fisheries on these rivers, and it is not a step we are taking lightly," said Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen. In Maine, officials are recommending that people fish earlier or later in the day when temperatures are cooler. The same goes for southern New Hampshire, said Scott Decker, inland fisheries program director at New Hampshire Fish and Game.

### Stagnant water

Given that mosquitoes breed in standing water, you might expect fewer instead of more during a drought, said Pete Pekins,

wildlife professor at the University of New Hampshire. But the opposite happens because as water levels drop, river banks and the edges of ponds widen, he said. Thanks to a mild winter and the current drought, water is warmer and more stagnant, which encourages growth of cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, said Jeff Schloss, natural resources program leader at UNH Cooperative Extension. The resulting toxic blooms can hurt everything from microscopic organisms eaten by fish, to waterfowl that feed on those fish.

In Vermont, the drought has lowered water at the Bennington Fish Culture Station to about 30 percent below normal. As a result, biologists reduced the number of times they feed the fish destined for stocking next spring from three times to one, said hatchery manager Monty Walker. He expects fish that usually would measure about 7 inches by September to fall nearly two inches short. The drought has implications on land as well as water, with bears, snakes and ants among those species venturing further afield in search of food or water. In Quincy, Massachusetts, a timber rattlesnake showed up on someone's front steps. In New Hampshire, bears have been foraging for food at campgrounds and neighborhood trash cans because drought-stricken berry bushes didn't produce as much as usual. Pekin, the UNH professor, keeps it all in perspective. He notes that herons and other birds are feasting on frogs that have become more visible in ponds, and he himself has been enjoying listening to osprey in his backyard. "In all of this, there are winners and losers," he said. "I have great faith in wildlife to adapt. Next year could be the opposite." — AP

# OFF SOUTH AFRICA'S COAST, GREAT WHITE SHARKS ARE THREATENED

ONCE ABUNDANT, NOW RAPIDLY HEADING FOR EXTINCTION

**GANSBAAI, South Africa:** On the edge of a boat off this coastal village, Michael Rutzen stubs his cigarette into a soda can and stares pensively out to sea. He has free-dived with great white sharks for nearly 20 years, and he has never known it to be this difficult to find them. Extensive research by Rutzen and his marine biologist partner, Sara Andreotti, has found that great whites off the South African coast are rapidly heading for extinction. The area long has been one of the world's best places to see the sharks, which also live off Australia, the United States and Japan. Streams of fish blood and oil trail in the water behind other cage-diving boats nearby. Rutzen phones one of his spotters, who has been searching for hours. "Nothing here, let's move on," Rutzen tells his crew.

Rutzen started free-diving with the sharks in 1998 to show they are not the monstrous creatures they are portrayed to be. He has built a successful business in Gansbaai's shark diving industry, which has prided itself on almost guaranteed interactions with great whites and has boomed in the past two decades. His clients have included Halle Berry, Matt Damon and Brad Pitt, the king of Jordan and Prince Harry. But while it once was not unusual to see 15 to 20 great white sharks per trip, Rutzen now counts himself lucky if he sees one or two. Andreotti, who works with Rutzen to photograph and take DNA samples from sharks, estimates there are 333 breeding animals left in the area. For a healthy, growing population there needs to be at least 500, she says. The sharks here have not been known to breed with sharks from other parts of the world.

### Worldwide decrease

"The great white sharks on the South African coast are heading for extinction," Andreotti says. "That has massive implications for the ocean's ecology. White sharks are top predators. They are much like lions. If you take top predators out of the environment, the rest of the environment will collapse." The conservation group WWF has warned that the number of great whites is decreasing worldwide. The White Shark Research Group, a team of scientists studying all major



**GANSBAAI, South Africa:** In this Aug 11, 2016, photo, a great white shark swims past researchers as they chum the ocean looking for sharks in the waters off Gansbaai, South Africa. — AP

areas where the sharks gather off South Africa, believes the study done in Gansbaai needs further research. The study assumes that Gansbaai "represents the entire South African white shark population. However, we are not convinced that this is true," said Alison Kock, a member of the research group.

She said it is possible that the total population has been underestimated, but she agrees that the sharks are low in number and vulnerable to humans' impact. "This would not be the first time that estimates of population sizes of white sharks and other species have been disputed," Kock said in an email. "It is a consequence of the difficult nature of such investigations." With fewer great whites as predators in the local waters, the population of Cape fur seals has grown rapidly, which has a negative effect on fish populations and the rest of the ecosystem. Pollution, baited hooks

and shark nets are some of the main factors behind the decline in the number of great whites. "We are polluting the oceans, and as top predators they tend to accumulate heavy metals in their bodies and that can be very detrimental for their survival," Andreotti says. Poaching is another problem. "People want the jaws of a great white shark hanging in their pub," she says.

Both Rutzen and Andreotti believe that great white sharks, which are listed as vulnerable animals by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, should be listed as endangered species at the next CITES conference in South Africa in September. After several hours out at sea and two brief shark sightings, Rutzen and his team pull up the anchors. "Within three years, all the great white sharks off the shore of Gansbaai will be gone, mark my words," Rutzen says. — AP

## ACTIVISTS TO BATTLE ON AFTER JAPAN WHALING COURT WIN

**TOKYO:** Japanese whalers yesterday celebrated what they described as a court victory in the US to end years of high seas clashes with anti-whaling group Sea Shepherd, which immediately vowed to fight on. The arch enemies have waged a legal and public relations battle as Sea Shepherd has sought to disrupt an annual whale hunt in the Antarctic that Japan defends as scientific research. However, the settlement between the US-based Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and Japan's whaling body is unlikely to end the dispute as operations in Antarctic waters are mostly carried out by Sea Shepherd Australia, which does not come under the ruling.

Yesterday, the Institute of Cetacean Research and Kyodo Senpaku-key players in Japan's whaling industry announced a legal settlement that would bar the US group from attacking whaling ships or funding such activities. The parties involved "successfully resolved the dispute through mediated negotiations earlier this month," it said. But Sea Shepherd played down any suggestion of a global agreement, saying the settlement only applied to its US arm and that



**TOKYO:** In this handout photo taken by Japan's Institute of Cetacean research on February 25, 2013 shows the Sea Shepherd ship Bob Barker (R) colliding with the Japanese whaling fleet fuel tanker the Sun Laurel, as Japanese whalers and militant conservationists clashed dangerously in icy waters off Antarctica, with both sides accusing the other of ramming their vessels. — AFP

other branches, including its Australian office, would keep fighting. "The ruling in the US courts affects ONLY our US entity," the group's global chief executive Alex Cornelissen said in a statement. "Sea

Shepherd Global and all other entities around the world, other than the USA, will continue to oppose the illegal Japanese whaling in the Antarctic," it added. The whaling institute insisted the settlement

would act as a deterrent to "some extent" by choking off funding by the group's US arm. The announcement comes after a US court issued a preliminary injunction against Sea Shepherd in late 2012, ordering it to steer clear of the whaling ships.

Last year, the group agreed to pay \$2.55 million to Japanese whalers for breaching the earlier court order. Japan initiated the legal battle after several hunts in which the anti-whaling activists pursued the fleet for months in the icy waters near Antarctica, seeking to stop the slaughter. Activists harassed whalers with paint and stink bombs, rammed their ships, and snared ship propellers with ropes. Japan claims it conducts vital scientific research using a loophole in an international whaling ban, but makes no secret that the mammals ultimately end up on dinner plates. It was forced to call off the 2014-2015 hunt after the United Nations' top court, the International Court of Justice, ruled in 2014 that its annual mission to the Antarctic was a commercial hunt masquerading as science. The hunt resumed at the end of 2015, with the fleet returning to Japan in March of this year after having killed more than 300 of the mammals. — AFP

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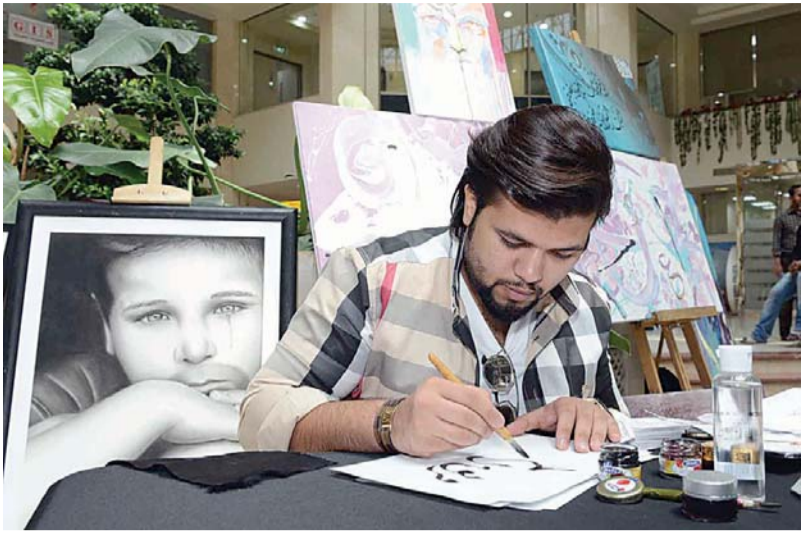
Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

إستشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM





Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



### MINISTRY STAFF SHOWCASE TALENTS

Ministry of Electricity and Water's Undersecretary Mohammad Bushehri said innovations by young people working at the ministry were showcased at an exhibition that was organized by youth groups. Buhehri said employees who do their duties also have hobbies, so we facilitated this for them through such exhibitions. "These are the kind of projects that we are proud of, and whenever the youth are given an opportunity, there will be good results," he said.



### THE MINISTRY OF AWQAF PREPARES FOR HAJJ

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' Undersecretary Farid Asad Amjadi toured the ministry's manuscripts department in Adailiya accompanied by Assistant Undersecretary for the Fatwa and Sharia Research Sector Essa Al-Obaidli, and were received by Director of the Department Ibrahim Al-Otaibi and other officials. Amjadi inspected the work process and checked the progress that has been made so far. The tour came as part of the ministry's ongoing awareness campaign for the upcoming hajj season.



## MAKE YOUR OWN RULES WITH CENTREPOINT'S BACK TO SCHOOL COLLECTION

Centrepoint, the region's largest family fashion retailer, has just launched its back-to-school collection that has everything you need to stay on trend for the school year! The new collection includes everything from backpacks and water bottles to pencil pouches and stationery items in an array of attractive designs and affordable prices. Moms can relax this Back to School season, as Centrepoint has covered with all your back to school shopping needs in one destination. Plus the brand will have your children lining up to do all their homework and chores in exchange for its coveted character collections.

Babyshop's selection of Back to School merchandise is every child's dream; featuring popular characters such as Superman Vs Batman, Minions, Frozen and Marie the Cat. The entire showcase also features the widest range of licensed character merchandise across ages with a huge selection for both boys and girls. Backpacks have been revamped this season with four exciting new shapes that make going to school comfortable and stylish. Character themed collections add to the fun with insulated backpacks, stainless steel bottles, tritan bottles and spacious lunch boxes for your child's special meal. Stationery items also include fun-



shaped erasers, 3D hard case pencil boxes, and colorful gel pens and markers.

The latest collection of Ferrari, Spiderman, Minions and Cars branded school merchandise will definitely be high on the shopping list for fun-loving little lads. For the football fanatics, the collection this year includes an exciting collection of Real Madrid, FC Barcelona and Manchester City gear amongst others. For little girls, Babyshop's

Disney Princess collection is always a hit along with products from Hello Kitty, Frozen, Marie the Cat, Sofia the First that continue to reign popular with our trendy tots.

Lifestyle's collection of backpacks, trolley bags, lunch bags, pencil pouches, note books and water bottles are the top selling products for teenagers and pre-teens this season. The range sports popular products from brands such as Jworld, Jansport,



Sakroots, Minmei and Outsider in attractive prints and colors. Character features collections also make the cut this season in a range that has all your child needs for a successful school year ahead.

Shoe Mart's offerings makes back to school shopping easy, with an eclectic range in black uniform shoes and white sporty kicks. One can get a complete pair of shoes, socks and backpack by leading brands like

'Puma' and 'Kangaroos'. Brands like Marvel, Barbie and Disney have imprinted children's favorite characters like Spiderman, Marvel Heroes, Minnie, Elsa & Anna and Barbie; on this season's footwear. Girls will get to rock the classy school-goer look featuring floral accents, perforations, glaze-matt contrasts and embossed effects. The boys will be spoiled for choice with an impressive range that's durable enough to sail through the action-packed year. High on comfort and style, the specially designed range features all leather Velcro strap ultra-light shoes. White canvas sneakers take care of sporty days and are designed to withstand active lifestyles.

Extending the Back to School selection, Splash is offering a full range of backpack, pouches, pencil cases, iPad bags, head-phones, caps, sling bags and canvas bags for trendy teens. The collection highlights popular characters like Hello Kitty, Batman, Superman, Minions, Barbie, and the Smiley range. The Back to School collections are available at all Centrepoint stores located in Al Rai, Avenues, Hawally, Salmiya, Fintas, Jahra, Fahaheel, Sulaihbikhat, Kuwait City and Khaitan.

## GEAR UP FOR SCHOOL WITH THE SULTAN CENTER

To start the school year in style, The Sultan Center offers a complete collection of stylish school supplies to fully equip students for another exciting academic year. As the school countdown begins, TSC is the shopping destination for all your Back to School needs, ranging from trendy and fashionable backpacks, lunch boxes, notebooks and stationery sets to calculators and coloring pens, TSC provides the latest and trendiest supplies that will take students Back to School in style.

From the complete backpack collections of the most popular character school bags of Minions, Frozen, Star Wars and Championship League to non-character bags of Exsport, Jansport and Eastpack, student will find the largest variety of high quality and durable bags along with a complete collection of lunch boxes and thermos for both boys and girls of all ages.

For school stationery supplies look no further, TSC carries a broad range of stationery to

meet both local and private school requirements from a range of Faber - Castell writing and coloring tools, to BIC and Zebra pens. There is a large variety of notebooks to suit every subject; including TSC's own private label brand of Eureka notebooks which comes in a variety of sheets, sizes and colors, parents will also find an assortment of textured and colorful binders that are sure to appeal to every age. TSC has gone a step further in making back to shopping easier for parents by offering a complete collection of bundle packs comprised of backpacks, stationery and all the needed accessories and can be found at any TSC location in Kuwait.

According to Mr Makram Malaeb, TSC's Commercial and Operation Director, "It's time for kids to load up their back-packs, bon their new threads and head back to school. It can be a hard transition going from the freedom of summer to the structure of being a full time student. We at TSC make it exciting for them through offering a comprehensive exclusive range imported from US, Germany, and many more," stated Mr Malaeb. Visit TSC today to see the complete range of Back to Schools supplies from A to Z.



## NAFO TO CELEBRATE ONAM AND ANNIVERSARY

NAFO Kuwait is set to celebrate "Onam" and 13th Anniversary on Friday, 23rd September 2016, at the Indian Community School (Senior), Salmiya, from 09.30 am onwards. K Vijayakumar - IPS, Senior Security Advisor to Govt. of India, has consented to be the chief guest on this happy occasion. Distinguished guests from among all sections of Indian community will also grace the event with their benevolent presence.

Kerala's own symphony "Panchavadyam", traditional classical dance forms, "Mohiniyattam", "Thiruvathirakali", "Folk Dances", "Fusion Dances, Semi-classical Cinematic Dances, Group Songs, Solo Songs, and a Skit by NAFO Gurukulam students will also be true highlights of the whole day celebrations. A grand traditional "Onasadya" will be served to all the guests and attendees. All NAFO members and well-wishers along with their families are cordially invited to gather on this auspicious occasion as a single family in order to celebrate our dear traditional "Ponnonam" - the one and only living symbol of our unity, harmony and brotherhood. Onasadya coupon and Raffle coupons

for the day long festivity was officially released on Friday, Aug. 12th in a joint meeting of NAFO Executive Committee, Advisory Board and NAFO Ladies wing also with the benevolent participation of Hon. NAFO Patron, main sponsors of the event and program committee members. The Program committee has informed that NAFO members may kindly collect their Onasadya coupons by contacting any of the program committee or NAFO Executive Committee members so as to facilitate smooth distribution of coupons, and urged the members to kindly extend their sincere support and active participation.

Through collective hard work by numerous dedicated Nafaitans, and by successfully sponsoring and coordinating several recent mega programs and welfare schemes, NAFO has proven itself to be one of the leading, sincere, prestigious and honored associations in Kuwait. These accomplishments inspire the association to further strengthen and accelerate its socio-cultural services. This year the celebrations will be unique planned as two sessions at morning and evening staging a mega musical gig will definitely be a rare treat for the music connoisseurs in Kuwait.

## OOREDOO HOLDS WORKSHOP FOR PROTÉGÉ STUDENTS

In line with its sponsorship of the protégés youth development program, Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, organized a panel discussion for the protégés program students. The workshop was headed by Senior Director of Human Resources at Ooredoo Kuwait Omar Al-Bassam and founder of the Ooredoo volunteer program partner Spread the Passion, Dr Fatemah Al-Mousawi.

The session kicked off with a presentation by Al-Bassam, who started with ice-breaker activities for all the students to get them engaged. During his presentation, he focused on the pivotal role played by the Human Resources department within Ooredoo, and the different programs the company offers to its employees, students and fresh graduates. These programs include annual job fairs, internal training programs, such as the summer internship program, which was conducted in collaboration with the Manpower Restructuring Program. Additionally, the company has an ongoing strategy for developing the talents and skills of its employees.

The second part of the workshop focused on the corporate social responsibility activities led by Ooredoo, including Jaribha, a crowd-funding platform considered to be the first of its kind in Kuwait. Additionally, Al-Mousawi

talked about Ooredoo's partnership with Spread the Passion to launch Ooredoo's annual volunteer program. The program aims to encourage youth to enroll in volunteer opportunities around Kuwait. This program was started with a month-long orientation phase that included workshops, all held according to inter-

national standards. Ooredoo's core values are based on caring, connecting and challenging, with a great focus on corporate social responsibility. Empowering youth play a major role in its strategy. For more information on the company's projects and activities, please visit [www.ooredoo.com.kw](http://www.ooredoo.com.kw)



## ANNOUNCEMENT FROM INDIAN EMBASSY

The Embassy of India Kuwait will remain closed on the occasion of Janmasthanmi. However, emergency services will be provided on 25 August 2016 (Thursday) by the Consular Wing.

### WHAT'S ON - SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All photos submitted for What's On should be minimum 200dpi. Articles must be in plain text and should include name and phone numbers. Articles and photos that fail to meet these requirements will not be published.

Please send them to [news@kuwaittimes.net](mailto:news@kuwaittimes.net)

**BBC FIRST**

03:20 Mad Dogs  
 04:05 Doctors  
 04:35 Eastenders  
 05:05 The Musketeers  
 06:00 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.

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  
 13:02 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

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
 03:20 Calimero  
 03:35 Zou  
 03:45 Loopedido  
 04:00 Art Attack  
 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
 04:35 Calimero  
 04:50 Zou  
 05:00 Loopedido  
 05:15 Art Attack  
 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
 05:50 Calimero  
 06:00 Zou  
 06:20 Loopedido  
 06:35 Art Attack  
 07:00 The Hive  
 07:10 Zou  
 07:25 Loopedido  
 07:40 Jungle Cubs  
 08:05 Sofia The First  
 08:30 Miles From Tomorrow  
 08:40 PJ Masks  
 09:10 Doc McStuffins  
 09:40 Doc McStuffins  
 09:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
 10:00 Sofia The First  
 10:30 Sofia The First  
 11:00 The Lion Guard  
 11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
 12:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
 12:30 Gummi Bears  
 13:00 Sofia The First  
 13:30 Doc McStuffins  
 14:00 The Lion Guard  
 14:30 Aladdin  
 14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
 15:05 Goldie & Bear  
 15:30 Miles From Tomorrow  
 16:00 Doc McStuffins  
 16:25 Doc McStuffins  
 16:55 Sofia The First  
 17:25 Sofia The First  
 17:50 The Lion Guard  
 18:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
 18:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
 19:00 PJ Masks  
 19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
 19:45 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 Loopedido  
 00:05 Art Attack  
 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
 00:45 Calimero  
 01:00 Zou  
 01:15 Loopedido  
 01:30 Art Attack  
 02:00 Calimero  
 02:15 Zou

06:00 Boyster  
 06:10 Super Matrak  
 06:35 Super Matrak



**SISTER ACT**

**SISTER ACT 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  
 15:00 WAGs  
 13:55 Counting Cars: Best Of  
 14:20 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

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

17:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...  
 Emmerdale  
 18:45 Coronation Street  
 19:10 Coronation Street  
 19:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
 20:30 Don't Tell The Bride  
 21:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...  
 Coronation Street  
 22:50 Emmerdale  
 23:15 Murdoch Mysteries  
 00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials

**NAT GEO WILD HD**

03:45 Zoo Confidential  
 04:40 Born Wild  
 05:35 Hunter Hunted  
 06:30 The Bear Evidence  
 07:25 Zoo Confidential  
 08:20 Born Wild  
 09:15 Animal Army  
 10:10 Planet Carnivore  
 11:05 Dangerous Encounters  
 12:00 Hooked  
 12:55 Asia's Deadliest Snakes  
 13:50 Planet Carnivore  
 14:45 Zoo Confidential  
 15:40 Expedition Wild  
 16:35 Animal Army  
 17:30 Planet Carnivore  
 18:25 Dangerous Encounters  
 19:20 Zoo Confidential  
 20:10 Expedition Wild  
 21:00 Animal Army  
 21:50 Planet Carnivore  
 22:40 Dangerous Encounters  
 23:30 Hooked  
 00:20 Asia's Deadliest Snakes  
 01:10 Planet Carnivore  
 02:00 Brutal Killers  
 02:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal

**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 Amazingrovers  
 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 Mud Dochie  
 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 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 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**

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 The Berlin File  
 06:15 Sword Of Vengeance  
 08:00 6 Ways To Sundown  
 10:00 Flightplan  
 12:00 Close Range  
 14:00 Sword Of Vengeance  
 16:00 Metro  
 18:00 Flightplan  
 20:00 Last Knights  
 22:00 Constantine  
 00:15 Cat Run 2  
 02:00 Jersey Shore Shark Attack

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

04:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic  
 06:00 Sleepless In Seattle  
 08:00 Sister Act  
 10:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic  
 12:00 Krippendorf's Tribe  
 14:00 My Father The Hero  
 16:00 Sister Act  
 18:00 10 Things I Hate About You  
 20:00 I Love You Beth Cooper  
 22:00 The Babysitters  
 00:00 Joe Dirt 2: Beautiful Loser  
 02:00 10 Things I Hate About You

**OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY**

03:00 Marvel's Planet Hulk  
 05:00 G-Force  
 07:00 The Shaggy Dog  
 09:00 Toy Story 2  
 11:00 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods  
 12:45 The Parent Trap  
 15:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie  
 17:00 Toy Story 3  
 19:00 White Fang  
 21:00 Marvel's Thor: Tales Of Asgaard  
 23:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie  
 01:00 White Fang

**OSN MOVIES HD**

03:00 Still Alice  
 04:45 Peter Pan Live!  
 07:00 The Duff  
 09:00 Paranoia  
 11:00 Cuban Fury  
 13:00 Accidental Love  
 14:45 Drumline: A New Beat  
 16:30 The Maze Runner  
 18:30 Fast & Furious 7  
 21:00 The Visit  
 23:00 Everly  
 01:00 She's Funny That Way



**FLIGHTPLAN**

**FLIGHTPLAN 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  
 21:30 Fightin'  
 22:18 Inside Amy Schumer  
 22:42 South Park  
 23:05 Underground With Dave  
 23:05 Atellat  
 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

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  
 23:15 Hank Zipzer  
 23:35 Binny And The Ghost  
 00:00 Violetta  
 00:45 The Hive  
 04:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
 05:00 Violetta  
 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

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 Kardashians

**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

**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  
 13:50 Coronation Street  
 14:20 Coronation Street  
 14:45 Murdoch Mysteries  
 15:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
 16:30 Don't Tell The Bride

**VENGEANCE HITS HOME**

**FAST & FURIOUS 7**

IN IMAX 3D AND 3D CINEMAS APR 2



**FAST & FURIOUS 7 ON OSN MOVIES HD**



# CLASSIFIEDS

**Kuwait Times**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2016



**KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (18/08/2016 TO 24/08/2016)**

Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time
<b>SHARQIA-1</b>		<b>FANAR-2</b>		<b>THE BFG -3D-4DX</b>	10:15 PM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	12:00 PM	WAR DOGS	12:15 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D-4DX	12:45 AM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	2:15 PM	WAR DOGS	2:30 PM		
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	4:15 PM	SKIPTRACE	5:00 PM		
THE BFG	6:30 PM	WAR DOGS	7:15 PM	<b>AVENUES-3</b>	12:45 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	9:00 PM	WAR DOGS	9:45 PM	SKIPTRACE	3:00 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	11:45 PM	SKIPTRACE	12:15 AM	SKIPTRACE	5:15 PM
				SKIPTRACE	7:30 PM
				SKIPTRACE	9:45 PM
				SKIPTRACE	12:05 AM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>		<b>FANAR-3</b>		<b>360° 1</b>	
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	1:00 PM	RABID DOGS	11:30 AM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	12:30 PM
JAHEEM FILIHIND	3:15	SUICIDE SQUAD	1:30 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	2:30 PM
PMTHE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	5:30 PM	RABID DOGS	4:00 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	4:30 PM
JAHEEM FILIHIND	7:30 PM	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	6:00 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	6:30 PM
JAHEEM FILIHIND	9:45 PM	THE BFG	9:00 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	8:30 PM
JAHEEM FILIHIND	12:05 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	11:45 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	10:30 PM
				RIOT	1:00 AM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b>		<b>MARINA-1</b>		<b>360° 2</b>	
SKIPTRACE	11:30 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:15 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	1:00 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:45 PM	THE BFG	2:45 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	3:30 PM
SKIPTRACE	4:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:15 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	6:00 PM
SKIPTRACE	6:15 PM	THE BFG	7:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	8:30 PM
SKIPTRACE	8:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	10:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	11:00 PM
SKIPTRACE	10:45 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:30 AM		
SKIPTRACE	1:00 AM				
<b>MUHALAB-1</b>		<b>MARINA-2</b>		<b>360° 3</b>	
THE BFG	11:30 AM	SKIPTRACE	11:30 AM	LIFE ON THE LINE	12:00 PM
MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	2:00 PM	SKIPTRACE	2:00 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	2:00 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:00 PM	JAHEEM FILIHIND	4:15 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	4:00 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	7:15 PM	JAHEEM FILIHIND	6:30 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	6:00 PM
THE BFG	9:45 PM	SKIPTRACE	8:45 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	8:00 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	12:15 AM	JAHEEM FILIHIND	11:15 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	10:00 PM
				LIFE ON THE LINE	12:05 AM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b>		<b>MARINA-3</b>		<b>AL-KOUT.1</b>	
SKIPTRACE	12:45 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	11:45 AM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	12:00 PM
SKIPTRACE	3:15 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	1:45 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	2:00 PM
THE BFG	5:30 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	4:00 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	4:00 PM
JAHEEM FILIHIND	8:00 PM	NOTUE		THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	6:00 PM
JAHEEM FILIHIND	10:15 PM	Special Show "THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS"	4:00 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	8:00 PM
JAHEEM FILIHIND	12:30 AM	SKIPTRACE	10:15 PM	JAHEEM FILIHIND	10:15 PM
		SKIPTRACE	12:30 AM	JAHEEM FILIHIND	10:15 PM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b>		<b>AVENUES-1</b>		JAHEEM FILIHIND	12:30 AM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	11:30 AM	LIFE ON THE LINE	1:00 PM		
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	1:45 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	3:00 PM	<b>AL-KOUT.2</b>	
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	3:45 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	5:00 PM	SKIPTRACE	12:15 PM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	5:45 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	7:00 PM	SKIPTRACE	2:30 PM
SKIPTRACE	7:45 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	9:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	3
SKIPTRACE	10:00 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	11:00 PM	SKIPTRACE	7:45 PM
SKIPTRACE	12:15 AM	LIFE ON THE LINE	1:00 AM	SKIPTRACE	10:00 PM
				SKIPTRACE	12:15 AM
<b>FANAR-1</b>		<b>AVENUES-2</b>		<b>AL-KOUT.3</b>	
SKIPTRACE	12:00 PM	THE BFG -3D-4DX	12:15 PM	JAHEEM FILIHIND	12:30 PM
SKIPTRACE	2:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	2:45 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	2:45 PM
MIN 30 SANA	4:30 PM	THE BFG -3D-4DX	5:15 PM	JAHEEM FILIHIND	5:15 PM
JAHEEM FILIHIND	7:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	7:45 PM		
JAHEEM FILIHIND	9:45 PM				
JAHEEM FILIHIND	12:05 AM				

### APARTMENT FOR RENT

4 bedrooms, new floor, 4 baths, big living, elevator, security. South Surra, Zahraa.  
 Tel: 99679188

#### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sangaraju Subramanyam, holder of Indian Passport No: J7175997, have changed my name to Surapu Raju Subramanyam. (C 5204)  
 21-8-2016

#### SITUATION WANTED

Post Graduate in computer having more than five years of overseas experience in Admin/HR field (Visa-article 18 transferable). Contact 60691841.  
 (C 5205)  
 22-8-2016

### REPORTER/EDITOR WANTED

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- Previous journalism experience
- Knowledge of Filipino community in Kuwait
- Driving license and own car
- Transferrable visa 18 (applicants must be current residents of Kuwait)
- Ability to start immediately
- Fluency in English

Send CV, salary requirements, references and 3 writing samples to [jobs@kuwaittimes.net](mailto:jobs@kuwaittimes.net)  
**ABSOLUTELY NO PHONE CALLS.** Only shortlisted candidates who meet all requirements will be contacted.

#### PRAYER TIMINGS



<b>Fajr:</b>	<b>03:57</b>
<b>Shorook</b>	<b>05:20</b>
<b>Duhr:</b>	<b>11:51</b>
<b>Asr:</b>	<b>15:25</b>
<b>Maghrib:</b>	<b>18:21</b>
<b>Isha:</b>	<b>19:42</b>

### JOB Opportunities in KUWAIT

A well experienced Airline Company located in Kuwait is looking for the following positions:

#### Positions

- RAMP OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE
- FLIGHT DISPATCHER
- AIRCRAFT LOADING SUPERVISOR
- ACCOUNTANTS

#### Years of Experience:

- Minimum of 2 years'experience in the same field

Email CV to:

[hr.recruitment2016@yahoo.com](mailto:hr.recruitment2016@yahoo.com)



Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

### Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)



### Flight Schedule

#### DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 24/8/2016				ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50	FDK	804	Damascus	01:35	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
FDK	803	Damascus	00:35	TBM	6313	Mashhad	16:05	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	KKK	751	TZX	02:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	MSC	507	Riyadh	16:30	HRG	406	Sohag	03:30	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	SVI	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	IRC	526	Mashhad	16:50	THY	769	Istanbul	03:45	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	562	Amman	16:55	KAC	417	Manila	03:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KKK	750	TZX	01:50	SAW	705	Damascus	17:05	RJA	645	Amman	03:55	KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	ABY	410	Sharjah	16:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20	KAC	563	Amman	16:30
BAW	157	London	06:40	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	CEB	019	Manila	04:50	TBM	6314	Mashhad	17:00
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	SYR	341	Damascus	18:45	RJA	643	Amman	06:25	MSC	508	HRG	17:30
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	KAC	742	Dammam	18:50	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45	IRC	527	Mashhad	17:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	SVI	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	JZR	240	Amman	06:55	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	KAC	166	Paris/Rome	19:05	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	JZR	256	Beirut	07:30	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	BAW	156	London	08:25	KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	MSR	606	Luxor	19:30	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45	KAC	791	Madinah	08:55	SYR	342	Damascus	19:45
IRC	6511	ABD	09:15	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	KAC	117	New York	09:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	102	New York/London	19:55	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	KAC	671						

CROSSWORD 1352



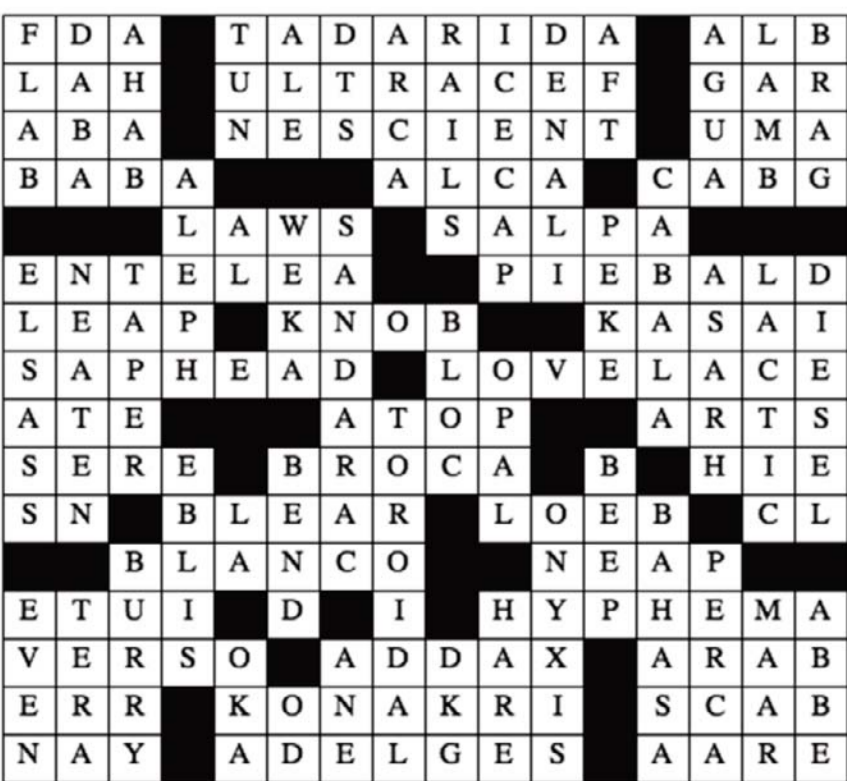
ACROSS

- (of music or art) New and of general appeal (especially among young people).
- Type genus of the family Macropodidae.
- (Scotland) A small loaf or roll of soft bread.
- A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- A poisonous crystalline alkaloid extracted from the nightshade family.
- A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
- An imaginary elephant that appears in a series of French books for children.
- The third day of the week.
- The ninth month of the Hindu calendar.
- Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
- A fraudulent business scheme.
- Earn on some commercial or business transaction.
- A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
- Type genus of the Anatidae.
- A New England state.
- (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
- A room equipped with toilet facilities.
- Goat grass.
- A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- A member of a people in India living in Orissa and neighboring areas.
- A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
- A poisonous oily liquid with a garlicky odor composed of 2 cacodyl groups.
- A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
- A festival featuring African-American culture.
- A former copper coin of Pakistan.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- A deep orange-red variety of chalcedony.
- A sharply directional antenna.
- A Bantu language spoken by the Kamba people in Kenya.
- A republic in West Africa on the Gulf of Guinea.
- Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.
- A light springing movement upwards or forwards.
- Relating to a recently developed fashion or style.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- Relating to or consisting of or emphasizing chords.
- An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
- Sometimes placed in family Hyacinthaceae.
- A caustic substance (Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>) produced by heating limestone.
- God of the earth.
- An informal alliance between countries.
- Harsh or corrosive in tone.

DOWN

- Having nine hinged bands of bony plates.
- A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
- A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
- A vacuum tube in which a hot cathode emits a beam of electrons that pass through a high voltage anode and are focused or deflected before hitting a phosphorescent screen.
- United States pathologist who discovered viruses that cause tumors (1879-1970).
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- A city in Tuscany.
- An organization of independent states to promote international peace and security.
- Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
- The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
- The sixth month of the civil year.
- English Quaker who founded the colony of Pennsylvania (1644-1718).
- Chief port of Yemen.
- Wheelwork consisting of a connected set of rotating gears by which force is transmitted or motion or torque is changed.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- Wood of any of various mahogany trees.
- A city in south central Mexico (southeast of Mexico City) on the edge of central Mexican plateau.
- Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
- National capital of Kiribati.
- A state of irritation or annoyance.
- A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- A port in western Israel on the Mediterranean.
- An ancient city on the Nile in Egypt.
- A Roman Catholic priest who acts for another higher-ranking clergyman.
- Distant but within sight.
- An edge tool used to cut and shape wood.
- A state in the eastern United States.
- Noisy talk.
- An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- The eleventh month of the Hindu calendar.
- Medium-sized tree having glossy lanceolate leaves.
- Punish with an arbitrary penalty.
- A large Yoruba city in southwestern Nigeria.
- (prosody) Of or consisting of iambs.
- A town in central Belgium.
- Remote and separate physically or socially.
- The mother-in-law of Ruth whose story is told in the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament.
- Combined or joined to increase in size or quantity or scope.
- Swift timid long-eared mammal larger than a rabbit having a divided upper lip and long hind legs.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- The highest level or degree attainable.
- A member of a nomadic people who invaded Europe in the 4th century.
- A statement that deviates from or perverts the truth.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Join in the teamwork and group spirit today. There are opportunities to learn about your working mates in a team support type of situation. Working together to bring about some venture has resulted in a positive outcome and there is time later today to celebrate and praise each other. A clever person you are... Taking the opportunity to show your work or ideas to others is a good idea but it is important not to reveal too many details, keeping your name on your work. Higher-ups are watching you and they will be interested in what you have to offer. You may reach new levels in understanding about life today. The evening's energies are more toward relaxation and appreciation. This may mean a walk or bicycle ride through the park.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A feeling of restlessness this morning may lead you to list the variety of things you want to accomplish at this time. Some political issues may come to your attention but most of all you just want to complete your work so you can make some phone calls for a future get-together with friends. This afternoon your activities center on finishing up old business and list making. Later today, your many responsibilities around the home front may keep you away from those who offer you a much-needed relaxation. There are errands to run and people to see. Soon enough however, you will be able to spend some quiet time with a loved one. Use the fresh fruits in the stores now for after dinner desert treats, perhaps a tart.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Much of your time today is geared toward work. Later today, you may be performing or attending a performance of some sort. If you are performing, there will be time for pictures or to purchase new clothing for the evening's celebration. For now however, the importance of your completing an ongoing task is high on the list of accomplishments. You take an active interest in psychology, different cultures and history. You can find support from all sides when it comes to your sort of mental activity-writing, speaking and all forms of communication. You have high ideals and an ability to enchant others with your words and images. Your presence has a way of easing things and helping those around you. A sick friend feels better after your visit.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You express yourself deliberately and do not waste your words. You have a natural sense of organization and come across as regimented and perhaps a little too sober at times. Today will bring opportunities to loosen up and enjoy yourself, the day and your surroundings. Making your own special contribution, teaching or helping someone progress and achieve is a positive happening. Being with your loved ones or favored friend this afternoon is rewarding, fun and inspiring. There are quick answers, great wit and an excess of insights. This afternoon revolves around a variety of social gatherings; the joy of interacting with others is in high gear. The perfect escape from the ordinary should be merged into your life more often.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Again, you may find yourself in a group activity. This most probably could be within a conference meeting in the workplace. You can demonstrate great understanding of and sensitivity about the needs of others and are in a good position to communicate. Lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart are emphasized this afternoon. Being appreciated and admired for your gifts and talents are powerful needs. Taking chances, perhaps reaching out to make friends with those who seem distant, whether it is with some activity, people, entertainment, etc., can bring big rewards. You could discover yourself through creativity and self-expression. This recent increased confidence may be a key to career opportunities.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You might look around and appreciate the achievements of your hard work. In fact, realizing your goals as well as the extra compliments along the way has put you in the best of moods. You like to challenge yourself physically and today is no exception. Talking with co-workers and friends you make a plan for this next year regarding an exercise routine. There are plans in the making to visit a naturopath doctor so that you will know exactly where you stand regarding nutrition. Next you consider a financial advisor and take measures to set aside appropriate funds for future investments. There is an opportunity to get to know a distant relation better this afternoon and you may find you have much in common. Celebrate.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

The pull to change or to try new things may challenge you in the work area this morning. Perhaps a meeting can occur that will give opportunities to all persons to present their own ideas of how they might or might not want things changed. This will certainly cut down on arguments and may even allow you more freedom. Family, home and security seem just about ideal to you and you may decide to stop and purchase an item or two for your home or garden. You may decide to begin some type of yard work or design a hothouse or a fall garden-you have plenty of ideas. You are very imaginative with your home and domestic setup. Getting everyone involved in a rap session of planning is also good. A sense of community pervades your family life.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You appear comfortable with yourself today. Everything seems to be working together-you may find yourself able to communicate well. You have a natural sense for communicating with others, especially those younger than yourself. Teaching, lecturing or making presentations tends to show off your showmanship in grand ways. This is a time for imagination and creativity; you can be spellbinding. You are successful in your endeavors, particularly today. You have great insight into matters of personal freedom. You come up with brilliant ways to help others express themselves. You could be helping with babysitting this evening. You relax with children in activities that may include sports, acting, singing, etc.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation today. You are very much involved with all that is traditional, but with this special twist. You are a revolutionary when it comes to the domestic scene and have some very special insights into home, family and surroundings. You will be giving your home surroundings much scrutiny as this week moves along. Today you take notes as to what you want to accomplish. You may want to do some repairs-or in some way, conceal what is present. One way to do this is in window treatment or interesting paint patterns on your walls. This type of change holds your interest now. You have friends that may enjoy helping you today-in turn, you want to help them. You enjoy sharing new techniques.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You find yourself in a very practical mood-working with, instead of against, yourself. Security is very important and you may find that you are most interested in checking out ways in which to obtain your possessions or your business, if you have your own business. There is a promise of company or plans for a dinner party soon. This may have you interested in spending some extra time in a special section of the grocery store. You set out to purchase all the ingredients necessary for a superlative meal. You are also interested in growing things, perhaps herbs, and may take the opportunity to pick up some information on preferred plants for a little garden. You provide peaceful surroundings. It would be fun to have a small pot of herbs for each dinner guest.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You have a special way with the older people in the workplace as well as within the family setting. As a teacher, you may find yourself spending quite a bit of time teaching music, sewing or any of the creative arts. An inner vision coupled with the ability to see the big picture often finds you working as a go-between with others. You are very giving, accommodating and even flattering in relationships, able to adjust to any situation. Reflective and tactful, you are able to please others. Above all, you are forever charming and gracious as well as a bit mysterious. With all of this going for you, you are able to pick and choose a love relationship of your desire and not just whoever comes along. Be prepared for romance this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may be planning a large get-together with the press or a big sales promotion and hiring people to advance your business or your career. You are on the right track but do consider saving a little research money for another promotion in about a month. This way, the word not only gets around but sticks in the mind of those who will support you. This may be political, show business or a new business; whatever the case, you will find success. If you have not done this type of advertisement before now, you might call or request a get-together with someone that has done this type of advertising and retain some expert advice. There may be prizes, food choices, decorations, etc. You can then take the ideas and organize the best part.

WORD SEARCH

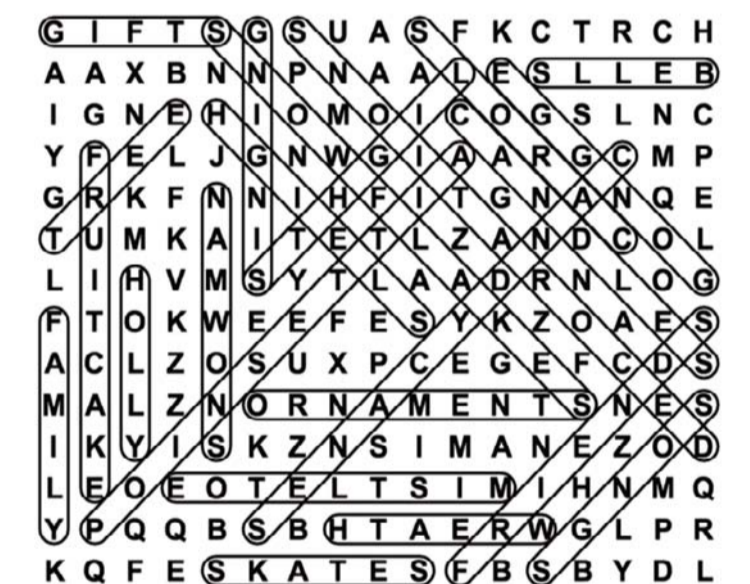
Autumn - Word Search  
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.



- |         |           |              |
|---------|-----------|--------------|
| CANNING | FROST     | SCHOOL       |
| CHILLY  | HALLOWEEN | SEASON       |
| COLD    | HARVEST   | SEPTEMBER    |
| CROPS   | HAYSTACK  | SQUASH       |
| EQUINOX | NOVEMBER  | THANKSGIVING |
| FALL    | OCTOBER   | TURKEY       |
| FARMING | PUMPKIN   | WINDY        |
| FEAST   | RAKE      |              |

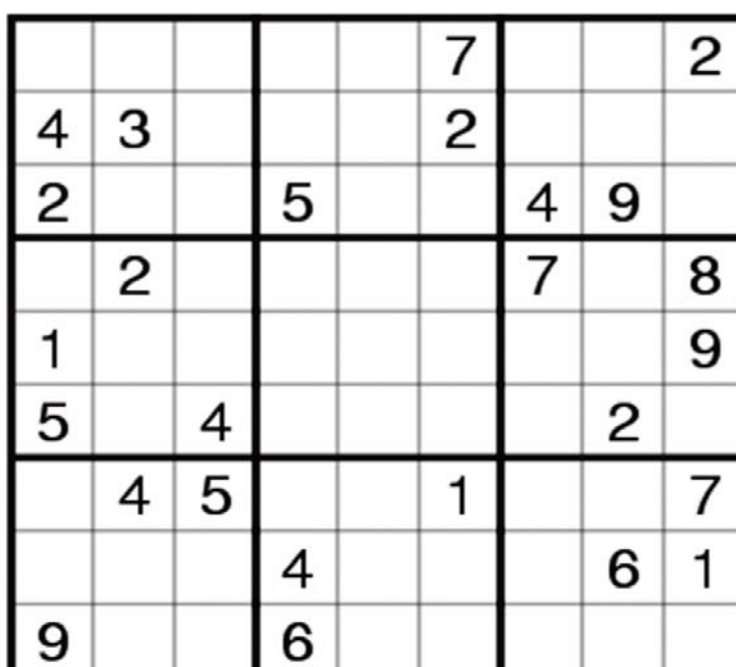
Yesterday Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles  
Christmas Season - Solution

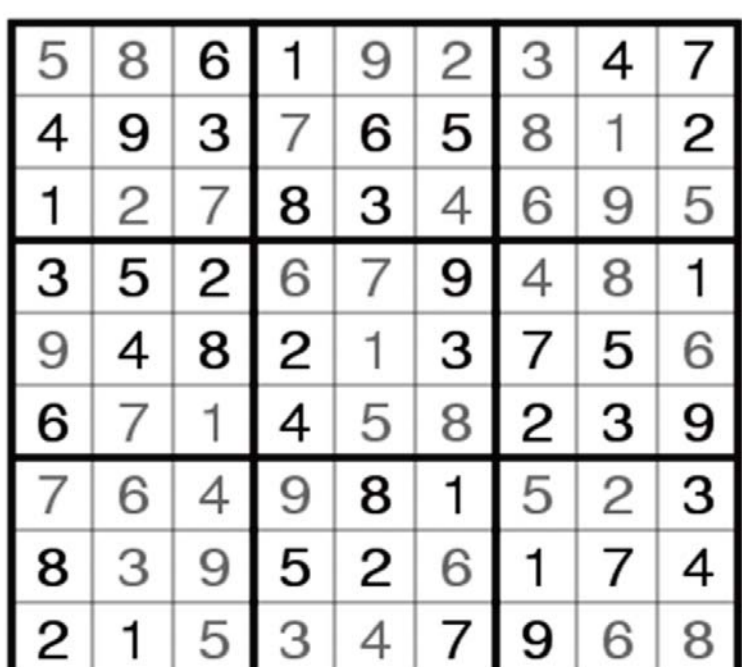


- |             |            |            |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| BELLS       | FRUITCAKE  | SKATES     |
| CANDLES     | GIFTS      | SLEIGH     |
| CANDY CANES | HOLLY      | SNOWFLAKES |
| CAROLS      | LIGHTS     | SNOWMAN    |
| DECORATIONS | MISTLETOE  | SONGS      |
| EGGNOG      | ORNAMENTS  | TREE       |
| FAMILY      | POINSETTIA | WREATH     |
| FRIENDS     | SINGING    |            |

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
**Call MSAL hotline 128**

## Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

## Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



## PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahael Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

## STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw



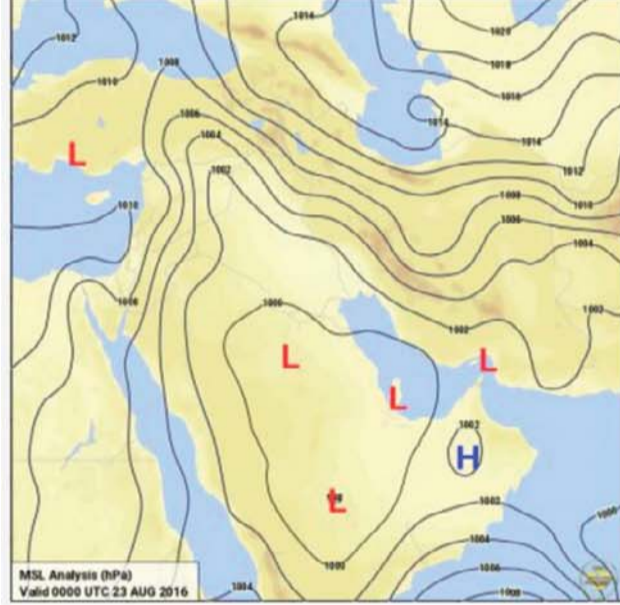
### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 23/08/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

**Max Temperature 44 °C**

**By Day :** Relatively humid with variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear  
**By Night :** Relatively humid with light to moderate south easterly to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear

SFC. CHART



MSL Analysis (hPa)  
Valid 0000 UTC 23 AUG 2016

Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	Relatively humid + scattered clouds	very hot + relatively humid	Relatively humid	very hot + relatively humid
Min Temp °C	32	30	31	31
Max Temp °C	47	48	47	49
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south westerly later on
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	08 - 30	08 - 30	08 - 28

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	33	42
KUWAIT AIRPORT	31	44
ABDALY	26	45
BUBYAN	31	37
JAHRA	31	45
FAILAKA ISLAND	30	41
SALMIYAH	33	38
AHMADI	33	40
JAL ALIYAH	29	45
QAROH ISLAND	33	36
UMM AL-MARADEM	34	37
NUWAISIB	32	44
WAFRA	30	46
MANAGISH	29	45
SALMY	28	44
MUTRIBA	27	46

### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	46
Min Temp (°C)	29
Max Rel Hum (%)	69
Min Rel Hum (%)	06
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	39 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:21
Sunset	18:21

### Prayer Times

Fajr	03:57
Sunrise	05:21
Zuhr	11:51
Asr	15:25
Sunset	18:21
Isha	19:42

## INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



## PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons	Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444	Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272	Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea 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	<b>Family Doctor</b>	Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099	<b>Physiotherapists &amp; VD</b>
Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700	Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581	Dr. Snaa Maarroof 25713514	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223	<b>Psychiatrists</b>	Dr. Pradip Gajare 23713100	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees 22666288
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223	Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047	Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282	<b>Rheumatologists:</b>
<b>Ear, Nose &amp; Throat (ENT)</b>	Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0	<b>Dermatology</b>	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner 24555050 Ext 510	<b>Gynaecologists &amp; Obstetricians</b>	Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali 25644660	Dr. Adrian arbe 23729596/23729581	<b>Dentists</b>	<b>Internist, Chest &amp; Heart</b>
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 Aliyami 25343406	Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226	Assistant Professor Of Medicine
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary 22620166	Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272	Dr. Abdallah 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
<b>General Practitioners</b>	<b>General Surgeons</b>	Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash 22525888	<b>Consultant Cardiologist</b>
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi 24555050 Ext 123	Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044	Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan 25653755	Dr. Farida Al-Habib 2611555-2622555
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312	Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148	Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111	MD, PH.D, FACC
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem 23926920	<b>Internists, Chest &amp; Heart</b>	<b>Neurologists</b>	Inaya German Medical Center
Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465	Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939	Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324	Te: 2575077
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah 25655528	Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300	Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875	Fax: 25723123
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoubi 24577781	Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004	<b>Gastrologists</b>	
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea 25333501	Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515	Dr. Sami Aman 22636464	

# Barbra Streisand enlists A-list pals for Broadway album

Sometimes even Barbra Streisand needs a little help from her friends. The 74-year-old stage and screen legend decided early on that her 36th studio album would feature Broadway duets. So she called on some of her friends and favorite actors, including Anne Hathaway, Daisy Ridley, Hugh Jackman, Chris Pine and Bradley Cooper, to bring her vision to life. The result, "Encore: Movie Partners Sing Broadway," is a quirky mix of surprising and entertaining collaborations pulled from hit musicals like "My Fair Lady" and "A Chorus Line," as well as more obscure productions such as "Evening Primrose" and "Smile."

Despite the group effort, the album - out Friday - is still authentically Streisand. "Records I have control over," said Streisand, who was hands-on with every aspect, from song conception to directing each performance. "That's what I cared about as a young performer as well. I didn't know about what salary it was," she recalled. "I cared about creative control. That nobody can tell me what to sing or force me to sing or album cover design or anything that had to do with my creativity. It had to feel right to me." In a recent interview at the oceanside Malibu, California, studio where she recorded "Encore," Streisand delved into her directing process with some of the biggest names in Hollywood.

### Baldwin came ready to play

Streisand admitted that some stars took a little persuading. Alec Baldwin, for example, feared he didn't have the vocal chops. "And I said, 'You're a personality and it's perfect for the song,'" she said of her early conversations with the "30 Rock"

actor. "Will you try with me? Because if it's really terrible we won't use it. Will you experiment with me? Will you play with me?" Luckily he agreed and the outcome is the cheeky, romantic duet, "The Best Thing That Ever Has Happened," from Stephen Sondheim's lesser-known musical, "Road Show." "It's hard work getting the notes right for people who are not singers, but I know they can act their way through it. They'll get it and that's the fun of doing this kind of project," Streisand said.

### Funny girls unite

Streisand wanted a new twist on the classic "Anything You Can Do," from Broadway's "Annie Get Your Gun." So the "Funny Girl" star tapped fellow funny lady Melissa McCarthy to reimagine the song as comedic banter between showbiz frenemies. "When I approached Melissa, the first thing she said to me was 'I can't sing you know' and so she's a little bit tone deaf," Streisand explained. "But she compensates with so much personality and so much laughter and so much spontaneity." Streisand recalled how McCarthy struggled to hit some of the notes, but other times she nailed it. "There are moments she sings and I go, 'Melissa that was fantastic! You sang that beautifully!' And she surprises herself," she said.

### Willy wonka reimagined

"When I was a child I had imagination. I lived in Brooklyn. You know, I slept in the living room. But I imagined myself as somebody, as having something worthwhile to be noticed and somehow I manifested it. So I know anything is possible," said Streisand. This was the idea behind her heartfelt duet, "Pure

Imagination," from the 1971 film, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

Streisand teamed with actor-filmmaker Seth MacFarlane for the dreamy ballad and penned a spoken-word introduction about imagination she hoped will resonate with modern audiences. "The divisiveness, the violence, these are very sad times," she said. "I just believe in the power of whatever it is - faith, prayer, visualization ... who knows what that can manifest?"

### Foxx for the finish

Streisand had full confidence that Jaimie Foxx would rise to the challenge of performing one of Broadway's most-loved songs: "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" from "The Sound of Music." "I did because I saw him get an Academy Award for playing Ray Charles. So I know he can sing," she said. "His soulfulness, his great voice ... he was able to sing it in one session, you know. I mean he's that good. So I was thrilled. I was thrilled to sing with him."

Streisand closes the album with the soulful, moving duet, which she said is about "having dreams and taking chances." "Step-by-step we will get there," said Streisand of her approach to any obstacle. "We will climb that mountain. You have to have faith in today's world. Don't you?" — AP



In this file photo Barbra Streisand presents the award for best musical at the Tony Awards in New York. — AP



Former professional boxer Roberto Duran, left, and actor Edgar Ramirez, who plays Duran in the film, pose together at the US premiere of "Hands of Stone" at the SVA Theatre. — AP photos



Actor Usher Raymond, left, actor Ana de Armas, Grace Hightower, actor Robert De Niro, actor Edgar Ramirez and director Jonathan Jakubowicz pose together at the US premiere of "Hands of Stone" at the SVA Theatre.

## 'Hands of Stone,' an intimate portrait of a boxer

From a building in Manhattan's midtown, Roberto Duran and Edgar Ramirez can see Madison Square Garden. "The Garden, many good memories," says the Panamanian about the New York arena where he won two world titles: the first of his successful career in 1972 and his third in 1983. At 65, Duran's energetic personality remains intact, telling anecdotes and making jokes just as he used to do at the height of his career as a bruising, head-on boxer.

Ramirez, 39, is impressed by the physique of the man he portrays in "Hands of Stone," a film that bears the nickname of the athlete who fought 119 bouts in five decades, which opens Friday. "Roberto, you're lean, you're in shape," says the Venezuelan actor. Duran is happy with a regime that has helped him stay fit and new fitness equipment he just acquired. Filmed in Panama and New York, the movie by Venezuelan writer-director Jonathan Jakubowicz tells the story of a boxer that emerges from extreme poverty to reach fame and fortune. It shows the rivalry between Duran and Sugar Ray Leonard, portrayed by Usher, including their two bouts for the welter title in 1980.

Thirty five years after starring as Jake LaMotta in Martin Scorsese's "Raging Bull," Robert De Niro plays Ray Arcel, Duran's septuagenarian trainer. And Panamanian actor and salsa star Ruben Blades plays Carlos Eleta, Duran's manager. For "Hands of Stone," Duran served as a mentor to Ramirez, a boxing novice when he was offered the part. The star of "Carlos" and the newer "Point Break" wanted to learn how to fight. "I had never boxed before, I knew nothing about this. I moved to Panama to start the process and Roberto and his children looked after me, they were my first trainers," Ramirez said in a recent interview. "It is a very intimate, warm movie. In the end, we all became good friends and we still are. To me, it was very important to learn how to fight, to understand boxing from my own point of view, before going into Roberto's skin."



Actors Usher Raymond, left, and Edgar Ramirez, who play Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran, pose with the real Sugar Ray Leonard, right, at the US premiere of "Hands of Stone" at the SVA Theatre.

### Sense of vulnerability

For Duran and Ramirez, this is not just another boxing movie. "Boxing is always in fashion, you can always talk about boxing," says the champion. And although "Hands of Stone" sticks to the conventions of this kind of movie - a boxer goes rags-to-riches, reaches stardom, falls and finally redeems himself - Ramirez and Duran believe that the story engages the viewer by showing the psychological aspects of the sport. "We are not only talking about boxing. We are talking about this person's life," Duran said in the interview. "It's about how you

got to the top. The hunger you suffered, the sacrifices that you made. The thefts. ... The friends that I call 'the bloodsuckers,' those that exploit you and rob you."

There is a moving scene when Arcel, working Duran's corner, wipes the hair from the boxer's face in a fatherly gesture. The reason, Duran said, was that his long hair prevented him from seeing his opponent's punches, but at the same time it served as a ruse. "It had to do with the strategy," Ramirez said. "Every time, when he returned to fighting after each round. And if his hair was combed this obviously gave the opponent a sense of vulnerability." "When we think about boxing movies, many people classify them as sports movies, but this is a drama. It is a film that talks about how you win and how you lose in your head," the actor added.

The film is being promoted as the "biggest" Latin American production. Except for the fights choreographer and the costumes designer, the rest of the crew is Latin American. This is the third real life character Ramirez has portrayed, after terrorist Ilich Ramirez Sanchez "El Chacal" in Olivier Assayas' "Carlos" and Simon Bolivar in "The Liberator." "I've had the fortune of coming across wonderful characters like Roberto Duran," Ramirez said. "What caught my attention is that he's more than an athlete. Beyond his victories and his titles, it's what he represents in terms of identity to Panama and to Latin America and how Roberto has been accompanied in his greatest and most important moments, unifying, consolidating, binding together the identity of a country. Those themes are also present in this movie." "Every time Roberto climbed into the ring, he was not fighting alone against an opponent; he had a whole country backing him, supporting him." — AP

## 'Ben-Hur' left in the dust at American box office

Paramount's \$100 million remake of "Ben-Hur" bombed in its opening weekend at the North American box office, industry data showed Monday, putting it on course to become the summer's biggest flop. The chariot racing epic brought in just \$11.2 million, said box office monitor Exhibitor Relations, making it the highest-profile casualty in a season which has seen several big studio movies crash and burn. Critics gave Timur Bekmambetov's reboot of the Biblical fable-starring Jack Huston, Toby Kebbell and Morgan Freeman - the thumbs down across the board, with several dubbing it "Chariots of Misfire."

"How do you fight an idea? By filming a remake that has too few of its own, and tries to cover it up with choppy editing and CGI," was the critical consensus on review aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes, which gave it a woeful 28 percent rating. It is the fourth big screen iteration of Lew Wallace's best-selling 1880 novel "Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ" following silent versions in 1907 and 1925, and William Wyler's 1959 opus, which won 11 Oscars. "The 'Ben-Hur' remake was always going to be an uphill battle as Paramount is up against not only reboot fatigue, but the fact that the 1959 version swept the Oscars and is still considered a classic," Jeff Beck of Exhibitor Relations told AFP ahead of its

## Jennifer Lawrence ranked world's highest-paid actress for 2nd year

"Hunger Games" star Jennifer Lawrence yesterday topped a Forbes magazine list of the world's highest-paid actress for the second straight year, earning some \$46 million, followed by Melissa McCarthy. Lawrence, 26, took the top spot largely through a slice of the profits from the final movie in the "Hunger Games" franchise, as well as a big upfront fee for her forthcoming space adventure movie "Passengers," Forbes said.

Yet Lawrence's estimated payday was likely well below that for Hollywood's leading men, Forbes said, despite the actress sparking a debate about the gender pay gap last year. She declared she was "finished being adorable" when it came to negotiating better deals for herself. Lawrence's 2016 earnings dropped 11.5 percent from her 2015 total of \$52 million. Forbes will release its list of the world's highest-paid actors on Thursday. Last year Robert Downey Jr. topped the list with an estimated \$80 million. Neither however came close to pop star Taylor Swift, who was named the top earning celebrity of 2016 earlier this year, pulling in an estimated \$170 million from record sales and her world tour. McCarthy took home \$33 million in earnings, up \$10 million from 2015 in part from her payday for the controversial female reboot of "Ghostbusters." It was the biggest annual paycheck to date for the star of television comedy "Mike and Molly." McCarthy, 45, also launched a clothing line for sizes 4 to 28 after becoming frustrated at the outfits available for larger women.

Scarlett Johansson of "Captain America: Civil Wars" was third at \$25 million, down nearly 30 percent from 2015. Together, the world's 10 highest-paid actresses tallied a combined \$205 million between June 1, 2015 and June 1, 2016, before management fees and taxes, Forbes said. The estimates include earnings from movies, TV and endorsements from cosmetic and other companies. Bollywood star Deepika Padukone is the only newcomer on the list.

- The rest of the top 10 2016 highest-paid actresses are:
- 4. Jennifer Aniston - \$21 million
- 5. Fan Bingbing - \$17 million
- 6. Charlize Theron - \$16.5 million
- 7. Amy Adams - \$13.5 million
- 8. Julia Roberts - \$12 million
- 9. Mila Kunis - \$11 million
- 10. Deepika Padukone - \$10 million-

## Aretha Franklin cancels shows on doctors' orders

Gospel legend Aretha Franklin has scrapped upcoming shows for health reasons, the 74-year-old announced her latest in a series of cancellations dating back to last year. "Regretfully, due to doctors' orders I will have to cancel a few concerts for the next month or so," she said in a statement Monday without further details on her condition. Franklin has called off several shows since 2015. She nixed a Las Vegas concert a year ago citing exhaustion and put off a small tour of Florida in March citing problems with her back-up band.

Among the latest cancellations, Franklin will no longer participate in a 90th birthday celebration for crooner Tony Bennett at Radio City Music Hall in New York. Franklin had earlier been named as the headliner of an inaugural New York festival in September that would also feature leading winemakers. But after announcing the "City Winery Open" festival, organizers said they were pushing it back to 2017 for logistical reasons. Franklin, who has won 18 Grammys, is best known for her feminist-tinged cover of Otis Redding's "Respect." The daughter of a Baptist minister, she recorded her first album in his church in Detroit when she was 14. She last year sang "Amazing Grace" before Pope Francis as he visited Philadelphia for the massive Festival of Families. — AFP



This file photo shows singer Aretha Franklin on the red carpet before the 38th Annual Kennedy Center Honors in Washington, DC. — AFP

## 'Bagpipe lung' death prompts warning for wind musicians

Musicians were warned yesterday to clean their wind instruments regularly after British doctors reported that "bagpipe lung" had killed a man who inhaled fungi growing inside his pipes. An article in the medical journal Thorax recorded the case of a 61-year-old man who played the bagpipes daily but had struggled with a dry cough and breathlessness for seven years. His condition improved rapidly when he went on a three-month trip to Australia, leaving his bagpipes at home.

This prompted doctors treating him to take samples from inside the pipes. These revealed a host of different fungi growing in the moist bag, neck and mouthpiece area of the instrument, which the man had been inhaling when he played. Despite treatment, the man died in October 2014 and a post-mortem examination showed he had suffered extensive lung damage. This is thought to be the first reported case of a bagpipe player being exposed to fungi which may have triggered hypersensitivity pneumonitis, the inflammatory lung disease which the man suffered from.

"Wind instrument players need to be aware of the importance of regularly cleaning their instruments and of potential risks," the study said. "Physicians should be aware of this potential risk factor and promote wind instrument hygiene." Andrew Bova of the National Piping Centre in the Scottish city of Glasgow told the BBC: "When it comes to cleaning a woodwind instrument, I would say give it a swab after every time you play. The moisture can sit in the nooks and crannies and you don't want that." — AFP

# THE TEHRAN-MOBARAK 16TH INTERNATIONAL PUPPET FESTIVAL



Giant dummies are displayed in a carnival during inauguration of Tehran-Mobarak 16th International Puppet Festival in downtown Tehran, Iran, Monday. The festival kicked off on Monday with a happiness carnival of puppets, songs and music in the streets of downtown Tehran and runs from August 22nd to August 28th. 57 Iranian theater groups and 9 from abroad including Netherlands, Russia, India, Afghanistan and Poland are participating in the event. — AP photos



Iranian actresses Parivash Ghaem Maghami, left, dressed as a clown and Amina Hajjabad with a traditional costume pose for a photo in a carnival during inauguration.

Head-to-toe veiled in black and with black colored faces, Iranian actors perform in a carnival.

Iranians attend a carnival during the inauguration of Tehran-Mobarak 16th International Puppet Festival.

## Designing with tile: Ancient craft gets new attention

Tile was an important element in interior design in many parts of the world for thousands of years, coveted for its aesthetic possibilities, functionality and longevity. Yet for a generation, the craft has been largely unexplored, relegated mainly to bathrooms and rooftops, say the authors of a new book. "It's been untapped and underappreciated, but that's changing very quickly," says Catherine Bailey, who, with her husband, Robin Petravac, owns California-based Heath Ceramics. The couple won a 2015 Cooper Hewitt National Design Award for their work encouraging creativity at Heath while remaining true to the company's over-60-year history.

They have written "Tile Makes the Room: Good Design from Heath Ceramics" (released last month by Ten Speed Press). The book is full of lush photos and practical advice about incorporating artisanal tile in interiors. The goal is to make designing with tile accessible to the uninitiated. Heath and other small ceramics studios are leading a resurgence of tile in home design. An expanded range of colors, textures, patterns - and prices - have made the medium more adaptable and accessible.

Feras Irikat, design and marketing director for Lunada Bay Tile, a Los Angeles-based firm offering Japanese-inspired tiles, including some made with recycled glass, said, "Before the '70s, tile was every-

where, like permanent jewelry for your home. It slowed down a lot after that and became very boring. But it has started catching on again, and there are more and more small companies putting their hearts and souls into it and doing really interesting things." Bailey says "a lot of designers are finally rediscovering the incredible depth and range" tile offers.

She and Petravac took over the Sausalito-based Heath Ceramics in 2003. The company, founded in 1948, was famous for tableware and tiles, and kept a close link between craft and factory production. "Tile Makes the Room" begins by looking at the couple's 1890s Sausalito home, and Heath's factories in Sausalito and San Francisco.

### Color and texture

"We don't think of Heath as making tile so much as making objects that contribute to something bigger, like architecture or interiors," they write. Tile, when combined with textile, wood and glass, can create a sense of permanence, timelessness, color and texture, and contribute to a cohesive overall design, they say. The book includes many kinds of tiles and architectural styles in interiors and a few exteriors. In chef Alice Waters' Berkeley, California, kitchen, for instance, earthy green tiles surround a beast of a gas range, framing the copper pots and teakettle and providing a warm back-

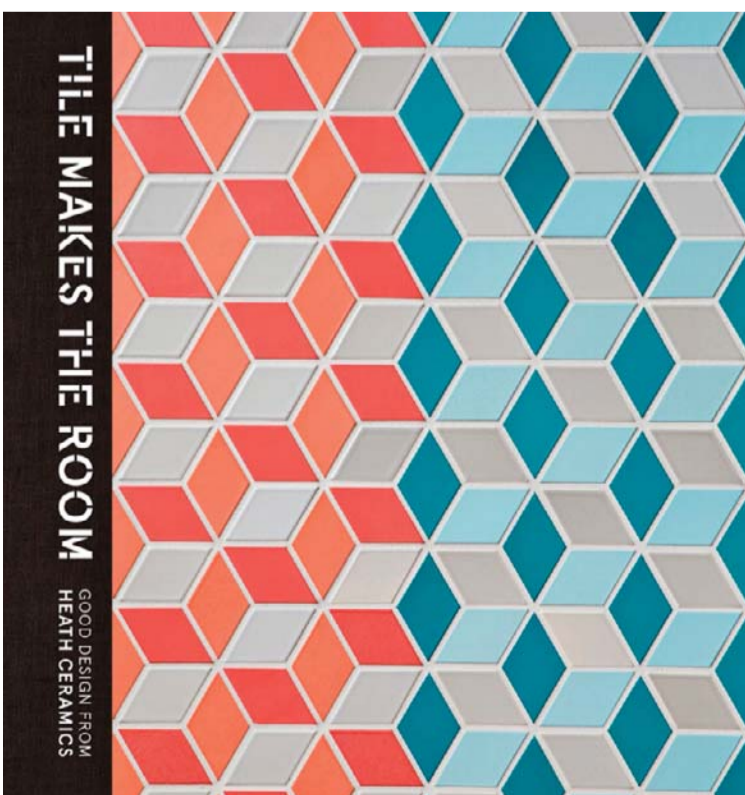
drop for a concrete counter.

In a small Tokyo home, handmade tile from Fez, Morocco, set in a striking herringbone pattern in blue-and-white flooring, gives the feeling of rippling water meandering peacefully through the home. Elsewhere, tiles give spaces a clean and contemporary feel. A Heath design featuring cubes in gray-blues and reds adds depth and character to a study wall, and in a garden in Sao Paulo, Brazil, graphic tiles with an undulating design in blue and white (designed by the Athos Bulcao Foundation) add a fluid, modernist touch.

Even in all-white rooms, varying types of tile bring a sense of timelessness and depth. "The study of white tiles . acts as a canvas for the material's qualities," the authors write. The inherent variation in artisanal tile "creates an installation that feels warm, soft and homey because of reflected light, surface finish and texture," as opposed to the antiseptic feeling of white tile in airport bathrooms or commercial kitchens. "All white tile is not the same, and if you get that, you've come a long way," explains Petravac. The book ends by explaining the process of tile making. It considers the main types of ceramic tile: earthenware, porcelain and stoneware. There are also concrete tiles. The reader is taken through the process of forming, finishing, firing and, finally, installing tiles to maximum effect.



Photo shows the Hillside House in Mill Valley, Calif.



This photo provided by Ten Speed Press shows the cover of the book, 'Tile Makes the Room,' by Robin Petravac and Catherine Bailey, published by Ten Speed Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC. — AP photos



Photo shows the Stark House in San Francisco, Calif., from the book, 'Tile Makes the Room'.



Photo shows the Neisha Crosland Studio in the UK from the book, 'Tile Makes the Room'.



North Koreans wait at the gate of the newly opened Pyongyang Central Zoo in Pyongyang, North Korea, yesterday. — AP photos



North Koreans feed an elephant at the newly opened Pyongyang Central Zoo.



A North Korean and her son pose for a photo on the back of a camel.



A North Korean man kisses a turtle through the glass of its tank.

## Lions, tigers and poodles? Dogs a big draw at Pyongyang zoo

Lions, tigers and poodles? North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's latest gift to the residents of Pyongyang, the renovated central zoo, is pulling in thousands of visitors a day with a slew of attractions ranging from such typical zoo fare as elephants, giraffes, penguins and monkeys to a high-tech natural history museum with displays showing the origins of the solar system and the evolution of life on Earth. But one of the most popular attractions might come as a surprise to foreign visitors. Just across from the hippopotamus pen and the reptile house, dozens of varieties of dogs - including schnauzers, German shepherds, Shih Tzus and Saint Bernards - are on display in the "dog pavilion."

One, a King Charles spaniel, was presented as a gift to Kim's father, Kim Jong Il, by "the US company Tapco" in 1995. According to plaques above their pens, which - dog lovers will be relieved to know - are spacious and clean, Kim Jong Un himself chipped in by giving the zoo its schnauzers, poodles, German shepherds and a Chihuahua. Former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, who pursued a sort of detente with Pyongyang called the "Sunshine policy," presented the North with a Jindo dog that now resides in the zoo. North Korea's own national dog - yes, it has one, the puffy white Pung San breed - lives in a pen next to it.

Though somewhat shocking to those accus-

tomed to thinking of dogs as companions or household pets, the zoo display may actually reflect an increasingly fond attitude toward dogs in North Korea. While dog meat is still a common dish in the North, and in China and South Korea as well, a small but growing number of North Koreans are keeping canines as pets. People walking dogs on leashes can now be seen from time to time in Pyongyang and some other cities. And instead of suggesting recipes, signs in the dog pavilion describe the best way to train a pet dog, suggesting that patience and kindness work better than harsh words.

### 'Gift animals'

Aside from the dogs, another unique feature of the zoo is the posting of signs above many of the animal habitats noting where the "gift animals" came from - which is intended to remind visitors of how much North Korea's leaders are loved and respected by leaders abroad. The signs also are meant to emphasize the benevolence of Kim Jong Un, who along with the dogs donated tigers, giraffes and many other animals at the zoo. Pyongyang's central zoo actually dates back to 1959, when Kim Il Sung, the nation's first leader and the grandfather of Kim Jong Un, ordered it built on the outskirts of the city. According to an official history, the zoo started off with only 50 badgers.

That same year, however, it got its first "gift animals," elephants donated by fellow socialist leader Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam. Fittingly, the elephants, according to the zoo, were heroes in the socialist revolutionary movement because they helped the Vietnamese by carrying war materiel in the fight against French colonialism. Another "gift animal" elephant was donated by Laos. Zebras and ostriches at the zoo were donated to Kim Il Sung by the leader of Tanzania, and orangutans were donated by the late President Suharto of Indonesia. The mayor of the Japanese city of Kyoto gave the old zoo a jaguar. Renovations for the new zoo began in 2014 as part of Kim Jong Un's efforts to create more modern and impressive structures and leisure centers around the capital, including several major high-rise housing areas, an equestrian center, a sprawling new shooting range and a giant water park in the city's center. Though Pyongyang is far ahead of other North Korean cities, not to mention rural areas, in terms of development, there has been some growth elsewhere also, including the Masik Pass luxury sky resort near the port of Wonsan on the country's east coast. — AP



Visitors feed dogs at the newly opened Central Zoo.



North Korean men take pictures of a tiger.

## McDonald's recalls millions of Happy Meals fitness bands

McDonald's is recalling millions of fitness bands that had been given away in Happy Meals because they might cause skin irritation or burns to children. The fast-food chain said last week that it would stop distributing the bands in Happy Meals. Now it's recalling 29 million of them in the US, and 3.6 million in Canada.

The company, based in Oak Brook, Illinois, received more than 70 reports of incidents after children wore the bands, including seven reports of blisters, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The Step-It Fitness plastic wristbands, in blue, green, purple, orange and red, look like watches and are supposed to track physical activity. Customers should return the wristbands to McDonald's for a free replacement toy, and either a yogurt tube or bag of apple slices, the CPSC said. The wristbands, which were made in China and distributed exclusively by McDonald's, were sold between Aug 9 and Aug 17.

The promotion had turned heads even before the recall, given the reputation of McDonald's Corp as a seller of junk food. The company has been trying to change that reputation over the years, in part by including fruit in its Happy Meals. The company has also been running TV ads saying its Chicken McNuggets are now made without artificial preservatives. — AP



## KFC's new marketing gimmick: Giving away scented sunscreen

KFC gave away 3,000 bottles of sunscreen that it said smelled like fried chicken to drum up buzz for its Extra Crispy chicken. Several Associated Press reporters who tested the sunscreen said the smell did not immediately bring to mind chicken, however.

The stunt is another way for KFC to promote its Extra Crispy fried chicken. In June, it hired always-tan actor George Hamilton to appear in commercials as Colonel Sanders. KFC, which is owned by Louisville, Kentucky-based Yum Brands Inc, said Monday that it was out of the bottles a few hours after they appeared on its website. — AP



FEATURE



Artists are seen painting during the Chale Wote street art festival in Accra. — AFP photos



An artist during the Chale Wote street art festival.

# Ghana's contemporary art hits the streets



Young boys box during the Chale Wote street art festival.



Artists perform during the Chale Wote street art festival.

A satirical cartoon depicting a celebrity in Ghana schooling a British diplomat on how to speak pidgin English won laughter and praise from the crowd at a street festival in Accra. The cartoon lampoons British High Commissioner to Ghana Jon Benjamin who back in April sent a tweet criticizing television star Nana Anamoah's grammar, sparking a heated debate on the West African country's colonial past. Contemporary artist Bright Ackwerh immortalized the inane moment with his signature style that recalls *Mad Magazine's* portraits. Ackwerh's cartoon was just one example of contemporary art on display at the Chale Wote street festival, a showcase for up-and-coming artists held in Ghana's capital at the weekend. "A show like this is more for the avant-garde tastes," Ackwerh told AFP, explaining that art today in Ghana is so much more than gaudy sunset paintings and tribal masks. "I feel like the space here has moved from that particular imagery and we are in a very modern space."

Along a historic street in Accra, crowds danced to the deep beats of local hip-hop and snapped selfies in front of colonial buildings decorated with elaborate, artistic graffiti. Modern and contemporary African art has been on the upswing for years with a growing number of galleries—chiefly in London—selling art from the continent for millions of dollars. Reflecting the bullish market for the continent's art, this year major art broker Sotheby's opened an African modern and contemporary art department with its first auction scheduled for 2017, said department head Hannah O'Leary.

"I think that West Africa is possibly the most interesting area of the continent at the moment," O'Leary said. "What's happening in Ghana is very exciting," she said. "It feels like there is a new movement of graduates... it's not just painting and pictures but a lot of sculpture and performance art, which is much less traditional."

**Punk status**

But despite the international demand, public funding for art in Ghana remains scarce. There is little government support and galleries are more likely to feature already famous artists than promote new ones. Still, the artistic scene in Ghana is thriving. It has produced contemporary heavyweights El Anatsui, a sculptor famous for his metallic tapestries, and Ibrahim Mahama, who creates massive installations covering entire buildings with jute sacks. The Chale Wote festival co-founder Sionne Neely, who runs an artist network in Accra, says she started the event in 2011 after spotting an opportunity to provide a platform for artists to show their work.



Artists perform during the Chale Wote street art festival.

"We decided if we were going to change anything, it's going to be us to do it," said Neely. "We decided to combine our creative talents, energy and passion to do something." Five years later, the festival sees more than 200 Ghana-based and international artists take part and thousands of people hitting the streets to take in the sights. For artists like Ackwerh, the exposure can't come at a better time. "The concept of art here in the mainstream is still very, very limiting, so not many forms of expressions are considered worthy of space," Ackwerh said. In spite of their punk status, contemporary artists in Ghana are gradually carving out a space to call their own. Gallery 1957, an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue in Accra, opened in March, while in December the city will host a new fair called Art Accra. — AFP



A boy poses for a photograph during the Chale Wote street art festival.



A man stands still as someone paints his face.



Festival goers stand in front of a mural during the 6th annual Chale Wote Street Art Festival in James Town.



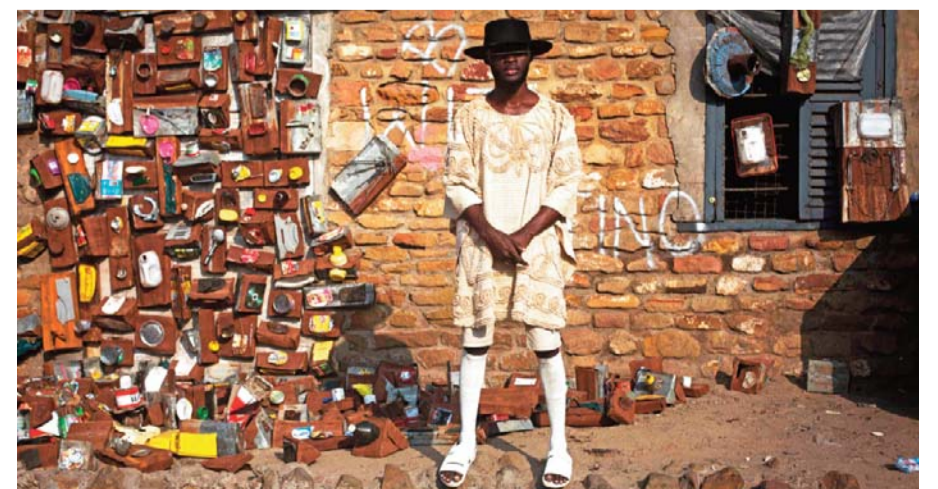
An artist performs during the Chale Wote street art festival.



A child looks at cartoons exposed on a wall during the Chale Wote street art festival.



Two men do an arm wrestling during the Chale Wote street art festival in Accra.



An artist poses by his pieces of art exposed during the Chale Wote street art festival.



Cast members from Opera Australia pose for the media at the launch of Opera Australia 2017 season in Sydney yesterday. — AFP



This picture shows Muslim models displaying burkini swimsuits in western Sydney. — AFP photos

## 'Burkini' bans good for sales: Australian designer

**B**urkini bans in France have boosted sales and interest in the full-bodied Islamic swimsuit, particularly from non-Muslim women, the Australian credited with creating the design said yesterday. The burkini has sparked huge controversy in France, with bans in 15 towns in the country's southeast amid high tensions following a string of deadly jihadist attacks. But Australian-Lebanese Aheda Zanetti, who claims the trademark on the name burkini and burqini and created her first swimwear for Muslim women more than a decade ago, said the furor in France has attracted more publicity for her products. "It's just been so hectic," she told AFP. "I can tell you that online on Sunday, we received 60 orders—all of them non-Muslim," the 48-year-old Sydneysider said, adding that she usually received 10 to 12 orders on Sundays.

Zanetti did not have sales figures for the rest of the past week but said she had also received numerous messages of support—and only one disparaging email—since the French bans. They include messages from cancer survivors and other swimmers who use her light-weight, quick-drying two-piece garments as protection from the sun. There are other Islamic swimsuits but Zanetti has said her designs are the first to be streamlined into two-piece swimwear with a head covering. "A lot of the correspon-

dence... was that they are survivors of skin cancer and they've always been looking for something like this, saying, 'Thank god we've found someone like this producing such a swimsuit,'" she said.

"The support I'm getting is somehow about empowering women... I feel like I've been a counselor. It's a cry of need that they want to have this enjoyment. 'Women are standing together on this. It doesn't matter what race or religion.' She said the one critical email questioned why Zanetti wanted to cover up women in France, noting "we prefer our women to be naked". Australia is grappling with a rise in anti-Muslim sentiment after a series of attacks by radicalized youth but the burkini has not attracted strong criticism in a country where people regularly cover up at beaches to protect their skin under the harsh sun. While there are divisions over the burkini in France, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday dismissed the idea of a ban in his country, saying Canadians should rise above the controversy as he called for the respect of individual rights and choices. — AFP



Muslim models displaying burkini swimsuits in western Sydney.



Australian-Lebanese designer Aheda Zanetti explains her products of burkini swimsuits at a shop in western Sydney.

## TRIBAL HOUSE TO MARK HUNA TLINGIT CONNECTION TO GLACIER BAY

**A** tribal house years in the making will be dedicated on the shores of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve on Thursday, a physical acknowledgment that the area known for its rugged beauty is also the homeland of the Huna Tlingit. Ceremonies will be held at the Huna Tribal House at Barlett Cove, with officials planning to also livestream the festivities. Traditional ceremonies, closed to the public, are planned for Friday, with an open house scheduled for Saturday.

The park's chief of interpretation, Tom Vandenberg, said park visitors see glaciers and wildlife and know the region is the homeland of the Huna Tlingit, "but there's really no sign of them." "A glacier came through, forced them out, destroyed everything in its path," he said. "It has since retreated, so we had this new land, new life coming in and there's just no sign of any of the villages that were here long ago." According to the park service and Hoonah Indian Association, the building will be the first permanent clan house in Glacier Bay since an advancing glacier wiped out the villages more than 250 years ago. Four Huna Tlingit clans once lived in and around Glacier Bay, the park service says. Clans today are based out of nearby Hoonah, Vandenberg said.

The Hoonah Indian Association on its website said the group and National Park Service worked with a team that included clan leaders, craftsmen and cultural resource specialists on a design that reflects traditional styles but is also contemporary. For example, it will include a central fire pit in a large gath-

ering area along with modern touches, like a kitchen for preparing Alaska Native foods and dressing room for dancers and performers, the association said. The design was passed on historical records, the association said.

The park service says the building will provide a place for tribal members to meet and hold ceremonies while also providing a place for visitors to learn about tribe's culture. An administrator with the association did not respond to emailed questions about the project. Vandenberg said tribal elders originally proposed the concept and the park service agreed but getting it built took years as the project kept getting pushed back on the national priority list for funding. Eventually, he said, the park decided it needed to just make it happen and scrimped for about five years to come up with the money on its own. He didn't know the final cost for the project, but with planning, carvings and construction he estimated it to be around \$4 million.

Vandenberg said the tribal house will provide new learning opportunities for visitors. Glacier Bay has "always been a park about science and glaciers and scenery. People ask us a lot about the original inhabitants. We can say a few things but there's really nothing we can really point to that really speaks about their connection to the homeland. But this will just provide that and it will just be amazing," he said. — AP



This undated photo shows the Huna Tribal House that will be dedicated on the shores of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska, during ceremonies beginning on Thursday.—AP