

**Kuwaiti teachers invited to Arabic teaching program in US**



**EU hits Apple with record €13bn tax bill**



**Internet star sings of Gaza cat and 'My Trousers'**



**Djokovic beats scare, Nadal eases at revamped US Open**



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT, TAXI FARES REVISED AS PETROL PRICES RISE

NEW INCREASED TARIFFS BASED ON DISTANCE TRAVELLED

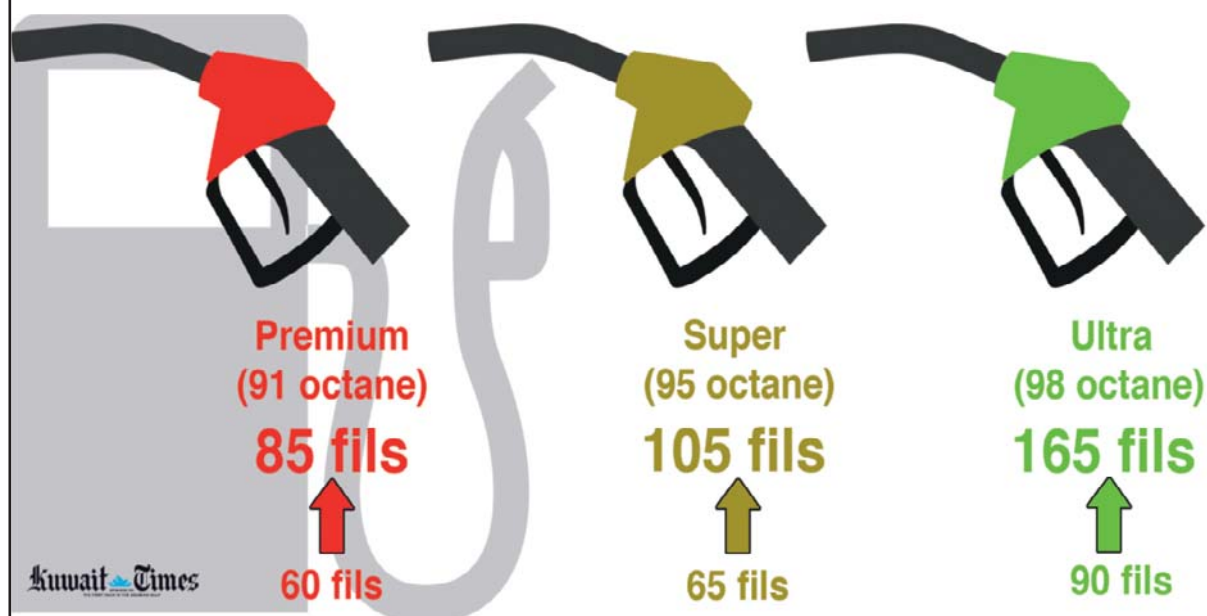


Min 30°  
Max 48°  
High Tide 10:46  
Low Tide 04:59 & 18:06



150 FILS  
NO: 16979  
40 PAGES

### NEW PETROL PRICES FROM SEPT 1



KUWAIT: Cars line up at a petrol station late into the night yesterday. Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh



ABU DHABI: Smoke billows from a building under construction in a residential and commercial district of the capital after a fire broke out yesterday. — AFP

### UNDER-CONSTRUCTION TOWER IN ABU DHABI CATCHES FIRE

ABU DHABI: A major fire broke out yesterday in a residential and commercial district of the United Arab Emirates' capital, witnesses said, injuring 13 people. The blaze was in a 25-storey building under construction beside the Rotana Beach Hotel and the Abu Dhabi Mall, emergency workers said. Witnesses said hundreds of laborers were evacuated from the building site as authorities sealed off the surrounding area, and a security official at the hotel said guests and staff were also evacuated as a precaution. Guests were put up overnight at its other properties in the city.

"The fire took place at the building which is in the final stages of construction," a technician with the Ghantoot Group which is undertaking the project told AFP. Thick black smoke could be seen billowing from the blue-colored tower for miles. Fire later broke out again in the lower part of the building, an AFP correspondent said. Emergency services, overseen by helicopters, were still battling the blaze by nightfall.

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### MINISTER ASSURES NO HIKE IN PRICES

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali affirmed yesterday that the introduction of new fuel prices from tomorrow will not "affect prices of basic commodities". Any unjustified bid to raise prices "will be met with firm measures by ministry inspectors", he said, warning wholesale and retail merchants and businessmen against hiking prices on the pretext that fuel costs have increased.

Ali was speaking during a visit to Siddeeq yesterday, adding there can be no increase in prices without the approval of the Ministry of Commerce. He said the government will apply law 10/79 with its penalties against price manipulators. "It is the citizens' right to complain and inform the ministry if anyone raises prices. The complainant must prove the increase with a receipt."

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By Shakir Reshamwala

KUWAIT: Long lines of cars snaked out of gas stations yesterday, as motorists rushed to fill up before petrol prices go up tomorrow, Sept 1. While government officials have reassured the public that prices of basic commodities and services will not be increased, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khalid Al-Sabah yesterday issued ministerial decisions setting new tariffs for taxis and public transport. The new charges are based on the distance travelled.

According to the new amendments that go into effect tomorrow, public transport fares range from 150 fils within Kuwait City to as much as 600 fils to Jahra and Ahmadi. Travelling from Kuwait City on public transport to border areas will cost KD 2,500.

The new taxi fares have been set according to their type - private taxis, call taxis, roaming taxis - ranging from a base charge of 350 fils to 600 fils, which will

increase according to the distance travelled and the waiting period. As for airport taxis/limousines, the new fares are calculated on the type of vehicle and the destination, ranging from KD 5 to KD 35.

The Cabinet raised petrol prices late last month as part of economic reforms aimed at countering falling oil revenues.

From tomorrow, the price of low octane petrol will rise by 41 percent to 85 fils a liter from 60 fils, while high grade petrol will increase by 61 percent to 105 fils from 65 fils. These two types account for most of the petrol consumed in the country. The price of environmentally friendly low-emission "ultra" petrol will go up by 83 percent to 165 fils a liter from 95 fils.

The new ministerial decisions are as follows:

#### Article One

Article 1, 2 of ministerial decree 173/1982 shall be amended as follows:

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### IRAN TO PAY COSTS OF INFERTILITY TREATMENT

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### 'WILLY WONKA' STAR GENE WILDER DIES

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## TURKEY OP IN SYRIA FRAUGHT WITH RISK

IS SPOKESMAN ADNANI KILLED IN ALEPPO

### QATAR, TURKEY ASSERTING TIES

DOHA: With his fate still uncertain just hours after the launch of the July 15 coup, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan received his first call of support from a foreign leader. On the other end of the line was Qatar's Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, giving his unequivocal backing for the embattled leader, Erdogan told Turkish media. "It was a significant show of political support at a time when the situation in Turkey was still highly uncertain," said Rice University's Kristian Coates Ulrichsen. "And it contrasted sharply with the lukewarm statements that came out of Western capitals, both at the time and in the weeks since the attempted coup."

Those tepid reactions from elsewhere have been readily highlighted by Erdogan supporters. And at the same time that Turkey has grown suspicious of some in the West, it has ostentatiously thanked the Gulf emirate, especially in Doha. August is a hot and sticky month in the Qatari capital when many envoys flee the heat and head overseas, but not so Turkish ambassador Ahmet Demirok who has been conspicuous only by his presence.

In the days following the coup, Demirok hosted a press conference at his embassy in part to give a government overview of the situation back home for the up to 8,000 Turks living in the emirate, and also to thank the Qataris. Earlier this month Demirok, together with the local Turkish Chamber

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operation in Syria could become a drawn-out affair that stokes tensions with Washington if Ankara continues to take the fight to US-backed Kurdish fighters, analysts say. Turkey says its unprecedented offensive aims to rid the border of both the Islamic State group and the anti-IS Kurdish YPG militia, which Ankara also considers a terrorist group. But since sending in tanks to help Syrian Arab rebels rout IS from the border town of Jarabulus last week, Turkey's fight has been mainly with forces affiliated to the YPG.

Yesterday, the US said it had brokered

a "loose agreement" between the two sides to suspend hostilities "for at least the next couple of days". Turkey neither confirmed nor denied the claim, saying only it awaited the fulfillment of a Kurdish promise to the US to retreat east of the Euphrates river "as soon as possible". Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus confirmed Monday the army aimed to prevent the creation of a Kurdish-controlled corridor running nearly the entire length of the border, which would bolster Kurdish PKK rebels in southeast Turkey.

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### DUBAI BURNISHES ARTS WITH NEW OPERA HOUSE



DUBAI: A woman walks near the new Dubai Opera on Aug 28, 2016. The city-state is opening the Dubai Opera tonight, in the shadow of the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. The building resembles one of the many traditional wooden dhows still plying the Dubai Creek. — AP (See Page 37)



This undated image shows Abu Muhammad Al-Adnani, the Islamic State militant group's spokesman, who was killed in northern Syria. — AP





**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairperson and CEO of Kuwait Airways Rasha Al-Roumi, Captain Abdulmohsen Al-Faq'aan, and Engineer Talal Al-Tamimi. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with former MP Rashid Saif Al-Hojailan and Dr Ahmad Rashid Al-Hojailan.**



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Nayif Al-Harbi.**

# AMIR MEETS KUWAIT AIRWAYS OFFICIALS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Chairperson and CEO of Kuwait Airways Rasha Al-Roumi, Captain Abdulmohsen Al-Faq'aan, and Engineer Talal Al-Tamimi. The officials briefed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the company's future plans and strategies. Roumi later met with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as well.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received Montaha Mohammad Al-Ajil who won the Global Leadership Awards 2016 for fashion category held in Bali. His Highness also separately received Dr Abdullah Abdulqader Al-Kamali and Dr Nayif Al-Harbi, who presented to His Highness their PhD in basic education.

His Highness received former MP Rashid Saif Al-Hojailan and Dr Ahmad Rashid Al-Hojailan who presented His Highness with a PhD on administrative law. Meanwhile, His Highness received Dr Abdulaziz Al-Sunafi, who presented to His Highness his PhD thesis in mathematics. Moreover, His Highness received Dr Haifa Al-Ajmi who presented her PhD thesis in petroleum engineering and Dr Istiqlal Al-Azmi

who presented her PhD in political science. Separately, His Highness the Crown Prince received Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yusef Al-Ali, as well as former minister Ahmad Al-Abdullah Baqer.

### Condolences

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to Yemeni President Abd Rabbu Mansur Hadi expressing his condolences over the victims of the terrorist attack against a military base in Aden on Monday. His Highness the Amir condemned this terrorist act, which left tens of people killed and injured, praying to Almighty God to bestow mercy upon souls of the victims and wished the injured quick recovery.

His Highness the Amir, in the cable, affirmed the State of Kuwait's strong condemnation of this brazen terrorist act that targeted innocent people. He also reiterated the unwavering rejection of all forms of terrorism, Kuwait's solidarity with the international community in the fight against this scourge, as well as the efforts aimed at drying up its resources. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to President Hadi. —KUNA



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Montaha Mohammad Al-Ajil.**



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Istiqlal Al-Azmi.**



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Abdulaziz Al-Sunafi.**



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Airways Rasha Al-Roumi.**



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yusef Al-Ali.**



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with former minister Ahmad Al-Abdullah Baqer.**

# KUWAIT'S CONTRIBUTIONS HELP ALLEVIATE SUFFERING OF SYRIAN PEOPLE: UNICEF

**KUWAIT:** UN Children Fund (UNICEF) has highlighted the State of Kuwait's contributions to help Syrian people suffering from conflict that shattered their country, thus depriving millions from decent living conditions, health and nutrition, and education for children.

Syria has been facing the largest humanitarian crisis in the world, with an estimated 13.5 million people in need of urgent life-saving assistance inside Syria, including six million children. Families have been forced from their homes and livelihoods have been destroyed. More than four million people have fled the country and 6.5 million were internally displaced (IDPs).

The Kuwaiti government and people rushed to help their Syrian brethren soon after the conflict broke out in March 2011, and have contributed \$24 million to help millions of people who have become either IDPs or refugees in neighboring countries - Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

UNICEF, in a report released last July highlighting Kuwait's contribution since June 2015, said the Arab Gulf country contributed \$45 million to the Fund to support the "Syria Crisis Response." This contribution, a tiny part of Kuwait's assistance, was divided into \$24 million to support Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, while \$21 million allocated to help the Whole of Syria.

The Syrian people's needs have been growing with no resolution to the conflict, now in its fifth year, looked imminent. The conflict killed more than 250,000 people and wounded many more others. Children were particularly vulnerable to grave rights violations such as recruitment into armed groups including exploitation and abuse. Access to basic services such as education, health care, water sanitation and social services remained inadequate.

Some 26 of hospitals in Syria were not functioning, resulting in 42 percent of population lacking access to basic health care. One-third of children under five years old have not been reached with routine immunization, said the UNICEF report.

It noted that one in every four schools was destroyed or damaged, and more than two million children were out of school. This situation was further aggravated by water shortages, where around 70 percent of population live without regular access to water, both due to deliberate cuts by parties to the conflict and extensive damage to water infrastructure.

### Generous contribution

Kuwait, answering the UN calls, made generous contribution to UNICEF to support the Syrian people. The purpose of this \$45 million contribution was to address large scale humanitarian needs by targeting the most vulnerable through prioritized, life-saving interventions that alleviated suffering, while maintaining and protecting human dignity.

The contribution enabled UNICEF to address needs of children and their families inside Syria and in neighboring countries, thus enabled the UN agency to support safe water supply and other services to prevent outbreak of diarrhea, typhoid, polio, and other water-borne and contagious diseases.

UNICEF and its partners reached 4.8 million people inside Syria and 954,124 refugees with water sanitation and hygiene interventions, which included clean drinking water. These supplies, said the report, were critical to ensure a healthy environment.

The Kuwait funding has also enabled UNICEF to expand its human resources, financial preparedness and response capacity, not only for immediate life-saving interventions but

also for building resilience through strengthening of national systems and capacities to address medium and long-term needs of refugees and host communities.

Kuwait's role was not restricted to direct involvement in UNICEF's activities, but through collaborating with other organizations to provide funding to support education, protecting children in Syria from losing hope in their future by giving them access to skills, knowledge and opportunities in safe places.

This collaboration, part of the 'No Lost Generation' initiative, benefited 320,000 Syrian children inside Syria and in neighboring countries. "Children who are not in school are more vulnerable to protection risks such as labor, begging or fending for themselves on the streets and child marriages and forced recruitment to armed groups inside Syria," said the report.

But the Kuwaiti funding provided tangible support to education and access to psychosocial support through recreational activities, counseling and sport, said the report. The funding, added the report, continued to help 293,443 Syrian children regain a sense of normalcy in "their often turbulent lives."

### Horrible picture

Much has been achieved but a lot remains to be done, said UNICEF, depicting a horrible picture of the conditions of the Syrian people. It said about 5.1 million people inside Syria were living in areas with explosive remnants of war, while one in four children were at risk of developing a mental disorder. More than 6,000 schools - or some one-third of total schools - could no longer be used because they were destroyed, damaged, sheltering displaced families or being used for military purposes. More than 52,000 teachers have left the country.

The funding of Kuwait has reached hundreds of thousands of needy Syrians to help provide a variety of services like water, sanitation and hygiene, health and nutrition, education, in addition to clothes for winter.

UNICEF expressed utmost gratitude to the State of Kuwait for its "significant and flexible" contribution which has enabled the UN agency to maximize its response to needs of Syrian children and their families, both inside Syria and in the neighboring countries.

"Kuwait funding has been critical to the Syria crisis emergency response and has enabled UNICEF to scale up operations through expanded capacities not only to save lives, but also to build resilience to address medium and long-term needs of Syria's children, adolescents and their families," said the UNICEF report. — KUNA

## ALABAMA SENATE COMMENDS AMIR'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

**KUWAIT:** The US Alabama State Senate has adopted a resolution commending the humanitarian efforts of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. In the resolution, put forward by Senator William Beasley on August 19, the Senate conveys "highest commendation — to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for being the humanitarian leader of Kuwait affirming the country's positive and leading role for humanitarian assistance." His Highness the Amir was honored by the UN in 2014, as a 'Humanitarian Leader' and Kuwait as a 'Humanitarian Center'.

Since His Highness the Amir assumed power in 2006, "Kuwait's humanitarian aid has experienced a worldwide reach as the efforts have raised the volume of aid and relief supplies provided to countries hit by catastrophes and crises," the resolution read. It reviewed the Kuwaiti aid to the Syrian people since the outbreak of their crisis in 2011, as "several humanitarian

campaigns have been launched to aid refugees in Syria's neighboring countries." The Senate pointed to His Highness the Amir's support to the Palestinian cause and people, with donations channeled through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

At the behest of His Highness the Amir, Kuwait has rendered assistance to other countries struck by catastrophes, including Bangladesh, following a cyclone in 2007, Turkey and Japan in the aftermath of destructive earthquakes in 2011, Somalia in 2011, and the Philippines in 2014, the resolution said.

In addition, Kuwait "made a generous donation to the World Health Organization (WHO) to aid in the combat of the spread of Ebola virus." The resolution highly appreciated His Highness the Amir's efforts as "an active member in the international community with a long history of commitment to international and humanitarian aid." — KUNA



## SWITZERLAND, KUWAIT OPEN NEW CHAPTER IN TIES: AMBASSADOR

**BERN:** The First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's visit to Switzerland has resulted in opening a new chapter in the bilateral relations between the State of Kuwait and the European nation, Kuwait's ambassador said.

Ambassador Bader Al-Tunaib said the warm hospitality accorded to Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and his delegation reflected the Swiss Government's sentiments of admiration toward the Kuwaiti Government and people. The Swiss leaders admire Kuwait's development policies and generous aid to needy nations, eye the Gulf State as a key regional "political and development player" and a prospected vital partner at the development level, Ambassador Tunaib added.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's meetings with the senior leaders, namely the president, the foreign minister and the parliament speaker, dealt with boosting the bilateral ties, stability in the Middle East, the refugees and human rights, he said, adding that the two sides concurred that dialogue and negotiations



**Kuwaiti Ambassador to Switzerland Bader Al-Tunaib**

are the best avenues for restoring stability to the region. The two sides have also tackled economic cooperation namely in the business sector. Bern witnessed on Monday a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of establishing the Swiss-Kuwaiti diplomatic ties. The event was attended by Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and the Swiss leaders. — KUNA

# HOLLANDE STRESSES 'CONFIDENT RELATIONS' WITH GCC COUNTRIES

## TERRORISM GLOBAL, LASTING THREAT: FRENCH PRESIDENT

**PARIS:** French President Francois Hollande yesterday stressed the close ties built up between France and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, as well as the ongoing cooperation in fighting terrorism and seeking regional stability. Speaking in a keynote address to France's foreign ambassadors convened at the Elysee Palace, Hollande said France was willing to work with the countries in of the Gulf region and further friendly ties, and also work on bridging the divide with Iran as it seeks to re-integrate the international community.

Hollande said that France favored this re-integration after decades of isolation of Iran because of its controversial and opaque nuclear programs. "If Iran wants to achieve (reintegration), it must contribute to calming the situation in the region," Hollande said.

"France is ready to facilitate this process with the countries of the Gulf," he added. "Everyone knows the confident relations that we have been able to build up with these countries." The president said there were several areas where France saw a potential role as a 'useful' broker or mediator.

### Global threat

Meanwhile, Hollande warned that terrorism is "the greatest threat" being faced by the international community and this threat is set to last. Speaking to France's 181 ambassadors on post abroad, the French leader said his country was intensifying its efforts to fight terrorism which is emerging in many areas throughout the globe.

Much of the terrorist threat emanates from so-called Islamic State operations in Syria and Iraq, where France has recently increased its military activity against this extremist group. But Hollande cautioned that threats from this group and others had emerged in other areas.

"In Libya, in Yemen, in Egypt, in Somalia, Nigeria, with Boko Haram, and even in Asia recently in Bangladesh (and) I could continue the list," he said. "The whole world in therefore concerned, and it will be for the duration," he added. He said France and the international community must not only act against terrorism but "prepare for this war that will be long." He urged "all partners" to work together to

fight the scourge of terrorism.

Hollande stressed that France and the United States and the NATO alliance were working together to improve cooperation and coordination in Syria, where IS has taken control of large areas but is under increasing pressure to retreat and is losing ground.

He also indicated "regular exchanges" with Russia on the Syrian question and he urged that Russia become "an actor" in finding a settlement to the conflict, rather than "a protagonist" involved in the military campaign to support the Damascus regime.

### The Syrian crisis

A diplomatic source told KUNA that Hollande discussed Syria with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the side-lines of the latest G20 meeting and that Putin is coming to Paris for talks on October 19, when the subject will be broached again. But Hollande also warned that terrorism cannot be defeated if the sources of conflict are not addressed.

"If we want to take a lucid look at this, there will be no victorious fight against terrorism if the crises that give it a fertile ground do not find (solutions)," the President remarked. Among these crises, he cited the "horrible tragedy" in Syria, with more than 300,000 dead, five million refugees outside the country and nine million internally displaced.

Hollande condemned the terrible humanitarian catastrophe in Syria, the use of chemical weapons by the regime and probably by the Islamic State forces and the huge number of abuses of human rights and myriad violations of humanitarian law.

"There must be a halt to this carnage and France calls for this immediately," the French leader stated, adding that "these crimes cannot go unpunished." He further warned about the risk of the Syrian war spreading and he said it had "grave consequences for the region, for Europe and (France's) own security."

### Foreign forces

"Today the massive presence of foreign forces in Syria demonstrates the internationalization of the conflict," he warned. The recent entry of Turkish troops into Syria to combat Islamic State "can be



**PARIS: French President Francois Hollande gestures as he addresses French ambassadors yesterday in Paris. — AFP**

perfectly understood" in view of the terror attacks carried out by IS in Turkey, Hollande continued. But he spoke out to caution against the Turkish action against Kurdish forces, which are supported by the Coalition, saying this kind of action was "contradictory and brings the risk of a general blow-up" in the conflict.

Hollande reiterated a frequent call for a halt to the fighting and a resumption of the peace process which he said exists and should be used. "The (Syrian) regime and its supporters think the solution is military while the way out is political," he affirmed, noting that the peace negotiations track has never really been exploited to the full.

Hollande also addressed the moribund Middle East peace process that France has been seeking to revive, notably by hosting a ministerial conference in June to establish a framework for fresh talks between Israelis and Palestinians. Even if the move has been rejected by Israel, Hollande said that he hoped for 'concrete measures' as decided at the June meeting and which are planned before the end of the year. — KUNA



## KUWAIT TACKLES DWINDLING FISH WEALTH

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) launched yesterday the second phase of a national campaign titled 'enriching the fish wealth,' effective September. Dr Khaled Abdullelah, in charge of KISR's fish breeding, said that the institute will release into the sea waters up to 135,000 fish during the coming days; in coordination with government authorities and public welfare societies.

The institute, in the first stage of the

campaign, released more than 126, 000 fish into the territorial waters, he said, indicating that the project is vital to make up for dwindling amounts of the fish in Kuwait's sea waters. He called for abstention from excessive fishing or acts that damage the marine environment. The first phase of the project, patronized by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, was launched last August. — KUNA

# KUWAITI TEACHERS INVITED TO ARABIC TEACHING PROGRAM IN US

## YOUTH TO INVEST IN 1,000 SCHOOL CANTEENS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti teachers are invited to be involved in a special US program to teach Arabic to American students in a US college, the US Embassy's Cultural Attaché Dr Zennia Paganini announced yesterday. Explaining some features of the program, called the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program, Dr Paganini said it is a nine-month activity for early career English teachers or professionals in related fields who will teach Arabic to US students in a US college. The program is fully funded by the Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs and it is an integral part of the Fulbright Foreign Student exchange program.

Dr Paganini shed some light on prospected impact of the program on the Kuwait-US relations, saying the FLTA participants will have an excellent opportunity to extend their knowledge of the society and culture of the United States while serving as cultural ambassadors of Kuwait.

In addition to being teaching assistants of Arabic to US students, participants will engage in community service activities, learn about US values, and share their Kuwaiti culture with American citizens. "This year, we are delighted to be working closely with the (Kuwait) Ministry of Education to publicize the program to English language teachers," Dr Paganini said.

Elaborating on the program benefits, she said Kuwaiti teachers will have an excellent opportunity to connect with other language teaching professionals and academics. This year, the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs is expected to fund approximately 100 Arab Fulbright FLTA participants from the Middle East and North African region.

### Direct communication

Those participants will meet in an Arabic FLTA orientation to prepare for their teaching experience. During the program, the FLTAs will be in direct communication with American students and faculty members on US campuses, which will help strengthen their foreign language instruction skills, and refine their English language proficiency.

They will also interact with host communities in conversation groups, extracurricular activities, and



**Dr Zennia Paganini, the US Cultural Attaché in Kuwait**

community outreach projects. As a result, FLTAs also typically gain experience in public speaking and presenting. FLTAs attend a mid-year enrichment conference, and also enroll in two college courses dealing with US Studies per semester, at their host institutions, which affords them a wonderful chance to gain further insight into US culture and society. After the program, Fulbright FLTAs return to their home countries and can immediately apply their newly acquired professional skills and experience to directly benefit their own educational institutions.

On application requirement, the cultural attach said applicants must be Kuwaiti citizens who are English teachers, or recent graduates of American studies, journalism/media studies, or American/English literature.

English language proficiency is mandatory and should be demonstrated with a TOEFL IBT score (79-80 minimum) or IELTS score (6.0 in total). Complete applications should be submitted through the links available on the US Embassy's social media platforms on twitter and Instagram. The Embassy will only con-



**Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa**

tact short-listed applicants for interviews. Last date to submit applications will be on September third.

### School canteens

In other news, the Ministry of Education announced yesterday that it will offer Kuwaiti youth the opportunity to invest in 1,000 school canteens. This step seeks to support youth in small and medium enterprises, Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa said after heading a meeting at the Ministry of Education for supporting the youth projects. The meeting was attended by the ministry's officials, representatives of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development and in addition of 30 young men.

Essa stated that a team is formed with members from Ministry of Education, State Ministry of Youth Affairs, SME and a number of young people, where they will put the outline and framework for this idea. Up to 30 days' grace period was given to work out the relevant plan. This project goes in line with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's desire to support Kuwaiti youth, the minister concluded. — KUNA

# EPA LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT LOCAL ISLANDS

**KUWAIT:** Environment Public Authority (EPA) announced yesterday it has prepared a national campaign to protect and rehabilitate some locations on Kuwaiti islands, namely Kubbar, Um Al-Maradim and Garuh.

The first campaign will be launched on Kubbar Island, as EPA holds daily meetings with various state institutions to prepare for this campaign, EPA's Director General Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said. The latest meetings were held with Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), he added.

EPA is working on rehabilitating Kubbar as it is the most visited island, thanks to its close proximity, big size and its biological diversity, he said. Kubbar has been subjected to many environmental violations, a matter that would necessitate cooperation be fostered among the state institutions to lift the wastes from this island, he added.

It is considered one of the most beautiful Kuwaiti islands and a touristic destination which requires great care to be made in order to protect and maintain



**Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah**

its wildlife, as it cherishes a large number of coral reefs and is a heaven for rare sea birds, he said.

Meanwhile, Kubbar is currently witnessing cleaning campaigns for its shores and coral reefs, he added. Um Al-Maradim and Garuh islands are the other two islands which need be given extra care to protect its natural richness, he concluded. — KUNA



**The Kubbar island.**



## FOUR TOP INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS RETIRED

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah issued decisions to retire Major General Mahmoud Al-Tabbakh, Major General Abdullah Al-Ali, Brig Abdelrahman Al-Suhail and Major General Faisal Al-Seneen. The decision included the promotion of the major generals to lieutenant generals and the brigadier to major general.



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah

**Price control**  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's

Undersecretary Matar Al-Mutairi said inspection teams have been formed in all governorates to follow and monitor prices in cooperatives and submit regular reports on the results in order to take legal action. Mutairi said this step comes in implementation of the Cabinet decision asking social affairs and commerce ministries to check prices to make sure that the gasoline price hike will not be used to increase other prices by some businesses.

### Reduced rents

Official spokesman of Public Authority for Housing Welfare Ibrahim Al-Nashi said West Abdullah al-Mubarak project, which includes 5,201 lots, is one of the biggest residential areas built by PAHW, adding that most residents will build three floors that includes at least two flats in each plot, which will add nearly 15,000 flats in the market, and this will reduce rents in the country. Nashi said the distribution mechanism of building permits are linked to the municipality, adding that the PAHW is interested in the actual date of completion, preceded by coordination with the Ministry of Electricity and Water, besides contacts with the Kuwait Credit Bank in order to get real estate loans, which will be in November.



Two vehicles pictured following an accident between Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Abdullah Al-Mubarak.



KUWAIT: A vehicle flipped over following an accident on Sixth Ring Road.

# DRIVER KILLED IN 6<sup>TH</sup> RING ROAD ACCIDENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** An Asian driver was killed when the car he was driving flipped over several times on Sixth Ring Road near the shooting range. Jahra occupational fire center rushed to the scene and found the driver dead, and handed his body to forensic authorities. A case was filed to investigate the causes of the accident. Meanwhile, a vehicle flipped over on King Fahd Road. Quraïn fire center dealt with the accident and the injured driver was rescued and handed to paramedics. A case was filed for investigations. Separately, two vehicles collided between Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Abdullah Al-Mubarak, so Jleeb

fire center responded and found a man trapped in a vehicle. Parts of the car were cut and he was freed. He was injured in the shoulder. In another incident, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's (KFSD) public relations and information department said a truck flipped over near Naseem roundabout. Jahra occupational fire center responded, with backup from Jahra fire center, and the truck was pulled aside.

contained and kept from spreading, then sand was heaped on the fire to put it out. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, trees caught fire in Sabah Al-Nasser, which was fought by Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh center. The fire was limited, contained and put out in 10 minutes.

### Inappropriate decal

The Ministry of Interior's relations and security information department said police arrested a man who placed an inappropriate decal on his car. It said the sticker was seen on social media, then concerned authorities identified and located him, and he was arrested and sent to concerned authorities.

### Fires

Fire broke out in a cement company in Mina Abdullah. Umm Al-Haiman fire center, backed by Mina Abdullah fire center, responded and found out the fire was in the tire dump. The fire was



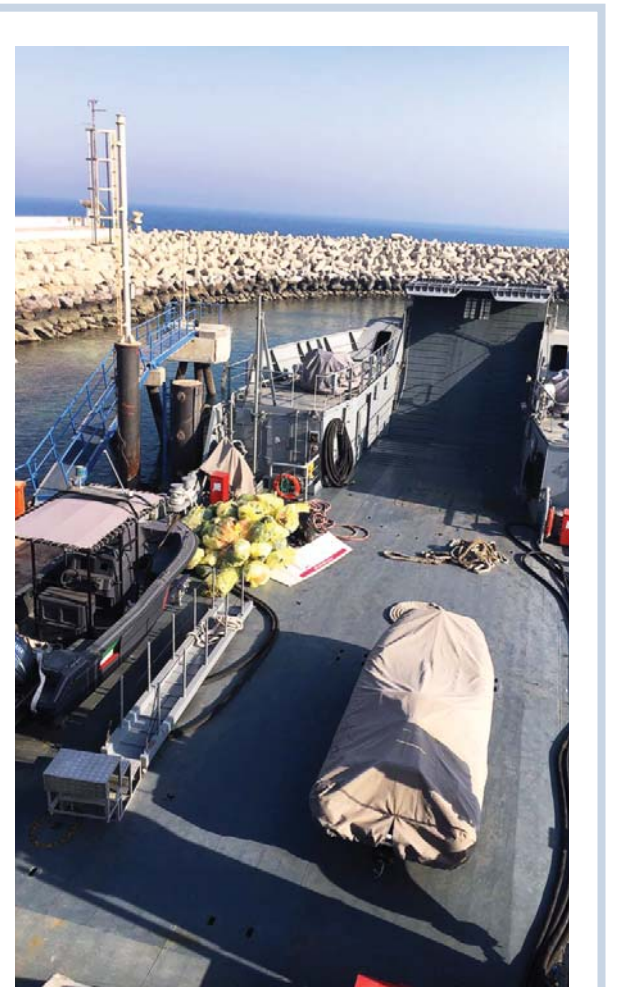
## MUNICIPALITY INSPECTORS CHECK SLAUGHTERHOUSES

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality organized inspection tours at slaughterhouses in all governorates to make sure they are completely ready and guarantee the smooth flow of work. The inspection included examining the equipment and preparations at the main and temporary slaughter-

houses under the supervision of acting director Abdallah Al-Shimmari. Jahra municipality slaughterhouse official Mughaimesh Al-Enezi said the abattoir is ready with 115 butchers, 40 loading workers, 30 cleaners and 25 municipality employees.



KUWAIT: The Coastguard General Department organized cleaning campaigns at Kubbar, Garouh and Um Al-Maradem islands recently in cooperation with Kuwait Municipality.



**KUWAIT:** Acting Deputy Director General for Prevention Sector at KFSD Brig Abdullah Fahd said the department inspected north Zour power station. The inspection included fire equipment which KFSDs asked to be installed, such as firefighting systems and water pumps during the construction stages. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun



In Brief

DUTCH KING PRAISES TIES WITH KUWAIT

**THE HAGUE:** King Willem-Alexander of Netherlands has hailed the strong ties between his country and Kuwait, mainly in the economic field. While meeting the outgoing Kuwaiti Ambassador Hafeedh Al-Ajmi on Monday, King Willem-Alexander noted the economic cooperation between the two sides, recalling the selection of The Hague as the headquarters for Kuwait Petroleum International (Q8). — KUNA



SECURITY CHIEF MEETS ALGERIAN DIPLOMAT

**KUWAIT:** Chief of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah held a meeting with Algerian Ambassador to Kuwait Abdulhameed Abdawi, discussing with him issues of regional and international importance. Moreover, the meeting also touched on ways to develop bilateral relations, the National Security Bureau said in a statement. — KUNA



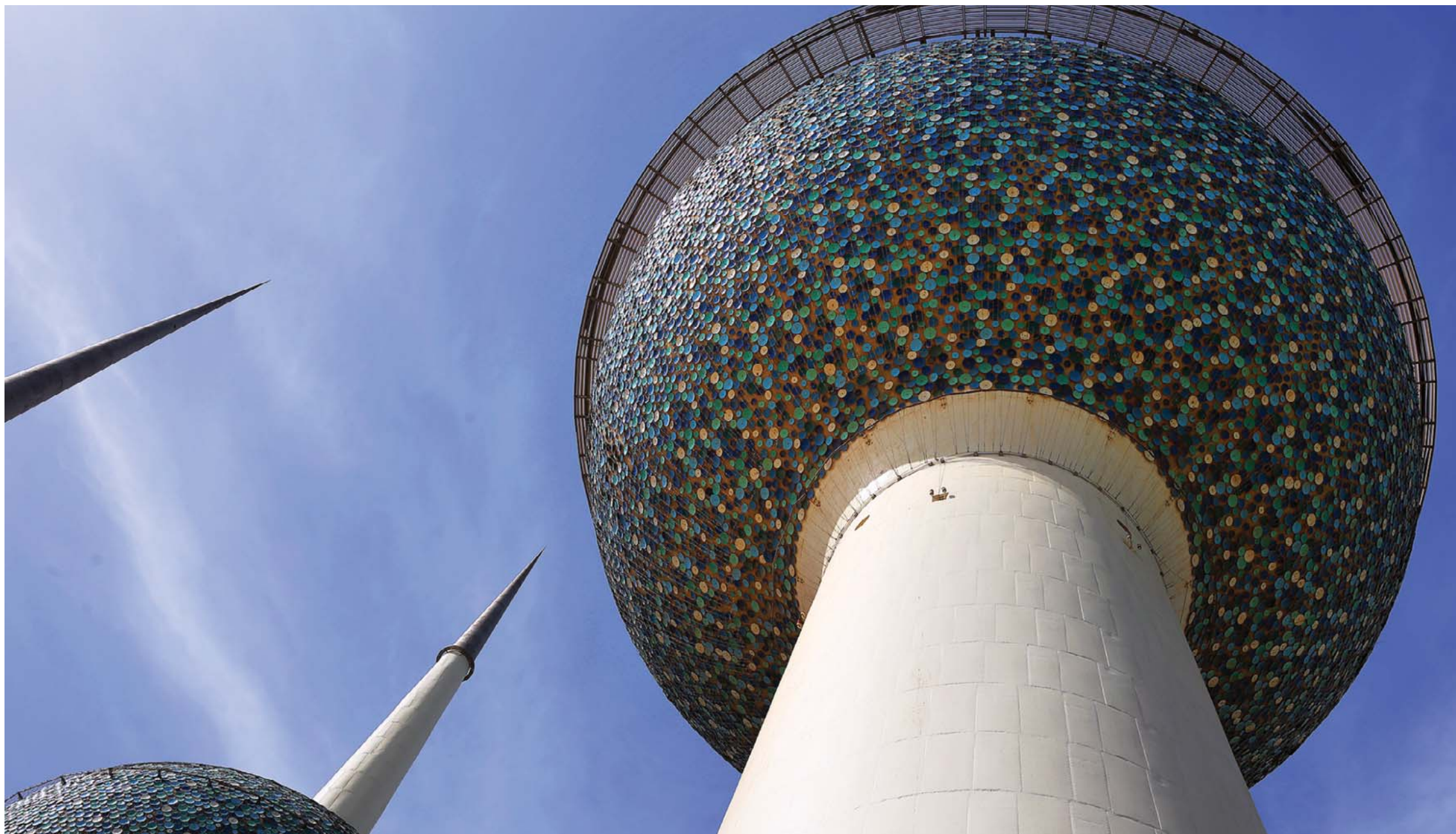
DEFENSE MINISTRY ATTENDS CZECH WAR VETERANS EVENT

**PRAGUE:** The Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense has recently taken part in a ceremony in the Czech Republic marking the 25th anniversary of Kuwait's Liberation war, in which Czech forces participated. The ceremony was organized by the War Veterans Department at the Czech Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces, the Kuwaiti embassy in Prague said in a statement yesterday. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A worm's-eye view for Kuwait Towers. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

COMMERCIAL BANK ORGANIZES EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait contributed to the education process in Hawally governorate. In that regard, the bank announced that it organized a campaign that aims at providing part of school requirements to elementary students. The support is part of the bank's preparations to support several social activities organized by Kuwait's governorates to serve members of the society. Assistant Director General, Advertisement and Public Relations, Amani Al-Waraa, said the support given by the bank to Hawally governorate shows once again CBK's keenness on supporting social activities of civil society institutions, headed by Kuwait governorates, for their material and moral contributions to residents.



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**PEOPLE WARNED FROM FAKE DOMESTIC HELP OFFICES**

**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry's relations and security information department warned citizens and expats against falling victim to ads by fake domestic help offices, adding they should only deal with licensed ones and not through social media. It said that the department of residency detectives noticed that many citizen and expats submitted complaints against bogus domestic help offices. The fraudsters take the maids, who are on article 20 visas, to homes in order to convince owners of the home delivery service, though all those offices are bogus and registered and do not have licenses. After they deliver the maid and get the fees, the turn off their mobiles and tell the maid to escape again, in order for her services to be offered to another family in the same illegal way.

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# NBK CONCLUDES ITS 2016 SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM



**KUWAIT:** The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) concluded the third training course of its 2016 Summer Training Program, which is dedicated to students aged between 15 and 20 years. The course featured visits to Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Al-Rai Media Group, and other places where they underwent training to prepare to enter the labor market. The program, held for the fifteenth consecutive year, consists of four courses, each lasts for two weeks with 5-hour-long daily courses.



**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry set up a pavilion at Kuwait International Airport to provide assistance to pilgrims leaving from or passing through Kuwait to the holy lands in Saudi Arabia.



**KUWAIT:** Director of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad met recently with Dr Adnan Al-Tamami, President of the GCC Emergency Management Center. The two sides discussed improving cooperation in the fields of firefighting and emergency management. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

## VIVA ANNOUNCES SPECIAL HAJJ OFFER FOR KD 12

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the special hajj offer for both postpaid and prepaid customers, during performing the holy duty in Saudi Arabia, starting 28 August until 16 September 2016.

Hajj package aims to ease the pilgrims' journey to Makkah, by being able to stay in touch with their families and loved ones as soon as they arrive. For only KD 12, all VIVA

customers will be eligible to enjoy unlimited calls and data, using the Saudi network STC. VIVA is a leader in the telecom arena in Kuwait, thus it is keen to provide the pilgrims ease of mind during the season of hajj by launching this special package. To activate this package, send 44 to 102, and for further information please visit one of the 70 VIVA branches, or the VIVA website at [www.viva.com.kw](http://www.viva.com.kw), or call VIVA's 24 hour call center on 102.

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**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. During the meeting, Mutairi announced a new service for retirees, who can now obtain salary certificates directly from service centers.





**Kerry presses for closer India trade and security ties**

## LIBYA'S LAST CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKS SHIPPED OUT

# IS BURIED THOUSANDS IN 72 MASS GRAVES

5,200 TO MORE THAN 15,000 PEOPLE BURIED

**HARDAN:** Surrounded by smoke and flames, the sound of gunshots echoing around him, the young man crouched in the creek for hours, listening to the men in his family die. On the other side of the mountain, another survivor peered through binoculars as the handcuffed men of neighboring villages were shot and then buried by a waiting bulldozer. For six days he watched as the extremists filled one grave after another with his friends and relatives.

Between them, the two scenes of horror on Sinjar mountain contain six burial sites and the bodies of more than 100 people, just a small fraction of the mass graves Islamic State extremists have scattered across Iraq and Syria. In exclusive interviews, photos and research, The Associated Press has documented and mapped 72 of the mass graves, the most comprehensive survey so far, with many more expected to be uncovered as the Islamic State group's territory shrinks.

In Syria, AP has obtained locations for 17 mass graves, including one with the bodies of hundreds of members of a single tribe all but exterminated when IS extremists took over their region. For at least 16 of the Iraqi graves, most in territory too dangerous to excavate, officials do not even guess the number of dead. In others, the estimates are based on memories of traumatized survivors, Islamic State propaganda and what can be gleaned from a cursory look at the earth. Still, even the known victims buried are staggering - from 5,200 to more than 15,000.

Sinjar mountain is dotted with mass graves, some in territory clawed back from IS after the group's onslaught against the Yazidi minority in August 2014; others in the deadly no man's land that has yet to be secured. The bodies of Talal Murat's father, uncles and cousins lie beneath the rubble of the family farm, awaiting a time when it is safe for surviving relatives to return to the place where the men were gunned down. On Sinjar's other flank, Rashed Qassim drives daily past the graves holding the bodies of his two sons.

The road is in territory long since

firm AllSource Analysis. Of the 72 mass graves documented by AP, the smallest contains three bodies; the largest is believed to hold thousands, but no one knows for sure.

### Watch the slaughter

On the northern flank of Sinjar mountain, five grave sites ring a desert crossroads. It is here that the young men of Hardan village are buried, under thirties and piles of cracked earth. They were killed in the bloody IS offensive of August 2014. Through his binoculars, Arkan Qassem watched it all. His village, Gurmiz, is just up the slope from Hardan, giving a clear view over the plain below. When the jihadis swept over the area, everyone in Gurmiz fled up the mountain top for refuge. Then Arkan and nine other men returned to their village with light weapons to try to defend their homes.

Instead, all they could do was watch the slaughter below. Arkan witnessed the militants set up checkpoints, preventing residents from leaving. Women and children were taken away. Then the killings began. The first night, Arkan saw the militants line up a group of handcuffed men in the headlights of a bulldozer at an intersection, less than a kilometer (half mile) down the slope from Gurmiz. They gunned the men down, then the bulldozer plowed the earth over their bodies.

Over six days, Arkan and his comrades watched helplessly as the fighters brought out three more groups of men - several dozen each, usually with hands bound - to the crossroads and killed them. He didn't always see what they did with the bodies. One time, he saw them lighting a bonfire, but he couldn't see why. Finally, the jihadis brought in artillery and prepared to make an assault on Gurmiz. Arkan and his comrades fled up the mountain to where their families had taken refuge. Now, since IS fighters were driven out of the area, the 32-year-old has returned to his home.

But he's haunted by the site. As documented by the aid group Yazda, which has mapped the Sinjar sites, the graves are in a rough pentagon flanking the crossroads, largely unprotected. Around



**RAMADI:** An Iraqi security forces forensic team works at the site of a mass grave believed to contain the bodies of Iraqi civilians, security forces and members of their families, including women and children, killed by Islamic State group militants at the stadium area in Ramadi, Iraq. — AP

issue of its online English-language magazine Dabiq, it scolded Muslims for allowing the Yazidis to continue existing, calling their ancient religion a form of paganism. It quoted Quranic verses to justify killing the Yazidis unless they become Muslim. Thwarted in their halfhearted attempt at conversions, the fighters separated about 35 teenage girls and young women from the rest, crammed them into a few cars and drove away. The militants herded the older women and young children into the farmhouse and locked the door. Then they lined the men and teenagers boys against the wall of the stables - around 40 in all, including Talal.

There were too many of them, too bunched up, to efficiently mow down, so the fighters then ordered them to lie on the ground in a row, Talal said. That was when his uncle told him to make a run for it. Talal bolted into his uncle's hayfield, as did several other men. The militants fired at them, and the bullets ignited the hay, dry from the summer sun. The fire covered Talal's escape, and he took shelter in a nearby creek. There he hid, listening as the gunmen shot his family to death. He eventually fled toward the mountain, joined by three others who had survived the massacre. Four out of 40. Back at the farm, the gunmen eventually left and the women and children emerged, looking around with growing horror.

Nouri Murat, Talal's mother, found her husband. His body was untouched, but his head was shattered. Her daughters, she said, were confused at first. "This is strange, this body is wearing my father's clothes," one of them said. As Nouri frantically searched around the property for any surviving menfolk, her 9-year-old daughter Rukhan lay down beside her father's corpse. Finally, other women persuaded the family to head to the mountain before the Islamic State fighters returned. As they began the long walk north, Nouri noticed Rukhan's bloody fist. Fearing her daughter was wounded, she pried open the girl's clenched fingers. Inside were a handful of her father's teeth.

### They don't hide their crimes

Nearly every area freed from IS control has unmasked new mass graves, like one found by the sports stadium in the Iraqi city of Ramadi. Many of the graves themselves are easy enough to find, most covered with just a thin coating of earth. "They don't even try to hide their crimes," said Sirwan Jalal, the director of Iraqi Kurdistan's agency in charge of mass graves. "They are beheading them, shooting them, running them over in cars, all kinds of killing techniques, and they don't even try to hide it." No one outside IS has seen the Iraqi ravine where hundreds of Shiite prison inmates were killed point blank and then torched. Satellite images of scraped dirt along the river point to its location, according to Steve Wood of AllSource.

His analysts triangulated survivors' accounts and began to systematically search the desert according to their descriptions of that day, June 10, 2014. The inmates were separated out by religion, and Shiites were loaded onto trucks, driven for a few kilometers and forced to line up and count off, according to accounts by 15 survivors gathered by Human Rights Watch. Then they knelt along the edge of the crescent-shaped

main road and the railway outside Mosul. The bodies are believed to be packed tightly together, side by side in a space approximately the length of two football fields end to end, in what the AllSource analysis described as a "sardine trench."

Tire tracks lead to and from the site. "There's actually earth that has been pushed over and actually moved to cover parts of the ravine. As we look across the entire ravine we only see that in this one location," said Wood. "Ultimately there are many, many more sites across Iraq and Syria that have yet to be either forensically exhumed or be able to be detailed and there's quite a bit more research that needs to take place."

The key, Wood said, is having photos to indicate a grave's location taken soon after its creation. Justice has been done in at least one IS mass killing - that of about 1,700 Iraqi soldiers who were forced to lie face-down in a ditch and then machine-gunned at Camp Speicher. On Aug 21, 36 men convicted in those killings were hanged at Iraq's Nasiriyah prison. But justice is likely to be elusive in areas still firmly under IS control, even though the extremists have filmed themselves committing the atrocities. That's the case for a deep natural sinkhole outside Mosul that is now a pit of corpses.

In Syria's Raqqa province, thousands of bodies are believed to have been thrown into the giant Al-Houta crevasse. Conditions in much of Syria remain a mystery. Activists believe there are hundreds of mass graves in IS-controlled areas that can only be explored when fighting stops. By that time, they fear any effort to document the massacres, exhumate and identify the remains will become infinitely more complicated. — AP



**SINJAR:** Photo shows a skeleton exhumed from a mass grave containing Yazidis killed by Islamic State militants in the Sinjar region of northern Iraq. — AP

seized back, but the five sites are untouched, roped off and awaiting the money or the political will for excavation, as the evidence they contain is scoured away by the wind and baked by the sun. "We want to take them out of here. There are only bones left. But they said 'No, they have to stay there, a committee will come and exhume them later,'" said Qassim, standing at the edge of the flimsy fence surrounding one site, where his two sons are buried. "It has been two years but nobody has come."

IS made no attempt to hide its atrocities. In fact it boasted of them. But proving what United Nations officials and others have described as an ongoing genocide - and prosecuting those behind it will be complicated as the graves deteriorate. "We see clear evidence of the intent to destroy the Yazidi people," said Naomi Kikoler, who recently visited the region for the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. "There's been virtually no effort to systematically document the crimes perpetrated, to preserve the evidence, and to ensure that mass graves are identified and protected."

Then there are the graves still out of reach. The Islamic State group's atrocities extend well outside the Yazidi region in northern Iraq. Satellites offer the clearest look at massacres such as the one at Badoush Prison in June 2014 that left 600 male inmates dead. A patch of scraped earth and tire tracks show the likely killing site, according to exclusive photos obtained by the imagery intelligence

one of them is a mesh fence and a wind-battered sign. As Arkan spoke at the site, a shepherd herded his flock nearby. "I have lots of people I know there. Mostly friends and neighbors," he said. "It's very difficult to look at them every day."

### 'My father's clothes'

As IS fighters swarmed into the Sinjar area in early August 2014, Talal fled his town along with his father, mother, four sisters and younger brother. They and dozens of other men, women and children from his extended clan converged on an uncle's farm outside the town of Tel Azer. They prayed it was remote enough to escape the killings that were already engulfing so many Yazidis. It wasn't. The jihadis fired at the house from a distance. Then they rolled up in their vehicles and shot one man in the head as they stood in the yard. They surrounded the farmhouse, ordered everyone outside and demanded the impossible: Convert.

The Yazidi faith, one of the region's oldest, has elements of Christianity and Islam but is distinct. Yazidis worship the Peacock Angel, fallen and forgiven by God under their tradition, and their shrines feature carved images of the birds and references to the sun. Muslim extremists condemned them as "devil worshippers" and over the centuries have subjected them to multiple massacres - 72, by the Yazidis' count.

In its own propaganda, the Islamic State group made clear its intention to wipe out the Yazidi community. In an

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## LIBYA'S LAST CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKS SHIPPED OUT

**TRIPOLI:** Libya has shipped the last of its chemical weapons stocks out of the country, officials said yesterday, under a UN-backed plan to ensure the arsenal could not fall into the wrong hands. The move will ease fears that extremists like the Islamic State group could gain access to the weapons in Libya, which has been wracked by chaos since the 2011 overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi. A senior security official told AFP the stocks, including 23 tanks of chemicals, were shipped out on a Danish vessel on Saturday from the port of Misrata, under the supervision of the United Nations, and were destined for Germany.

The stocks had been stored in the central Jafa area, about 200 kilometers south of Sirte where Libyan pro-government forces are battling IS jihadists, he said. "We as Libyans did not want these weapons, especially during the current security situation and with the presence of IS in the region," the security official said. The deputy prime minister of Libya's Government of National Accord (GNA), Mussa El-Koni, confirmed the operation. "All of Libya's chemical arsenal has been shipped out of the country," he said. "This is good news for Libya, and for the peace of Libya, and we thank all the countries that participated and the UN."

The Danish government had earlier this month offered to send a container vessel, support ship and 200 staff to handle the operation, coordinated by the UN-backed Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). In an emailed statement to AFP, the OPCW said: "We are not in a position to disclose operational details of an ongoing effort." It specified however that the stocks in question "are industrial chemicals in wide use as well as precursor chemicals that are several stages away from being actual chemical weapons."



**TRIPOLI:** A team of Libyan experts and military engineers monitor a dump tank, under the supervision of the United Nations, in Tripoli. Experts were assigned to dump the toxic chemicals found in the air defense missiles and ammunition that was left over from the former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's regime. — AFP

### 500 tons of toxic chemicals

A German defense ministry spokesman said the shipment would arrive in Germany "in the coming weeks" and contained "about 500 tons of toxic chemical products" that would be destroyed by

GEKA, Germany's state-owned company for disposing of chemical weapons. "These chemical products can be used to produce toxic gases or warfare agents, but are not toxic gases or warfare agents," the spokesman said. A Danish foreign ministry

spokesman said the government "can neither confirm nor deny" reports of its involvement.

The UN Security Council on July 22 endorsed plans to remove Libya's remaining chemical weapons from the country and prevent them from falling into the hands of extremists like IS. Libya joined the UN convention on eliminating chemical weapons in 2004 as part of Gaddafi's ultimately abortive efforts to shake off the country's pariah status and mend relations with the West. The convention uses a broad definition of "chemical weapons" to include not only those already prepared for delivery but also toxic chemicals intended for use in weapons and the precursors used to create them.

At the time Libya joined the convention, it declared 24.7 tons of sulphur mustard, 1,390 tons of precursor chemicals and more than 3,500 aerial bombs containing chemical weapons. It had eliminated all the aerial bombs, 51 percent of the sulphur mustard and 40 percent of the precursor chemicals by 2011, when operations to destroy the arsenal were interrupted by the uprising against Gaddafi, according to the OPCW.

Of three chemical weapons production facilities also declared in 2004, two were destroyed and one converted for civilian use, it said. Fears over Libya's remaining stockpiles grew with the rise of the local branch of IS, which took advantage of the country's turmoil last year to seize control of the coastal city of Sirte. Forces loyal to the internationally backed GNA, a unity government that was declared earlier this year but has struggled to assert its authority, have made significant gains against IS in Sirte. After capturing most of the city including IS's central headquarters earlier this month, loyalist forces have cornered the jihadists in one last district. — AFP

## WORLD VISION URGES ISRAEL TO TRY 'HAMAS AID' CASE IN PUBLIC

### ISRAEL DESTROYS HOME OF PALESTINIAN LINKED TO DEADLY ATTACK

**JERUSALEM:** World Vision's global president has questioned Israeli accusations that the NGO's Gaza head diverted millions of dollars in aid to Hamas and said his trial should be open to the public. A pre-trial hearing for World Vision's Mohammed Al-Halabi was held in secret yesterday morning in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba. "A trial is legitimate if it is transparent," World Vision International's president Kevin Jenkins said in one of his first interviews since Halabi was charged on August 4. "Obviously with such serious allegations against a staff member, we are calling for him to have a fair hearing."

He said the allegations against Halabi were so serious that the NGO was hoping for an open trial to learn as many lessons as possible if they were proved correct. "As much as our donors want the truth to come out, we want the truth to come out," he said. "Our whole reputation is based on integrity." All media and even World Vision staff were prevented from attending yesterday's hearing, Halabi's lawyer said. The accusations against him were read out while Halabi, wearing a brown prisoner's uniform, stood motionless, lawyer Lea Tsemel said. Halabi has not yet spoken in the court but intends to plead not guilty, she said.

The case will reconvene in early October. On August 4, Israel alleged that Halabi had diverted more than \$7.2 million each year since 2010 to Hamas, the Islamist movement that runs the Gaza Strip. This allegedly equated to 60 percent of the NGO's budget for Gaza, with much of the money being syphoned off to Hamas's military wing to fight the Jewish state, according to the charges. He initially confessed, Israel said, though Amnesty International said Monday there were allegations he had been mistreated in custody and "may have been forced into 'confessing' under duress." The rights group also called for the trial to be opened to the media.

"Difficult to reconcile" Halabi's arrest was followed by similar allegations against a Save the Children employee and the arrest of a United Nations worker for allegedly funneling rubble to Hamas to build a military jetty. The UN has disputed the allegations. Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza have fought three wars since 2008 and Hamas is labeled a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union. Israeli ambassador to the

UN Danny Danon said the allegations showed a "troubling trend of the systematic exploitation (of aid) by Hamas terrorists." But Jenkins called the scale of the allegations against Halabi "very difficult to reconcile" with reality.

The NGO has said its Gaza budget for the past 10 years was only \$22.5 million, making the numbers alleged all but impossible. Charities working in Gaza have some of the tightest controls on funds in the world, partly due to tough counter-terrorism legislation. The impoverished Palestinian enclave has one of the world's highest unemployment rates. More than two-thirds of the population rely on some form of foreign aid, according to the United Nations. "We are not a naive organization. We have world-class systems to prevent the sort of things that are being alleged here," Jenkins said.

### Israel destroys home

In another development, Israel's military overnight destroyed the home of a Palestinian accused of involvement in a shooting attack in the occupied West Bank that led to the death of

a rabbi, it said yesterday. The army said it destroyed the home of Mohammed Abed Almajid Mohammed El-Amaira, 38, in Dura, southwest of the West Bank city of Hebron. Amaira, a member of the Palestinian Authority security services, was arrested several weeks ago, accused of having helped plan and carry out the attack on July 1, when gunmen opened fire on a car near Hebron.

The car crashed, killing rabbi Michael Mark, who led a religious school in the Israeli settlement of Otneil, and wounding two family members, according to the army. Amaira is accused of having acted as the driver in the attack. Another Palestinian accused over the attack, Mohamed Fakih, 29, was killed during a raid in July that saw Israeli forces fire anti-tank missiles at a house in the West Bank village of Surif. Israel regularly destroys the homes of Palestinians accused of attacks as part of efforts to deter future violence. Palestinians and human rights activists say the policy amounts to collective punishment, forcing families to suffer for the acts of others. — Agencies



**BEIT HANUN:** Palestinians walk near buildings which were destroyed during the 50-day war between Israel and Hamas militants in the summer of 2014 in Beit Hanun. — AFP



**MOGADISHU:** A member of Somalia's security services patrols the scene of a suicide car bomb blast yesterday in Mogadishu. — AFP

## CAR BOMB OUTSIDE SOMALI PRESIDENT'S PALACE KILLS 10

**MOGADISHU:** At least 10 people, including soldiers and civilians, were killed in Somalia's capital Mogadishu yesterday when a car bomb claimed by Al Shabaab exploded outside the Presidential Palace and also damaged two nearby hotels, an official said. Information Minister Mohamed Abdi Hayir told state radio that a meeting of security officials was under way inside one of the hotels, the SYL, at the time of blast and that one minister and some state radio journalists were injured in the attack.

The hotel is frequented by government officials and police said it believed the facility was the likely target. The SYL and another hospitality facility, both located near the Presidential Palace, were partially destroyed by the blast, Major Mohamed Ali, a police officer said. "The blast killed 10 (people) including soldiers and civilians and 30 others were wounded," Ali said. Gunfire could be heard after the blast and a huge cloud of smoke rose above the palace, outside which were the remnants of the car and splattered blood, according to a Reuters witness.

Al Shabaab's Radio Andaluz said the Islamist group was behind the attack and their military operations spokesman,

Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, said the attack had killed 15 soldiers and "injured many others including a lawmaker". Seeking to impose its own harsh form of Islam, Al Shabaab, wants to topple the Western backed government in Mogadishu and also push out the 22,000-strong African Union mandated AMISOM peace keeping force backing it. The group was pushed out of Mogadishu by AMISOM in 2011 but have remained a serious threat, launching frequent attacks aimed at overthrowing the government.

The militants have claimed responsibility for several explosions in Mogadishu, including a car bomb and gun attack last week at a popular beach restaurant in the capital that killed 10 people. In a separate incident, Al Shabaab fighters attacked military bases housing government and African Union troops south west of the capital Mogadishu late on Monday, police and the group said yesterday. Military officer Major Bile Farah said a soldier and two Al Shabaab fighters were killed in the attack in K-50 and Muri in Lower Shabelle region. Abu Musab told Reuters the group's fighters had killed 10 soldiers and commandeered a vehicle from the Somali government soldiers in the Monday attack. — Reuters

## 3 HURT IN SUICIDE BLAST AT CHINA'S KYRGYZSTAN EMBASSY

**BISHKEK:** A van driven by a suicide bomber exploded after ramming through a gate at the Chinese embassy in Kyrgyzstan yesterday, injuring three people, authorities said. "As a result of the explosion, only the suicide bomber terrorist died. Security guards were injured," Kyrgyzstan's deputy Prime Minister Jenish Razakov told journalists at the scene.

Razakov said the three wounded were all Kyrgyz employees of the embassy and that they have been hospitalized. Local medics said their injuries were not serious. Impoverished majority-Muslim Kyrgyzstan-which borders western China-has a history of political instability and battling Islamist extremism. Authorities say the country faces the threat of attacks from Islamic State group jihadists after some 500 Kyrgyz left to fight for the group in Iraq and Syria. Chinese officials have previously been targeted in attacks linked to radicals from China's Uighur minority, which lives just across the border in the restive Xinjiang province.

Law enforcement sources said that a Mitsubishi Delica van smashed through a gate at the embassy yesterday morning before exploding in the centre of the compound close to the ambassador's residence. A police source confirmed to AFP that the vehicle was driven by a suicide bomber and described the incident as a "terrorist attack". China's foreign ministry condemned the attack as an "extreme and violent act" but refused to classify it as terrorism. "We asked the Kyrgyz side to get to the bottom of this incident and hold whoever is behind this accountable," spokeswoman Hua Chunying told journalists.

Kyrgyz officials have not yet pointed the finger of blame at any specific group, and President Almazbek Atambayev ordered a "thorough investigation". Kyrgyz police sources

put the strength of the blast at an equivalent of up to 10 kilos (22 pounds) of TNT, and one said body parts thought to be from the attacker were found several hundred meters (yards) from the blast site.

Local residents told AFP that the blast had blown in their windows and caused their houses to shake. Pictures posted on social media purporting to be from the embassy showed a gate smashed open and debris inside the compound. An AFP journalist close to the scene said that damage could be seen on the embassy buildings and that police had cordoned off the area as emergency services worked. Law enforcement officials also blocked traffic on one of the city's main highways and were checking vehicles. Employees from the Chinese and nearby American embassy on the edge of the city were evacuated, the Kyrgyz emergency service said. An economically troubled ally of Russia, Kyrgyzstan has seen two governments overthrown and ethnic violence claim hundreds of lives since it gained independence in 1991. The authorities regularly announce that they have foiled attacks planned by IS in the country. Security forces last year said they had engaged in several deadly shootouts with suspected "terrorists" in the capital Bishkek. One of the three suicide bombers who carried out a deadly attack blamed on IS at the international airport in the Turkish city Istanbul in June was reported to be from Kyrgyzstan.

Chinese officials in Kyrgyzstan have previously been targeted, with one shot dead in 2000 in an attack blamed on radicals from the Uighur minority. In 2014 Kyrgyz authorities said they killed 11 people, including Uighur rebels, trying to cross into the country. Violence has plagued China's northwestern region of Xinjiang, in recent years, sometimes spreading beyond it. — AFP

## OIL FIRES CAST BLACK CLOUD OVER IRAQ'S RETAKEN TOWN

**QAYYARA:** It gets darker earlier these days in the northern Iraqi town of Qayyara, which Islamic State militants abandoned about a week ago after setting fire to many of the region's oil wells. Smoke billowing into the sky during a Reuters visit on Monday blotted out the sun in central districts hours before nightfall, producing an apocalyptic scene in this desert settlement which lacks electricity amid 49 degree Celsius temperatures.

The Iraqi military's recapture of Qayyara, along with a nearby airbase in July, is the latest and most significant advance in a US-backed push to Mosul, the largest city under Islamic State control anywhere in its self-proclaimed caliphate. Baghdad wants to retake Mosul before the end of the year, which it says will effectively end the militants' presence in Iraq more than two years after they seized a third of its territory. Some officials from countries in the US-led coalition supporting the Iraqi forces have said that timeline may be too ambitious. Yet the loss of Qayyara certainly dealt a blow to Islamic State, which had extracted oil from some 60 wells and sold it to help finance its activities.

**50 tanker truckloads** Islamic State used to ship at least

50 tanker truckloads a day from Qayyara and nearby Najma oilfields to neighboring Syria. A sign remains on the main road announcing prices of crude in places like the Syrian city of Aleppo, 550 km west of Qayyara. Rudimentary refineries once used to refine oil for local consumption have been abandoned on the side of the road leading east out of the town. The smell of petrol now overwhelms the area, wind carrying the smoke from well fires into the town centre. More than a few minutes in the area leaves one's throat burning, and children walking the streets have quickly developed coughs. Abdel Aziz Saleh, a 25-year-old Qayyara resident, said he wants Baghdad to put out the fires as soon as possible.

"They are suffocating us," he said. "The birds, the animals are black, the people are black. Gas rains down on us at night. Now the gas has reached the residential areas." He and other residents said oil had spilled into the nearby Tigris River - assertions denied by the oil ministry, which said the oil spills had been contained by trenches. While several bodies were seen floating in the river on Monday, Reuters could not confirm it had been contaminated with oil. Iraq says it has put out fires at four oil wells in the Qayyara

region, but Reuters could not locate any such efforts at the wells closest to residential areas.

Around a dozen separate plumes of smoke were still distinguishable across the horizon as night fell, when a convoy of firetrucks approached the town. It was not immediately clear how long it will take to extinguish the flames. When Iraq's military torched hundreds of Kuwaiti oil wells in 1991 ahead of advancing US-led forces, most fires burned for around two months but some wells were not capped for almost a year. The Oil Ministry said it does not expect to resume production from the Qayyara region before Mosul's recapture. The two main fields, Qayyara and Najma, used to produce 30,000 barrels per day of heavy crude before the takeover by Islamic State. Despite the well fires, Qayyara remains full of inhabitants. Whereas civilians in most other areas recaptured from Islamic State fled ahead of or during government offensives the majority of Qayyara's roughly 20,000 residents have stayed put. A counter-terrorism officer said that was partly due to the speed with which the army recaptured Qayyara, surprising the Islamic State fighters before they were able to dig in. Qayyara is also located near a military airfield, so many residents in the area have relatives in the army. — Reuters



## BRAZIL'S EVANGELICALS PRAY FOR SINFUL POLITICIANS

**BRASILIA:** If pastor Francisco Carlos Soares de Menezes's prayers are answered, Dilma Rousseff won't be the last Brazilian leader sent to the political hellfires. The 68-year-old suspended president appears set to be stripped of office when the Senate votes, starting yesterday, on whether she is guilty of fiddling the nation's accounts and taking unauthorized loans. Many of those attacking Rousseff, however, are themselves accused in criminal cases ranging from embezzlement to vote buying and bribery.

De Menezes, a pastor at Memorial Baptist Church, part of a rapidly growing evangelical Christian movement in Brazil, says sadly that sin has been around "since mankind turned from God." But now Brazil's current political turmoil, he says, is a sign that God is bringing change. De Menezes, 57, points to a vast anti-corruption probe called Operation Car Wash that has led to prosecutions and convictions of some of Brazil's most powerful men over the last year. "God is acting," he said at the sprawling church complex in the capital Brasilia. "We believe that many of the things that are happening are the answers to our prayers."



**SAO PAULO:** Demonstrators shout slogans against acting Brazil's President Michel Temer during a rally in support of Brazil's suspended President Dilma Rousseff in Sao Paulo, Brazil. — AP

### Rising power

While Brazil is still a majority Roman Catholic country, religious and political momentum is increasingly with the upstart evangelical Christians, who now account for almost a quarter of the population. The

evangelical churches—such as the Assembly of God and the Universal Church, which are both led by multi-millionaire pastortycoons—are rapidly gathering souls and influence. In the 2014 elections, evangelical candidates not only gained a record num-

ber of seats but a Pentecostal environmentalist, Marina Silva, came close to winning the presidency from Rousseff. And now Congress's evangelical block is exercising its clout to chastise Rousseff—formally on trial for illegal budget manipulations, but essentially being blamed for Brazil's dire economy. The block threw its weight behind impeachment in April, citing "the grave economic, moral, ethical and political crisis across Brazil."

### Havens

In Brasilia, a capital city renowned for political backstabbing and corruption, the Memorial Baptist Church could be seen as a sanctuary of goodness. From one building come the soaring voices of adults at choir practice. In another, children are learning about the Bible. Small groups of young people sit in circles on the grass or steps of the church playing guitar or discussing religion. Everyone smiles. "I want to thank God for my good exam results," a teenager can be heard telling friends in a soft voice. Adherents of the evangelical brand around Brazil praise its social activism and ability to rescue people from violence and crime. Evangelical churches, like the \$300 million replica of Jerusalem's

ancient Temple of Solomon in Sao Paulo, are often lavish affairs.

With its mirrored walls and security gates, one suburban church in Brasilia looked more like an insurance company or medical center. But in poorer neighborhoods, including in the often ignored favela communities of Brazil, small, scrappy evangelical churches are havens from drug pushers and gangs. "The more we can get people away from drugs and put them on a good path, the better," said Antonio Mendes de Lima, 42, who works as a cleaner at a Seventh Day Adventists church in the capital. Like the evangelists, that denomination promotes strict social rules and missionary work.

### Who's the sinner?

But money and politics are dragging the evangelicals into sins of their own. Eduardo Cunha, who as speaker of the lower house was instrumental in getting the impeachment process started against Rousseff, made a name as a host of an evangelical radio station and he peppers speeches with religious references. Now Cunha has been stripped of his speaker's post and is fighting to hold on to his seat in the face of corruption charges. — AFP

## US JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOCUSES ON POLICE TREATMENT OF MENTALLY ILL

**WASHINGTON:** Justice Department lawyers investigating police agencies for claims of racial discrimination and excessive force are increasingly turning up a different problem: Officers' interactions with the mentally ill. The latest example came in Baltimore, where a critical report on that department's policies found that officers end up in unnecessarily violent confrontations with mentally disabled people who in many instances haven't even committed crimes. The report cited instances of officers using a stun gun to subdue an agitated man who refused to leave a vacant building and of spraying mace to force a troubled person - said by his father to be unarmed and off his medications - out of an apartment.

Though past federal investigations have addressed the problem, the Baltimore report went a step further: It was the first time the Justice Department has explicitly found that a police department's policies violated the Americans with Disabilities Act. The finding is intended to chart a path to what federal officials hope will be far-reaching improvements, including better training for dispatchers and officers, diversion of more people to treatment rather than jail and stronger relationships with mental health specialists.

"Through the course of our work in the last several years on this bucket of issues, we've seen how important it is to get at the mental health issues as early in the system as possible," Vanita Gupta, head of the department's Civil Rights Division, said in an interview. Civil rights officials say the Baltimore report builds on work they've done in investigating the treatment of the mentally ill in various settings. In Mississippi, the Hinds County jail in June agreed to better screening for mental illness as part of a settlement, and the Justice Department sued the state as a whole this month, saying it was illegally making mentally ill people go into state-run psychiatric hospitals.

But it's the work with police departments that often attracts the most attention. Even as police forces improve training and develop intervention teams to respond to individuals in the throes of a crisis, concerns remain that officers aren't adequately equipped for the situations and are being forced to fill the void of a

resource-starved mental health infrastructure. More than 14 percent of male jail inmates and 31 percent of female inmates are affected by serious mental illness, according to a July speech by Justice Department official Eve Hill, who said society has for too long relied on arrests and jail rather than treatment for the mentally ill.

"From the standpoint of police, they are somewhat frustrated because many of the people who are walking the streets and who are in need of help are not getting it," said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum. "They have been out on the streets, they can't afford medication, and so the police wind up being the only one they come in contact with." The Justice Department has incorporated treatment of the mentally ill into several of its wide-ranging civil rights investigations of troubled police departments.

"I think some police departments have really made it a priority and are doing quite a bit. I don't know that that's consistent across all the departments," said Amy Watson, a mental health policy professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. A 2011 Justice Department report on Seattle criticized officers for too quickly resorting to force when encountering people with mental illness or under the influence of drugs. In Cleveland, officers were found to use stun guns against people with limited cognitive abilities, and in one case used one on a suicidal deaf man who may not have understood their commands, according to a 2014 report.

Albuquerque, New Mexico officers responding to a domestic violence complaint used the same tactic on a man who had doused himself with gasoline, the Justice Department said. Those cities have since reached court-enforceable consent decrees aimed at overhauling practices. The Portland police department, which also came under investigation, agreed to new training and accountability measures under a settlement. A federal monitor in February found the Seattle police department was sending trained crisis intervention officers to "crisis events in the great majority of instances" and had given some level of training to all officers in the last two years. — AP



**WASHINGTON:** US President Barack Obama arrives at The White House in Washington DC. — AFP

## 6 US SENATORS URGE OBAMA TO PRIORITIZE CYBER CRIME AT G20

### LETTER CITES \$81 MILLION BANGLADESH BANK HEIST

**NEW YORK:** Six US senators have urged President Barack Obama to prioritize cyber crime at this week-end's Group of 20 summit in China, in the wake of the theft of \$81 million from Bangladesh's central bank, according to a letter obtained by Reuters. In the letter sent to the White House ahead of the Sept 4-5 summit, Sherrod Brown, a senior Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee, and five other Democratic senators say they want the US president to press leaders from the world's 20 biggest economies to commit to joint cyber-crime to a "coordinated strategy to combat cyber-crime at critical financial institutions."

The letter, dated Monday, suggests that concern among US lawmakers is growing over the February incident in which hackers breached Bangladesh Bank's systems and used the SWIFT banking network to request nearly \$1 billion from an account held at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Some of the dozens of orders were filled, with much of the lost \$81 million disappearing into Philippines casinos - prompting months of international finger-pointing, an ongoing investigation, and several requests from members of Congress for answers from the Fed and from SWIFT, the secure messaging service that banks use to transfer money around the world.

"Our financial institutions are connected in order to facilitate global commerce, but cyber criminals - whether independent or state-sponsored - imperil this international system in a way few threats have," the senators, headed by Gary Peters of Michigan, wrote in the letter to Obama. "We strongly urge you

to work with your counterparts and prioritize this discussion at the G20 leaders level in September," it said of the summit to be held in Hangzhou, China, adding that "executive leadership circles across the globe" needed to pay more attention to the risks.

A senator in the Philippines has said Chinese hackers were likely to have pulled off the Bangladesh Bank heist, citing a network of Chinese people involved in the routing of the stolen funds through Manila. Beijing has dismissed the suggestion. Copies of the letter from the US senators were also sent to Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen and US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew.

### Obama-Xi talks

The other senators signing the letter were Mark Warner and Martin Heinrich, both members of the Senate's Select Committee on Intelligence; Kirsten Gillibrand and Debbie Stabenow, the ranking Democrat on the Senate's Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. The White House expects G20 members at the summit "to affirm their commitment to cooperate to fight cybercrime and to enhance confidence and trust in the digital economy," a senior administration official said.

Asked generally about cyber security on Monday, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said at a press conference: "I would anticipate that this issue more generally will be on the agenda" when Obama meets Chinese President Xi Jinping, the G20 summit host, later this week. At a November summit, the G20 pledged not to conduct economically

motivated cyber espionage, an agreement intended to reduce the estimated hundreds of billions of dollars worth of commercial trade secrets that are stolen by foreign governments seeking to benefit industry in their own countries.

Since then, the Bangladesh Bank attack and others that have emerged are only some of the threats posed by cyber criminals, the senators wrote. World regulators should "erect more robust defenses and collaborative systems to prevent and mitigate the impact of successful attacks," the letter said, noting that steps already taken by SWIFT are not enough. Bangladesh said it supported raising the issue at G20. "In most cases, cyber attacks and crimes take place from outside the country," said Zunaib Ahmed Palak, a junior government minister for information and communications technology. "So while addressing fast growing cyber attacks, there should be a coordinated approach involving global stakeholders."

The Fed and other US regulators said in a letter last week they were focused on cyber risks and controls at banks in the wake of the Bangladesh incident, though they offered few specifics. Peters, a member of the Senate's Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, told Reuters he is considering requesting a committee hearing on the heist. "I am concerned about the response and what steps have been taken to make sure it doesn't happen again," he said in an interview. "You just need more collaboration and sharing of information... because often times all these entities aren't talking to each other." — Reuters



**CLEVELAND:** Vanita Gupta, the head of Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, speaks in Cleveland. Justice Department lawyers investigating police agencies for racial discrimination and excessive force are increasingly finding a different problem: Officers' interactions with the mentally ill. — AP

## TRUMP'S DEPORTATION WAFFLE SHOWS CAMPAIGN WEAKNESSES

**SEATTLE:** Donald Trump and his aides used to say that voters didn't care about the nitty-gritty of policy details. But now those details are tripping up his campaign. For more than a week now, as he's tried to shine the spotlight on his rival, Trump has appeared to wrestle with one of his signature proposals: A pledge to expel everyone living in the US illegally with the help of a "deportation force." At a Fox News town hall taping last week, in the face of pressing questions, the GOP nominee proceeded to poll the audience at length on the fate of an estimated 11 million people.

It was a stunning display of indecision from a candidate who has asked voters to put enormous faith in his gut instincts. Trump is now planning a major speech today, during which he's expected to finally clarify his stance. Supporters are hoping for a strong, decisive showing. But the episode underscores how little time his campaign has invested in outlining how he would accomplish his goals as president, especially when compared with the detailed plans of his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton.

And for critics, many already disposed to vote against him, his wavering on what has been his signature issue seems like a warning that he's unable to handle a central element of any president's job -

making decisions. "It's just puzzling," said Lanhee Chen, who has served as a policy adviser to several Republican presidential candidates. "This is the issue on which he rose to prominence in the primary and the issue on which he continues to stake much of his campaign."

From the start, Trump has never been the kind of candidate to pore over thick policy books. Indeed, he has clocked Clinton on the subject. "She's got people that sit in cubicles writing policy all day. Nothing's ever going to happen. It's just a waste of paper," he told Time Magazine in June. "My voters don't care and the public doesn't care. They know you're going to do a good job once you're there." To date, Trump's campaign has posted just seven policy proposals on his website, totaling just over 9,000 words.

There are 38 on Clinton's "issues" page, ranging from efforts to cure Alzheimer's disease to Wall Street and criminal justice reform, and her campaign boasts that it has now released 65 policy fact sheets, totaling 112,735 words. "I've laid out the best I could, the specific plans and ideas that I want to pursue as your president because I have this old-fashioned idea," Clinton said during a recent speech in Colorado. "When you run for president, you ought to tell people what you want to do as their president."

Trump's new campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway, has said she's pushing her boss to get more specific. Yet his positions on a host of issues remain vague at best. For example, while Trump has slammed the Common Core education standards and touts the benefits of local control of education, he has no formal, detailed plans for improving public schools. He talks about student loan debt and the increasing costs of higher education, but has yet to propose solutions. He has teased plans to make child care more affordable, but has missed his own deadline for unveiling them. Trump's supporters say questions about his recent waffling on the deportation question are overblown. His running mate, Mike Pence, describes him as "a CEO at work" as he consults with various stakeholders. "You see someone who is engaging the American people, listening to the American people," Pence told CNN on Sunday. "He is hearing from all sides." But Chen, the Republican policy adviser, said a President Trump arriving at the White House without detailed plans could be limited in how much he might achieve, since a new president's power is at its apex early on. "If you're not able to hit the ground running, chances are you're going to run into serious resistance if you sit there studying something for the first 100 days," he said. — AP



**NEW YORK:** A family walks by a store in the ethnically diverse neighborhood of Queens in New York City. Queens County is one of the five most diverse counties in the United States with a large Latino and Asian population among other groups. Immigration has once again become a topic dividing the candidates in the upcoming US presidential election. — AFP



## GHOST OF AUSTRIA'S LAST MONARCH STILL LOOMS LARGE

**VIENNA:** Even a century after his death, Austria's mutton-chop whiskered emperor Franz Joseph still looms large in the national consciousness—both as the custodian of imperial glory and the tragic figure responsible for its decline. For 68 years, the head of the powerful Habsburg dynasty reigned over a multi-ethnic realm with more than 50 million people, making him one of the world's longest-serving leaders.

To commemorate the centenary of his death in November, the City of Vienna is currently showcasing six exhibitions at landmark locations, including the world-famous Schoenbrunn Palace where Franz Joseph was born in 1830. The aim is to shed light on the personality cult surrounding the emperor, whose image used to feature on every school, train station and army barracks. "For Austrians, he's a depoliticized figure which doesn't elicit a longing for the monarchy but rather cultivates a nostalgia of the 'good old days', kept alive by skilful marketing," said one of the exhibitions' curators, historian Karl Vocelka who recently published a biography of Franz Joseph.

To this day, the stern-looking patriarch—who proudly referred to himself as "the

last monarch of the old school"—has left a lasting imprint on Vienna. The capital is strewn with the vestiges of his reign, from a solemn statue in the gardens of the Hofburg palace—now home to the presidential offices—to the initials "FJ" engraved on many public buildings constructed under his orders. He still towers over daily politics in the shape of a marble relief showing him as a Roman emperor above the main entrance of the parliament. Alongside his beautiful wife Elisabeth, affectionately known as "Sisi", the strapping emperor also appears on postcards, fridge magnets and countless other tourist trinkets.

## Reluctant media star

In the course of his lifetime, the emperor witnessed no less than 150 international rulers come and go. When he was crowned in 1848 aged barely 18, the era belonged to horse carriages and ballroom dances. By the time he died on November 21, 1916, "there were planes, the cinema, the telephone," wrote current affairs magazine Profil in a recent special edition. A pragmatic leader with a penchant for military uniforms, Franz Joseph crushed nationalist revolts, survived an assassina-

tion attempt, and unified Austria and Hungary in 1867. Franz Joseph also tore down Vienna's claustrophobic fortification walls, paving the way for the splendid Ringstrasse boulevard which transformed the city into a glittering chocolate box metropolis. At the start of the 20th century, Vienna rivaled Paris, London and Berlin as a hub of cultural refinement.

The emergence of photography and moving images turned Franz Joseph—a very private person—into a reluctant media star. "Franz Joseph is the first monarch whose voice and face are known beyond oil paintings," noted Vocelka, in reference to the huge trove of pictures available to the public today. But the conservative ruler was not comfortable with the new technologies, preferring to seek the peace and quiet of his summer retreat in Bad Ischl. Here too, his legend lives on. Every August, the spa town in Upper Austria re-enacts the imperial visits with a faux royal couple arriving by steam train amid much pomp and military fanfare.

## Charming to taciturn

The myth surrounding Franz Joseph was further fuelled by the tragedies overshadowing his personal life: the early

death of his daughter Sophie, the murder of Sisi, the suicide of his son Rudolf, and the execution of his brother. In light of so much grief, Franz Joseph grew from a charming young man to an increasingly isolated and taciturn leader over the years. The biggest blow, however, came at the end of his life. It is one of history's great ironies that Franz Joseph himself would sound the death knell for his beloved empire when he declared war on Serbia in July 1914 after the assassinations of the imperial heir presumptive Franz Ferdinand and his wife.

The move would not only trigger World War I but also lead to the collapse of both the monarchy and the empire. It prompted modern commentators to call him a "moderately talented" and even "powerless" leader who was defied by the extraordinary challenges of his time. "Towards the end of his life Franz Joseph became a relic of a time long past, increasingly isolated from the developments taking place in contemporary society," observed historian Martin Mutschlechner, another curator of the current exhibitions. "With his rigid traditionalism, (he) thus contributed to the decline of the monarchy against his own best intentions." — AFP

## FIGHT FOR SYRIA'S ALEPPO EXPOSES THE LIMITS OF RUSSIAN AIR POWER

## USE OF BASE STIRS POLITICAL ROW IN IRAN

**MOSCOW:** Russia's politically-sensitive and ultimately fruitless decision to launch bombing missions on Syria from Iranian soil has exposed the limits to its air power, leaving Moscow in need of a new strategy to advance its aims. People familiar with Russia's military said Moscow opted for the sorties from Iran - and Tehran agreed to allow them - because they were struggling to achieve their aim of crushing rebels in the city of Aleppo.

The gamble failed and rebels fighting their ally, Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, remain ensconced in parts of Aleppo. Russia began air strikes on Syria in support of Assad on Sept 30 last year, launched from bases in government-held territory and from warships. Then this month, facing logistical problems in mounting an expensive campaign at a time of tight state finances, it intensified the bombing of Aleppo in what turned out to be a brief series of raids from Iran. The strikes on the Aleppo rebels seem to have achieved little beyond stirring a political row in Iran, whose constitution forbids the establishment of any kind of foreign military base.

The fact that Russia went to such lengths to achieve its aims in Aleppo and still failed could strengthen the hand of those in Moscow who believe the operation in Syria has reached a watershed, and that it is time to seek a negotiated solution. "I get the feeling we're like a horse at the circus, running around in a circle since Sept. 30 when we first deployed our aircraft there," said a person close to the Russian defense ministry who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Our forces are insufficient, our coordination with the Iranians is not at the required level. We need to change something. What, I don't know."

## Iranian sensitivities

Russia's defense ministry announced on Aug. 16 that it had for the first time used an air base in Iran from which to launch air attacks on Syria. On subsequent days, long-range Russian Tupolev 22M3 bombers, escorted by Sukhoi fighters, took off on sorties from the Nojeh air base, near the Iranian city of Hamadan. Letting Russia base aircraft there was politically



**AL KHALFATLI:** Syrian families, fleeing the Islamic State group and the ongoing fighting, carry their belongings as they arrive to take refuge in the Syrian village of Al-Khalifatli, held by the Free Syrian Army (FSA), near the Syrian-Turkish border, north of Aleppo. — AFP

sensitive for Iran: the last time a foreign power had used an Iranian air base was in World War Two. Some Iranian lawmakers called it a breach of the constitution while Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan said that, by publicly revealing the arrangement, Moscow had committed a "betrayal of trust".

By Aug 22, Iran's foreign ministry announced that Russia's use of the base had ended. In Moscow, the defense ministry said aircraft operating from the bases had completed their tasks.

A spokesman for Russia's defense ministry and spokeswoman for the foreign ministry did not respond to Reuters questions about its objectives in Aleppo and its use of the Iranian base. But Andrei Klimov, a pro-Kremlin member of the foreign affairs committee in the upper house of Russia's parliament, said the cost of the Syrian operation may have been a factor. "We are trying to conduct the operation in Syria within certain sums," he told Reuters. "The defense ministry has other expenditures. Therefore to optimize costs, more economical routes are sought. Any sensible country does the same thing."

## Aleppo escalation

Russia's desire to use the base was "linked to the increase in intensity of military activity in the Aleppo area," said Vasily Kashin, an analyst with the Center for Analysis and Technologies in Moscow, which advises Russia's defense sector. "It seemed that, in the opinion of the Syrian, Russian and Iranian commands, a watershed moment is coming." That chimed in with other evidence that Russia and its allies were ramping up their efforts to take control of Aleppo over the last two months. The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah, which is allied to Iran, said on June 24 that the movement would send more fighters to the Aleppo area. The battle for the city was of strategic importance, he said.

Since then, residents and opposition activists have reported an increase in the intensity of raids on Aleppo, including the high-altitude operations which distinguish Russian bombing from that by low-flying Syrian aircraft. That was matched on the ground by an offensive from Syrian government forces which left rebel-held areas besieged. Aid organizations reported a jump in civilian casualties and warned of a

humanitarian disaster because of a shortage of supplies.

The Iranian base was a crucial logistical cog in this escalation in Aleppo because without it, Russia's Tupolev jets have to fly the greater distance to Syria from Russia, and back. That means carrying more fuel, which reduces the bomb payload they can carry, and also - because of the longer flight time - cuts into the number of sorties they can fly. Air bases inside government-controlled parts of Syria were not suitable for the Tupolev aircraft, and adapting them would be expensive, according to Kashin. The person close to the defense ministry said of the logistical challenges facing Russia's air operation: "We don't have all that many planes."

## Peace overtures

During the intensified bombing, the rebel forces in Aleppo even counter-attacked in the middle of this month, breaking the siege and restoring access to supply routes. According to defense experts, Russia does have the military capacity to intensify its bombing in Syria further, whether or not it has access to the Iranian base. But that would mean more expense for Russia, which is struggling to fill gaps in its budget, faces a parliamentary election next month, and has seen the Syrian operation drag on far past the Kremlin's original timetable. In May, President Vladimir Putin announced that "the main part" of Russian armed forces in Syria would start to withdraw, saying that their work had "on the whole, been fulfilled". But still the bombing went on.

The difficulty of making progress militarily will make a negotiated solution more attractive to the Kremlin. Russia agreed on Thursday to a 48-hour humanitarian ceasefire in Aleppo to allow aid deliveries to get through, UN officials said. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State John Kerry met in Geneva on Friday to talk about a possible truce in Syria. Huge differences though remain between Moscow and its allies on one hand, and the United States and its allies on the other, not least over the future of Assad. Previous openings for peace talks have dissolved into renewed fighting. — Reuters

## GREECE LAUNCHES PRIVATE TV TENDER AMID CONTROVERSY

**ATHENS:** Greece yesterday launched a multi-million euro auction for four private TV licences, a process originally due two decades ago and now marked by political infighting. Eight groups are vying for the four 10-year nationwide

licences, with opening bids starting at three million euros (\$3.4 million). Their representatives will be locked up in an office building with no outside communication until the process is complete, a move prompting angry protests

from TV managers. Authorities say they want to clean up an industry known for workforce exploitation and rumored under-the-table deals between media moguls, bankers and influential politicians, while bringing an end to 25 years of chaotic licensing.

Government officials have noted that ever since private TV broadcasts began in Greece, channels have been allowed to operate on provisional licenses renewed 15 times since 1995. And a contract for Greece's digital TV provider was concluded two years ago with just one contestant, they note. But critics say the overhaul is merely a ploy by Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to replace established TV barons who have opposed his leftist Syriza party in the past—with others more to his liking.

## Mattress in tow

Six of the eight groups participating in the auction have raised objections about the process. The first private channel to hit the air in 1989, Mega, has already been eliminated from the tender over outstanding debts. The first-ever tender is held under unprecedented security inside the state ministry of information in Athens. The six-floor building was emptied of staff last week and bunk beds moved in for what looks to be a two-day process. Rival TV representatives were shown arriving early Tuesday with luggage. One had a mattress in tow.

They are to be kept in complete isolation, and under closed-circuit TV surveillance, to prevent arranged bids. They are not to leave the building or communicate with the outside world until the process is concluded. One TV manager called the conditions "humiliating" while another said stations were being "held to ransom". Skai TV has sarcastically likened the procedure to reality TV show "Survivor". Others have called it "Big Brother with TV chiefs". Greece's top administrative court on Friday turned down a request by several of the channels to block the process. The government has said stations that continue broadcast nationwide without a license will be blocked three months after the auction is concluded. — AFP



**ATHENS:** A man walks past video screens displaying TV channels in Athens yesterday. Greece launched a multi-million euro auction for four private TV licences - a process originally due two decades ago and now marked by political infighting. Eight groups are vying for the four 10-year nationwide licenses, with opening bids starting at three million euros (\$3.4 million). — AFP

## News

In brief

## 130 men and boys still missing in Cameroon

**DAKAR:** One hundred thirty men and boys remain missing in Cameroon nearly two years after a government crackdown on suspected members of the Nigeria-based Boko Haram extremists, Amnesty International said yesterday, calling on the government to provide answers. Authorities on Dec 27, 2014 arrested more than 200 people in Magdeme and Double villages in Cameroon's Far North region, Amnesty said. The arrests were part of a push by the government to combat Boko Haram. They came within days of Cameroon's first airstrikes against the Islamic extremists to dislodge about 1,000 fighters who had seized a military base and attacked several villages along the border with Nigeria, according to reports at the time. More than 25 of the arrested men died in custody and 45 were transferred to a prison the next day, with three more dying due to dire conditions, Amnesty said. Nine civilians were killed, and 70 homes destroyed in the operations in the two villages by the military, it said.

## Venezuela to expel 3 Al Jazeera journalists

**CARACAS:** Venezuela is set to expel a crew of Al Jazeera journalists who were intending to cover an opposition march against President Nicolas Maduro, the country's union of journalists said. Venezuela in the throes of severe economic and political crises, the opposition has called for a march on Caracas tomorrow to press its constitutionally sanctioned demand for a referendum to remove Maduro. The authorities detained three employees of the Qatar-based channel when they arrived Monday at Maiquetia international airport outside Caracas, the National Union of Press Workers (SNTP) said on Twitter. "Teresa Bo, correspondent, Lagmi Chavez, producer, and a cameraman (from) @AlJazeera were detained in Maiquetia," the SNTP tweeted, saying their equipment was confiscated. The cameraman was named in local media reports as Mariano Rosendi. The journalists travelled from Argentina but are to be deported to Colombia, the SNTP added. Media rights groups frequently criticize Venezuela for violating the freedom of the press.

## More Bangladeshi workers jailed for 'terror financing'

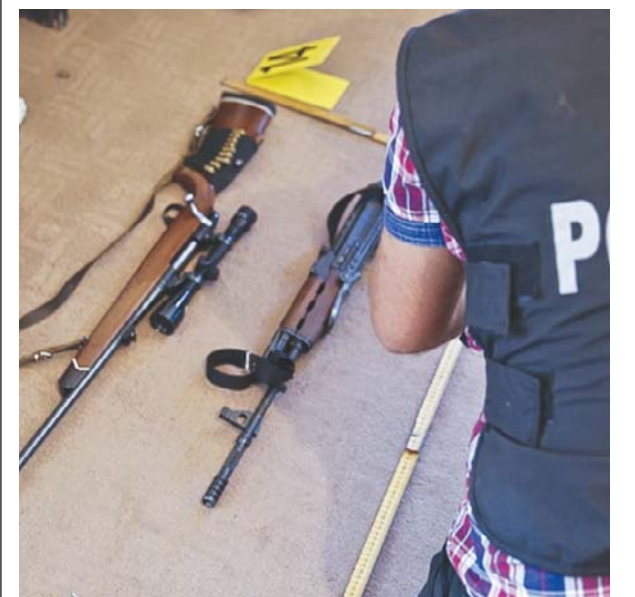
**SINGAPORE:** Two more Bangladeshi expatriate workers accused of planning to join the Islamic State group were jailed yesterday in Singapore for raising money to fund attacks in their homeland. Zaman Daulat, 34, and Mamun Leat Ali, 29, were jailed for two years and two and a half years, respectively, after admitting terrorist financing charges in a district court. Court documents said the men contributed between Sg\$200 (\$146) and Sg\$500 to help fund a terror campaign in Bangladesh, and plotted to overthrow the government there to set up a caliphate. They were the second set of Bangladeshi workers to be jailed under a Singaporean law against terrorist financing. In July four Bangladeshi workers were jailed for between two and five years for the same offence. The six were among a second group of Bangladeshis rounded up in Singapore after 27 were arrested in late 2015, also over alleged plots in their homeland. All from the first group have since been deported.

## Yemen Al-Qaeda suspect killed in US drone strike

**ADEN:** A presumed US drone strike in southern Yemen killed an Al-Qaeda suspect and wounded two more yesterday, a security official said. The strike hit a vehicle carrying the three jihadis in the eastern suburbs of Ataq, the capital of Shabwa province, the source said. The United States has carried out numerous drone strikes against Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula operatives in Yemen. American officials said this month that the US military had killed three AQAP fighters in a strike, also in Shabwa. On Wednesday, drone strikes killed seven Al-Qaeda suspects in south and east Yemen. AQAP and the Islamic State group have exploited a power vacuum created by the conflict between the government and Iran-backed rebels to expand their presence in the Arabian Peninsula country. The US has vowed to continue its campaign against AQAP, which it considers to be the Al-Qaeda network's deadliest franchise. A Saudi-led Arab military coalition that backs the Yemeni government has also turned its sights on AQAP, targeting it with air strikes.

## Kosovo police arrest six in connection with blast

**PRISTINA:** Kosovo police arrested six people yesterday in connection with a grenade fired at the parliament building earlier this month that was claimed by a hardline nationalist group. The suspects are all members of the biggest opposition party, Vetevendosje, whose lawmakers have released teargas in parliament several times over the past year while its supporters clashed with police outside. They oppose an EU-brokered accord with Serbia giving more autonomy to Serb-held areas of Kosovo and a border deal with Montenegro, both of which are essential for building closer ties with the European Union. While making the arrests, police recovered three automatic rifles, two pistols and a rifle with a telescopic sight, police and prosecutors said in a joint statement. The attack on parliament happened on Aug. 4, when two motorcyclists fired a rocket-propelled grenade as they drove past. The building was damaged but no one was hurt.



**Police officers seize fire arms and bullets during a raid were Kosovo police detained six people over their involvement in an attack at the parliament building earlier this month. — AP**



## BANGLADESH UPHOLDS ISLAMIST TYCOON'S DEATH SENTENCE



**DHAKA:** File photo shows Bangladeshi Jamaat-e-Islami party leader, Mir Quasem Ali waving as he enters a van at the International Crimes Tribunal court in Dhaka. A wealthy tycoon who was a chief financier for Bangladesh's largest Islamist party could be executed in days after losing his final appeal yesterday, against a death sentence from a controversial war crimes tribunal. — AFP

**DHAKA:** A wealthy tycoon who was a chief financier for Bangladesh's largest Islamist party could be executed in days after losing his final appeal yesterday against a death sentence from a controversial war crimes tribunal. The Supreme Court rejected Mir Quasem Ali's last attempt to overturn the death penalty handed down two years ago by the domestic tribunal for murders committed during Bangladesh's 1971 independence conflict. "Now he has a chance to seek presidential clemency. Or else the verdict could be executed anytime whenever the state wants," Attorney General Mahubey Alam told reporters.

Five opposition leaders including four leading Islamists have already been executed for war crimes since 2013. They were all hanged just days after their appeals were rejected by the Supreme Court. Their families said they had refused to seek a presidential pardon as they did not want to legitimize the whole trials process. Ali, who became a shipping and real estate tycoon, was convicted in November 2014 of a series of crimes during Bangladesh's war of separation from Pakistan, including the abduction and murder of a young independence fighter.

Yesterday's decision is considered a major blow for the Jamaat-e-Islami party, which the 63-year-old Ali had helped revive by setting up charities, businesses and trusts linked to it after it was allowed to operate in the late 1970s. His son Mir Ahmed Bin Quasem, who was part of his legal defense team, was allegedly abducted by security forces earlier in August, which critics say was an attempt to sow fear and prevent protests against the imminent execution. Security was tight in Dhaka yesterday, even though the party has in recent months eschewed violent protests in reaction to war crimes verdicts and there was no immediate sign of unrest.

The war crimes tribunal set up by the government has divided the country, with supporters of Jamaat and the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) branding them a sham aimed at eliminating their leaders. The executions and convictions of Jamaat officials plunged Bangladesh into one of its worst crises in 2013 when tens of thousands of Islamist activists clashed with police in protests that left some 500 people dead. The Islamist party, which is banned from contesting elections, called a nation-

wide strike for Wednesday, calling the charges against Ali "false" and "baseless" and accusing the government of exacting "political vengeance".

### TV station shut

Before he was arrested in 2012 on 14 war crimes charges, Ali headed the Diganta Media Corporation, which owns a pro-Jamaat daily and a television station that was shut down in 2013 for stoking religious tensions. Defense lawyers have said the charges against him were baseless. "Mir Quasem Ali wasn't directly involved in war crimes. False witnesses were provided to frame charges against him. The future generation and law experts will scrutinize the verdict whether it was justified," Khandker Mahub Hossain said.

The court ruling comes a day after a visit to Dhaka by US Secretary of State John Kerry who said the best way to combat extremism was "to live up to the core values of democracy". Bangladesh has been hit by a series of deadly assaults by Islamist extremists in recent months, including an horrific attack on a Dhaka cafe in July in which 22 people, mostly foreigners, were killed. — AFP

## NEPAL BANS INDIAN POLICE COUPLE FOR FAKING MOUNT EVEREST CLIMB

**KATHMANDU:** Nepal has imposed a 10-year mountaineering ban on an Indian couple who faked photographs purporting to show them at the top of Mount Everest, an official said yesterday. Dinesh and Tarakeshwari Rathod, both police constables, said they reached the top of the world's highest mountain on May 23. But fellow climbers cast doubt on their claim, saying their photos at the summit were doctored. Nepal's tourism department initially certified their claim but later conducted an investigation.

"Our investigation shows that the couple faked their summit. We have imposed a 10-year ban against them from climbing any mountain in Nepal," tourism department chief Sudarshan Prasad Dhakal said of the decision made on Monday. Dhakal said an analysis of the photos submitted by the couple showed they had superimposed themselves and their banners onto photos taken by another Indian climber of his Everest summit. "Despite several attempts to get clarifications from them, they did not cooperate with us during the investigation. The two Sherpas that assisted them are also absconding," Dhakal said. "The ban should serve as a warning for mountaineers to follow ethics," he said.

Tourism ministry spokesman Ghanshyam Upadhyaya said the govern-

ment is considering revising the procedure for certifying claims of an ascent. The current system demands photos, reports from team leaders and government liaison officers stationed at the base camp-but has been open to attempts at fakery. "We will consult experts to see what technologies or processes we can use and make every party more responsible to prevent such false claims in the future," Upadhyaya said. Many of those who reach the top of the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) mountain have gone on to make money or forge careers as motivational speakers and authors.

A total of 456 people, including more than 250 foreigners, summited Everest during the recently ended spring season, after two consecutive years of deadly disasters that led to almost all attempts being abandoned. Mountaineering is a major revenue-earner for the impoverished Himalayan nation. This year's string of successful summits is expected to boost the industry, which was left reeling after an earthquake last year killed almost 9,000 people nationwide. Hundreds fled Everest last year after an earthquake-triggered avalanche at base camp killed 18 people. Only one climber reached the top in 2014 after an avalanche killed 16 Nepali guides that year. — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** Indian Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj and US Secretary of State John Kerry arrive prior to a meeting in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

## KERRY PRESSES FOR CLOSER INDIA TRADE, SECURITY TIES

### US, INDIA TRY TO COUNTER CHINA'S RISING INFLUENCE

**NEW DELHI:** US Secretary of State John Kerry pressed yesterday for more cooperation with India on security and trade as the world's two biggest democracies try to strengthen ties, in part to counter China's rising influence. Kerry also said he was hopeful of moving ahead on a deal to provide nuclear energy assistance to India, as the nations seek to meet an ambitious goal of boosting annual trade fivefold to around \$500 billion.

"I'm very, very confident that we will continue to strengthen what President Obama has called the defining partnership of the 21st century," Kerry said in New Delhi, adding that cooperation on trade and security has "room to be able to further grow". He was speaking before chairing a "strategic and commercial dialogue" with his counterpart Sushma Swaraj, launched by the nations' leaders in 2015. Kerry, who will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday during the two-day visit, said he wanted progress on an agreement about construction of nuclear reactors.

"We also hope to see our civil nuclear cooperation take shape in the form of new reactors that will deliver reliable electricity to tens of millions of Indian households," Kerry said. The deal involving US

giant Westinghouse has been held up in the past by concerns over an Indian law that would make US companies liable for accidents at plants they helped build. Swaraj said she wanted to see closer military cooperation so that India could build more sophisticated hardware at home.

India, the world's biggest arms importer, wants access to US technology so it can develop better weapons—a key part of Modi's campaign to boost domestic manufacturing. India has historically relied heavily on Russia for arms imports, but has now turned to the US as it undergoes a lucrative and major modernization of its ageing military. "We want to take our expanding defense cooperation to the next stage of co-production and co-development," Swaraj said.

### Defense pact

The talks come one day after the two sides signed an agreement in Washington that allows access to each other's military bases for repairs and resupplies. US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter and his Indian counterpart Manohar Parrikar sealed the pact in efforts to strengthen defense ties to counter concerns over China's growing military assertive-

ness. Carter said the agreement would make joint operations between their militaries logistically easier and more efficient.

Washington has increasingly turned its focus to Asia as it tries to counter China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea, and is eager for India to play a greater role in its network of regional defense alliances. Regional superpower China is expanding its deep-water naval presence and staking a claim to disputed areas of the South China Sea and the East China Sea. Both Carter and Parrikar stressed that the new agreement did not allow for US bases to be set up on Indian soil nor for troops to be stationed there.

US Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, who is taking part in the talks in Delhi, has said the idea of increasing two-way trade from \$100 billion to \$500 billion was ambitious. Modi, who enjoys close ties with US President Barack Obama, pledged to overhaul India's economy after winning landslide elections in 2014, to attract much-needed foreign investment and boost growth. Kerry arrived late Monday from Bangladesh where he said there was evidence to link the extremists behind a recent series of deadly attacks there to the Islamic State group. — AFP



**Indian climber, Satyarup Sidhantha holds on his right hand a photograph that shows him on Mount Everest, along with what he says is an altered version of the same used by an Indian couple to make it appear they were on the summit, as he displays them for the Associated Press in Kolkata, India. — AP**

## TALEBAN APPOINT NEW MILITARY CHIEF AS NEW LEADER SETTLES IN

**ISLAMABAD:** The Taliban have appointed a new military chief as the insurgents try to gain ground rather than talk peace under a new leadership, Taliban officials said in telephone interviews over the weekend. They said that the appointment of Mullah Ibrahim Sadar, once a close ally of Taliban founder Mullah Mohammed Omar, heralds a commitment to confrontation at a time when multiple governments are trying to coax the Taliban to the negotiating table. Sadar is a battle-hardened commander, who gained prominence among Taliban foot soldiers following the movement's overthrow in 2001. The two officials both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly for the Taliban.

Sadar's appointment coincides with an uptick in Taliban attacks against Afghan security forces. The United States has sent additional troops to Afghanistan's southern Helmand province, where its capital, Lashkar Gah, is under pressure. The provincial council head Kareem Atal earlier said roughly 80 percent of Helmand is already under Taliban control. So far this month, Taliban fighters have attacked Afghan security forces in northern Kunduz province, briefly taking control of a district headquarters. The militants also overran a district in northern Bagram province and in eastern Paktia province.

Meanwhile, in eastern Nangarhar province, Taliban militants are fighting pitched battles with security forces. Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense says its security forces are waging operations in 15 provinces. Mohammad Akbari a member of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, which is tasked with talking peace with insurgent groups, said there

has been no progress in talks since Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour was killed in a US drone strike in May in Pakistan. Mansour was succeeded by Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, and the notorious Haqqani network gained a prominent role in the leadership structure.

"I can't see any green light toward peace by the Taliban for Afghanistan and instead we have seen an

increase in their fighting in the provinces," Akbari said. Since Mansour's death, Pakistan's Interior Ministry has launched a stepped-up campaign to verify the identity of roughly 1.5 million Afghans living in Pakistan, many possessing Pakistani identity cards, some legally obtained and others illegally acquired. Mansour was carrying a Pakistani passport and identity card under an alias. — AP



**HERAT:** Taliban fighters react to a speech by a senior leader of a breakaway faction of the Taliban, Mullah Abdul Manan Niazi, in the Shindand district of Herat province, Afghanistan. — AP

## AS DISASTER LOSSES MOUNT, SRI LANKA DEVELOPS TOOL, SYSTEM TO TRACK THEM

**ARANAYAKE:** Sri Lanka is planning to begin testing its first web-based disaster damage and loss reporting system by the end of the year, authorities say. The Disaster Management Center (DMC) is developing the program and training public officials on its use, said Srimal Samansiri, the DMC assistant director. The program will enlist at least one government official from each district - or a representative of a non-governmental organization in some cases - who is linked to disaster management and who will be tasked with uploading information.

The data then will be fed to a national data base maintained by the Treasury and the Finance Ministry. "For example, if it is the road sector, we would have the district engineer who would upload data on affected or closed roads, damages and closures," Samansiri said. The DMC official said that the request for such a program had come from the Treasury in mid-2015. "They were very keen to get precise up-to-date information so that they could plan relief efforts," he said. Right now, information about losses and damage from problems such as flooding, landslides and drought is collected in a less-coordinated way. Administrative officials in affected districts collect data and send it to their district offices, which then send it to the DMC or other government bodies

coordinating relief.

"There is no uniform system to report the damages or calculate losses, which is hampering disaster planning measures," Samansiri said. A clear example came during heavy floods in May. The Disaster Management Center said that 691 houses had been destroyed while 4,888 had been damaged between May 15 and May 22. However, Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake said the government expected housing damages to be higher. He said around 128,000 likely were damaged and at least a sixth of those would need complete rebuilding.

There have also been discrepancies in the number of fatalities and people missing reported by the DMC and the Sri Lanka Red Cross. The DMC data shows 89 deaths and 102 missing from May's disaster, while the Red Cross says the missing could be above 200, citing available population records. "The problem arises because untrained personnel are collecting data for various departments. There is no uniformity in the collection or in the reporting," said Jagath Mahendra, the DMC head for Kegalle District, one of those worst affected by the floods. He said a uniform reporting tool would minimize errors in data collection. The new reporting tool is being funded as part of a \$110 million World Bank Climate Resilience Program. — Reuters



## DENIED WORK, ROHINGYA TRAPPED IN LIMBO IN MALAYSIA

### FLEEING PERSECUTION AT HOME, THOUSANDS OF ROHINGYA LAND IN MALAYSIA

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The first time he tried to escape a tough existence in his village in western Myanmar in 2004, Junaid Zafar was thrown in jail for five years. Like many other Rohingya Muslims, Zafar was seeking to flee poverty and persecution in Buddhist-majority Myanmar and he did not wait long after being released from jail to try again. This time, his parents sold off possessions to raise about \$1,000 to pay people smugglers to take him to Malaysia. Zafar, the eldest of three siblings, finally made it in 2011. But like thousands of other Rohingya in Malaysia, he now finds himself living in a precarious limbo, having to work illegally due to official restrictions, and with resettlement to another country where he could lead a more stable life a distant dream.

"I have been here for five years, some other refugees have been here for 10 years. I feel like I am wasting my life," the tall, slender man, now 31, said. Zafar - like some 150,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in Malaysia, mainly from Myanmar - does not have formal status in the country as Malaysia is not a signatory to the United Nations Refugee Convention. The govern-

ment considers them to be illegal migrants. Now there is a glimmer of hope for the many Rohingya and other refugees living in Malaysia, as authorities make a renewed effort to try to improve their access to work.

#### Dirty, difficult, dangerous

The government has in the past said it would consider allowing refugees to work but details and implementation had been sketchy. Some officials feared a relaxation of the policy would lead to an influx of migrant workers. But this month the creation of a government-led task force was announced to handle refugee registration issues. Malaysian Deputy Home Minister Nur Jazlan Mohamed told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that the task force would also look into the possibility of opening up the job market for refugees and allowing refugee children formal education. "(The task force) will look into issues of refugees in Malaysia, which include the Rohingya, in a more comprehensive manner," he said in a telephone interview.

"It will decide on the recognition of

these people first and then decide on the short-, medium- and long-term solution for them including job and education opportunities," he said. While the refugees are recognized by the UN's refugee agency UNHCR, Malaysia does not extend protection, job opportunities or education to them, as it is not party to the refugee convention. Barred from working officially, many refugees end up finding odd jobs as cleaners, or working in restaurants or on construction sites. The country relies heavily on foreign laborers for jobs shunned by Malaysians in what is known as the "3D" - dirty, difficult and dangerous - industries.

But the lack of a formal status often leaves refugees vulnerable to exploitation, said lawyer Andrew Khoo, a co-chairperson of the human rights committee at the Malaysian Bar, the country's main legal professional body.

"As long as the government doesn't recognize their status, let alone the ability to access work legally, they are susceptible to abuse, exploitation and mistreatment," Khoo said. A conference in Bangkok this week as part of the so-called Bali process on people smuggling and trafficking, will

gather experts and officials to discuss ways to absorb refugees in Southeast Asia into the legal workforce.

#### 'It's not easy'

For Zafar, he said even when he managed to find a job, usually as a waiter in restaurants, his wage is only half of what other migrant workers get, and that he can be dismissed at any time. "Sometimes I have a job, sometimes I don't.

"You never know, it's not easy," he told Thomson Reuters Foundation at a Rohingya community centre in Ampang, a neighborhood that is home to many refugees and a short drive from downtown Kuala Lumpur. At the restaurant, he is paid about 30 Malaysian ringgit (\$7.50) for a 12 hour-shift.

On a few occasions, the restaurant owners refused to pay him, but he had no legal recourse and had to look for new jobs, he said. Without a formal status, other refugees Thomson Reuters Foundation spoke to also described harassment from law enforcement officials, who demand bribes or threaten arrests.

Other challenges they face include

paying for medical treatment or even just finding a place to rent. In an open-air market in Ampang, where refugees gather in the evening, another Rohingya Muhammad Ayub has been working as a tailor since arriving in Malaysia four years ago. He worked from home in the beginning but was later given a job at a shop by a sympathetic employer. "I am grateful I can find work and send money home. Although when the local authorities come for their routine check, we have to pull down the shutter straight away and run," Ayub said.

Zafar said he could not face going home, but looked forward to the day he could resettle in another country, and bring his parents and siblings there. "I want to go back to my village but our situation hasn't improved," he said of the new Myanmar government led by Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's party. For the time being, Zafar said he was hoping to get a stable job in Malaysia, and perhaps one day, he said with a shy grin, he would be able to bring his childhood sweetheart from his village to a better country and marry her. — Reuters

## TYPHOON LIONROCK SLAMS INTO JAPAN'S NORTHEAST

**TOKYO:** A strong typhoon slammed into northeastern Japan yesterday, dumping heavy rain and generating high waves that caused flooding along the Pacific coast. Typhoon Lionrock made landfall near the city of Ofunato shortly before 6 pm, the Japan Meteorological Agency said, after moving up Japan's Pacific Ocean coastline. Packing wind gusts up to 162 kilometers per hour, the storm was moving northwest at 50 kilometers per hour, it said.

It is the first typhoon to directly land in the region from the Pacific Ocean since the country's present weather observation system was introduced in 1951, the agency said. Typhoons usually approach Japan from the south and southwest before moving northward across the archipelago. While there were no official reports of casualties, local media reported some minor injuries, such as a fall by a 40-year-old woman in strong winds.

Authorities warned of landslides and high water due to expected heavy rain of up to eight centimeters per hour. Landfall, which came at high tide, brought flooding along the coast.

Television footage showed local residents struggling to walk amid water above their knees in the city of Miyako, where some cars were half-submerged and some 600 people were advised to evacuate. Miyako was one of the northeastern coastline cities hit in March 2011 by a deadly tsunami generated by a massive magnitude 9.0 offshore earthquake, which also triggered meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. Local authorities were

using heavy machinery to pile huge sandbags along the coast in a bid to hold back raging waves, as they opened up some public buildings for use as shelters. Schools were closed across the affected area, broadcasters reported.

At the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, efforts were made to secure construction cranes and equipment from violent winds, operator Tokyo Electric Power Co said. Some sensitive decommissioning work was suspended, they added. The typhoon was affecting manufacturing and travel, with Toyota suspending production at two of its plants in the region, the company said, though added they were expected to restart today. Some 120 domestic flights have also been cancelled, public broadcaster NHK said. In the northern part of the country, some Shinkansen super fast bullet trains were suspended.

Lionrock comes on the heels of two others that hit Japan in the past nine days, resulting in two deaths, the cancellation of hundreds of domestic flights and disruptions to train services. Formed more than 10 days ago, it has become the longest-lasting typhoon of those that have developed north of the 30th parallel north, breaking a 46-year-old record, according to the private Weathernews agency. The previous record-holding typhoon in that category was in 1970, which survived for nine days and six hours, Weathernews said on its website. Lionrock was expected to cut across Japan's main island of Honshu and head out to sea towards Russia and China, according to the weather agency. — AFP



**MANILA:** Philippine Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) work at the scene where two suspects were shot dead following an encounter and shootout with police at a checkpoint along a highway in Manila. More than 2,000 people have died violent deaths since Duterte took office two months ago and immediately implemented his scorched-earth plans to eradicate drugs in society, ordering police to shoot dead traffickers and urging ordinary citizens to kill addicts. — AFP

## 'ALLEGED DRUG LORD' SHOT DEAD BY PHILIPPINE POLICE

### BUSINESSMAN AND WIFE KILLED, FUELLING CONCERNS

**MANILA:** A Philippine businessman and his wife were shot dead after the police chief branded him a drug lord, authorities said yesterday, fuelling concerns about extrajudicial killings in President Rodrigo Duterte's crime war. More than 2,000 people have been killed since Duterte was sworn into office two months ago and immediately launched a law-and-order crackdown, with the United States, the United Nations and rights groups voicing alarm at the bloodshed.

On Monday, Melvin Odicia, a businessman accused of being a drug trafficker known as "Dragon", and his wife were shot dead at Aklan port in the central Philippines after getting off a ferry, police reported. Regional police chief Jose Gentiles said yesterday the lone gunman had yet to be identified, but was likely also linked to the

drug trade. "The most probable motive is that the mastermind wanted to silence the couple. Perhaps the mastermind was afraid the victims would implicate them," Gentiles said. Odicia had expressed fears for his life after local authorities alleged he was the top drug lord in the central province of Iloilo, according to his lawyer.

Odicia had said he was innocent but national police chief Ronald dela Rosa insisted last week he was the drug lord. "Who is he fooling? You know he is the drug lord but he is still denying it? Tell it to the Marines," dela Rosa told reporters on Friday in Iloilo.

Duterte has repeatedly said that drug traffickers deserve to die and urged security forces to kill them. During the election campaign he promised that 100,000 people would die in his war on crime. However he said in recent weeks

that his security forces are not carrying out extrajudicial killings. Police have reported killing more than 700 people they accused of being involved in drugs.

But police and Duterte say they have only killed in self-defense. Dela Rosa said last week there were another 1,190 killings under investigation, but they were likely due to drug gangs murdering people who could implicate each other. Critics of the crime war say security forces and hired assassins are carrying out mass murder, with people not involved in drugs also being killed amid a dire breakdown in the rule of law.

Duterte has rallied against his critics, accusing them of siding with drug traffickers, and warned there will be no let up. "I consider the fight against drugs a war. There is a crisis in this country," Duterte said on Monday. — AFP



**MIYAGI:** Waves crash against a coastal road in Minamisanku, Miyagi prefecture, northeastern Japan yesterday. — AP

## MYANMAR'S SUU KYI TO HOLD MAJOR PEACE SUMMIT WITH ETHNIC REBELS

**NAYPYITAW:** Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi is launching a major push to end decades of fighting between rebels and the military, with many of the country's myriad armed groups gathering for a peace conference in the capital Naypyitaw. Suu Kyi has made the peace process a priority for her administration, which faces sky-high expectations at home and abroad after sweeping to power in an election last November to end more than half a century of military-backed rule.

Few concrete proposals are to emerge this week, with delegates expecting to meet every six months to tackle issues ranging from security, political representation and culture to sharing the fruits of the country's mineral riches.

But the fact that Nobel Peace Prize laureate Suu Kyi has been able to bring the vast majority of the rebels to the negotiating table only five months after taking power is a sign of progress, experts say.

Powerful armed groups from regions bordering China, who refused to sign a ceasefire last October under the previous military-backed government, are now set to take part, partly owing to China's tacit sup-

port for the talks, observers say. As Myanmar's economy opens up, China is vying for influence with the United States. President Xi Jinping pledged his country would play a "constructive role" in the peace process when Suu Kyi visited China this month. Myanmar has been torn by fighting between the military, which seized power in the 1962 coup, and ethnic armed groups almost without a break since the end of the Second World War, as rebels pushed for recognition of their rights and greater autonomy from the central government.

The meeting, which begins on Wednesday, has been billed as the "21st-Century Panglong Conference", a reference to the agreement between the majority Bamar and ethnic minorities in 1947 that formed the Union of Burma. It was held by Suu Kyi's father and Myanmar's national hero, General Aung San. "The ambition of 1947 Panglong Conference was to get independence. Today's ambition is domestic peace and unity of the whole country," said 84-year-old veteran journalist Phoe Thauk Kyar, who was 14 at the time of the Panglong Conference. — Reuters

## PHILIPPINE MILITARY RAMPS UP ABU SAYYAF OFFENSIVE

**JOLO:** The Philippine military deployed thousands of extra troops yesterday to destroy an Islamic extremist group notorious for kidnapping foreigners, after 15 soldiers were killed, authorities said. President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered his security forces to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf, which has declared allegiance to the Islamic State group and recently beheaded two Canadian hostages. But an assault that began last week on the heavily forested island of Jolo, one of the Abu Sayyaf's strongholds about 900 kilometers south of Manila, has met fierce resistance. Fifteen troops were killed and another 10 were injured in a single encounter with the Abu Sayyaf on Monday, regional military spokesman Major Filemon Tan said.

An additional 2,500 troops were yesterday deployed to Jolo and nearby islands, according to presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella. "The president is focused on making sure that the threat from the Abu Sayyaf group should be terminated as soon as possible," Abella told reporters in Manila. Tan said the extra troops would join two brigades already involved in the fighting. He declined to give specific numbers, but there are at least 1,000 soldiers in a brigade. Tan said the military would be able to achieve the goal set by Duterte, but conceded the rough terrain and possible assistance from local Muslim residents were working to the Abu Sayyaf's advantage.

Duterte, who has been in office for two months, initially called on the Abu Sayyaf to lay down their arms but quickly adopted a tougher

stance when his overtures were rejected. "Go out and destroy them. Kill whoever they are," Duterte said last week, in reference to the Abu Sayyaf. The Abu Sayyaf is a loose network of a militants formed in the 1990s with seed money from Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network. It is based in remote Muslim populated southern islands of the mainly Catholic Philippines, and has earned

millions of dollars from kidnappings-for-ransom.

While its leaders have in recent years pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, analysts say the group is mainly focused on a lucrative kidnapping business rather than religious ideology. This year the militants beheaded two Canadians after their demands for millions of dollars in ransoms were rejected. — AFP



**MANILA:** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte salutes during a wreath-laying ceremony at the National Heroes' Cemetery as part of commemorations for National Heroes' Day in Manila. — AFP



## SCHOOL TOLD TO HALT HAIR 'RACISM'

JOHANNESBURG: A South African school was ordered yesterday to suspend allegedly racist hairstyle regulations after black pupils said they had been called monkeys by teachers for wearing banned 'afros'. Local education authorities in Gauteng province gave Pretoria High School for Girls 21 days to re-assess its rules after protests by students triggered a public dispute over alleged racism. The prestigious school in the capital Pretoria was historically attended by whites only but it admitted black children following the end of apartheid in 1994.

Some pupils said they were forced to chemically straighten their hair and not wear afro hairstyles that were deemed untidy. After visiting the school on Monday for talks with senior staff and students, provincial education minister Panyaza Lesufi said a probe into the allegations would be launched. "Learners feel that they are not allowed to wear Black hairstyles, such as Afro. Specifically, the school policy limits the length of the hairstyle," the ministry said in a statement. "Some educators tell them they look like monkeys, or have nests on their heads."

At the weekend, defiant black students with afro hairstyles and braids held a protest at the school against the long-standing regulations. Politicians quickly weighed in, with the two largest opposition parties criticizing the government-run school. The ministry statement said "the code

of conduct... must be reviewed and the clause dealing with hairstyles should be suspended in the meantime." It also accused the school of a heavy-handed response for calling in police and armed security guards to deal with protests.

Other allegations raised by students during Monday's talks included being banned from speaking ethnic languages on school premises and suffered discrimination from white teachers and pupils. A white student allegedly told a black student that she did not need a pencil as her finger was black enough, and white students allegedly complained about taught "kaffir" music, using an insulting term for a black African.

Former pupil Mishka Wazar, 19, told AFP that controversies over racism at the school had been brewing for years. "During my time there were problems around similar issues, but no one ever took it to the level these girls have done," said Wazar, who is now at university. "We would write letters and our complaints were largely ignored." Wazar, who left the school last year, said the rules must be adjusted to fit changing demographics. She said she had witnessed black girls being pulled aside from school assembly and criticized for their hair. "The teacher would usually tell them to fix their hair... make it smooth," she said. "Most of these rules are really hard to adhere to if your hair is not of a certain texture." — AFP

## QATAR, TURKEY ASSERTING TIES

Continued from Page 1

of Commerce, hosted an evening at a top Doha hotel complete with canapes, speeches and a presentation on the economic ties between the two countries.

The affable ambassador has also been pictured meeting Qatari government officials. "We have a very strong relationship with Qatar. There's cultural and policy similarities and the people are very close and the relationship between our leaders is excellent." The love-in has continued with Turkish First Deputy Prime Minister Omer Faruk Korkmaz giving an interview to Qatar's Arabic-language newspaper Al-Sharq to further praise the emir.

And on Aug 24, Doha and Ankara signed twinning agreements. That came one day after a Turkish company won a \$2-billion contract to build a 10-lane highway in northern Qatar, and two days before ubiquitous Qatari broadcaster beIN Media announced it had purchased Turkey's pay TV company Digiturk. Moving into the Turkish market was "essential", said beIN chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi.

In short, Qatar, has had a good coup. Relations post-July 15 have built upon an alliance which has proved strong in recent years. Both benefit from the economic alliance - trade between the two countries at the end of 2015 stood at \$1.26 billion, up from \$769 million in 2013 - according to Turkish

government figures. Politically, and for reasons of security, it has also proved crucial.

Qatar and Turkey have backed opposition groups in the Libyan civil war, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, and also supported rebels fighting Bashar Al-Assad's Syrian regime. Their alliance provides a counterweight to other regional powers, particularly Saudi Arabia and Iran, and is viewed with "suspicion" by the United Arab Emirates, said Ulrichsen. And Turkey has a military base in Qatar which houses up to 3,000 troops or possibly more "depending on the needs", said Demirok.

"In my view the Qatar-Turkey axis has some important common ground," said Christopher Davidson, an academic in Middle East politics at Britain's Durham University. "Both have cultivated political Islam at home and abroad to press their agendas, both see each other as a useful partner in countering rival powers, whether in Riyadh or in Tehran." And while the military base is "symbolic", it provides "a clear signal to Washington, Riyadh, and Tehran, that Ankara is well placed to take over the US role in the future if the need arises", he added.

Are there any fault lines? Possibly Turkey's evolving stance in Syria which potentially is "something to keep an eye on", said Davidson. Ulrichsen says the two countries will be increasingly focused on domestic issues in the near future. Demirok, though, is clear that the alliance is strong. "We are very good teammates," he said. — AFP

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT, TAXI FARES REVISED...

Continued from Page 1

### Article 1

The tariff for taxis will be as follows:

#### First: Private taxis

1- Start of the service (when boarding the cab) will be KD 0.500

2- 150 fils per kilometer

3- 50 fils per waiting minute.

In case of a breakdown during the service that causes the car to stop, no waiting period will be calculated, only the traveled distance.

#### Second: Airport taxi tariffs of both types (airport limousine/airport taxi) as per the following table:

##### No. 1

Area: Sabhan, Magwa, Farwaniya, Jleeb, Rehab, Ishbeliya, Ardiya, Rabiya, Rai, Omariya, Khaitan, Siddeeq, Salam, Hitteen, Shuhada, Zahra, Mubarak Abdullah Al-Jaber, Surra, Qurtuba, Yarmouk

Type of car: Saloon (4 passengers) KD 5; (5 passengers) KD 7, (7 passengers) KD 8. Stretch limo - KD 13.

##### No. 2

Area: Khaldiya, Adailiya, Faiha, Kaifan, Shamiya, Kuwait City, Residential Shuwaikh, Industrial Shuwaikh, Riggae, Andalus, Granada, Sulaibkhat, Abdullah Al-Salem

Type of car: Saloon (4 passengers) KD 6; (5 passengers) KD 8, (7 passengers) KD 13. Stretch limo - KD 18

##### No. 3

Area: Hawally, Nugra, Maidan Hawally, Shaab, Salmiya, Rawda, Qadsiya, Nuzha, Daiya, Bneid Al-Gar, Mansouriya, Jabriya

Type of car: Saloon (4 passengers) KD 6; (5 passengers) KD 8, (7 passengers) KD 13. Stretch limo - KD 18

##### No. 4

Area: Rumaithiya, Salwa, Messila, Bayan, Mishref, Mubarak Al-Abdullah

Type of car: Saloon (4 passengers) KD 6; (5 passengers) KD 8, (7 passengers) KD 13. Stretch limo - KD 18

##### No. 5

Area: Firdous, Sulaibiya, Sabah Al-Nasser, West Abdullah Mubarak, Abdullah Mubarak

Type of car: Saloon (4 passengers) KD 7; (5 passengers) KD 10, (7 passengers) KD 13. Stretch limo - KD 18

##### No. 6

Area: Dhahr, Qurain, Adan, Qusoor, Jaber Al-Ali, Funaites, Fintas, Hadiya, Reqqa, Fahd Al-Ahmad

Type of car: Saloon (4 passengers) KD 7; (5 passengers) KD 10, (7 passengers) KD 18. Stretch limo - KD 22

##### No. 7

Area: Mangaf, Sabahiya, Fahaheel, Ahmadi, Shuaiba, Sabah Al-Ahmad, Ali Sabah Al-Salem

Type of car: Saloon (4 passengers) KD 7; (5 passengers) KD 13, (7 passengers) KD 18. Stretch limo - KD 22

##### No. 8

Area: Jahra, Mutlaa, Doha Port, Entertainment City, Jaber Al-Ahmad, Saad Al-Abdullah, Qairawan, Nahda, Mutlaa, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, West Sulaibkhat

Type of car: Saloon (4 passengers) KD 12; (5 passengers) KD 18, (7 passengers) KD 22. Stretch limo - KD 27

##### No. 9

Area: Zour, Khairan, Marine Sabah Al-Ahmad

Type of car: Saloon (4 passengers) KD 17; (5 passengers) KD 22, (7 passengers) KD 27. Stretch limo - KD 32

##### No. 10

Area: Abdaly, Salmi, Nuwaiseeb, Wafra, Subbiya

Type of car: Saloon (4 passengers) KD 21; (5 passengers) KD 27, (7 passengers) KD 32. Stretch limo - KD 35

#### Article 2

Public transport tariffs will be as follows per passenger:

• Within the old walls: 150 fils

• From Kuwait City to residential areas within the limits of Third Ring Road and vice versa: 200 fils

• From Kuwait City to residential and industrial areas within Fourth Ring Road or vice versa: 250 fils

• From Kuwait City to residential and industrial areas within Fifth Ring Road or vice versa: 300 fils

• From Kuwait City to residential and remote areas within Sixth Ring Road and vice versa: 350 fils

• From Kuwait City to Ahmadi and Fahaheel or vice versa: 600 fils.

• From Kuwait City to Fintas or vice versa: 500 fils.

• From Kuwait City to Jahra or vice versa: 600 fils

• From Kuwait City to Abdaly, Salmi and Nuwaiseeb or vice versa: KD 2.500

#### Article Two

Article 1 of the ministerial decision 2029/2001 with regards to call taxi meters shall be amended as follows:

#### Article 1

First: Start of service (when boarding the cab) is calculated at 600 fils.

Second: During the service:

1- 200 fils per kilometer.

2- 70 fils per waiting minute.

In case of a sudden breakdown during the service that causes the car to stop, the waiting period is not calculated, and only the traveled distance will be calculated.

#### Article 1

First: Start of service (when boarding the cab) is calculated at 600 fils.

Second: During the service:

1- 200 fils per kilometer.

2- 70 fils per waiting minute.

In case of a sudden breakdown during the service that causes the car to stop, the waiting period is not calculated, and only the traveled distance will be calculated.

#### Article Three

Article 5 of ministerial decision 182/ 2004 with regards to setting roaming taxi meters will be amended to become as follows:

First: Start of service (when boarding the cab) is calculated at 350 fils.

Second: During the service:

1- 125 fils per kilometer.

2- 40 fils per waiting minute.

In case of a sudden breakdown during the service that causes the car to stop, the waiting period is not calculated, and only the traveled distance will be calculated.

## UNDER-CONSTRUCTION TOWER IN ABU DHABI...

Continued from Page 1

Ten of those injured were civil defense and other emergency personnel, according to a statement carried by state news agency WAM. The WAM report quoted the head of Abu Dhabi's civil defense department as saying that investigations to determine the cause of the fire were

still in progress. Abu Dhabi has experienced a real estate boom in recent years, as has the neighboring emirate of Dubai where several fires have hit high-profile buildings. In July, fire ripped through a 75-storey apartment block in Dubai Marina, with no casualties reported, but last New Year's Eve 16 people were injured in a huge blaze at the luxury Address Downtown Hotel. — Agencies

## TURKEY OP IN SYRIA FRAUGHT WITH RISK

Continued from Page 1

But defending a buffer zone between Kurdish-controlled areas on either side of the Euphrates could suck Turkey deeper into the five-year conflict, said Aykan Erdemir, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies. "Ultimately, Syria could yet turn into a territorial extension of the protracted fighting between Turkey and the PKK going on since 1984," he warned. By Monday, Turkish forces and their rebel allies had advanced to within around 15 km of Manbij, a city west of the Euphrates taken by the Kurdish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) from IS earlier this month. Turkey has demanded that pro-Kurdish forces leave the mainly Arab town.

Aaron Stein of the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Centre for the Middle East said any further advances would leave the Turks exposed. On Saturday, Turkey lost a soldier whose tank was hit by a missile - its first casualty in the operation. The army said it had killed 25 "terrorists" - claims disputed by a monitoring group which said Turkish strikes had killed dozens of mostly civilians. "Everything they've done so far has been easy and they've already taken a loss," Stein said, referring to Turkey. "If they want to fight through (to Manbij) they'll take more casualties," he said calling the M60 tanks deployed by Turkey "museum pieces" that are vulnerable to roadside bombs.

So far Turkey has kept the operation relatively small, deploying only a few dozen tanks and a few hundred troops alongside a larger force of Syrian rebels. But as it gains ground it could be forced to step up its presence, to help the rebels hold their ground. "What Turkey does not want is for that territory to fall back into the hands of the Islamic State or the Syrian Kurds," Sinan Ulgen, a former Turkish diplomat who chairs the EDAM think tank in Istanbul, said. Ulgen said he expected the Turkish army to set up a beachhead around Jarabulus, advancing and retreating from there for surgical strikes.

Further clashes with the YPG would add to tensions with NATO ally Washington, which loudly protested the weekend clashes, calling on both sides to focus their fire on Islamic State. "It is hard to see how this does not get messy," the European Council on Foreign

Relations (ECFR) wrote in a paper. "For the Kurds the entire conflict has been about establishing a quasi-state of their own within Syria; for Turkey it is now about preventing such an outcome."

Turkey's foray has also raised questions about its stance in Syria's core conflict, between Russian-backed Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's regime and the various rebel factions trying to oust him. Turkey has been a fierce opponent of Assad but recently appeared to soften its stance. Both Russia and Damascus issued only muted protests when Turkish tanks rumbled into Syria, flanked by anti-Assad rebels. That could change if the offensive spurs on rebels the Syrian regime in the battered city of Aleppo and other flashpoints. "In the end, it is hard to imagine that the different actors can simultaneously remain in alignment on the Kurdish question while maintaining a brutal fight elsewhere," the ECFR said.

Back at home, the operation could also lead to an escalation in the fighting between the Turkish military and the PKK. The PKK have killed hundreds of Turkish security force members since a truce fell apart last year while a PKK offshoot has claimed three suicide bombings in Istanbul and Ankara. "If there is a more sustained confrontation with the YPG that will certainly have a negative impact... in relation to the ongoing struggle against the PKK," Ulgen said.

Meanwhile, the Islamic State group yesterday said its spokesman Abu Muhammad Al-Adnani was killed while monitoring military operations in the Syrian province of Aleppo. Quoting a "military source", the IS news agency Amaq said "Sheikh Abu Mohamed Al-Adnani, the spokesman of the Islamic State, was martyred while surveying operations to repel the military campaigns against Aleppo".

Amaq did not say how Adnani, born Taha Subhi Falaha in Syria's Idlib Province in 1977, was killed. Islamic State published a eulogy dated Aug 29, but giving no further details. It said he died after a "long voyage crowned by sacrifice" and vowed "revenge" at the hands of a "new generation born unto the Islamic State". IS has regularly urged followers to target disbelievers. Adnani made such request in Sept 2014, calling on supporters to use stones, knives or even vehicles in their attacks. — Agencies

## MINISTER ASSURES NO HIKE IN PRICES

Continued from Page 1

Then the ministry decide whether the seller had the right to raise the price or not," he explained.

Ali said that the ministry has already issued 372 citations in August, of which only 11 were related to raising prices, while the rest were for offenses including not labeling the price of a product or its expiry date, pointing out that the ministry has taken legal procedures against such violations and those who committed

them. "Till this moment, there have been no significant increases in (necessities) prices, except in some cases," he added, reaffirming violators have been referred to the commercial prosecution.

Ministry staff, including those entrusted with trade supervision and consumer protection, have been working diligently to counter any drastic hike in the prices of basic products. He urged citizens to call the hotline 135 to report any violations.



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## Focus

WHERE NEXT FOR  
SOUTH SUDAN  
AND MACHAR?

By Waakhe Simon WUDU

War-torn South Sudan's slide into chaos resumed last month with fresh fighting in the capital Juba that forced rebel leader turned vice president and peace deal signatory Riek Machar to flee. With the spike in clashes came a surge of abuse of civilians by armed men including rape, murder and looting. A year-old peace deal was only partly implemented and, as July's battles showed, was insufficient to stop the war-yet regional and foreign powers cling to it as the country's only hope. So where next for hopes of peace in South Sudan and for rebel leader Machar?

## Is there still a peace agreement in South Sudan?

The deal, signed in August last year by rebel leader Machar and President Salva Kiir, hangs in the balance. Machar has fled the country and been replaced as vice president by Taban Deng Gai, who leads a Juba-based faction of the opposition SPLM/A-IO. Deng's appointment has yet to be fully accepted by either Machar loyalists or the international community that forced through the peace deal. During a visit to Kenya this month, US Secretary of State John Kerry hinted at US acceptance of the new reality when he described Machar's ouster as a "replacement of personnel" that was legal under the agreement.

## Where is rebel leader Riek Machar?

Machar fled Juba on foot after fighting in the city ended on July 11. He resurfaced in the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo on Aug 18 and then flew to the Sudanese capital Khartoum for unspecified medical treatment. Aides say Machar is eager to reassert himself politically as soon as he is fit and well by visiting regional countries that are members of the IGAD bloc (Intergovernmental Authority on Development), which has led successive rounds of peace talks.

## Who backs Machar and who is against him?

Machar left a sharply divided (and, in Juba, militarily defeated) former rebel movement in his wake when he fled. Deng enjoys the backing of Kiir but field commanders, armed forces and SPLM/A-IO leaders outside Juba continue to back Machar - for now. "Machar is still an influential leader as long as he is alive," said James Okuk, a political scientist at Juba University. Regional bloc IGAD has said that Deng should step aside when Machar returns, but the longer Machar is absent the stronger Deng's claim becomes and he may yet consolidate his position among the former rebels too. One way to achieve this, analysts say, would be for Deng and Kiir to move ahead with integrating rebel forces into the national army, effectively disarming Machar while implementing a key provision of the peace accords.

## Can Machar stage a comeback?

Machar loyalists are being rooted out of South Sudan's parliament and cabinet and being replaced with Deng's allies, weakening Machar's influence. Five out of 10 SPLM-IO ministers have been replaced along with 25 out of 50 MPs. Meanwhile Deng has quickly taken up the functions of the vice presidency, undertaking official visits to both Kenya and Sudan in recent weeks. Machar's future appears to rest in foreign hands and is largely dependent on whether the international community is willing to move ahead on a peace agreement without him.

## Will the promised UN 'protection force' be deployed?

On August 12 the UN Security Council approved the deployment of a so-called "protection force" in South Sudan to bolster the much-criticized peacekeeping operation there and enable the implementation of the peace agreement. Machar has said he will not return to Juba until a "neutral force" is in place and his safety guaranteed, but Kiir's government has resisted the UN plan, insisting it is a challenge to South Sudan's sovereignty and that further negotiations over the force's mandate are needed. While South Sudan has stopped short of refusing to accept more peacekeepers, the government has yet to accept them either, and it is impossible to imagine UN soldiers being deployed against the will of the government. — AFP

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## WHY AN EMBLEMATIC CITY HAS TURNED TO TRUMP

By Timothy Aeppl

One night a month, retired auto workers shuffle into a former elementary school classroom here to discuss their legal fight against the company that cancelled their health care benefits seven years ago. But the conversation often turns quickly to presidential politics. "It can get pretty heated," says Gerald Poor, the group's 77-year-old president, of their political discussions. "I call it to order if it gets out of hand."

Their anger is understandable. The group is a remnant of a once-powerful United Auto Workers union local, which at its peak in the 1960s represented over 5,000 workers who made transmissions in Muncie for BorgWarner Inc, the global auto parts maker. An American flag drapes the wall at one end of the room, portraits of former labor bosses line the other, salvaged from a union hall that had its own baseball field.

For this group of mostly white, working-class men, the last two decades have brought much loss. In this election - with the victory of the populist Donald Trump as the Republican Party nominee and the strong run by the populist Bernie Sanders for the Democratic Party crown - many say they feel they're finally being heard again. Working-class white men were once a force to be reckoned with in American politics. Many here speak wistfully of how John F. Kennedy stopped at BorgWarner to talk to workers when he campaigned in 1960. For these men, this year's election is a rare taste of the clout they once took for granted.

In the primary, Trump received the most votes of any candidate in either party in Delaware County, which encompasses Muncie. Just over 52 percent of Republican voters went for Trump. Democrats picked Sanders over Hillary Clinton by an even wider margin. "Candidates in the past made a lot of promises to the working class in this country and failed to follow through with it," says 66-year-old Bruce Reynolds, who followed his father and grandfather into a career at BorgWarner. Gazing through the rusted chain link fence that encircles the sprawling, abandoned factory, where he notes with precision that he worked for "32 and a half years," he says he's still skeptical of both sides' promises.

## The White Slide

Neither Trump nor Clinton was his first choice. Reynolds and his wife voted for Sanders in the primary, he says. Among oth-

er things, they couldn't support Clinton: She's the wife of former President Bill Clinton, who signed the North American Free Trade Agreement, which many here blame for Muncie's economic decline. They were uneasy with the often fiery rhetoric of Trump, the other side's top candidate. Yet both plan to vote for Trump in November, and Reynolds says they've grown comfortable with the choice. "I know, it sounds like we're confused," he says.

But they're not. Like many Trump supporters, he glides over the unappealing aspects of the candidate's message to lock onto those that he likes. For Reynolds, it's the hope of bringing back jobs for his children, some of whom still struggle to find decent work. Trump's gloomy world view is often dismissed as hyperbole, such as when he described crime and collapsed economies in America's cities at the Republican National Convention. But for someone in Muncie, that's not far off reality.

An analysis by Reuters found Delaware County is an extreme example of the declining fortunes of America's white working-class men. In 2000, white men with less than a college degree accounted for about three-quarters of all white men living in the county. By 2014, their proportion had dropped by about 5 percentage points, according to the US Census Bureau. But while this group's share of the population held relatively steady, the earnings of white men with full-time jobs had fallen dramatically.

In 2000, 47 percent of white men working full time were in the bottom third of earners, with incomes of \$50,000 or less, based on 2015 dollars. By 2014, 60 percent of them were in the bottom third. Meanwhile, the percentage of white men in full-time jobs making between \$50,000 and \$100,000 dropped from 43 percent to 32 percent. And the percentage in the ranks of earners above \$100,000 slipped from 11 percent to 8 percent. In essence, white men in Muncie have slid down from every rung of the economic ladder. They have clustered at the bottom, poorer and more isolated than ever before, even as the overall US economy has grown and globalized.

## Muncie as 'Middletown'

The same trend is visible in faded industrial pockets from New Jersey and upstate New York to Alabama and Kentucky. According to the data, in about 1,800 counties across the United States-nearly 60 percent of those where data is available-the share of white

men in the lowest group of earners has grown over this period. The trend is particularly pronounced in the Rust Belt states of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist at New York University's Stern School of Business, studies how people adopt their political beliefs. "Trump is the first candidate to speak to-and speak for-working-class white men in a long time," Haidt says. That separates him from the last two Republican nominees. Mitt Romney, who lost in 2012, didn't do that, "and John McCain didn't particularly reach out to that constituency" in 2008. As for Trump's extreme positions and outright falsehoods, Haidt notes, "If your hero says things that are untrue, you'll cut him slack."

Muncie was once the epitome of America's muscular manufacturing economy. After natural gas was discovered here late in the 19th century, the city attracted dozens of energy-intensive glass manufacturers, most notably Ball Corp, which built sprawling factories that churned out millions of mason jars. The auto industry followed, and Muncie became a hub for transmission making. The term "Muncie transmission" is still used by hot rod enthusiasts when talking about gearboxes produced here by General Motors Corp in the 1960s. One particularly powerful version is the "rock crusher," used in Corvettes and other muscle cars.

BorgWarner, based in Auburn Hills, Michigan, has even deeper roots in Muncie than GM. Warner Gear was founded here in 1901 and merged with other businesses to create what became BorgWarner in the late 1920s. Many former workers here still call it Warner Gear. In the 1920s, a husband-and-wife team of sociologists picked the city to study the values in a typical American community. They called it "Middletown," to conceal the identity of a place they felt was emblematic of the country as a whole. Muncie residents soon figured out it was all about them.

The Center for Middletown Studies-at Ball State University-has continued the work, compiling oral histories and, in recent years, focused on the devastation of deindustrialization. James Connolly, a history professor who runs the center, says that more than anything else, Muncie's working-class white men feel a loss of power. When the big factories were humming, the unions were an unstoppable force-not just for getting good paychecks and lush benefits, but a voice in almost everything else.

## Union Power

To illustrate this power, he cites a locally famous episode from the 1960s, when waitresses at a big downtown hotel went on strike for higher wages. "A group of police got rough and tried to break up the pickets," says Connolly. A local union leader - who had nothing to do with the waitresses, other than knowing about them through community connections - called the then-mayor, who was visiting Washington, and "ordered him home" to intervene. The mayor returned and the police backed off.

"The strikers weren't union members-but there was a system of connections that gave them a sense of control," says Connolly. With the decline of the unions, working-class people "feel like they've been robbed of that voice." And yet unions, which were unable to prevent the factory closures that ravaged the city, are often viewed just as suspiciously here as most national politicians are. That tension is visible at the old school where the BorgWarner retirees meet.

The Muncie Delaware County Senior Center was created to give retirees from the big factories - particularly men - a place to go for companionship and activities. One recent day, the room the BorgWarner retirees use was filled with seniors learning line dancing. "Some people don't like the photos" of the union leaders, says Jim Shields, a janitor, motioning toward the 10 portraits that adorn the front of the room. They feel the images carry an implicitly political, pro-union message. So, there was a fuss the last time the building was used as a polling station, he said. "We had complaints." Now, when the BorgWarner retiree group isn't meeting, Shields carefully drapes a long bolt of fabric over the pictures to conceal them.

Michael Hicks, a Ball State economist who studies manufacturing, says a mix of exasperation with unions and the political elite created the perfect opening for Trump. "It's always easier to blame a larger force for your problems, whether that's Mexicans or greedy factory owners," he says. "But these people aren't stupid. They know the jobs aren't coming back." The bigger concern for many of them, he says, is what will happen to their children. The Reynolds family is a good example. Bruce Reynolds's oldest son, Bruce Jr, is a Baptist pastor and is supporting Trump, albeit reluctantly. "I don't think any of them can fix it," Bruce Jr says of the fallout he sees from economic hardship in his congregation, from growing drug addiction to broken families. — Reuters

## UZBEKISTAN IN UNCERTAINTY WITH KARIMOV ILL

By Max Delany

Ex-Soviet nation Uzbekistan has plunged into uncharted territory after strongman leader Islam Karimov, who has dominated the country for over 25 years, was rushed into intensive care after a brain hemorrhage. While conflicting rumors of Karimov's condition buzz through the Central Asian nation, one thing is sure - the strategic country is facing a moment of uncertainty unparalleled in its post-Soviet history. "The developments are unprecedented," Steve Swerdlow, Central Asia researcher for Human Rights Watch, told AFP. "The entire state has been Islam Karimov, Islam Karimov has been the state for over quarter of a century ruling with an iron fist."

Former Soviet apparatchik Karimov, 78, whose brutal crackdown on dissent has been widely criticized by rights groups, has been at the helm of the strategic country bordering Afghanistan from since before it gained independence from Moscow in 1991. His younger

daughter Lola Karimova-Tillyaeva announced on social media Monday that he was in a "stable" condition in hospital after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage over the weekend. Since then the authorities in the tightly-controlled state have released no further official statement on his health.

## 'No One Knows'

While there has been no confirmation of Karimov's latest condition and he could in theory stage a recovery, the gravity of his illness has left many in the country now facing up to the prospect of life without the only ruler they have ever known. "Uzbeks have known for a long time that that moment would arrive, so no one would be surprised, but no one knows what will happen next," said Scott Radnitz, an associate professor at the University of Washington told AFP.

Despite being dogged by persistent health rumors, Karimov lacks a clear successor after being re-elected to a fifth term in 2015 with more than 90 percent of the vote.

The country has never held an election judged free and fair by international monitors. "There are two questions now: First, is there a plan for succession we don't know about? Second, even if there is, will the principals stick to it?" Radnitz said.

In theory the head of the senate should step in if Karimov dies or is incapable of ruling, but analysts dismissed him as a water-carrier. Instead those tipped to take over more long term in the case of Karimov's long illness or death include Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Deputy Prime Minister Rustam Azimov, Kamoliddin Rabbimov, an independent Uzbek political analyst based in France, told AFP. "I think in the corridors of power they have already started fighting."

Rabbimov said, while predicting the elite will be keen to ensure the transition is "more or less stable". "On the one hand the political elite is fighting each other and regrouping but on the other, they understand they need to keep control of the country. They have

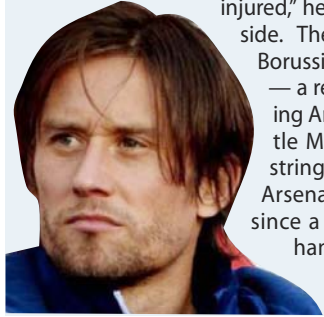
gained massive wealth under Karimov." Critics accuse Karimov of ruthlessly eviscerating all opposition in the cotton-rich country - most prominently with the alleged massacre of hundreds of protesters in the city of Andijan in 2005.

But the veteran operator has managed to play Russia, the West and China off against each other to keep his regime from total isolation. Swerdlow from Human Rights Watch said that while "certainly we could get more of the same or we could get even worse" in terms of human rights from any new leadership, this was a moment for "maximum leverage" from the West for Uzbekistan to clean up its act. "The fear is that in order to avoid any future leader of Uzbekistan running closely into the embrace of the Kremlin they'll need to reserve their criticism," Swerdlow said. "The truth is if Western diplomats are looking at this objectively is that Uzbekistan has always charted a course away or independent of Moscow and will likely continue to do so." — AFP



## CZECH MIDFIELDER ROSICKY RETURNS TO SPARTA PRAGUE

**PRAGUE:** Czech midfielder Tomas Rosicky signed a two-year contract with Sparta Prague yesterday, returning to his first club following the end of his contract with Arsenal. "I'm very happy to return to Sparta. I've never forgotten where I got my start," the 35-year-old told reporters. "I'd like to thank Arsenal for everything. They did an incredible job of taking care of me when I was injured," he added about his 10-year stint with the London side. The Czech Republic captain left Sparta in 2001 for Borussia Dortmund for 14.5 million euros (\$16 million) — a record transfer sum for a Czech player-before joining Arsenal in 2006. The veteran player dubbed "the little Mozart" has seen his star career hampered by a string of injuries. Rosicky played only 19 minutes for Arsenal last season because of injuries plaguing him since a Euro qualifier in Iceland in June 2015. A fresh hamstring injury at Euro 2016 then forced him to miss the rest of the tournament. — AFP



## REMY LOANED TO CRYSTAL PALACE BY CHELSEA

**LONDON:** France international striker Loic Remy will spend the 2016-17 season on loan at Crystal Palace from Chelsea, the two Premier League clubs announced yesterday. Remy, 29, has been used sparingly since joining Chelsea from Queens Park Rangers in August 2014, making 46 appearances and scoring 12 goals. The move to Selhurst Park reunites him with Palace manager Alan Pardew, who was Remy's manager during the 2013-14 season at Newcastle United. "This is a very good chance for me and a big opportunity," Remy told the Palace website. "It was very important to know Alan Pardew as he is a very good manager and I am happy to be here." Remy won the Premier League title and the League Cup in his first season at Chelsea. But Chelsea's reliance on Diego Costa meant he rarely featured last season and he would have faced extra competition from new signing Michy Batshuayi had he remained at Stamford Bridge. The former Lyon, Nice and Marseille striker has won 31 caps for France, scoring seven goals, but has not played for his country in nearly two years. "Loic has been a target of mine throughout this transfer window and I'm delighted the deal has been done," Pardew said. — AFP

## ARSENAL SEAL MOVE FOR SPANISH STRIKER PEREZ

**LONDON:** Arsenal have completed a deal to sign Spanish striker Lucas Perez from Deportivo La Coruna, the Premier League club announced yesterday. Arsenal did not disclose either the length of Perez's contract or the transfer fee, but British media reports said the 27-year-old had cost around 17 million pounds (\$22.3 million, 20 million euros). Arsenal are also believed to be close to signing Germany defender Shkodran Mustafi from Valencia for around 35 million pounds. Discussing Perez, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told the club website: "He's not only a goalscorer, he's a guy who combines well with partners, who can give a final ball and makes good runs. He's got a good eye for goal and had an outstanding season last year." Arsenal are reported to have seen off competition from Premier League rivals Everton to secure Perez's signature. Perez, who is uncapped, scored 19 goals for Deportivo last season, including 17 in La Liga. He also scored the winning goal in their 2-1 win over Eibar on the opening day of this season. He began his career with Atletico Madrid's C team and has also played for Rayo Vallecano, Ukrainian side Karpaty Lviv and Greek club PAOK. — AFP



**VANCOUVER:** Man Kaur, 100, of India, competes in the 100-meter track and field event at the Americas Masters Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, Monday. — AP

## 100-YEAR-OLD RUNNER FROM INDIA INSPIRES AT US MASTERS GAMES

**VANCOUVER:** Man Kaur from India needed almost a minute-and-a-half to cross the finish line in the 100-meter dash, but she still picked up a gold medal Monday at the American Masters Games. That's because the 100-year-old Kaur was the only female competitor in her age category at the competition for older athletes.

When she crossed the finish line in Vancouver, her competitors — many of them in their 70s and 80s — were there to cheer her on.

Kaur's energy and drive to compete have become an inspiration to participants in the unique international event for athletes over 30. "When she wins, she goes back to India, and she's excited to tell others, 'I have won so many medals from this country,'" said her son Gurdev Singh, 78, translating for his mother. "Winning makes her happy."

After Kaur finished the sprint in one minute and 21 seconds, she stood smiling with her hands raised in the air. Asked how she felt, she breathed heavily and clutched a bottle of water, unable to speak. Earlier, she won gold medals in the javelin and shot put. Singh, 78, who also is competing in the Games, said he encouraged his mother to start running at age 93 because he knew she could become a star.

"I asked her, 'You have no problem, no knee problem, no heart problem, you should start running,'" he recalled. Kaur has now won more than 20 medals in Masters Games across the globe. While practicing in her home of Chandigarh, she goes out every evening to run five or 10 short distances, said Singh.

Singh said his mother believes in promoting running to other older women. "She encourages them, old ladies, that they should run, they should not eat wrong foods, and they should encourage their children also to take part in the Games."

Charmaine Crooks, a five-time Olympian who won a silver medal for Canada in the women's 4x400-meter relay in 1984, serves as an athlete ambassador for the Masters Games. She praised Kaur's "dynamic spirit."

"I know that it's inspired me. Hey, I've got almost 50 more years to go, right?" Crooks said. "She's inspiring everyone, young and old." The World Masters Games take place every four years, with regional games in between. The Americas Masters Games in Vancouver is the first summer regional games in North America, Crooks said.

The average age of the athletes is 49, and there's one man who is even older than Kaur — 101-year-old Nihal Gill of Richmond, British Columbia. — AP



**VANCOUVER:** Man Kaur, wears the gold medals she won in shot put and javelin events before competing in the 100-meter track and field event at the Americas Masters Games in Vancouver. — AP

# CHARGERS SIGN ROOKIE BOSA TO 4-YEAR DEAL

**SAN DIEGO:** Defensive end Joey Bosa ended his monthlong holdout Monday when he signed a four-year contract with the San Diego Chargers. The team announced the signing five days after the two sides went public in their nasty spat over payment of Bosa's \$17 million signing bonus and whether the contract would have off-set language. The signing also came a day after San Diego's defense played poorly in a 23-10 exhibition loss at Minnesota.

"I'm happy to be here and there is no animosity between us," Bosa said. "It's just a matter of business and I'm happy to have it out of the way. I am very relieved. I knew this was going to get done. I was surprised how long it took. Of course I would have loved to have been out there with my teammates but the NFL is a business." "We just wanted what was fair and what people in that position got the last four or five years," Bosa added.

Coach Mike McCoy said he heard of Bosa agreeing to terms before Sunday's game and said he had to "keep it to myself." "He's here to help us win and I told the team he's here to help us win," McCoy said.

"Regardless of when he got here, let's go." The Chargers threatened last Wednesday to reduce their offer to Bosa under the assumption he wouldn't be ready to play a full season. Bosa, the No. 3 overall pick out of Ohio State, was the last rookie to sign. The Chargers said last week that they had given Bosa's agents their best offer and that it was rejected. Brian Ayrault, Bosa's main representative, replied with his own statement saying the team had manipulated the facts and that going public would not strengthen the team's relationship with the player.

There was no immediate indication of what led to the deal getting done.

Bosa said he's capable of playing in the opener on Sept. 11 at the Kansas City Chiefs. "I'm obviously a step behind the other guys this late into the game," Bosa said.

"I trust the coaches and they obviously have a plan ready for me. I'm just not sure what that is." Bosa also discussed his mother's involvement in



**SAN DIEGO:** File photo, San Diego Chargers rookie defensive end Joey Bosa trains during an NFL football rookie training camp in San Diego. Bosa's holdout has overshadowed everything else going on with the Chargers, who went public with the contract dispute. — AP

the public side of the contract dispute. Earlier this month, Cheryl Bosa posted a remark toward the Chargers on Facebook. In a reply to someone frustrated by the impasse, she wrote: "It bums me out for him so much."

"Wish we pulled an Eli Manning on draft day." On Thursday, Cheryl Bosa retweeted an article critical of the Chargers and added the comment, "The Chargers were petty and terrible even before they tried to stiff Joey Bosa."

"What do you expect a mom to do?" Bosa said. "She loves me, she wants what's best for me and she made a dumb decision, like I have before, saying something she shouldn't have said on social media. She honestly had no idea it

was public, she thought, because she was sending it to somebody else. Leave it to a mom to mess up on Facebook." Bosa's father, John, is a former first-round draft pick of the Miami Dolphins. He held out for 41 days as a rookie.

Bosa missed 31 days but said he followed a stringent workout regimen while away. "I was doing everything I could to be ready when I showed up here," Bosa said. "I think I've put myself in the best possible shape I could be in."

The Bosa spat came amid the Chargers' push for a ballot initiative that will ask voters for a \$1.1 billion subsidy via an increase in the hotel tax to help pay for a new stadium and convention center downtown. — AP



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Documents belonging to Ireland's Patrick Hickey, a member of the International Olympic Committee's executive board, that include his Olympics' credential and passport are displayed alongside Olympic tickets during a police press conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Aug 17, 2016. — AP

# IRISH CHIEF HICKEY FREED PENDING TICKET PROBE

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** A Brazilian court granted conditional release from jail Monday to top Irish Olympic official Patrick Hickey due to ill health while he is investigated over an alleged ticket scam. Rio de Janeiro Judge Fernando de Almeida agreed in a ruling to "revoke the preventive imprisonment ordered against the patient Patrick Joseph Hickey," but ordered him not to leave Brazil.

Hickey, 71, is the highest-profile suspect in an alleged scam to illegally sell tickets to this month's Rio Olympic Games for thousands of dollars. Prosecutors have estimated the profits from the black market sales at \$3 million.

Hickey is an International Olympic Committee member and head of the Olympic Council of Ireland and the European Olympic Committees. He was arrested at dawn on August 17 at a luxury Rio hotel where he was staying with other IOC members.

He was held in Rio's Bangu maximum security prison. "It does not seem that his release will pose any obstacle or risk for public order or criminal proceedings," de Almeida ruled. Hickey had still not left jail by early evening Monday,

the prisons service told AFP in an email. His lawyers had requested his release "given the patient's critical state of health," court documents showed. Hickey's lawyer Anne Marie James said last week that he has a "serious heart condition."

### JAIL CONCERNS

Hickey spent one night in a Rio hospital after his detention, which stunned the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at the height of the Games. His family urged the Irish government to "urgently intervene in addressing the extremely worrying issues surrounding his arrest and detention," in a statement last week via their lawyer.

James said the family were "gravely concerned" about the manner of Hickey's arrest, his detention in a high-security prison without charge, his health and his right to a fair hearing.

On August 26, more than a week after his detention, she said Hickey had still not been charged nor been able to apply for bail. She said the family believe he has been through a "degrading and humiliating ordeal."

IOC president Thomas Bach said Hickey had the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty. The Olympic Council of Ireland has commissioned an independent review of its handling of Rio 2016 ticketing arrangements.

### IRISH, BRITISH SUSPECTS

The courts on Saturday provisionally released another Irish suspect: Kevin Mallon, director of British hospitality firm THG. Mallon was arrested on August 5 and was also held at Bangu.

Police said they seized hundreds of tickets from Mallon. Mallon was caught in a hotel in the heart of the Olympic zone, selling tickets to a group of buyers.

Tickets, including for the Rio opening ceremony, with a face value of about \$1,400 were offered for sale at \$8,000, police said. On August 21, they seized passports from three other Irish Olympic officials suspected in the scam: Kevin Kilty, Dermot Henihan and Stephen Martin.

Police have issued arrest warrants for several other suspects including Marcus Evans, a British businessman who is the chairman of the Ipswich football club in England. — AFP



## AFTER RIO SCANDAL, LOCHTE TO APPEAR ON US REALITY SHOW

**NEW YORK:** Disgraced Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte is joining the "Dancing With the Stars" cast, ABC television announced yesterday, as the gold medalist said he thought reaction to his tale about being held up at a Rio de Janeiro gas station had been blown out of proportion.

Lochte, 32, was dropped by four of his major sponsors after admitting he "overexaggerated" a tale about being robbed and held at gunpoint with three other swimmers after a party during the Rio Olympics. Brazilian authorities say the group destroyed a bathroom and urinated in public, and

have recommended that Lochte be charged with falsely reporting a crime.

The swimmer, who was also vilified in the media over the incident, did not say whether he planned to return to Brazil to face the charges.

"I think it's everyone blowing this way out of proportion. I think that's what happened," Lochte told ABC television's "Good Morning America" on Tuesday, when asked whether he had embarrassed the United States with his actions.

"Like I said, I did lie about that one part," said Lochte, referring to his claim that a gun was held to

his head. "I take full responsibility. I'm human. I made a mistake. A very big mistake."

"Everyone has got to be sick and tired about hearing about this. I just want to move forward," added Lochte, his silver-dyed hair now returned to a more natural brown. The 12-time Olympic medalist said his appearance on the 23rd season of "Dancing With the Stars," was under discussion before he went to the Rio games. After the London Olympics in 2012 he was given his own, short-lived, TV reality show "What Would Ryan Lochte Do?"

Other "Dancing With the Stars" contestants in the

season starting on Sept. 12 will include 16-year-old U.S. Olympic gymnast Laurie Hernandez, former Texas governor Rick Perry, and rapper Vanilla Ice.

"Dancing With the Stars," in which celebrities are paired with professional ballroom dancers and voted off by the public, has been a popular venue for those seeking a comeback or trying to change their public image. Past contestants have included Bristol Palin, daughter of the 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, singer Donny Osmond, and retired Olympic speed skater Apolo Ohno. — Reuters



Tomas Lavanini

## PUMAS LOCK LAVANINI OUT FOR SEASON WITH LIGAMENT INJURY

**BUENOS AIRES:** Argentina lock Tomas Lavanini will require surgery on a damaged knee ligament and will be out of action until next year, missing the remainder of the Rugby Championship and the Pumas' tour of Europe in November.

Lavanini picked up the injury in Argentina's 26-24 victory over South Africa in Salta on Saturday and was not included in the tour party for the Pumas' Oceania leg of the championship when they face New Zealand and Australia.

"Unfortunately, we have just confirmed Tomas Lavanini's injury," team doctor Guillermo Botto said.

"It's a cruciate ligament injury and we expect to do surgery in three to four weeks and then he'll have an estimated recovery time of six months." The tour squad, posted on the Argentine Rugby Union website (www.uar.com.ar) on Monday, is also missing wing Manuel Montero, who tore a thigh muscle against the Springboks.

Coming into coach Daniel Hourcade's 28-man squad is number eight Leonardo Senatore, who has served a 10-week suspension for biting handed out during the Super Rugby competition in May.

Matias Moroni returns from the Pumas Olympic rugby sevens team and fellow

centre Jeronimo de la Fuente, who also missed Argentina's two matches against the Springboks, is included after recovering from injury.

Felipe Ezcurrea was named as a third scrumhalf. Botto said flyhalf Nicolas Sanchez and centre Juan Martin Hernandez were recovering from head injuries and all being well would be available for selection for both matches.

Argentina face world champions New Zealand, who top the standings after home and away wins over Australia, in Hamilton on Sept. 10 and the Wallabies in Perth a week later.

**Squad: Forwards:** Nahuel Tetaz Chaparro, Felipe Arregui, Agustin Creevy (captain), Lucas Nogueira Paz, Julian Montoya, Ramiro Herrera, Enrique Pieretto, Matias Alemanno, Guido Petti, Marcos Kremer, Juan Manuel Leguizamón, Pablo Matera, Javier Ortega Desio, Leonardo Senatore, Facundo Isa.

**Backs:** Martin Landajo, Tomas Cubelli, Felipe Ezcurrea, Santiago Gonzalez Iglesias, Nicolas Sanchez, Santiago Cordero, Ramiro Moyano, Jeronimo de la Fuente, Juan Martin Hernandez, Matias Moroni, Matias Orlando, Lucas Gonzalez Amoroso, Joaquin Tuculet. — Reuters



Lwazi Mvovo

## MVOVO RECALLED TO SOUTH AFRICA SQUAD

**CAPE TOWN:** South Africa have recalled winger Lwazi Mvovo to their tour squad for the Rugby Championship matches in Australia and New Zealand next month.

Mvovo replaced Ruan Combrink after he was ruled out for six weeks having fractured his fibula in the 26-24 loss to Argentina in Salta on Saturday.

Scrumhalf Francois Hougaard, named in the squad for the Southern Hemisphere championship but not considered for the two matches against Argentina due to a knee injury, has also rejoined the squad.

Flyhalf Elton Jantjies left the field early in the second half in Salta with a bruised thigh muscle but has been cleared to tour, though he remains a doubt for the test against Australia in Brisbane on Sept. 10.

The Springboks travel to Christchurch to face tournament leaders New Zealand a week later.

**Squad:**

**Backs:** Damian de Allende, Juan de Jongh (Stormers), Faf de Klerk (Lions), Johan Goosen (Racing Metro), Bryan Habana (Toulon), Francois Hougaard (Worcester), Elton Jantjies (Lions), Jesse Kriel (Bulls), Lionel Mapoe (Lions), Lwazi Mvovo (Sharks), Rudy Paige (Bulls), Morne Steyn (Stade Francais).

**Forwards:** Lourens Adriaanse (Sharks), Lood de Jager (Cheetahs), Pieter-Steph du Toit, Eben Etzebeth (Stormers), Steven Kitshoff (Bordeaux), Vincent Koch (Stormers), Jaco Kriel (Lions), Francois Louw (Bath), Malcolm Marx (Lions), Bongani Mbonambi (Stormers), Teboho Mokohe (Cheetahs), Franco Mostert (Lions), Tendai Mtawarira (Sharks), Trevor Nyakane (Bulls), Adriaan Strauss (Bulls), Warren Whiteley (Lions). — Reuters

## WESTWOOD, KAYMER, PIETERS GET CAPTAIN'S PICKS FOR RYDER CUP

**VIRGINIA WATER:** Europe captain Darren Clarke opted for a mix of form and experience in his picks for the Ryder Cup yesterday, with Thomas Pieters, Lee Westwood and Martin Kaymer joining a team seeking an unprecedented fourth straight victory.

Clarke said Westwood and Kaymer, both former top-ranked players and Ryder Cup veterans, were "very obvious" choices, but he had sleepless nights over his final selection. It boiled down to Pieters vs. Russell Knox, players who have won events on different sides of the Atlantic this month. Pieters, who won the Made in Denmark on Sunday in front of Clarke, got the nod.

"It's one of the most difficult periods in the whole of my golfing career," said Clarke, who added that the phone call to let down Knox was "one of the toughest I have ever had to make."

The addition of Pieters meant the European team will have six Ryder Cup rookies in Hazeltine next month. Masters champions Danny Willett, Chris Wood, Rafa Cabrera-Bello, Andy Sullivan and Matt Fitzpatrick also will sample golf's biggest team event for the first time. They qualified automatically along with four-time major winner Rory McIlroy, British Open champion Henrik Stenson, Olympic gold medalist Justin Rose, and Sergio Garcia.

That partly explains Clarke's desire for more balance to the team, and therefore his call for Westwood - a longtime friend - and Kaymer.

It will be the 43-year-old Westwood's 10th straight Ryder Cup, while two-time major champion Kaymer has played in the last three Ryder Cups and made the putt that ensured Europe would retain the cup at Medinah in 2012. They will offer experienced voices in the team room.

"Because all our rookies are playing frequently in America now, it's not quite what it used to be," Clarke said. "That being said, the Ryder Cup is not like any other event."

Clarke said Luke Donald - another former No. 1 and a four-time Ryder Cup winner - and Graeme McDowell would also have been in contention to join Westwood and Kaymer, if their form was better. In the end, it was a straight shootout between Knox and Pieters. The US-based Knox is a two-time winner on the US PGA Tour this season, including at the Travelers



**WENTWORTH:** European Ryder Cup captain Darren Clarke smiles during a press conference at Wentworth Golf Club, Virginia Waters, England yesterday. Lee Westwood, Martin Kaymer and Thomas Pieters will fill out the European team as Darren Clarke's captain's picks for the Ryder Cup against the United States at Hazeltine from Sept 30-Oct 2. Clarke announced his choices at the European Tour's headquarters at Wentworth yesterday. — AP

Championship this month, and ranked No. 20 - the sixth highest position for a European. His win at a WGC event in Shanghai last year didn't count toward Ryder Cup qualification because he wasn't a member of the European Tour at that stage. If he had been, Knox would be an automatic qualifier.

Pieters stood out, though, after an impressive run of finishes over the past month: Fourth place at the Olympics, second place at the Czech Masters, and then a third victory in the past year at the Made in Denmark where he birdied the last three holes to win. Pieters was grouped with Clarke for the first two rounds.

"He has the talent to go all the way to the top

of the world," Clarke said of Pieters, a big-hitting Belgian who played college golf at Illinois and won the NCAA individual title in 2012 at Riviera. "He brings a bit more of the X-factor. He is going to blossom. He will be a star."

Clarke said he recently set up a WhatsApp group with his vice-captains regarding the captain's picks. "Anyone who's been playing well, it's been on there," Clarke said.

Pieters' name will have popped up more than anyone else. "It's been a little bit crazy," Pieters said. "I was playing well but the results weren't there and I guess I had to step it up at the end. I can't wait to get on that plane and be with the team the whole week." — AP

## RAFAEL NADAL'S WRIST NEEDS 'A LITTLE MORE TIME' AT US OPEN

**NEW YORK:** As Rafael Nadal stood near the net at the US Open after winning his first Grand Slam match in three months Monday, he unraveled the thick wrap of white tape protecting his all important left wrist and then clutched at that arm with his right hand.

Sure, there were matches that provided more drama or surprises on Day 1 at Flushing Meadows.

There was 20th-seeded John Isner's comeback from two sets down to edge 18-year-old Frances Tiafoe before a rowdy, standing-room-only crowd at the new Grandstand.

A first-round loss by Rio Olympics gold medalist Monica Puig. French Open champion Garbine Muguruza's complaints about having trouble breathing after dropping the first set of a match she would go on to win in three.

Nothing, though, was as meaningful when it comes to what could go on over the next two weeks as how 14-time major champion Nadal's wrist felt during and after a relatively straight-forward 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Denis Istomin.

The match was played at Arthur Ashe Stadium, where the new \$150 million retractable roof remained open under a blue sky, but still offered some extra shade on a day when the temperature reached 90 degrees.

The good news, Nadal said afterward, is that the pain is gone from the part of his body that whips those violent, topspin-heavy forehands that are the key to his success - 14 of his 21 winners came off that wing.

### THE BAD NEWS FOR NADAL?

He still is working on feeling comfortable hitting down-the-line forehands, in particular, after sitting out - not just zero real matches, but barely any practice, either - from his withdrawal at the French

Open in late May to the Olympics this month. "Not easy to go 21/2 months out of competition, in the middle of the season, without hitting a forehand," Nadal said. "I need to have the confidence again with my wrist."

Both Nadal and his coach, Uncle Toni, described the way Rafael changed the way he hits a forehand during the Rio Games to try to avoid pain. Both said things are improving.

But as Toni noted: "We need a little time." Istomin, who is from Uzbekistan and is ranked 107th, was not exactly likely to give Nadal much of a test. He entered the day 0-4 against the two-time U.S. Open champion, having dropped 10 of the 11 sets they'd played. He had lost his past 20 matches against top-10 opponents. Plus, he's been dealing with an injured right hamstring lately.

So what did he think of Nadal's play Monday? "For the first set, I was feeling that he was not hitting hard," Istomin said. "A lot of short balls." Nadal's summation of his day: "Not very good; not very bad." Uncle Toni's take? "I hope every



**NEW YORK:** Rafael Nadal of Spain returns a shot to Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan during his first round Men's Singles match on Day One of the 2016 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on Monday in the Flushing neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City. — AFP

day we can play a little bit better."

There were other folks feeling that way, too, for varying reasons. Isner, for one, had to be rather relieved to escape with a 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 7-6 (3) victory over Tiafoe in their all-American matchup. Tiafoe first built his big lead, let it slip away, then served for the match after breaking Isner for a 5-3 lead in the fifth set. But Isner broke there.

"Probably played the best return game I played all match," Isner said. "Even though I was pretty haggard out there, I got a jolt of energy when I got it back to 5-4." And then the winner of the longest match in tennis history - 70-68 in the fifth set at Wimbledon in 2010 - took advantage

of the U.S. Open's fifth-set tiebreaker to close it out in about 31/2 hours. Afterward, an exhausted Tiafoe leaned into Isner's chest when they met at the net. "The last thing I heard him say is, 'Don't let this get you down,'" Tiafoe recalled.

Puig was seeded at No. 32, and was back on court a little more than two weeks after becoming the first athlete representing Puerto Rico to earn a gold medal in any sport at any Olympics.

"A lot of pressure," she said. "A lot of expectation." She exited the US Open quickly, beaten 6-4, 6-2 by Zheng Saisai of China. "You know what?" Puig said afterward. "This isn't going to be the last of me." — AP

## GIRL FINDS STOLEN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL

**ATLANTA:** An Atlanta girl who found his gold medal in a pile of trash weeks after it got stolen.

Joe Jacobi won the medal in men's canoe double slalom at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. Jacobi says it was stolen when somebody broke into his car in June. Weeks later, Chloe Smith was walking with her father

when she spotted the gold medal discarded in a pile of garbage. Chloe returned the medal to Jacobi, who had posted about the theft on social media. The former Olympian then promised to visit Chloe's school and let her classmates know about her good deed.

Jacobi spoke Monday to Chloe's first-grade class at Woodson Park Academy. — AP





NEW YORK: Miami Marlins' Ichiro Suzuki (51) slides into second with a double as New York Mets shortstop Jose Reyes, left, waits for the ball during the eighth inning of a baseball game Monday at Citi Field in New York. Second base umpire Paul Emmel is at right. — AP

# CESPEDES HOMERS IN 10TH AS METS TOP MARLINS IN OPENER

**NEW YORK:** Yoenis Cespedes homered with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning to give the New York Mets a 2-1 victory over the Miami Marlins on Monday night. Jose Reyes dashed home to score the tying run in the eighth on a dangerous collision at the plate. Two innings later, Cespedes, who sat out Sunday's loss to Philadelphia after his nagging right quadriceps flared up, launched a no-doubt drive to left-center on a 1-1 pitch from Nick Wittgren (4-3). The Mets pulled even with Miami for second place in the NL East. With its seventh victory in nine games, New York remained 2 1/2 games behind St. Louis for the league's second wild card. Rookie left-hander Josh Smoker (1-0) struck out two in a perfect inning for his first major league win.

#### CARDINALS 6, BREWERS 5

Stephen Piscotty scored on a throwing error in the ninth inning after Carlos Martinez struck out a career-high 13, leading the St. Louis past Milwaukee. With two on and nobody out in the ninth, Yadier Molina dropped down a ball. Reliever Tyler Thornburg (5-5) threw to third base for a force out, but Jonathan Villar's throw to first was wild, allowing Piscotty to score. After Martinez held Milwaukee to one run over six innings, the Brewers scored four runs in the seventh to take a 5-3 lead. St. Louis tied it in the eighth on a two-run homer by Randal Grichuk off Corey Knebel. Seung Hwan Oh pitched a perfect ninth for his 14th save. Miguel Socolovich (1-0) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings to pick up his first win. Jedd Gyorko and Kolten Wong each hit solo home runs for the Cardinals.

#### INDIANS 1, TWINS 0, 10 INNINGS

Jason Kipnis' 10th-inning single scored Chris Gimenez as Cleveland handed Minnesota its 11th straight loss. Kipnis lined a 1-0 pitch from Brandon Kintzler (0-1) with one out to left-center to finally break up the scoreless game. Abraham Almonte pushed a bunt past Kintzler and beat

the throw to first to start the inning. Gimenez fouled off two bunt attempts before poking a single through the right side with Almonte moving to second. Third baseman Miguel Sano fielded Rajai Davis' slow roller.

Third base umpire Ron Kupla ruled Sano tagged Almonte and the call was upheld after a Cleveland challenge. Kipnis then hit the second pitch from Kintzler for the game-winner. Zach McAllister (3-2) worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the 10th, retiring Max Kepler on a fly ball to end the inning.

#### TIGERS 4, WHITE SOX 3

Jarrod Saltalamacchia hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning to lift Detroit. Justin Upton also went deep for the Tigers, who pulled within a game of Baltimore for the American League's second wild card. Detroit trailed 3-2 after a solo homer in the seventh by Chicago's Tyler Saladino, but Saltalamacchia's towering drive to right-center off Nate Jones (5-3) put the Tigers ahead. Justin Wilson (4-4) got the win in relief, and Francisco Rodriguez pitched a perfect ninth for his 37th save in 40 chances. Saladino drove in all three Chicago runs. James Shields allowed two runs and six hits in six innings.

#### RED SOX 9, RAYS 4

Rick Porcello became the majors' first 18-game winner and the first Red Sox pitcher in 70 years to open a season 13-0 in Fenway Park, going seven solid innings in Boston's victory over Tampa Bay. Mookie Betts hit his 30th homer, a solo shot, and drove in two runs for the Red Sox, who hold the AL's first wild-card spot but had lost four of five.

Brock Holt had three hits and drove in two runs, Travis Shaw had three hits and Chris Young added a tiebreaking two-run double for Boston. Porcello (18-3) allowed three runs and six hits, striking out seven without issuing a walk. Matt Andriese (6-6) took the loss, giving up a season-

high seven runs in four-plus innings. The Rays, buried in last in the AL East, have lost three of four.

#### NATIONALS 4, PHILLIES 0

Tanner Roark threw seven impressive innings, Jayson Werth hit a solo homer and Washington beat Philadelphia. Roark (14-7) allowed four singles and struck out five. Marc Rzepczynski tossed a perfect eighth and Mark Melancon finished off the four-hitter. Phillies rookie Jake Thompson (1-4) allowed two runs and seven hits in seven innings. It was the longest and best of his five career starts. Werth lined a solo shot to left in the first against his former team. Bryce Harper raced home from first on Anthony Rendon's single to left-center to make it 2-0 in the first. Clint Robinson and Trea Turner had RBI singles off Frank Herrmann in the ninth.

#### CUBS 8, PIRATES 7, 13 INNINGS

Miguel Montero hit a game-ending RBI single in the 13th inning, and Chicago rallied for a wild win over Pittsburgh. Dexter Fowler, Kris Bryant and Anthony Rizzo set the stage for Montero's clutch swing with consecutive RBI singles against Jeff Locke (9-8), plating the tying run. After Ben Zobrist was walked intentionally, Montero lined a clean single into left field. Rob Zastryzny (1-0) got his first major league win despite allowing Josh Harrison's sacrifice fly in the top half of the inning. Jorge Soler and Willson Contreras homered for the Cubs, and Javier Baez collected four hits. Pittsburgh had won eight straight road games. It fell 1 1/2 games back of St. Louis for the second NL wild card.

#### BLUE JAYS 5, ORIOLAS 1

Josh Donaldson hit his fourth homer in two days and Jose Bautista also went deep in support of Marco Estrada, leading Toronto past Baltimore.

The Blue Jays lead the third-place Orioles by four games in the AL East. Baltimore has lost four out of five and is clinging to the second wild card. Donaldson hit a solo homer in the fourth to tie it 1-1. The AL MVP had three homers in a 9-6 win over Minnesota on Sunday. Estrada (8-6) allowed one run and four hits with four strikeouts over seven-plus innings. The Blue Jays have won three of his four starts against the Orioles this year. J.J. Hardy provided Baltimore's only run with his eighth homer in the third. Baltimore left-hander Wade Miley (8-11) allowed three runs and five hits while tying a season high with nine strikeouts over seven innings.

#### ROYALS 8, YANKEES 5

Dillon Gee kept the Royals' momentum going with six sharp innings, Alcides Escobar hit a three-run homer and Kansas City beat the New York Yankees. Gee (6-7) allowed only four hits and a run in the latest impressive start by the Royals' staff, helping the reigning World Series champions win for the 18th time in 22 games. Lorenzo Cain, Kendrys Morales and Alex Gordon drove in runs off Michael Pineda (6-11) during a five-hit salvo in the first inning.

Pineda then retired 15 straight before getting into a two-on, no-outs jam in the seventh that led to Escobar's homer off reliever Blake Parker. Starlin Castro drove in two runs for the Yankees, the second in a four-run eighth inning that forced Kansas City manager Ned Yost to summon fill-in closer Kelvin Herrera.

#### RANGERS 6, MARINERS 3

Yu Darvish struck out nine in 6 2/3 innings and Carlos Beltran homered among three hits, helping Texas beat Seattle. The American League-leading Rangers won the first of six straight games at home against the two teams chasing them in the AL West and dropped the Mariners into third place, a game behind Houston and 9 1/2 back of Texas. Darvish (5-3) easily outpitched fellow Japanese right-hander Hisashi Iwakuma for his third straight win, leaving to a standing ovation with a 6-1 lead in the seventh after throwing 110 pitches, the most since his return from Tommy John surgery. Sam Dyson struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 30th save, giving Texas 13 strikeouts. Iwakuma (14-10) lost his third straight start while matching his shortest outing of the season at three innings.

#### ASTROS 6, ATHLETICS 0

Jose Altuve homered, Joe Musgrove and three relievers combined on a four-hitter as Houston beat Oakland. Musgrove (2-2) struck out seven, walked three and allowed three hits over 5 1/3 innings, and then Luke Gregerson, Pat Neshek and Brad Peacock closed things out. Musgrove had allowed 13 runs over his last two starts. Houston closed within two games of the second AL wild card with the win and Baltimore's loss. A's starter Sean Manaea (5-9) left after 3 1/3 innings with a right rhomboid strain.

Altuve hit his second homer in two games to lead off the sixth and extend Houston's lead to 3-0. Alex Bregman hit a two-run single and Carlos Correa had an RBI single as part of a three-run seventh.

#### ROCKIES 8, DODGERS 1

Jon Gray pitched six scoreless innings, Nick Hundley hit a two-run homer and the Colorado beat NL West-leading Los Angeles. Gray (9-6) surrendered four hits and struck out eight in a crisp performance for his first win since Aug. 2. He was helped out by centerfielder Charlie Blackmon, who made a sliding catch in the fifth to thwart a big inning.

DJ LeMahieu had a two-run double in a five-run seventh that turned a pitching duel into a rout. Kenta Maeda (13-8) was electric once again at Coors Field - except for a hanging slider to Hundley in the fourth. The right-hander with the quirky delivery allowed four hits over five innings. Maeda was a 2.12 ERA in three starts at the hitter friendly park.

#### ANGELS 9, REDS 2

Mike Trout and Albert Pujols each hit one of the Angels' five home runs in a win over Cincinnati.

Trout went 3 for 4 with two RBIs and two runs, joining Alex Rodriguez as one of two players to score 100 runs five times before his age-25 season. Pujols hit his 586th homer, tying Frank Robinson for ninth on the career list. Kole Calhoun was a triple short of the cycle, and C.J. Cron homered among his three hits for the Angels.

Matt Shoemaker (9-13) allowed two runs and seven hits over seven innings. After giving up a two-run homer to Joey Votto in the first, Shoemaker settled in to win his third straight decision. Dan Straily (10-7) allowed seven runs in 2 2/3 innings. — AP

### MLB results/standings

Toronto 5, Baltimore 1; Washington 4, Philadelphia 0; Detroit 4, Chicago White Sox 3; NY Mets 2, Miami 1 (10 innings); Cleveland 1, Minnesota 0 (10 innings); Boston 9, Tampa Bay 4; St. Louis 6, Milwaukee 5; Chicago Cubs 8, Pittsburgh 7 (13 innings); Texas 6, Seattle 3; Houston 6, Oakland 0; Kansas City 8, NY Yankees 5; Colorado 8, LA Dodgers 9, Cincinnati 2.

| American League  |    |    |      |      | National League  |    |    |      |      |
|------------------|----|----|------|------|------------------|----|----|------|------|
| Eastern Division |    |    |      |      | Eastern Division |    |    |      |      |
|                  | W  | L  | PCT  | GB   |                  |    |    |      |      |
| Toronto          | 75 | 56 | .573 | -    | Washington       | 76 | 55 | .580 | -    |
| Boston           | 73 | 58 | .557 | 2    | Miami            | 67 | 64 | .511 | 9    |
| Baltimore        | 71 | 60 | .542 | 4    | NY Mets          | 67 | 64 | .511 | 9    |
| NY Yankees       | 67 | 63 | .515 | 7.5  | Philadelphia     | 60 | 71 | .458 | 16   |
| Tampa Bay        | 55 | 75 | .423 | 19.5 | Atlanta          | 48 | 83 | .366 | 28   |
| Central Division |    |    |      |      | Central Division |    |    |      |      |
| Cleveland        | 74 | 56 | .569 | -    | Chicago Cubs     | 83 | 47 | .638 | -    |
| Detroit          | 70 | 61 | .534 | 4.5  | St. Louis        | 69 | 61 | .531 | 14   |
| Kansas City      | 69 | 62 | .527 | 5.5  | Pittsburgh       | 67 | 62 | .519 | 15.5 |
| Chicago W Sox    | 63 | 67 | .485 | 11   | Milwaukee        | 56 | 75 | .427 | 27.5 |
| Minnesota        | 49 | 82 | .374 | 25.5 | Cincinnati       | 55 | 75 | .423 | 28   |
| Western Division |    |    |      |      | Western Division |    |    |      |      |
| Texas            | 78 | 54 | .591 | -    | LA Dodgers       | 73 | 58 | .557 | -    |
| Houston          | 69 | 62 | .527 | 8.5  | San Francisco    | 71 | 59 | .546 | 1.5  |
| Seattle          | 68 | 63 | .519 | 9.5  | Colorado         | 63 | 68 | .481 | 10   |
| LA Angels        | 57 | 74 | .435 | 20.5 | San Diego        | 55 | 75 | .423 | 17.5 |
| Oakland          | 57 | 74 | .435 | 20.5 | Arizona          | 55 | 76 | .420 | 18   |



BALTIMORE: Manny Machado #13 of the Baltimore Orioles throws out Justin Smoak #14 (not pictured) of the Toronto Blue Jays in the seventh inning at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on Monday in Baltimore, Maryland. — AFP



## NZ TO KEEP TRIALLING DAY-NIGHT FIRST-CLASS CRICKET

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand Cricket appear to be pushing ahead with plans to trial day-night first class matches as they build towards hosting their inaugural pink ball home test against England in 2018.

NZC released their 2016/17 domestic fixture list yesterday and Wellington Regional Stadium, which has never hosted a first class match and has been used solely for day-night limited-overs interna-

tional cricket, is to host one of the Plunket Shield games scheduled to begin on March 6.

Auckland's Eden Park and Hamilton's Seddon Park, both of which have lights, will also host matches starting on March 6. All three games have not had their start times confirmed, while every other Plunket Shield match in the 2016/17 season has a traditional start time of 10:30

am (2130 GMT). Only one of the other venues scheduled to host first class cricket this season, Napier's McLean Park, has lights. All of the Plunket Shield matches there are scheduled as day games.

NZC has said they hoped to play their first day-night test match at home against England in 2018.

New Zealand played Australia in the inaugural day-night test in Adelaide last

year and while the ball swung appreciably and batsmen said they found it difficult to see after twilight, administrators felt the interest generated had been sufficient to continue to explore the concept. Next year's Plunket Shield matches should give NZC the opportunity to test the conditions likely to be faced by both sides in 2018, with the England tour pencilled in for mid-February to late March.

Eden Park has been designated the first test on that tour, with the second at Christchurch's Hagley Oval, which does not have lights. NZC had considered holding a round of first class day-night matches earlier this year with an eye to playing one of their tests against South Africa next March with the pink ball, but had to scrap the idea after McLean Park's lights were deemed not strong enough. — Reuters

## NO REGRETS FOR LEGEND KEANE AS HE PREPARES FINAL BOW

**DUBLIN:** Retiring Ireland legend Robbie Keane says he would not have swapped a major club honour for his international career. The LA Galaxy striker will play for his country for the last time in tonight's friendly with Oman at Lansdowne Road. With 67 goals in 145 appearances, Keane is 15th on the all-time international goalscorers list, just one behind German legend Gerd Muller. The 36-year-old Keane could overtake the man who won three European Cups with Bayern Munich in the 1970s, but he'd never change anything about his international career, that covered 18 years and three major finals. "No way. No chance," said Keane.

"I'll miss everything about playing for Ireland, first and foremost, I'll miss pulling that green jersey on. "For me, more than anything, that's been the highlight of my career. "I've played for many clubs but the Ireland jersey always seemed to fit me the best. "I've enjoyed every minute of it. I'll miss it all. "All I can do now is watch from the side and wish the team well. "It's going to be a little bit different for me, a bit surreal." Over 18 years have passed since Keane made his Ireland debut against the Czech Republic as a raw 17-year-old striker at Wolverhampton Wanderers. Since then he has played for nine clubs including Inter Milan, Leeds United, Tottenham, Liverpool, Celtic and Los Angeles Galaxy. Although Keane is 13th in the Premier League's all-time goalscoring charts, with 126 goals, he won just one major trophy in British football, the 2008 League Cup with Tottenham, but has since added three MLS Cups in the United States.

But the international scene was always what mattered most to the Dubliner, often to the annoyance of his club managers.

"I could never understand why people pulled out of games, I could never get my head around that and still to this day can't," he said, revealing he rejected requests by club managers to skip international duty. "One

thing about me, I've always turned up, I've always tried my best. "Even with injuries, you get injections before games. And that's just the love for Ireland and that's the love for the country." Oman could become the 37th different country to be on the wrong side of a Keane strike, and he has history on his side with 42 of his 67 goals scored on home soil.

"I don't care about Muller's record or anyone, I'm chasing the next one because that's what I've done since I was seven. I don't know any different," Keane said.

"I want to sign off with a goal. There is no way I'm going into this game half hearted. "Just because it's my last game, I'm not going to go into it thinking 'I'll enjoy the moment', as soon as that whistle goes, I'll want to win the game." He's received good luck messages since announcing his retirement from David Beckham, Steven Gerrard and Mick McCarthy, among others, but had special thanks to Ireland manager Martin O'Neill for asking him to play in Wednesday's game. "I spoke to him after the Euros and thanked him, Roy (Keane), everyone," said Keane.

"I said I would announce it (retiring) in a few weeks and then I got the call from Martin to see if I would play this game as an appreciation to you and I said of course, no problem. I was delighted and humbled to have the opportunity." Keane is expecting an emotional night in front of a packed house in Dublin, for the game that comes just five days before the country's World Cup 2018 qualification campaign opener in Serbia.

"It's certainly going to be difficult to keep a dry eye, there is no question about it," he admitted. "It's been my life since I was 17 years of age. Knowing on tomorrow that it's going to be the last time I've played for Ireland, waking up that morning is going to be very very strange for me. Even packing my bags for one last time was very weird, it's the weirdest, strangest feeling I've ever had." — AFP



**PRETORIA:** New Zealand's batsman Henry Nicholls, left, watches as South Africa's bowler Kagiso Rabada, fields off his shot during the fourth day of the second cricket test match between South Africa and New Zealand, at Centurion Park in Pretoria, South Africa, yesterday. — AP

# STEYN SETS UP SOUTH AFRICAN SERIES WIN

**CENTURION:** Fast bowler Dale Steyn set up a series-clinching 204-run win for South Africa on the fourth day of the second and final Test against New Zealand at SuperSport Park yesterday. Steyn took three wickets with his first 11 balls of the innings and finished with five for 33 as New Zealand were bowled out for 195 despite a defiant innings of 76 by Henry Nicholls.

It looked as though it would be easy for the hosts when Steyn and Vernon Philander ripped through New Zealand's top four batsmen for seven runs inside the first four overs of the innings. But the left-handed Nicholls, playing in his sixth Test match, displayed courage and concentration in making his second Test half-century and highest score to delay South Africa's celebrations. He found a similarly determined partner in BJ Watling, who made 32 in a two-hour, 68-run fifth wicket partnership, while Mitchell Santner, Doug Bracewell and Tim Southee all provided varying degrees of resistance. Nicholls was last man out after batting for 255 minutes. He faced 140 balls and hit 12 fours.

Steyn bowled Tom Latham with the first ball of the final innings, then had Latham's fellow opener, Martin Guptill, caught at first slip, also for a first ball duck, off the final ball of the over.

The magnitude of New Zealand's task was shown in the second over when captain and first innings top-scorer Kane Williamson was struck a painful blow on the left hand by a ball from Vernon Philander which reared up off a good length. He required lengthy treatment before resuming his innings. The team physiotherapist went onto the field twice more to treat the player before Williamson was caught behind off Philander for five. In between, Ross Taylor was trapped leg before wicket by an unplayable ball from Steyn, which skidded through barely above ankle height off a pitch with increasingly unpredictable bounce.

Latham tried to leave the ball from Steyn that bowled him but it lifted sharply and bounced off his raised bat onto the stumps. Guptill, a heavy scorer in limited overs international cricket, again raised doubts about his technique in Test cricket when he edged a ball that seamed away from him. In three innings in the truncated series, Latham and Guptill scored a combined 23 runs and the highest total at the fall of the second wicket was 13, putting pressure on Williamson and the remaining batsmen. Watling

was dropped by Stiaan van Zyl at third slip off Philander when he had five and two runs later seemed lucky to get the benefit of the doubt from television umpire Richard Illingworth when the South Africans appeared convinced that he had gloved Philander to De Kock.

South Africa added 27 runs in 13 overs, for the loss of Philander's wicket, before declaring their second innings on 132 for seven. Temba Bavuma made 40 not out. Tim Southee bowled Philander and finished with three for 46. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

**CENTURION, South Africa:** Final scores on the fourth day of the second and final Test between South Africa and New Zealand at SuperSport Park yesterday:

| South Africa, first innings, 481-8 dec |  | New Zealand, second innings   |     |
|--|--|---|-----|
| <b>New Zealand, first innings, 214</b> |  | T. Latham b Steyn   | 0   |
|  |  | M. Guptill c Amla b Steyn   | 0   |
|  |  | K. Williamson c De Kock b Philander   | 5   |
|  |  | R. Taylor lbw b Steyn   | 0   |
|  |  | H. Nicholls c Rabada b Steyn  | 76  |
|  |  | B. Watling lbw b Piedt  | 32  |
|  |  | M. Santner b Steyn  | 16  |
|  |  | D. Bracewell lbw b Philander  | 30  |
|  |  | T. Southee b Rabada   | 14  |
|  |  | N. Wagner lbw b Rabada  | 3   |
|  |  | T. Bolt not out   | 0   |
|  |  | Extras (b10, lb7, w2)   | 19  |
|  |  | Total (58.2 overs)  | 195 |
|  |  | Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Latham), 2-3 (Guptill), 3-5 (Taylor), 4-7 (Williamson), 5-75 (Watling), 6-118 (Santner), 7-164 (Bracewell), 8-187 (Southee), 9-195 (Wagner) |     |
|  |  | Bowling: Steyn 16.2-4-33-5, Philander 14-4-34-2 (1w), Rabada 13-2-54-2 (1w), Van Zyl 3-1-5-0, Piedt 12-3-52-1.  |     |
|  |  | Result: South Africa won by 204 runs.   |     |



Robbie Keane

## ENGLAND SET NEW ODI RECORD OF 444-3 AGAINST PAKISTAN

**NOTTINGHAM:** England recorded the highest-ever team total in a one-day international when they made 444 for three against Pakistan at Trent Bridge yesterday.

In what was the 3,773rd match at this level England's total surpassed the previous record of 443 for nine by Sri Lanka against the Netherlands at Amstelveen in 2006. It was also the highest ODI total in a match between two Test nations, topping South Africa's 439 for two against the West Indies at Johannesburg last year. Alex Hales, on his Nottinghamshire home ground, made an England ODI

record 171 yesterday.

Jos Buttler followed up with the quickest-ever England ODI fifty, off just 22 balls, on his way to an unbeaten 90 off 51 balls featuring seven fours and seven sixes. Pakistan left-arm fast bowler Wahab Riaz, who twice took 'wickets' with no-balls, finished with figures of none for 110 in his maximum 10 overs. That was the second-most expensive return in an ODI, behind Australian Mick Lewis's none for 113 against South Africa at Johannesburg in 2006. England lead their five-match series with Pakistan 2-0. — AFP



**NOTTINGHAM:** England's Alex Hales celebrates his century during the third one day international cricket match, at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, England, yesterday. — AP

# VAN BASTEN QUILTS DUTCH TEAM FOR FIFA JOB

**AMSTERDAM:** Netherlands assistant coach Marco van Basten is to give up the role by the end of the year as the leadership crisis surrounding the side took another twist yesterday, a week before the Dutch kick off their 2018 World Cup campaign.

Van Basten is the second of Danny Blind's assistants to announce their departure in the last two weeks after Dick Advocaat opted to take over as head coach of Turkish side Fenerbahce.

The Dutch football association (KNVB) confirmed the 51-year-old's impending exit on Tuesday, saying Van Basten was leaving to start work with the sport's global governing body.

"FIFA have offered me a chance to work in the

development and reform of football, and to use my ideas and opinions over issues like playing rules, refereeing and development programmes," Van Basten said in a KNVB statement.

"I have agreed with Danny Blind to stay as an assistant until the end of the year."

The loss of his deputy is the latest blow for Blind, who had asked another former European Footballer of the Year, Ruud Gullit, to assist him, only for negotiations to break down.

The acrimonious fallout between Gullit and the KNVB has since dominated Dutch sports pages at a time when the team are hoping to make a positive start to World Cup qualifying after the disappointment of missing the Euro

2016 finals in France.

The Netherlands start their campaign to reach the 2018 World Cup finals away at Sweden next Tuesday. Advocaat and Van Basten are both former national team coaches in their own right and were expected to form a powerful support team for Blind.

However, Advocaat left after just three months and Van Basten's impending departure is a further blow.

"Of course I'm not happy but the FIFA job is something that is tailor made for Marco. Even though it means I have to find another successor, it is a great opportunity for him," Blind said in a statement yesterday. — Reuters



## NEW RUSSIA COACH SHAKES UP SQUAD AMID WORLD CUP WORRIES

**MOSCOW:** New Russia boss Stanislav Cherchesov has made wholesale changes for his first game in charge against Turkey as he bids to revive a demoralised squad to host the World Cup in less than two years.

Only eight of the 23-man squad that crashed out of Euro 2016 have been retained for the friendly against Turkey in Antalya today. The match partly aims to ease political tensions between the countries. Russia also play Ghana in Moscow on September 6.

Former international goalkeeper Cherchesov replaced Leonid Slutsky after the flop in France with the mammoth task of turning around the squad for the World

Cup campaign.

Among the new faces are Rostov goalie Soslan Dzhanyayev, left-back Fedor Kudryashov and midfielder Yuri Gazinsky of Krasnodar.

Cherchesov also invited CSKA Moscow's Brazilian right-back Mario Fernandes, who recently acquired Russian citizenship but is not yet eligible to play for the country, along to training.

"We need to create the right chemistry to make the players feel pleasure when they join the national side," Cherchesov told the press after his appointment.

"First of all we need to restore respect to the team."

### 'LIFTING THE FANS'

Those called up to the new-look squad agreed that they needed to turn round performances after the summer's abysmal showing.

"The team have not been good in their recent matches," keeper Dzhanyayev told the press after a training session near Moscow. "We need to lift the interest of our supporters. That's why we all need to play as hard as we can."

Former Legia Warsaw trainer Cherchesov, 52, has a huge workload ahead of him to transform a team whose Euro 2016 performances sparked an online campaign to dismiss all the players

that garnered a million signatures.

"This petition shows that our fans aren't indifferent," Cherchesov told the press. "Our primary task is to build a competitive team by 2018."

But the former Spartak and Dynamo Moscow boss does not have many options as he looks to alleviate supporter ire. "He has a scanty choice of players," football pundit Igor Rabiner at newspaper Sports Express told AFP.

"There's obviously a shortage of bright talent in the current generation of Russian footballers," Rabiner said. Cherchesov's no-nonsense approach should help give his stars a much needed kick.

"It's clear that the discipline is one of his top priorities," he said. "I expect that his players will battle for the win in every single match under his guidance."

The political backdrop to the match in Turkey will add extra spice to the occasion. The game comes after the strongman leaders of the two countries Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdogan dramatically made up after an angry seven-month dispute over Turkey's shooting down of a Russian jet on the Syrian border last November. Despite Russian football officials saying they have received full security assurances for the match, media reports said few Russian fans are likely to attend. — AFP

## HART ARRIVES FOR TORINO MEDICAL

**MILAN:** England goalkeeper Joe Hart arrived in Turin yesterday ahead of undergoing a medical that should see him sign a season-long loan deal with the unfashionable Serie A club. Hart, 29, has fallen out of favour with Pep Guardiola at Manchester City following the signing of Claudio Bravo from Barcelona and is set to join Torino in a bid to preserve his club future and international career following England's spectacular Euro 2016 exit.

Television pictures showed Hart arriving at the city's Caselle airport and widespread reports in the Italian media said he will sign for Sinisa Mihajlovic's side Tuesday if he successfully completes a medical. Hart's agent is reported as saying in the Turin-based sports daily Tuttosport: "Yes, Joe Hart will play at Torino. It's a done deal. He has said 'yes' to the club and now Manchester City have given the OK." Hart would become only the third English goalkeeper to play in Italy's top flight and the first since 1929/30, an era in which English players—some of whom helped lay the foundations of some of Italy's biggest clubs—were prevalent in the country's top flight.

Prior to Hart, James Richardson Spensley played for Genoa at the turn of the 20th century, when Hoberlin Hood turned out between the posts for AC Milan. It is considered a major coup for Torino, who have been given a boost in their bid to secure a place in next season's Europa League, especially with City agreeing to pay a significant portion of Hart's annual salary of 3.3m pounds (4.2m euro).

Hart, meanwhile, has the chance to gain valuable experience in one of the world's toughest leagues in terms of tactics.

He is expected to take the gloves from Daniele Padelli, who has failed to impress coach Sinisa Mihajlovic since he arrived at the club several months after his sacking by AC Milan last season.

It would allow Hart to rebuild confi-

dence following a disastrous Euro 2016 campaign for England, who saw hopes of contending for the title undone during a sensational 2-1 last 16 defeat to Iceland that pre-empted the resignation of manager Roy Hodgson.

Hart was considered to be amongst the key culprits after making errors against Wales and Iceland, but if he expected to find succour in the comfort of his Premiership club he was wrong.

When Guardiola signed Bravo from Barcelona, Hart lost his number one spot. To retain his place as England's keeper, Hart needs regular football in a season that will see the Three Lions begin their qualifying campaign for the 2018 World Cup in a Group F featuring Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania and Malta.

But Hart, who will be keen to avoid the fate of the many English players who failed to make an impact in Serie A, has reason for apprehension. One of Mihajlovic's first decisions at Milan was to hand 16-year-old goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma his Serie A debut, leading to the contentious demotion of experienced Spaniard Diego Lopez.

Donnarumma, widely expected to succeed Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon as Italy's number one some time in the future, remains Milan's first choice 'keeper.

Media reports said the option of looking to sign Hart came through Attilio Lombardo, the former Sampdoria winger who was Roberto Mancini's assistant at Manchester City and is now Mihajlovic's assistant at Torino. Hart could make his Torino debut on September 11 when the 'Granata' face Atalanta in Bergamo.

Mihajlovic's men have made a mixed start to the campaign, following their 3-2 opening defeat to Milan at the San Siro with a 5-1 demolition of Bologna that saw new Italy call-up Andrea Belotti hit a hat-trick. — AFP



**TRNAVA:** England's striker Wayne Rooney (L) and defender Kyle Walker (R) take part in a training session at St George's Park near Burton-Upon-Trent in central England yesterday ahead of their World Cup 2018 qualifier football match against Slovakia. England face Slovakia in a World Cup qualifier in Trnava on September 4. — AFP

## ROONEY TO END ENGLAND CAREER AFTER WORLD CUP

**BURTON-ON-TRENT:** Wayne Rooney announced yesterday that the campaign for the 2018 World Cup in Russia will be his last as an England player.

"Realistically I know myself that Russia will be my last opportunity to do anything with England," Rooney told a press conference at St George's Park in Burton, central England.

"So I'm going to try and enjoy these two years and hopefully I can end my career with England on a high." New England manager Sam Allardyce confirmed on Monday that Rooney, 30, will be kept on as captain for the World Cup qualifying campaign, which begins in Slovakia on Sunday.

The Manchester United striker will make his 116th England appearance in Trnava, taking him past David Beckham as the country's most-capped outfield player.

Captain since August 2014, Rooney is also England's record goal-scorer with 53 goals.

But in six major tournament appearances with England, he has never gone further than the quarter-finals.

England crashed out in the group phase at

the last World Cup in Brazil two years ago and, with Rooney as captain, were humiliated by minnows Iceland in the last at Euro 2016.

"I have had a fantastic international career so far, played a lot of games and enjoyed every minute, but at some point it is going to come to an end," Rooney said. "I'm not old, I'm 30 years of age, and come Russia I feel that will be the time for me to say goodbye to international football."

"My mind is made up. It is up to Sam Allardyce again over the next two years, but if selected, I will have enjoyed it. Some highs, some lows, but I'll be an immensely proud man."

### 'MIDFIELDER OR ATTACKER'

Rooney's most impressive performance for England at a major tournament remains Euro 2004 in Portugal, when, aged only 18, he scored four goals as Sven Goran Eriksson's side reached the last eight.

England failed to qualify for Euro 2008 and he did not manage to find the net as they met with disappointment at the World Cups of 2006 and 2010. Rooney ended an eight-year wait for a

major tournament goal at Euro 2012, but England fell in the quarter-finals.

Although Rooney was deployed in midfield by former manager Roy Hodgson during Euro 2016, Allardyce has indicated he intends to use him in a number 10 role.

Rooney has been playing in that position under new United manager Jose Mourinho since the start of the season, but the former Everton player said he was happy to play anywhere.

"It's the manager's decision," Rooney said. "We haven't spoken about that. In the next few days we'll speak about it more, whether it's as a midfielder or attacker."

"It's only a day we've been together, but you can see he's a relaxed guy, and since we've been here the camp has been good. It's just a matter of getting on the training pitch."

"I'm looking forward to getting back on the pitch. We have bad memories from the last game (against Iceland), obviously. We have to put it behind us. "It was disappointing the way we went out of the tournament. You can't forget it, but it's a new era for us, a new manager." — AFP



**TURIN:** Goalkeeper Joe Hart poses with a fan upon his arrival at the Torino soccer team headquarters in Turin, Italy, yesterday. England goalkeeper Joe Hart is on the verge of completing a loan move to Torino from Manchester City. The 29-year-old was greeted by around 200 fans loudly chanting his name at Torino's headquarters. — AP

## VALENCIA'S ALCACER JOINS BARCELONA

**BARCELONA:** Spain international Paco Alcacer has joined Barcelona from Valencia in a 30 million euro (\$33 million) five-year deal, announced the Catalan giants yesterday.

"Valencia's Paco Alcacer is now a Barcelona player and has signed a five year contract," said Barcelona in a press release. The fee for the 23-year-old will be 26 million pounds with an additional two million in add-ons.

Barca striker Munir-El-Haddadi is also thought to be part of the deal as he transfers to Valencia on a year long loan with a 12 million euro (\$10 million) buy out clause at the end of the loan. The 20-year-old scored eight in 25 appearances for the Spanish champions last season.

Alcacer completes Barcelona's attacking quartet and will largely be used as backup to Barca trio Messi-Suarez-

Neymar known as MSN.

Alcacer scored 13 goals in 34 appearances for Valencia last year and also made six assists. The youngster was also a double Euro winner with the Spanish Under-19's in 2011 and 2012.

Known as "Paco" he has had an equally flying start to his international career with la Roja (13 appearances, six goals). He was Spain's most prolific goalscorer during the qualifications for Euro 2016 netting five times.

Alcacer leaves his boyhood club Valencia with whom he started his professional career in 2010 when he was just 17-year-old.

The young Spaniard will have the difficult task of breaking into Barca's attacking line-up but coach Luis Enrique is expected to give a lot of game time in order to rest his star front three. — AFP

## INJURY LEAVES MESSI IN DOUBT FOR QUALIFIERS

**MADRID:** Barcelona striker Lionel Messi has returned home to Argentina but remains doubtful for World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay and Venezuela with his club confirming the 29-year-old is struggling with a sore left hamstring.

Messi played in Sunday's 1-0 league win at Athletic Bilbao but underwent tests on Monday after admitting that the injury was causing him pain. "Tests conducted have confirmed that Lionel Messi has a sore left adductor muscle. Both the medical services of FC Barcelona and the AFA (Argentina Football Association) have agreed on this report," Barcelona said in a statement.

"The player will travel to Argentina to join the national team and the evolution of the discomfort will decide his availability to play in the games scheduled."

Argentina sit third in the 10-team South American qualifying group on 11 points from six matches, two points behind leading pair Uruguay and Ecuador.

Edgardo Bauza will take charge of Argentina for the first time when they host Uruguay in Mendoza on Thursday before the side travels to Venezuela for another qualifier in Merida five days later.

Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero and Paris St Germain midfielder Javier Pastore have already pulled out of the squad through injury, so the 2014 World Cup runners-up will be hoping Messi can be fit enough to play. Earlier this month, Messi, who has scored 55 goals in 133 appearances for his country, reversed a decision to retire from the national team after they lost the Copa America final to Chile in a penalty shootout at the end of June. — Reuters



**DUESSELDORF:** Germany's captain Bastian Schweinsteiger poses with female supporters in Duesseldorf, Germany, prior to the friendly soccer match against Finland, yesterday. Schweinsteiger will play his last match for the national team today in Moenchengladbach, Germany. — AP



# Sports

100-year-old runner from India inspires at US Masters Games



Rooney to end career after 2018 World Cup



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NEW YORK: Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns against Jerzy Janowicz of Poland during their 2016 US Open 2016 Men's Singles match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on Monday in New York. — AFP

## DJOKOVIC BEATS SCARE, NADAL EASES

NEW YORK: Defending champion Novak Djokovic overcame an arm injury scare and long-time rival Rafael Nadal shone in 33-degree heat as the US Open showcased its \$650 million upgrade on Monday.

World number one Djokovic, also the 2011 winner in New York and chasing his third major of the year, defeated Jerzy Janowicz of Poland 6-3, 5-7, 6-2, 6-1. Nadal, the 2010 and 2013 champion and seeded to face Djokovic in the semi-finals, eased to a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 win over Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan.

In the women's event, second seeded Angelique Kerber, the Australian Open champion, needed just 33 minutes to progress but Roland Garros winner Garbine Muguruza required three sets and a visit from the doctor before she survived. Djokovic had admitted that he was "not 100 percent" after suffering a wrist injury on the eve of the Olympics where he was a first-round loser. But it was the upper right arm that bothered the Serb on Monday night as he played his first Grand Slam match since his shock third round exit at Wimbledon.

The 29-year-old needed treatment after just five

games of the first set but eventually pulled through against Janowicz who had played just two matches all year due to a knee injury. "It was hard to follow Phil Collins," joked Djokovic in reference to the lengthy opening ceremony which featured the veteran English rocker under the new \$150 million roof on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

On his arm injury, Djokovic added: "It's never easy to play at this level throughout the year. There are periods where you aren't 100 percent." Djokovic next faces Jiri Vesely, the Czech who knocked him out of Monte Carlo this year. Nadal's reward for a fifth win in five meetings with Istomin is a match-up with Italian veteran Andreas Seppi. A wrist injury forced the Spaniard into an early retirement at the French Open and sidelined him from Wimbledon before a gold medal run in the doubles at the Olympics helped ease his misery.

"The most important thing is that I am here in New York. Injuries are part of the career. I had a hard time this year," said the fourth seed.

Canadian fifth seed Milos Raonic, the runner-up to Andy Murray at Wimbledon, overcame German danger-

man Dustin Brown 7-5, 6-4, 6-4. Kerber needed just over 30 minutes to get her pursuit of a first US Open title off to a winning start.

The German was leading Polona Hercog 6-0, 1-0 when the Slovenian called it quits having won just nine points. Kerber, a semi-finalist in 2011, next faces Mirjana Lucic-Baroni of Croatia. Muguruza carved out a gritty 2-6, 6-0, 6-3 win over Belgian qualifier Elise Mertens, ranked at 137. But the French Open champion needed court-side treatment from a doctor after dropping the first set.

### DOCTOR'S ORDERS

The consultation certainly worked as she reeled off the next seven games to lay the foundation for her win. Muguruza plays Anastasiya Sevastova of Latvia for a place in the last 32.

French 13th seed Richard Gasquet, a semi-finalist three years ago, was the day's biggest casualty. He went down to 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 to British world number 84 Kyle Edmund. Also exiting was Olympic champion Monica

Puig with the Puerto Rican losing 6-4, 6-2 to China's Zheng Saisai. Kayla Day, just 16 and ranked at a lowly 374 in the world, was 6-2, 4-2 up on Madison Brengle when her fellow American quit with an injury.

Day next faces American eighth seed Madison Keys who beat compatriot Alison Riske 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 in a tie which ended at 1.48am, the latest finish to a women's match in tournament history.

Croatian seventh seed Marin Cilic, the 2014 champion and winner in Cincinnati last week, eased past Brazil's Rogerio Dutra Silva 6-4, 7-5, 6-1.

Flamboyant French 10th seed Gael Monfils took his summer hardcourt record to 15-2 with a 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 win over Gilles Muller of Luxemburg. Monfils almost suffered a freak accident when a giant court-side clock fell towards him as he collided with the back wall, chasing down a Muller shot. The Flushing Meadows complex has been radically and expensively remodelled for this year. However, the old Grandstand court, due to be demolished after the tournament, was pressed into action after the new Court 10 was deemed unplayable. — AFP



NEW YORK: Denisa Allertova of the Czech Republic hits the ball against Ana Ivanovic of Serbia during their 2016 US Open Women's Single Match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York yesterday. — AFP

## OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST MONICA PUIG OUT OF US OPEN

NEW YORK: Sure, Monica Puig would have loved another week between the Olympics and the US Open to "come down from the high" of becoming Puerto Rico's first gold medalist.

Then again, that's not how the tennis calendar works. Puig realizes that if she wants to climb back to those heights, she'll need to figure out this sort of turnaround. For now, she's a 22-year-old who was seeded 32nd at the US Open and lost her first-round match in straight sets. Zheng Saisai, ranked 61st, upset Puig 6-4, 6-2 on Monday.

"These are new waters for me, new territory," Puig said. "I'm going to have to start getting used to it." She noted that Angelique Kerber, the player she beat in the gold-medal match, was able to come right back from a draining run in Rio de Janeiro to reach the final at Cincinnati. Kerber, in contrast, is 28 and an Australian Open champ and Wimbledon runner-up this year.

"She's been there," Puig said. "She knows what it's like. She knows she's No. 2 in the world. She's tested the waters out a little bit. "I'm brand new to this."

And back when Kerber was brand new to being a major champion just a few months ago, she lost in the first round of her next Grand Slam. Garbine Muguruza, also 22, struggled as well following her French Open title.

"A lot of people go through this," Puig

said. "It's not just me."

She upset Kerber, Muguruza and a third major champ, Petra Kvitova, on her stunning run to gold. Less than a week ago, Puig was in Puerto Rico, riding in a parade with other Olympians through streets packed with admirers - her victory a joyous respite from the island's economic crisis.

Then it was back to the grind of tennis. When she took the court Monday, with plenty of Puerto Rican fans cheering her on, she knew she wouldn't be viewed as the player who has never made it past the fourth round at a major or the second round at the US Open.

"A lot of pressure, a lot of expectation," Puig said. "Once it starts becoming a little bit more of a habit," she added, "then I'll feel comfortable."

Zheng, another 22-year-old, upset Agnieszka Radwanska at the Olympics. She'll be seeking to reach the third round at a Grand Slam for the first time when she faces 59th-ranked Katerina Bondarenko.

And Puig will get back to working on how to start making some magical runs at the majors. "I need to keep racking up as much experience as I can," Puig said. "You know what? This isn't going to be the last of me. I know I'm going to keep working hard. The Olympics was something that happened because of all my hard work." — AP





SAUDI ELECTRICITY MAY DELAY JEDDAH PLANT EXPANSION



LONDON: People wait outside the Apple store in Covent Garden in London yesterday. The European Commission's demand for Apple to pay Ireland some 13 billion euros in back taxes has put the country in the strange position of refusing the windfall for fear of scaring away valuable investment. — AFP

**EU HITS APPLE WITH 13 BN EURO TAX BILL**

US WARNS ECONOMIC TIES IN PERIL, IPHONE MAKER TO APPEAL

**BRUSSELS:** The EU ordered tech giant Apple to pay a record 13 billion euros in back taxes in Ireland, a move Washington warned could damage hugely important transatlantic economic ties. Brussels said Apple, the world's most valuable company, avoided virtually all tax on its business in the bloc by illegal arrangements with Dublin which gave the company an unfair advantage over competitors.

Apple and the Irish government immediately said they would appeal against the European Commission ruling, with the iPhone maker warning it could cost European jobs.

Ireland has attracted multinationals over many years by offering extremely favourable sweetheart tax deals to generate much-needed jobs and investment but Brussels said it broke EU laws on state aid. "This decision sends a clear message. Member states cannot give unfair tax benefits to selected companies, no matter if European or foreign, large or small," EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said.

"This is not a penalty, this is unpaid taxes to be paid," Vestager said as she presented the findings of a three-year investigation. The announcement comes amid growing tensions between Washington and Brussels over a series of EU anti-trust investigations targeting other giant US companies such as Google, Amazon, McDonald's, Starbucks and Fiat Chrysler.

**'Devastating blow'**

Apple has had a base in the southern city of Cork since 1980 and employs nearly 6,000 people in Ireland, through which it routes its inter-



Margrethe Vestager

national sales totalling billions. Apple chief Tim Cook said he was "confident" the EU ruling would be overturned, adding that the Silicon Valley giant was the biggest taxpayer in Ireland, the United States and the world.

"The most profound and harmful effect of this ruling will be on investment and job creation in Europe," he said. Cook also warned that the ruling was a "devastating blow to the sovereignty of EU member states over their own tax matters", echoing the concerns of Dublin over the decision.

Ireland's Finance Minister Michael Noonan described the ruling as "bizarre" and "an exercise in politics by the Competition Commission". Dublin, which suffered from harsh austerity measures after it was bailed out during the eurozone debt crisis, has vigorously defended its low tax rates as a way of boosting the economy.

"If you look at the small print on an Apple iPhone, it says designed in California and manufactured in China and that means any profits that accrued didn't accrue in Ireland and so I can't see why the tax liability is in Ireland," he said.

But Vestager said Apple's Irish operation was a sham-Apple's "so-called head office in Ireland only existed on paper. It had no employees, no premises and no real activities." Apple paid an effective corporate tax rate of just 0.005 per cent on its European profits in 2014 — equivalent to just 50 euros for every million, Vestager said.

The Apple tax bill dwarfs the previous EU record for a state aid case-1.3 billion euros for the Nurburgring race track in Germany.

**US anger**

Washington has made increasingly angry comments over the case in recent weeks, and yesterday it echoed Apple's warnings that the tax bill could hurt the European economy. The US Treasury said the ruling "could threaten to undermine foreign investment, the business climate in Europe, and the important spirit of economic partnership between the US and the EU."

The Apple decision may also complicate struggling EU-US talks on what would be the

world's biggest free trade deal, meant to be completed before US President Barack Obama steps down in January. Tax avoidance has moved sharply up the political agenda since EU governments adopted tough austerity policies to balance the public finances, driving public resentment that the rich paid relatively little tax. The issue was highlighted close to home by the LuxLeaks scandal which revealed that European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's native Luxembourg gave companies huge tax breaks while he was prime minister. In October Brussels ordered US coffee giant Starbucks and Italian automaker Fiat to each repay up to 30 million euros (\$34 million) in back taxes to the Netherlands and Luxembourg respectively. The European Union yesterday ordered Apple to pay a record 13 billion euros in back taxes in Ireland, saying deals allowing the US tech giant to pay almost no tax were illegal. In the latest in a series of rulings that has angered Washington, Brussels said the world's most valuable company avoided tax bills on virtually all its profits in the bloc under its arrangements with Dublin.

**'No employees, no premises'**

Apple has had a base at the southern city of Cork since 1980 and employs 5,000 people in Ireland, through which it routes its international sales, avoiding billions in corporation taxes. But Vestager—who has launched a series of cases against US firms—said that Apple's "so-called head office in Ireland only existed on paper. It had no employees, no premises and no real activities."

Apple as a result paid an effective corporate tax rate of 0.005 per cent on its European profits

in 2014 — equivalent to 50 euros for every million, Vestager added. Tensions have been growing between Washington and Brussels over a series of anti-trust investigations targeting companies such as Apple, Amazon, Starbucks and Fiat Chrysler. Apple said "we will appeal and we are confident the decision will be overturned."

"It will have a profound and harmful effect on investment and job creation in Europe," the company added. Irish Finance Minister Michael Noonan said the decision "leaves me with no choice but to seek cabinet approval to appeal the decision before the European Courts". The Apple tax bill dwarfs the previous EU record for a state aid, the 1.3 billion euros received by the Nurburgring race track from German authorities.

The US stepped up its rhetoric ahead of the decision, accusing the European Commission of unilateralism and overstepping its mandate.

A bill of 300 million euros this year for Swedish engineer Atlas Copco AB to pay Belgian tax is the current known record. Other companies ordered to pay back taxes in Belgium, many of them European, have not disclosed figures. For Apple, whose earnings of \$18 billion last year were the biggest ever reported by a corporation, finding several billion dollars should not be an insurmountable problem. The 13 billion euros represents about 6 percent of the firm's cash pile. As of June, Apple reported it had cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities of \$231.5 billion, of which 92.8 percent, or \$214.9 billion, were held in foreign subsidiaries. It paid \$2.67 billion in taxes during its latest quarter at an effective tax rate of 25.5 percent, leaving it with net income of \$7.8 billion according to company filings. — Agencies

**GULF MOSTLY RISES BUT TURNOVER LOW**

**MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS**

**DUBAI:** Most Gulf stock markets rose yesterday in response to firmer oil prices and global bourses but trading turnover in Saudi Arabia and Dubai was low, suggesting many investors did not expect an extended rally and were staying away. Saudi Arabia's index gained 1.0 percent in a broad rise, with rising stocks outnumbering losers by 119 to 22. But the market recorded its second smallest daily volume this year. The smallest was on Aug. 21.

Major lender Al-Rajhi Bank, which has dropped sharply in recent weeks because of concern about bad loans due to Saudi Arabia's economic slowdown, rose 2.3 percent. Al-Tayyar Travel Group surged 4.3 percent. The company offers services to Islamic pilgrims for the haj, which starts this year on Sept. 9. As many as 1.5 million external and domestic pilgrims are expected to perform the haj in Mecca, roughly the same number as last year, Saudi media reported, but the government plans to boost the number of Umrah pilgrims sharply in coming years. Qatar's index rose 0.5 percent, having been supported over

the last several weeks by FTSE's plan to include some major Qatari stocks in its secondary emerging market index. An announcement of its picks is due after the close on Wednesday.

Islamic lender Masraf Al-Rayan, which could make FTSE's list, rose 1.8 percent. Dubai's index rose 0.5 percent in thin trade, with all 10 of the most active stocks gaining. GFH Financial, the most heavily traded stock, surged 4.3 percent to its highest level in 21 months. But courier Aramex, which had jumped 2.3 percent on Monday, retreated 2.2 percent. Abu Dhabi edged down 0.02 percent with real estate firms attracting the most activity. Aldar Properties rose 0.7 percent after it said it would start construction of a new residential development in Abu Dhabi, while Eshraq Properties jumped 6.3 percent. In Egypt, the index added 0.6 percent as Global Telecom jumped 5.3 percent and investment bank EFG Hermes added 3.1 percent after Natixis, which recently bought an 11.8 percent stake in EFG from Dubai Financial Group, appointed representatives to EFG's board. — Reuters

**MACRON RESIGNS IN STEP TOWARDS PRESIDENCY RUN**

**PARIS:** French Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron resigned yesterday clearing the way for a presidential bid that will further unsettle an already wide-open race.

The 38-year-old former investment banker, one of France's most popular politicians, did not immediately say he would run in the 2017 election but is widely expected to do so, having quit the government and created his own political party.

"Emmanuel Macron ... today handed in to the president of the Republic his resignation from the government to fully devote himself to his political party," Socialist President Francois Hollande's office said in a statement. Finance Minister Michel Sapin, a close ally of Hollande, will add the economy ministry to his portfolio. The government's pro-reform line is not expected to change.

A spokeswoman said Macron would not announce a presidential bid on Tuesday. His new party will first conduct a door-to-door campaign to gauge opinion and collect voters' grievances on French politics by the end of

September. "After that we will make proposals, and after that candidacy questions will be dealt with," the spokeswoman said. Macron's place in the government had become increasingly awkward after he repeatedly criticized left-wing totems like France's 35-hour work week and created his own party in April, casting it as leaning neither left nor right.

A source in Macron's inner circle said the rapidly evolving political situation, in which former president Nicolas Sarkozy and two former Socialist ministers had declared their intention to run for president, had forced the hand of the minister, who the source said had initially planned to resign mid-September. — Reuters

If confirmed, a Macron bid for the presidency would further harm Hollande's chances of re-election, with polls already suggesting he would be very unlikely to even make it into the run-off round. Hollande also has challengers from the left, including more headline Socialists such as former industry minister Arnaud Montebourg and ex-education minister Benoit Hamon. — Reuters



French Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron



# SAUDI ELECTRICITY MAY DELAY JEDDAH PLANT EXPANSION

## NEW PLANT NEAR RIYADH IN THE PIPELINE

**KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia:** Saudi Electricity Co (SEC) will likely delay the planned expansion of its Jeddah South power plant, but is still expected to start tendering for a plant near Riyadh by the end of the year, industry sources told Reuters.

The utility, the Gulf's largest, faces multiple challenges as it tries to keep up with rampant growth in power demand even as lower oil revenues constrain government spending on infrastructure projects. The fuel to be used in any new plant is also an issue given Saudi Arabia wants to prioritise exports of crude oil by cutting domestic liquid burning and using natural gas instead.

Jeddah South's expansion had been due to be funded at state level, but the Riyadh scheme is earmarked as an independent power producer (IPP) project, meaning private sector developers would shoulder the financing burden. State-controlled SEC did not respond to an emailed

request for comment. Jeddah South, for which the first phase started in May, would help meet growing electricity demand in the western region, particularly from the holy cities of Makkah and Madina.

SEC in April first invited companies to bid to build the extension to the plant, which aims to nearly double its capabilities by adding as much as 1,400 MW of capacity, but the date to submit technical bids has been extended twice. The current bid deadline is Sept. 25, but this will likely be extended further, said the sources who declined to be identified as the information isn't public.

"Officially SEC did not put (the plan) on hold, it just keeps extending it," said one of the sources.

Many Gulf companies typically avoid formally suspending or cancelling a project due to a resultant loss of prestige. Instead, deadlines are repeatedly pushed back until interest wanes, or conditions change to make the scheme

viable once more. Two of the sources said the extension of the bidding was because fuel allocations had not yet been agreed. The first phase of the Jeddah South plant was oil fired.

The world's largest oil exporter burns a significant amount of crude in power generation, particularly during peak summer months, so the kingdom wants to substitute this for natural gas to ensure more oil can be exported - important when Saudi is facing another substantial budget shortfall in 2016. However, despite prioritizing gas for power generation, supplies in Saudi Arabia are stretched, constraining expansion.

A new plant in Riyadh is still expected to go ahead. Known as PP15, it will be SEC's largest plant, with a capacity of more than 5,000 MW. The company is expected to invite expressions of interest from interested developers towards the end of this year, sources said. — Reuters

### News

In brief

#### Kuwait oil price down 31 cents to \$43.87 pb

**KUWAIT:** The price of Kuwaiti oil went down 31 cents Monday to settle at \$43.87 per barrel as opposed to \$44.18 pb last Friday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. The price of oil in the world markets went down in fear of production inflation in the Middle East and the hike in the US dollar exchange rate backed by anticipations over an increase of the interest rate in the US by the end of the year. The future contracts of the West Texas brand went down by 66 cents to reach \$46.98 pb. The future contracts of the Brent mix also went down by 66 cents to reach \$49.26 pb.

#### US dollar stable against KD at 0.301

**KUWAIT:** The US dollar's exchange rate against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at 0.301, whereas the euro's rate went down to KD 0.337 compared to Monday's exchange rates, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. The rate of the pound sterling went down to KD 0.394, as well as the Swiss franc which also went down to KD 0.307. The Japanese yen went up to KD 0.002.

#### Qatar central bank invites bids for 1bn riyal T-bills

**DUBAI:** The Qatar central bank has invited banks to bid in a 1 billion riyal (\$275 million) Treasury bill auction to be held today, according to a document seen by Reuters. The bills would be sold in three-, six- and nine-month tranches, with results of the monthly sale to be revealed on Thursday, the document showed. Between January and March, the central bank cancelled monthly sales of T-bills because of tightening liquidity in the banking system due to low oil and gas prices. But since then, liquidity has improved somewhat, and the sales have resumed. In the last sale on Aug 2, it issued 1.2 billion riyals of bills.

#### Saudi Bank Al Bilad prices 2bn riyal sukuk issue

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia's Bank Al Bilad priced an Islamic bond issue worth 2 billion riyals (\$533 million) at 200 basis points above the three-month Saudi interbank offered rate, the lender said in a bourse statement yesterday. The sukuk have a tenor of 10 years, with the bank having the right to call the bond at the end of the fifth year. They were sold through a private placement. Bank Al-Bilad, one of the smaller lenders in Saudi Arabia, said funds raised would support its capital base in line with Basel III standards.



MAZAR-I-SHARIF: An Afghan street vendor sells second hand shoes on his cart stall along the roadside in Mazar-i-Sharif. —AFP

## OVER A MILLION INDIAN WORKERS TO GO ON STRIKE

**NEW DELHI:** More than a million Indian workers in banking, telecoms and other sectors will go on strike on Friday, seeking higher wages and to protest against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's labour reforms and a plan to close some loss-making firms. Trade unions including the All India Trade Unions Congress and Centre of Indian Trade Unions rejected a government appeal on Tuesday to call off the strike, saying it failed to address their demands.

Since taking charge in May 2014, Modi has implemented a raft of economic reforms and is trying to ease labour laws to attract foreign investment and make it easier to do business in the country.

The government aims to raise 560 billion rupees (\$8.35 billion) through privatisation this fiscal year, and shut down some companies. Losses at 77 state-run companies exceeded \$4 billion in the last fiscal year. Tapan Sen, general secretary of the Centre of Trade Unions, said there had not been any "tangible proactive steps" by the government to address union demands such as a rollback of privatisation in sectors like defence and railways, and an increase in minimum wages.

He said the strike would go on despite Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's promise on Tuesday that the government would release state employees' bonuses for the last two years, and increase minimum wages for unskilled laborers.

The unions also oppose a government directive to state-run pension funds to put more money into stock markets. Another major union, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, which is loosely affiliated with the Hindu nationalist group Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the ideological parent of Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, is not joining the strike. Some workers at Coal India Ltd are due to join the strike but company officials said they did not expect any shortfall in supplies for power companies as there was an oversupply of the fuel. —Reuters

## OIL PRICES RISE ON US WEATHER FEARS, OPEC SPECULATION

**LONDON:** Oil futures rose yesterday supported by production suspensions in the US Gulf due to an expected tropical storm and speculation that producers meeting in Algeria next month will act to prop up prices. Brent crude futures were trading at \$49.53 per barrel at 1142 GMT, up 27 cents from the previous close.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was up 36 cents at \$47.34 a barrel. Oil and gas operators in the US Gulf of Mexico have shut output equal to 168,334 barrels per day (bpd) of oil and 190 million cubic feet per day of natural gas as a precaution against a tropical storm, the US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said on Monday. Oil prices have also been taking direction from speculation that a meeting next month in Algeria of major producers, including members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, could yield a production deal to support prices.

"Prices are still finding support from the expectations of an agreement on production caps being reached at the late-September meeting," Commerzbank said in a note. Saudi Arabian Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih told Reuters last week he

does not believe an intervention in oil markets is necessary since the "market is moving in the right direction".

Iraq - which exported more crude this month from its southern ports than in July - will continue ramping up output, its oil minister said on Saturday. A Nigerian militant group has said it has ended attacks on the nation's oil and gas industry that have reduced the OPEC member's output by 700,000 barrels a day to 1.56 million bpd.

But the prospect of a recovery in oil production from Libya happening any time soon was tempered after the head of the country's National Oil Corp. said budgetary delays from the new government were undermining oil production. "Oil prices are caught between concerns about oversupply and a strong dollar on the one hand and the prospect of further jawboning from OPEC members that some form of production freeze could be on the cards," CMC Markets senior analyst Michael Hewson said.

The huge global oil oversupply that has weighed on prices for the past two years may not clear until the second half of 2017, Shell's chief energy adviser Wim Thomas told Reuters. — Reuters

## IRAN PLANS FIRST PHASE OF OIL DEAL TENDERS FROM SEPT

**BEIRUT:** Iran plans to hold an oil and gas bidding round for foreign firms from late September, Ali Kardor, managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), was quoted as saying by the oil ministry's news agency SHANA yesterday.

The first tender, which is likely to be for the South Azadegan oil field in southwestern Iran, will take place between Oct. 14 and Oct 21, Kardor said.

"It's likely that letters will be sent to foreign companies next week as per regulations so that the companies can present their information," Kardor said. Iran needs foreign investment to repair and upgrade its oil and gas fields and is also seeking the transfer of technology to its oil industry after a decade of isolation.

Three contracts are expected to be signed by the end of the year which will bring in approximately \$10 billion in revenue for the country, Kardor said. The launch of the Iran Petroleum Contract (IPC) for oil and gas development deals has been postponed several times as hardline rivals of President Hassan

Rouhani resisted any deal that could end the so-called buyback system under which foreign firms are banned from owning stakes in Iranian companies.

The new contracts are divided into three main categories: exploration, development of discovered fields that would lead to production, and enhanced oil recovery (EOR) to increase output.

The duration of the contract is up to 20 years from the start of development and can be extended for five years if EOR techniques are applied on a field. Under the new contract model there will be technological assistance for storage facilities, equipment construction and to Iranian oil services companies, SHANA reported. Iran has also signed seven new initial agreements with foreign oil companies, Kardor said according to SHANA.

The contracts to study Iranian oilfields were signed with firms including Austria's OMV, France's Total, Germany's Wintershall, Indonesia's Pertamina, Russia's Lukoil and Zarubezhneft, he said. — Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Japanese Yen     | 2.964   |
| Indian Rupees    | 4.513   |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.889   |
| Srilankan Rupees | 2.081   |
| Nepali Rupees    | 2.824   |
| Singapore Dollar | 223.120 |
| Hongkong Dollar  | 39.009  |
| Bangladesh Taka  | 3.857   |
| Philippine Peso  | 6.525   |
| Thai Baht        | 8.776   |

#### GCC COUNTRIES

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Saudi Riyal    | 80.723  |
| Qatari Riyal   | 83.152  |
| UAE Dirham     | 786.253 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 803.910 |
| UAE Dirham     | 82.416  |

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Egyptian Pound - Cash     | 29.550  |
| Egyptian Pound - Transfer | 34.458  |
| Yemen Riyal/for 1000      | 1.215   |
| Tunisian Dinar            | 138.020 |
| Jordanian Dinar           | 427.150 |
| Lebanese Lira/for 1000    | 2.017   |
| Syrian Lira               | 2.0157  |
| Morocco Dirham            | 31.614  |

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| US Dollar Transfer | 302.550 |
| Euro               | 339.610 |
| Sterling Pound     | 397.400 |
| Canadian dollar    | 233.180 |
| Turkish Lira       | 103.080 |

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Swiss Franc       | 310.630 |
| Australian Dollar | 230.540 |
| US Dollar Buying  | 301.350 |

#### GOLD

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 20 Gram | 265.930 |
| 10 Gram | 135.880 |
| 5 Gram  | 68.790  |

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

| Rate for Transfer     | Selling Rate |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| US Dollar             | 302.750      |
| Canadian Dollr        | 232.670      |
| Sterling Pound        | 396.840      |
| Euro                  | 339.210      |
| Swiss Frank           | 298.125      |
| Bahrain Dinar         | 800.340      |
| UAE Dirhams           | 82.655       |
| Qatari Riyals         | 83.870       |
| Saudi Riyals          | 81.455       |
| Jordanian Dinar       | 426.600      |
| Egyptian Pound        | 33.996       |
| Sri Lankan Rupees     | 2.080        |
| Indian Rupees         | 4.508        |
| Pakistani Rupees      | 2.884        |
| Bangladesh Taka       | 3.852        |
| Philippines Peso      | 6.509        |
| Cyprus pound          | 159.565      |
| Japanese Yen          | 3.955        |
| Syrian Pound          | 2.405        |
| Nepalese Rupees       | 3.815        |
| Malaysian Ringgit     | 75.510       |
| Chinese Yuan Renminbi | 45.675       |
| Thai Bhat             | 9.730        |
| Turkish Lira          | 102.445      |

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

#### CURRENCY BUY SELL

| CURRENCY           | BUY       | SELL      |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Europe</b>      |           |           |
| British Pound      | 0.390042  | 0.405042  |
| Czech Korune       | 0.004511  | 0.016511  |
| Danish Krone       | 0.041404  | 0.046404  |
| Euro               | 0.0333115 | 0.0342115 |
| Norwegian Krone    | 0.032440  | 0.037640  |
| Romanian Leu       | 0.075907  | 0.075907  |
| Slovakia           | 0.009007  | 0.019007  |
| Swedish Krona      | 0.031561  | 0.036561  |
| Swiss Franc        | 0.302739  | 0.313739  |
| Turkish Lira       | 0.097522  | 0.107822  |
| <b>Australasia</b> |           |           |
| Australian Dollar  | 0.219874  | 0.231874  |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.212521  | 0.222021  |
| <b>America</b>     |           |           |
| Canadian Dollar    | 0.227041  | 0.236041  |
| Georgina Lari      | 0.136578  | 0.136578  |
| US Dollars         | 0.298300  | 0.303000  |
| US Dollars Mint    | 0.298800  | 0.303000  |
| <b>Asia</b>        |           |           |
| Bangladesh Taka    | 0.003286  | 0.003870  |
| Chinese Yuan       | 0.043732  | 0.047232  |
| Hong Kong Dollar   | 0.036896  | 0.039646  |
| Indian Rupee       | 0.004301  | 0.004690  |
| Indonesian Rupiah  | 0.000018  | 0.000024  |

|                    |          |          |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Japanese Yen       | 0.002871 | 0.003051 |
| Kenyan Shilling    | 0.002975 | 0.002975 |
| Korean Won         | 0.000258 | 0.000273 |
| Malaysian Ringgit  | 0.071425 | 0.077425 |
| Nepalese Rupee     | 0.002806 | 0.002976 |
| Pakistan Rupee     | 0.002666 | 0.002956 |
| Philippine Peso    | 0.006317 | 0.006617 |
| Sierra Leone       | 0.000050 | 0.000056 |
| Singapore Dollar   | 0.216724 | 0.226724 |
| South African Rand | 0.015065 | 0.023565 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee   | 0.001640 | 0.002220 |
| Taiwan             | 0.009381 | 0.009581 |
| Thai Baht          | 0.008364 | 0.008914 |

#### Arab

|                  |          |          |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Bahraini Dinar   | 0.795553 | 0.804053 |
| Egyptian Pound   | 0.023725 | 0.028843 |
| Iranian Riyal    | 0.000084 | 0.000085 |
| Iraqi Dinar      | 0.000181 | 0.000241 |
| Jordanian Dinar  | 0.422358 | 0.431358 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar    | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound   | 0.000150 | 0.000250 |
| Moroccan Dirhams | 0.019592 | 0.043592 |
| Nigerian Naira   | 0.001246 | 0.001881 |
| Omani Riyal      | 0.779035 | 0.784715 |
| Qatar Riyal      | 0.082250 | 0.083700 |
| Saudi Riyal      | 0.079553 | 0.080853 |
| Syrian Pound     | 0.001281 | 0.001501 |
| Tunisian Dinar   | 0.134353 | 0.142353 |
| Turkish Lira     | 0.097722 | 0.107822 |
| UAE Dirhams      | 0.080907 | 0.082607 |
| Yemeni Riyal     | 0.001367 | 0.001447 |





**NEW YORK:** A woman shops in an Aeropostale clothing store, in New York. The Conference Board released its August index on US consumer confidence yesterday. —AP

## US CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN AUG HIGHEST IN 11 MONTHS

**WASHINGTON:** US consumer confidence rose in August to its highest level in 11 months, suggesting economic growth could pick up in the second half of the year.

The Conference Board said yesterday that its consumer confidence index rose to 101.1, up from 96.7 in July. It was the highest level for confidence since the index hit 102.6 last September.

The gain reflected consumers' brighter views about current economic situation and their expectations for the future. The percentage of those surveyed who saw business conditions as "good" increased from 27.3 percent to 30 percent. Those who viewed business conditions as "bad" remained virtually unchanged at 18.4 percent. Consumers who regarded jobs as "plentiful" increased from 23 percent to 26 percent, although those who felt jobs were "hard to get" also rose slightly

from 22.1 percent to 23.4 percent. Economists said that the climb in confidence reflected stronger job gains seen in recent months, as well as strength in the stock market and home prices, which boost consumers' net worth.

They expect the momentum in jobs to boost incomes and spur stronger consumer spending. That should help growth accelerate in the second half of this year, after four quarters of an anemic average growth rate of 1.2 percent. Many analysts believe gross domestic product will top 3 percent in the current quarter. "Growth will be supported by consumer confidence and job growth," Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said in reaction to the consumer confidence report. The government will release the August jobs report on Friday. Many economists are looking for a gain of around 180,000 jobs. —AP

## SLOWING GERMAN INFLATION PUTS PRESSURE ON ECB

**BERLIN:** German annual inflation slowed unexpectedly in August, preliminary data showed yesterday, suggesting price pressures in Europe's largest economy remain weak despite the European Central Bank's ultra-loose monetary policy. The eurozone has struggled with little or no inflation for the past year, caused mainly by a plunge in oil prices. The ECB expects the bloc-wide figure to stay below its target of just under 2 percent for some years despite its monetary stimulus.

German prices, harmonized to compare with other European countries (HICP), were up by 0.3 percent on the year after rising by 0.4 percent in July, the Federal Statistics Office said.

This was below a Reuters consensus forecast for consumer prices to rise by 0.5 percent. DZ bank economist Michael Holstein said the surprisingly weak German inflation data indicated that the euro zone figure, due out today, would now also come in weaker than expected.

For the bloc, economists polled by Reuters so far expected the rate to inch up to 0.3 percent from 0.2 percent in July.

"Now we clearly see downside risks to this forecast. We'll probably have stable inflation of 0.2 percent in the euro zone," Holstein said. "And this would clearly raise the pressure on the ECB to unleash more monetary stimulus."

A breakdown of Germany's non-harmonised consumer price data showed that energy prices remained the main drag on the headline figure, but they fell less sharply than in the previous month. Costs for food and services increased slower than in July. Holstein said he expected German headline inflation to rise in the coming months as the drag from the energy component would ease in the course of the year. "Today's German inflation data will not make the ECB's already difficult life any easier," ING chief economist Carsten Brzeski said. Still, the ECB will probably try to buy some additional time before making another move, he added.

"In order not to come entirely empty-handed at next week's press conference, the ECB could drop the current deposit rate floor for its purchases of government bonds," Brzeski said. — Reuters

## FRANCE'S MACRON AIMS HIGH AT YOUNG AGE

**PARIS:** High-flyer Emmanuel Macron enjoyed a meteoric rise from investment banker to economy minister and could be about to test whether France is prepared to elect a business-friendly president under the age of 40. In just two years in the Socialist government, Macron confronted leftist ideals head-on, questioning the 35-hour work week and blaming high unemployment and weak growth on "a lack of competitiveness (and) a loss of French economic muscle".

The 38-year-old's maverick attitude has often angered his leftist colleagues, but the brickbats aimed at him by rivals have failed to derail his ambitions. "If approval was a criterion in this country, nothing would ever get done," Macron said last year. His willingness to challenge orthodoxies also extends to his personal life: at age 17, he ran off with a teacher at his high-school—a woman 20 years his senior, to whom he is married.

Quitting the government will allow him to prepare a run for president next year, possibly challenging President Francois Hollande, who plucked him from obscurity in 2014 to join his govern-

ment. Macron's first big test in office was to convince the notoriously change-averse French to accept reforms to kick-start their economy, with business-friendly laws such as allowing shops to open more often on Sundays. The move sparked angry protests. Prime Minister Manuel Valls ultimately had to force the so-called "Macron Law" through parliament without a vote to avoid leftist rebels sinking it.

Macron's flair-and the fact that he is a fresh face in France's little-changing political scene—has seen him win over many young, cosmopolitan people. It is these "winners from globalization," as Le Monde newspaper described them, who flock to rallies of Macron's political movement "En Marche" (On the Move) that he set up this year. Yet, it is unclear how wide the appeal really is of a man who has never held elected office, and Macron has certainly rubbed many off the wrong way. In June, angry union activists pelted him with eggs and yelled at him to "get lost" in reaction to a video in which he told a member of the powerful CGT union that "the best way to afford a suit is to work". — AFP

## FED'S FISCHER SAYS US JOB MARKET 'VERY CLOSE' TO FULL STRENGTH

**WASHINGTON:** The US job market is nearly at full strength and the pace of interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve will depend on how well the economy is doing, Fed Vice Chairman Stanley Fischer said yesterday.

In an interview with Bloomberg TV, Fischer did not comment on the timing of the next Fed rate hike but said "we choose the pace on basis of data," and that US "employment is very close to full employment." Fed Chair Janet Yellen said on Friday she thought the case had grown stronger in recent months for an interest rate increase, remarks that Fischer later that day said were consistent with a view that the US central bank might raise rates at its next policy meeting in September.

Asked about the dollar yesterday, Fischer said the currency's strength affected US inflation and company profits but improvements in the labor market showed the economy had withstood this headwind. The Fed has signaled since March it would lift rates twice this year, but investors have been skeptical.

Prices for Fed funds futures yesterday suggested they expect about a 20 percent chance of a hike next month and just over even odds for such a move in December. The Fed also has a policy meeting scheduled for early November. The US Labor Department's monthly employment report on Friday is expected to show the economy added 180,000 jobs in August, according to the median forecast in a Reuters poll. — Reuters

# LONDON GROUPS OPEN LINE TO DUBLIN AFTER BREXIT

### BREXIT VOTE PROMPTS ENQUIRIES TO DUBLIN

**FRANKFURT/DUBLIN:** Ireland says the Brexit vote has led to a jump in enquiries from London firms considering opening offices in Dublin, one of a handful of European cities trying to draw business away from Britain's financial centre.

Irish officials say they have had more than 35 concrete enquiries from financial groups looking at setting up a base or expanding in Ireland, which is recovering after near bankruptcy in the financial crash. "Post-Brexit, it's meant a lot more meetings, more phone calls and a lot more travel," said Eoghan Murphy, the minister tasked with promoting Ireland as a financial centre. "I'm in daily contact with different players in the industry." Financial companies based in London are concerned that Britain's vote to leave the European Union will stop them selling products in the bloc. EU member Ireland's tax regime makes it an attractive alternative. However, there will be questions as to whether it can maintain its appeal after EU regulators yesterday ruled that a special scheme used by US technology giant Apple to route profits through Ireland was illegal and ordered the company pay billion of euros in taxes to the Irish government.

Ireland is trying to woo companies with the offer of a contracting entity, a legal toehold on the island that could be expanded when Britain leaves the EU, allowing them to keep the same access to the European market. Businesses are being courted by other financial centres including Frankfurt and Paris as executives consider alternatives to London while British Prime Minister Theresa May weighs when to trigger two-year-long exit negotiations.

Some, particularly in fund management and insurance, say they are warming to Dublin. Insurers Admiral and Beazley have said they are

considering moving more business to Ireland while the funds arm of insurer Prudential is looking at expanding Dublin operations.

Mark Hemsley, the European head of pan-European stock exchange Bats, said that Ireland was "attractive because it's the most similar to the UK structure." Two lawyers who advise financial services firms told Reuters that a group of less than a dozen executives would be enough to open an arm for an insurer or fund manager in Ireland. Moving part of a bank, however, would typically be a bigger task, requiring more capital and staff to be relocated. "Brexit represents a historic opportunity," said Kieran Donoghue of Ireland's Industrial Development Authority. "Over the next few weeks, our approach will be dialled up."

#### TAX REGIME CHALLENGED

But Ireland, whose prime minister Enda Kenny once told a foreign business audience that they could "call me any time", faces obstacles to growing its financial centre, which employs more than 30,000 people. Dublin's open-door policy and flexibility could be upset by the European Commission's demand that Apple hand over up to 13 billion euros to the Irish government for only paying between 0.005 and 1 percent on European profits.

Ireland said it intended to appeal the decision. The iPhones maker cut tax by channelling profits through Irish subsidiaries. The penalty, overturning a tax arrangement agreed decades ago with Dublin, challenges the low-tax regime that has been the cornerstone of Ireland's economy. Low taxes also underpin its financial centre, home to more than 6200 investment funds, and were that regime to falter, it could dampen

the interest of companies looking to relocate.

Jim Stewart, an academic with Trinity College Dublin, said Ireland's financial centre had hosted many of the vehicles involved in the financial crash and that it used "smoke and mirrors" to "camouflage" some activity.

"It is not just the tax concession," he said. "It's regulatory as well. The concession is that there is sometimes no regulation." Stewart points to the extensive use of special purpose vehicles, including section 110 companies, allowing deductions to cut tax on profits to as little as zero. Reliance on tax breaks may have spawned a financial sector with little real activity with Stewart saying investment funds are largely administered rather than run from Dublin's International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

"A lot of the jobs in the IFSC are fairly low skilled," he said. "The thinking is always done in a major financial centre." Such criticism is rejected by Irish authorities, including the central bank, which said licensing procedures are rigorous.

"It's the opposite to a brass plate financial centre," said Padraic White, a former head of the IDA agency. "Ireland has a transparent tax system. There is no such thing as a tax deal. There is an aspect of sheer jealousy and envy."

After years of cutbacks, Ireland also has other problems. As construction of new homes lagged, rents in Dublin have risen above the peak at the height of the property boom.

Many in London are still biding their time, listening carefully to the campaigns from Ireland, Paris and Frankfurt as well as keeping an eye on Brexit progress in Britain.

"Most thought this would never happen," said Simon Tilford of the Centre for European Reform, a London-based think tank. — Reuters



**LAVAL:** Communications director of the Lactalis Group, Michel Nalet (4thR), next to the Prefect of Mayenne Frederic Veaux (3rdR) and Central Normandy Producers Organisation (OPNC) representative Sebastien Amand (2ndR), speaks to journalists after the negotiations between milkproducers and the Lactalis group yesterday at the prefecture of Mayenne in Laval, northwestern France. —AFP

## LACTALIS STRIKES PRICE DEAL WITH FRENCH MILK PRODUCERS

**PARIS/RENNES:** Lactalis, the world's largest dairy firm, reached a deal with French milk producers yesterday to raise prices paid to suppliers and farmers called off their week-long protests, the company and unions said. Lactalis agreed to pay an average 275 euros (\$307) per 1,000 litres for the whole of 2016, Dominique Barrau, secretary general of France's largest farm union FNSEA, told Reuters. "It brings Lactalis to the level of its competitors," Barrau said, adding that the union had called for an end to protests. The offer was 10 euros higher than an initial proposal before the first talks on Thursday last week, unions said. Lactalis, which produces cheese, milk, butter and yoghurt with brands including President, Bridel, Galbani and Lactel, confirmed

the agreement without giving any details.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls called the deal a positive agreement on Twitter. Between 2,000 and 3,000 farmers have protested since Monday last week outside the family-owned firm's headquarters in Laval, northwestern France, bringing hundreds of tractors, cows and trailers. Farmers also carried out protests in supermarkets and called on consumers to boycott Lactalis products.

European dairy farmers are struggling with a slump in milk prices caused by oversupply after the European Union scrapped quotas last year, Russia banned Western food imports and Chinese dairy imports weakened. To reach the average level of 275 euros for the year as a

whole, Lactalis will lift prices to 290 euros per 1,000 litres for the milk purchased between August and December, a member of a producers group said. Lactalis was paying 257 euros per 1,000 litres before the talks.

"It's much better than what Lactalis had offered so far," Pascal Clement, president of the FNSEA's regional branch for western France, said. Still, unions put production costs at about 330 to 380 euros per 1,000 litres, depending on the size of the farm. Lactalis does not publish results but said on its website it has a turnover of 17 billion euros (\$19 billion), employs nearly 75,000 people in 85 countries in Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa, and has factories in 43 countries. — Reuters

## US BANK EARNINGS IN Q2 CLIMBED 1.4% TO \$43.6BN



**MIAMI BEACH:** A Chase Bank branch in North Miami Beach, Fla. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp released US bank industry earnings for the second quarter yesterday. —AP

**WASHINGTON:** US banks' earnings in the April-June period rose 1.4 percent from a year earlier as growth in lending fueled interest income. The data issued yesterday by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. showed continued strength in the banking industry eight years after the financial crisis struck. However, the impact of low oil prices on energy companies led banks to continue to post bigger losses on commercial and industrial loans. The FDIC reported that US banks earned \$43.6 billion in the second quarter, up from \$43 billion a year earlier.

Around 60 percent of banks reported an increase in profit from a year earlier. Only 4.5 percent of banks were unprofitable, down sharply from 5.8 percent in the second quarter of 2015. — AP



# DOLLAR, SHARES RISE ON US RATE HIKE EXPECTATIONS

LONDON: Growing expectations the Federal Reserve will raise US interest rates this year pushed the dollar up for a seventh time in eight days yesterday. Stocks rose.

The dollar reached a 2 1/2-week high in against other top currencies in European trading. The pan-regional FTSEurofirst 300 rose 0.5 percent as banking and industrial stocks advanced.

Doubts remain about when US monetary policy will change, especially with an election in November. But both Fed Chair Janet Yellen and Vice Chair Stanley Fischer suggested on Friday the case for a rate increase was strengthening, and Fischer is due to speak later.

"The market is now pricing around a 36 per-

cent probability of a hike in September and it has moved from about 50 to 60 for December, which is considerably higher than a week ago," said Rabobank's US-focused economist, Philip Marey.

"Now we are waiting for the next big thing, which is payrolls (US jobs data) on Friday," he added, saying the first batch of Q3 GDP data at the end of October would be key. The focus on US rates put bonds under pressure, with German Bund yields pulled up by 10-year Treasury's rise to 1.5850 percent.

The yield on Italy's 10-year BTP bond rose 1.5 basis points to 1.13 percent before its planned sale of up to 7.75 billion euros of three bonds later. The sales will be the first major test of sentiment since

Prime Minister Matteo Renzi staked his future on a referendum on parliamentary reform. Data from German states suggested inflation was little changed in August from July and around 0.5 percent compared with a year ago, adding to the debate on whether the European Central Bank will continue to cut rates.

## BREXIT BRUISES

Bank of England figures showed lending to British consumers slowed in July, the month after Britain voted to leave the European Union. Mortgage approvals dropped to their lowest since January, although tax changes may have distorted the figures. The Confederation of British Industry

said investment plans among services firms, the largest sector of the British economy, were at their lowest in more than four years.

"Looking ahead, the service sector faces a challenging environment in which to grow and invest, with uncertainty about demand weighing on firms' minds," said the CBI's head of economic analysis and surveys, Anna Leach. The signs of weakness in the economy and the uncertain outlook for U.S. monetary policy led sterling to slip back towards \$1.30. The pound has fallen more than 1 percent against the dollar since Friday's comments by the Fed's Yellen and Fischer.

"The BoE's easing bias, softer UK economic data and sterling's role as a funding currency will all keep the bearish ... momentum in place," said ING currency strategist Viraj Patel.

Asian markets rose yesterday, with Tokyo largely recovering from initial losses as expectations of a US interest rate rise and talk of more Japanese monetary easing pushed the yen down against the dollar. After Monday's sell-off across most markets, fuelled by the prospect of higher US borrowing costs, investors returned to buying-buoyed by a rally on Wall Street as fresh data indicated improvement in the world's top economy. Bets on a rate rise this year have soared after Federal Reserve boss Janet Yellen said last week at the Jackson Hole

symposium of central bankers that "the case for an increase in the federal funds rate has strengthened in recent months". Attention now turns to the release on Friday of the US jobs report, seen as a guide to whether the Fed will move sooner rather than later. "Without question, jobs day is always a monthly highlight, but given the

Federal Reserve board's tilt at Jackson Hole, it plainly appears it will take a big surprise to derail a 2016 Fed hike expectation at this point," Stephen Innes, senior trader at OANDA, said in a note. "Investor odds of lift-off are hovering near 70 percent for December and

Friday's jobs data will offer more information about the probability of a hike in September than anything else." The dollar rose to 102.42 yen from 101.88 yen in New York, with the Japanese unit also dragged down by comments from the country's top central banker suggesting a further loosening of monetary policy. The weaker yen could not help Japan's Nikkei index extend Monday's more than two percent rally, and it ended down 0.1 percent. However, Hong Kong rose 0.9 percent, while Shanghai ended up 0.2 percent, Sydney gained 0.2 percent and Seoul rallied 0.4 percent. There were also gains in Singapore, Taipei and Wellington. — Agencies

| Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report |         |          |              |          |          |  |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|--|
| 30-Aug-16                          |         |          |              |          |          |  |
| Index                              | Change  | Closing  | Last Closing | High     | Low      |  |
| Price Index                        | ▲ 16.73 | 5,421.43 | 5,404.70     | 5,421.43 | 5,401.17 |  |
| Weighted Index                     | ▲ 1.82  | 347.62   | 345.80       | 348.04   | 345.26   |  |
| KSX 15                             | ▲ 4.64  | 806.57   | 801.93       | 809.62   | 799.39   |  |

| Volume     | Value (KWD) | Number of Trades |
|------------|-------------|------------------|
| 64,254,815 | 6,357,543   | 1,464            |

| Security                  | High  | Low   | Volume            | Value (KD)       | Trades     | Last           | Change          |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| MARIN                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 88         | 0.0            | 0.0             |
| IKARUS                    | 32.0  | 30.5  | 12,000            | 374              | 4          | 32.0           | ▲ 1.5           |
| IPG                       | 370   | 370   | 1,000             | 370              | 1          | 370            | — 0.0           |
| NAPESCO                   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 700        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| ENERGYH                   | 46.0  | 45.0  | 7,851             | 358              | 6          | 46.0           | ▼ -0.5          |
| GPI                       | 39.0  | 38.5  | 792,200           | 30,500           | 16         | 39.0           | — 0.0           |
| ABAR                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 93         | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| <b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>      |       |       | <b>813,051</b>    | <b>31,801</b>    | <b>27</b>  | <b>753.62</b>  | <b>▲ 0.48</b>   |
| KFOUC                     | 166   | 166   | 129,000           | 21,414           | 9          | 166            | ▲ 2.0           |
| BPC                       | 490   | 485   | 72,010            | 34,925           | 6          | 490            | ▲ 5.0           |
| ALKOUT                    | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 650        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| ALQURAIN                  | 198   | 192   | 112,881           | 21,897           | 18         | 198            | ▲ 2.0           |
| <b>Basic Materials</b>    |       |       | <b>313,891</b>    | <b>78,235</b>    | <b>33</b>  | <b>937.87</b>  | <b>▲ 6.85</b>   |
| KCEM                      | 375   | 375   | 4,325             | 1,622            | 1          | 375            | — 0.0           |
| REFRI                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 315        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| CABLE                     | 380   | 375   | 1,239             | 465              | 3          | 380            | ▲ 5.0           |
| SHIP                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 162        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| PCEM                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 960        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| PAPER                     | 300   | 300   | 32,092            | 9,628            | 2          | 300            | — 0.0           |
| MRC                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 66         | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| ACICO                     | 290   | 285   | 1,200             | 348              | 3          | 290            | — 0.0           |
| GGMC                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 300        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| HCC                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 128        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| KBMMC                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 190        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| NICBM                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 204        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| EQUIPMENT                 | 45.0  | 44.0  | 3,798,019         | 169,426          | 149        | 45.0           | — 0.0           |
| NCCI                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 40.0       | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| GYPSUM                    | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 102        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| SALBOOKH                  | 61    | 61    | 11,500            | 702              | 3          | 61             | ▼ -1.0          |
| AGLTY                     | 475   | 465   | 2,293,050         | 1,077,768        | 22         | 470            | ▲ 5.0           |
| EDU                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 198        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| CLEANING                  | 39.0  | 38.5  | 1,184,001         | 45,584           | 10         | 39.0           | ▲ 1.5           |
| KGL                       | 43.0  | 41.5  | 1,062,000         | 44,663           | 6          | 43.0           | ▲ 0.5           |
| KCPK                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 170        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| HUMANSOFT                 | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 1,500      | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| NAFAIS                    | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 180        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| SAFWAN                    | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 400        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| GFC                       | 24.0  | 24.0  | 304,000           | 7,296            | 11         | 24.0           | — 0.0           |
| MAYADEEN                  | 29.0  | 28.5  | 604,889           | 17,240           | 13         | 29.0           | — 0.0           |
| CGC                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 680        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| MTCC                      | 57    | 56    | 4,400             | 250              | 3          | 57             | — 0.0           |
| LUPAC                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 720        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| ALAFCO                    | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 216        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| MUBARRAD                  | 58    | 58    | 30,000            | 1,740            | 3          | 58             | — 0.0           |
| LOGISTICS                 | 71    | 70    | 390,550           | 27,339           | 13         | 70             | ▼ -1.0          |
| SCEM                      | 81    | 80    | 23,522            | 1,882            | 3          | 81             | ▲ 1.0           |
| GCEM                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 75         | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| QIC                       | 75    | 75    | 500               | 38               | 1          | 75             | — 0.0           |
| FCEM                      | 75    | 74    | 82,000            | 6,070            | 2          | 74             | ▼ -1.0          |
| RKWC                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 90         | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| SPEC                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 75         | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| <b>Industrials</b>        |       |       | <b>9,827,287</b>  | <b>1,412,060</b> | <b>248</b> | <b>1156.02</b> | <b>▲ 0.47</b>   |
| KSH                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 158        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| NSH                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 64         | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| PAPCO                     | 100   | 100   | 7,000             | 700              | 1          | 100            | ▼ -6.0          |
| CATTL                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 248        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| DANAH                     | 122   | 114   | 1,274,126         | 146,536          | 68         | 114            | ▼ -10.0         |
| POULT                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 176        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| FOOD                      | 2,440 | 2,420 | 16,637            | 40,291           | 5          | 2,440          | — 0.0           |
| <b>Consumer Goods</b>     |       |       | <b>1,297,763</b>  | <b>187,526</b>   | <b>74</b>  | <b>1188.84</b> | <b>▼ -18.82</b> |
| MHC                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 200        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| ATC                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 920        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| YIACO                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 208        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| <b>Health Care</b>        |       |       | <b>0</b>          | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>   | <b>0.00</b>    | <b>— 0.00</b>   |
| KCIN                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 950        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| KHOT                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 300        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| SULTAN                    | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 55         | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| CABLETV                   | 25.5  | 24.5  | 6,000             | 152              | 2          | 25.5           | ▲ 3             |
| EYAS                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 385        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| IFAHR                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 196        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| OULAFUEL                  | 120   | 116   | 134,303           | 15,845           | 15         | 118            | ▲ 2             |
| MUNTAZAHAT                | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 85         | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| JAZEERA                   | 840   | 830   | 5,211             | 4,375            | 3          | 840            | — 0.0           |
| SOOR                      | 120   | 118   | 52,161            | 6,180            | 17         | 120            | ▲ 4             |
| FUTUREKID                 | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 95         | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| ALRAI                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 146        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| ZIMAH                     | 40.5  | 40.0  | 355,020           | 14,201           | 13         | 40.5           | ▲ 1             |
| UFIG                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 130        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| Mezzan                    | 1,040 | 1,020 | 394,476           | 409,635          | 25         | 1,040          | ▲ 20            |
| <b>Consumer Services</b>  |       |       | <b>947,171</b>    | <b>450,389</b>   | <b>75</b>  | <b>916.74</b>  | <b>▲ 5.42</b>   |
| ZAIN                      | 330   | 325   | 1,600,998         | 521,450          | 29         | 325            | — 0             |
| OOREDOO                   | 1,060 | 1,000 | 18,125            | 18,575           | 6          | 1,020          | — 0             |
| HITSTELEC                 | 38.5  | 37.5  | 733,400           | 27,900           | 19         | 38.5           | ▲ 1             |
| VIVA                      | 920   | 910   | 23,053            | 20,991           | 27         | 910            | — 0             |
| <b>Telecommunications</b> |       |       | <b>2,375,576</b>  | <b>588,915</b>   | <b>81</b>  | <b>581.19</b>  | <b>▲ 1.19</b>   |
| NBK                       | 600   | 580   | 921,345           | 544,023          | 35         | 590            | ▲ 10            |
| GBK                       | 226   | 224   | 602,000           | 136,050          | 7          | 226            | — 0             |
| CBK                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 320        | 0.0            | — 0             |
| ABK                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 315        | 0.0            | — 0             |
| ALMUTAHED                 | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 390        | 0.0            | — 0             |
| KIB                       | 192   | 192   | 100               | 19               | 1          | 192            | ▲ 2             |
| BURG                      | 325   | 320   | 327,503           | 106,313          | 13         | 325            | — 0             |
| KFIN                      | 460   | 455   | 343,861           | 157,332          | 25         | 460            | — 0             |
| BOUBYAN                   | 380   | 375   | 1,487,517         | 565,112          | 27         | 380            | — 0             |
| AUB                       | 194   | 192   | 1,039,205         | 199,528          | 11         | 194            | ▲ 2             |
| ITHMR                     | 40.0  | 37.0  | 7,069,500         | 274,029          | 99         | 40.0           | ▲ 3             |
| WARBANK                   | 168   | 166   | 153,423           | 25,614           | 53         | 166            | — 0             |
| <b>Banks</b>              |       |       | <b>11,944,454</b> | <b>2,008,019</b> | <b>271</b> | <b>787.40</b>  | <b>▲ 7.51</b>   |
| KINS                      | 260   | 260   | 2,327             | 605              | 1          | 260            | — 0             |
| GINS                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 680        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| AINS                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 465        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| WINS                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 108        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| KUWAITRE                  | 190   | 190   | 10,000            | 1,900            | 1          | 190            | — 0.0           |
| FTI                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 46.5       | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| WETHAQ                    | 30.0  | 30.0  | 500               | 15               | 1          | 30.0           | ▼ -0.5          |
| BKIKWT                    | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 355        | 0.0            | — 0.0           |
| <b>Insurance</b>          |       |       | <b>12,827</b>     | <b>2,520</b>     | <b>3</b>   | <b>995.98</b>  | <b>▼ -1.92</b>  |

| Security  | High | Low  | Volume    | Value (KD) | Trades | Last | Change |
|-----------|------|------|-----------|------------|--------|------|--------|
| SOKOUK    | 32.5 | 31.5 | 72,120    | 22,969     | 19     | 32.0 | — 0.0  |
| KRE       | 51   | 50   | 867,434   | 44,238     | 20     | 51   | ▲ 1.0  |
| URC       | 102  | 100  | 1,100     | 112        | 3      | 102  | ▲ 3.0  |
| NRE       | 77   | 76   | 586,508   | 44,983     | 14     | 76   | ▼ -1.0 |
| SRE       | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0         | 0          | 355    | 0.0  | — 0.0  |
| TAM       | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0         | 0          | 550    | 0.0  | — 0.0  |
| AREEC     | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0         | 0          | 148    | 0.0  | — 0.0  |
| MASSALEH  | 37.0 | 35.5 | 28,030    | 1,037      | 3      | 35.5 | ▼ -1.5 |
| ARABREC   | 32.0 | 32.0 | 300,500   | 9,616      | 6      | 32.0 | ▼ -1.0 |
| ERESCO    | 43.0 | 42.0 | 199,061   | 8,459      | 14     | 42.5 | — 0.0  |
| MABANEE   | 800  | 790  | 10,010    | 7,908      | 2      | 800  | ▲ 10.0 |
| INJAZZAT  | 71   | 71   | 10,000    | 710        | 1      | 71   | — 0.0  |
| INVESTORS | 22.0 | 21.5 | 1,345,378 | 28,926     | 19     | 22.0 | ▲ 0.5  |
| IRC       | 27.5 | 27.0 |           |            |        |      |        |



## IOWA AT CENTER OF DEBATE OVER 'SHADOW INSURANCE' DEALS

**IOWA CITY:** For cash-strapped life insurance companies, the deal sounds almost too good to be true: A state law allows them to create complex financial instruments to transfer liabilities to new subsidiaries, instantly wiping huge debts off their balance sheets. So-called "shadow insurance" agreements have exploded over the last decade, but a growing number of critics, including economists and consumer advocates, say the practice threatens the solvency of insurers and puts policyholders and taxpayers at risk.

In 2013, then-New York insurance regulator Benjamin Lawsky warned that the arrangements amounted to "financial alchemy" and were reminiscent of practices that contributed to the 2008 financial meltdown. But these opaque instruments are not being concocted on Wall Street. They emerged in places like Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at the headquarters of TransAmerica Life, a subsidiary of the Netherlands-based Aegon NV, which was deemed one of nine too-big-to-fail insurers in the world by a global standards board last year.

"I think that the industry is headed for serious trouble with this," said Joseph M. Belth, a professor emeritus of insurance at Indiana University, who calls the practice "a shell game."

Belth has been seeking to force the Iowa Insurance Division to release documents related to eight shadow insurance subsidiaries that have been set up by TransAmerica and other companies under a 2010 state law that has encouraged the practice. Insurers say the arrangements - which they call captive reinsurance - are not risky but simply free them from 2001 accounting rules mandating that they hold excess cash reserves. Some state insurance regulators have agreed with that argument and reject Lawsky's warnings, saying it is a responsible practice when done appropriately. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners has been working with members to oversee the deals and limit the risks.

### Flexibility

TransAmerica spokesman Greg Tucker noted that group declined to ban such arrangements in 2014 after "careful consideration" and made few changes to the rules governing them. Life insurers have been seeking more flexibility at a time when they are struggling to cover financial promises made to beneficiaries decades ago, when interest rates were far higher. The system works like this: Insurers create wholly owned subsidiaries on paper that assume some of the company's liabilities. Those debts are transferred off the parent company's books, lowering the amount of capital reserves they are required to hold to pay off policies. That frees up cash that companies can use instead to pay dividends, make acquisitions and increase executive pay, all while shaving their federal tax bills. The parent companies retain the risks because they grant their subsidiaries "guarantees" or "notes" promising to pay their debts. The details of those agreements are largely secret, making them impossible to analyze.

Iowa and a handful of other states have taken the lead in permitting the practice. A paper published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis in May found that U.S. life insurance and annuity liabilities ceded to shadow insurers grew to \$364 billion in 2012 from \$11 billion a decade earlier - or 25 cents of every dollar for companies that use them. The authors, Ralph Koijen and Motohiro Yogo, said the practice may reduce the price of life insurance policies by about 10 percent on average but also



This undated photo provided by Jeffrey Belth shows Joseph M. Belth, a professor emeritus of insurance at Indiana University. Belth has been an outspoken critic of the practice of "shadow insurance," in which life insurers create subsidiaries to take on some of their liabilities. — AP

increases the risk of default.

The Office of Financial Research - an arm of the US Treasury created after the 2008 financial collapse to analyze risks - called in a report earlier this year for more disclosure of the arrangements and additional requirements that they be backed by quality assets.

Belth is author of a consumer's guide to life insurance and former 40-year editor of The Insurance Forum, a monthly journal that ceased publication in 2013. He has been seeking copies of the promises that insurers made to their Iowa subsidiaries and other documents under the open records law. He says the records would show just how risky they are, saying the information should be available to policyholders, shareholders and taxpayers. Iowa Insurance Commissioner Nick Gerhart has denied his requests, saying the documents are part of insurers' "plans of operation," which are confidential under Iowa law. Gerhart has argued that his staff routinely examines the transactions to ensure they are sound, and that Iowa has been more transparent than other states by releasing the subsidiaries' financial statements online every year.

After reviewing those statements, Koijen and Yogo found that six of the eight subsidiaries created in Iowa "have significant negative equity under statutory accounting" - meaning their assets are worth less than their liabilities under traditional insurance industry standards.

Belth said he got interested in Iowa's practices two years ago, when Bellevue, Washington-based Symetra Life Insurance Company announced it was moving its legal headquarters to Iowa "to take advantage of the state-of-the-art statutes and regulations governing the life insurance industry in Iowa." Symetra has since set up one of the shadow insurers in the state, but its size pales in comparison to those created by TransAmerica. TransAmerica has set up one subsidiary that carries a "parental guarantee" of more than \$2 billion and a second that has a "credit linked note" worth \$924 million. Under traditional accounting rules for the industry, insurers could not count those as assets but Iowa has permitted them.

Belth said that he's trying to shine a light on a practice that should not be confidential. "What's the secret? They don't want this discussed. I think that is the bottom line," he said. — AP



A Union Jack flag and a European flag blow in the wind in front of the city hall in London. — AP

## GERMANY'S EU COMMISSIONER DOUBTS BREXIT WILL HAPPEN

**BERLIN:** Germany's EU Commissioner Guenther Oettinger raised doubts yesterday about whether Britain would leave the bloc, saying he wouldn't bet on "Brexit". Oettinger told Germany's daily Bild that he assumed June's referendum outcome in favour of Britain exiting the EU was "binding".

"But it is possible that public opinion will tip if the economic situation in the wake of the Brexit vote worsens," said Oettinger, who is Digital Economy Commissioner. "In any case, I wouldn't place any major bets on Brexit." Oettinger predicted that the longer the British government waited to trigger Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty - the legal process for leaving the bloc - "the more insecure the situation will become - economically and politically." Once Article 50 is triggered, it would

start a two-year countdown to Britain's exit from the European Union. Prime Minister Theresa May has said it will not be enacted this year, the government needing time to shape Britain's exit objectives first. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called for giving London the time it needs to plot the way forward and has refused to enter into preliminary negotiations before Article 50 is activated.

The commissioner said public opinion in Britain could shift against leaving the bloc if the economy worsens as a result of the country's decision to exit.

Britain voted in a June 23 referendum to leave the 28-nation EU. New Prime Minister Theresa May hasn't formally triggered the start of withdrawal negotiations but is convening her Cabinet to discuss the potential first steps today. — Agencies

# EU-US TRADE DEAL UNLIKELY BEFORE OBAMA LEAVES OFFICE

## FRANCE WANTS MORE TALKS BEFORE AGREEMENT

**PARIS:** France said yesterday it wanted to halt thorny EU-US trade talks as President Francois Hollande said there would be no deal until after President Barack Obama leaves office in January. However the EU commissioner in charge of the negotiations said they have not broken down and the aim is still a deal by the time President Barack Obama leaves office. French junior trade minister Matthias Fekl said there was "no more political support in France" for the talks because US negotiators were offering "nothing or just crumbs". "France calls for an end to these negotiations," Fekl told RMC radio. Hollande, in a speech to France's diplomatic corps, chose his words more carefully but said it would be an "illusion" to say a deal was close. "The current discussions on the treaty between Europe and the United States will not lead to an agreement by the end of the year," he said.

"France would rather see things as they are and not harbor the illusion that an agreement will be struck before the end of the US president's term in office." But EU trade commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said that she did not agree that the negotiations had failed.

"They have been difficult, of course, we knew from the beginning, but they have not failed," she said. Germany's vice chancellor and economy minister Sigmar Gabriel had said Sunday the negotiations were effectively dead in the water. "The talks with the US have de facto failed because we Europeans of course must not succumb to American demands... nothing is moving forward", Gabriel said.

The EU Commission and US negotiators began work on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in 2013, aiming to create the world's largest free-trade area before Obama ends his term. But the talks have become bogged down amid widespread suspicion in the 28-nation EU that a deal would undercut the bloc's standards in key areas such as health and welfare. Malmstrom admitted there would be no deal by the end of this year as originally envisaged when the talks started. "I

don't want to analyse the mind and the intentions of President Hollande. And it is clear that for the moment we do not have enough - we can't conclude before the end of the year," the Swede said. But she added: "We have the aim and we still have... that we should aim to conclude under the Obama presidency. That is still our aim. "And if that is not possible it makes sense to make as much progress as possible."

However Fekl said Paris sees an imbalance in

be halted at a meeting of foreign trade ministers in Bratislava in September, Fekl added. He did not say when or under what conditions the talks could restart. Germany's Gabriel yesterday said that "given the current state of the talks, no agreement is possible". "We'll see if the US position changes after the presidential election. If there is no change, there will be no TTIP," he said. Activists who have opposed TTIP since negotiations began in 2013 say the deal would only



PARIS: French President Francois Hollande gestures as he addresses French ambassadors yesterday. — AP

the negotiations in favour of the US side. "The Americans give nothing or just crumbs... that is not how negotiations are done between allies," he said.

### 'Clear and definitive halt'

"We need a clear and definitive halt to these negotiations in order to restart on a good foundation." France will make its case for the talks to

benefit multinationals and harm consumers. Behind the scenes, top diplomats have told AFP talks may be suspended until after the US presidential election in November and could even be put on hold until after elections in France and Germany next year. All EU member states and the European parliament must ratify any TTIP deal before it can take effect. — AFP

# SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFIED INDIA TEA ESTATES 'VIOLATE' WORKERS' RIGHTS

**CHENNAI:** Tea estates in southern India are hiring temporary workers during peak plucking season and denying these laborers basic rights as required by law, said a report released yesterday. A survey in the southern state of Tamil Nadu at two tea estates - both certified by the international nonprofit Rainforest Alliance - found that in 2015, up to half of the workforce were temporary workers, and most were migrants or retirees. Focus group discussions and individual interviews with the workers showed the casual laborers did not receive a bonus, contributions for their children's school fees, a pension fund, creche facilities or other social security benefits given to permanent workers.

"Tea workers around the world are facing dangerous and degrading working conditions," said the report by India-based Glocal Research

and The India Committee of the Netherlands, non-governmental organizations working on labour and human rights. Tea plantations in India - the world's second largest producer of tea after China - employ an estimated 3.5 million workers, the report said. The report focused on the Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu, one of the main tea-growing belts in India with approximately 200,000 tea plantation workers.

Up to half of the workforce are migrants from other parts of India. According to the Indian Plantation Act of 1951, all workers, temporary and permanent, should be treated equally. However, poor enforcement by government authorities has allowed estate managers to deny workers their rights, the report said. The report also raised concerns about advances paid once a year to workers to meet their expenses for education, marriage, house con-

struction and emergencies. Temporary workers have to repay the advance in full if they want to leave the estate for other work, creating a cycle of debt bondage in some cases.

The report found that risks of injury or illness remain high, particularly among female workers. It also found that overtime hours and compensation do not comply with legal requirements or the criteria of the Rainforest Alliance and the Sustainable Agriculture Network of non-profit conservation groups. Responding to the findings, the Rainforest Alliance said they had formally complained to the two certified plantations, and an investigation had been initiated. Unilever, a buyer from both plantations, said they welcomed the re-audit of the estates and were "fully engaged with their suppliers to improve labor, safety and housing standards". — Reuters

## GOLD LOWER AS FOCUS SHIFTS TO US DATA

**LONDON:** Gold fell yesterday after Federal Reserve officials sounded a hawkish note on interest rates, boosting the dollar, while attention turned to US payrolls data this week for further clues on the pace of rate hikes. Fed Chair Janet Yellen said on Friday the case for higher rates was strengthening, though she gave little clarity on when it would move. Later that day Vice Chair Stanley Fischer suggested a hike was possible as soon as September and yesterday he said the U.S. job market was nearly at full strength.

Spot gold was down 0.2 percent at \$1,320.33 an ounce at 1149 GMT, while U.S. gold futures for December delivery were down \$3.7 an ounce at \$1,323.40.

The pace of rate hikes is heavily dependent on US economic data. Non-farm payrolls data due on Friday is seen as a key measure of the strength of the US labour market, and could reinforce hawkish messages from Yellen and other Fed officials. "For this week, the focus is on one thing and one thing only, which is the US non-farm payrolls," Think Markets chief market analyst Naem Aslam said. "This is the final piece of the puzzle which will enable the Fed to make their timeline decision with respect to a rate hike."

Gold is highly sensitive to rising US interest rates, as these increase the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion, while boosting the dollar, in which it is priced. The dollar rose against the euro yesterday as investors focused on the next set of US data to see whether it supports expectations the Fed will raise interest rates soon.

Employers are expected on Friday to show 180,000 job gains in August, according to a Reuters poll, below the better-than-expected 255,000 additions in July and 292,000 gains in June.

"With investors pricing in a greater likelihood of a Fed rate increase before year end, pressure is likely to continue to weigh on gold," MKS said in a note. Silver was down 0.4 percent at \$18.77 an ounce, having hit a two-month low of \$18.36 in the previous session. Platinum was 0.2 percent higher at \$1,076.20, while palladium was down 0.2 percent at \$694.60. Platinum's discount to gold narrowed to \$244 an ounce, from a near seven-week high of \$253 an ounce at the end of last week. — Reuters



ANDOVER: A home for sale in Andover, Massachusetts. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index for June was released yesterday. — AP

## US HOME PRICES RISE IN JUNE AT SLOWEST PACE IN 10 MONTHS

**WASHINGTON:** US home prices rose modestly in June, pushed up by strong sales and a limited supply of available properties. The Standard & Poor's CoreLogic Case-Shiller 20-city home price index, released yesterday, increased 5.1 percent in June compared with a year ago. That's down from a 5.3 percent annual gain in May and is the slowest year-over-year pace since last August.

Home values are still soaring in the Northwest, but have slowed to more sustainable rates elsewhere. In Northeastern cities such as New York and Washington, DC, they are rising at roughly the rate of inflation, and in Boston, less than 5 percent. Still, nationwide prices are increasing more quickly than incomes as buyers compete for the dwindling supply of available homes. That could stifle sales in the coming months.

Home prices in the Northwest continued to climb at a double-digit pace. They rose 12.6

percent in Portland, 11 percent in Seattle, and 9.2 percent in Denver. Those three cities have topped the list of price gains for the past five months. Cities in the Midwest were mixed. Home prices in Cleveland and Chicago rose 2.5 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively, while in Minneapolis they climbed 5.1 percent, the same as the nationwide pace.

Southern cities saw stronger price gains. They rose 8.9 percent in Dallas, 7.9 percent in Tampa, and 5.8 percent in Atlanta. The 20-city price index plunged after the housing bubble started to burst in 2006, plummeting by more than a third before prices began to rise again in March 2012. In June, they were still 8.1 percent below their peak level.

The Case-Shiller index covers roughly half of US homes. The index measures prices compared with those in January 2000 and creates a three-month moving average. The June figures are the latest available. — AP



## ZAIN INTRODUCES LOCAL DATA ROAMING OFFER FOR B2B CUSTOMERS

### REINFORCING COMPANY'S ARRAY OF OFFERINGS AND SOLUTIONS TO CORPORATE SECTOR

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, introduced its latest offering for corporate customers, enabling them to enjoy the same local Internet caps while roaming with Zain's premium partners abroad.

Zain's offer comes as part of its vision to embrace the current digital business transformation, wherein the company continues to acknowledge the significance of Internet services usage when travelling abroad as well as the importance of corporate customers' need to constantly stay connected to their business and customers.

Corporate customers who are subscribed to the 'Smartphone Global' package can now enjoy the same Internet cap of their current local Internet plan as soon as they choose one of Zain's premium partners when they arrive to their destination. Alternatively, corporate customers can also activate Internet roaming pay-as-you-go for KD 7 weekly.

In efforts to add extra convenience to

the roaming experience, Zain also offers corporate customers with a real-time control solution, providing usage visibility and allowing them to use the Internet more while monitoring their bill in real time. In addition, Zain provides a special feature for Smartphone Global service to control usage.

The feature will suspend the Smartphone Global service whenever the Internet cap is exhausted. This will allow corporate users to avoid any bill shocks while roaming. Zain is constantly keen to maximize Internet usage transparency, and with that invites customers to monitor their real-time data usage during their travels by visiting [connect.kw.zain.com](http://connect.kw.zain.com)

As a leading telecommunications company, Zain is committed to enhancing its existing partnerships and further partnering with leading regional and global network providers. Zain partners with leading mobile operators to offer customers more choices to join the net-



work they desire at their convenience, including the biggest providers in the GCC, Europe, the US, Asia, and more.

Zain continuously offers services that are tailored to match its corporate customers' expectations and needs during their travels, and to keep them connected to their businesses and customers with more convenience and around the clock.

Launching a range of offerings and programs, Zain aims primarily to provide and develop innovative solutions for corporate customers. The company recently launched its "Colocation Data Center" (CDC) to offer corporate customers an ideal platform with reliable support and advanced solutions to store and host their digital datacenter. Zain also partnered with Vodafone to launch Machine-To-Machine (M2M) services on its ultra-fast network. Zain is also planning to launch more enterprise services in 2016 and 2017 to enable its customers to be more agile in their business.



A hand holding an iPhone next to the Apple logo in New York City. — AFP

## MULTI-BILLION APPLE WINDFALL PUTS IRELAND IN UNUSUAL BIND

**DUBLIN:** The European Commission's demand for Apple to pay Ireland some 13 billion euros in back taxes has put the country in the strange position of refusing the windfall for fear of scaring away valuable investment. Rather than welcoming the cash-equivalent to around five percent of its gross domestic product the government has vowed to appeal the ruling, fearing an ever-greatest cost to its economy and jobs.

Finance Minister Michael Noonan said he disagreed "profoundly" with Brussels while Apple chief Tim Cook warned the ruling threatened jobs and investment in Europe. Cook said Apple, the world's most valuable company, was now in the "unusual position" of being asked to pay taxes to a government that says they are not due. But opposition politicians urged Ireland, which has suffered years of austerity following a painful recession during the eurozone, to take the Silicon Valley giant's cash.

"EUR13bn Apple Tax could build 86,000 council houses. Shelter for Apple but none for the homeless," tweeted left-wing opposition politician Richard Boyd Barrett. More than seven out of 10 people in a national radio poll also thought that Dublin should take the money, piling pressure on the government.

### 'Greater tax fairness'

But Ireland has to weigh up the cash windfall against the potentially more long-term damage the ruling could do to its image as a low-tax place to do business. Multinationals with major operations in Ireland now employ more than 170,000 people-one in ten workers-and the corporate tax rate of 12.5 percent is one of the lowest in Europe.

This corporate tax regime has been one of the cornerstones of its strategy for attracting inward investment and it has been spectacularly successful in doing so in recent years. With 5,000 workers and another 1,000 promised, Apple is the single biggest employer in Cork, Ireland's second-biggest city, and one of several US tech giants with their European hubs in Ireland.

Although the case pertains solely to Apple, the tax practices of other Dublin-

headquartered multinationals such as Google and Facebook have been heavily criticised internationally in recent years. On revenues of 12.4 billion euros in 2011, Google paid just 22 million euros in taxes in Ireland.

Irish MEP Brian Hayes said he feared the ruling could damage Ireland's future ability to attract investment, although it will likely be welcomed in many European capitals, particularly in Paris. The Irish corporate tax rate has been widely criticised by Ireland's EU partners, while France is a leading critic of a race-to-the-bottom among EU member states to cut tax and social conditions to attract foreign investment.

"I have no doubt this will cause significant reputational damage to the country and that is why the government must appeal this decision," Irish MEP Hayes told national broadcaster RTE. Investment house AJ Bell said in a note that the decision "could deter fresh investment by leading corporations, to the potential detriment of employment and income tax contributions".

### 'Rich with talent'

Apple was quick to point out that it invested in Ireland when the country was struggling economically. Cook noted that the company had opened its first facility in Cork in southwest Ireland in 1980 at a time when the area was beset by "high unemployment and extremely low economic investments".

"Apple's leaders saw a community rich with talent and one they believed could accommodate growth if the company was fortunate enough to succeed," he said. "As our business has grown over the years, we have become the largest taxpayer in Ireland, the largest taxpayer in the United States, and the largest taxpayer in the world," he wrote.

Meanwhile, one trader said that Britain, which voted to leave the EU in June, could end up being the beneficiary. "If Ireland cannot offer sweetheart deals within the EU, the City of London can perhaps offer something more appealing outside the bloc," said Neil Wilson from currency trader ETX Capital. — AFP

## 2016 HONDA CR-V ACHIEVES HIGHEST OVERALL SCORE FOR COLLISION SAFETY

### NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

**KUWAIT:** The stylish and versatile 2016 Honda CR-V has received a 5-Star Overall Vehicle Score, the top score available in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (NCAP). Earlier, the CR-V earned a TOP SAFETY PICK+ rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), making it a collision safety leader and standout choice in the SUV market. The 2016 CR-V, has also been recognized by KBB.com's expert staff of editors for their ability to meet the needs of families, with a keen focus on various factors including safety and performance.

"Consumers have made the CR-V America's best-selling SUV for good reason, and this top government safety rating just adds one more appealing and class-leading attribute," said Jeff Conrad, senior vice president and general manager of the Honda Division. "Honda is committed to offering vehicles that deliver advanced safety, fun-to-drive performance and connectivity, with top fuel economy ratings. CR-V is that kind of vehicle."

In receiving the 5-Star Overall Vehicle Score from NHTSA, the 2016 CR-V also met the requirements of the agency's technologies. The 2016 Honda CR-V utilizes the latest generation of Honda's Advanced Compatibility Engineering (ACE) body structure which helps make the CR-V highly effective at absorbing and dispersing the energy of a frontal collision crash.

Key Safety and Driver-Assistive Features:

- \* In addition to the application of Honda's ACE(tm) body-structure, the 2016 CR-V features a host of standard active and passive safety features and offers many standard and available driver-assistive technologies, such as:
- \* SmartVent Front Side Airbags
- \* Side Curtain Airbags with Rollover Sensor
- \* Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH)
- \* Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) with Traction Control
- \* Motion-Adaptive Electric Power Steering (EPS)
- \* Anti-lock Braking System (ABS)
- \* Honda LaneWatch (EX, EX-L Navi)
- \* Hill Start Assist (HSA)
- \* Expanded View Driver's Mirror



\* Multi-Angle Rearview Camera with Guidelines

### Honda Safety Leadership

Honda has a long history of leadership in the development and application of advanced technologies designed to enhance the safety of all road users, including automobile occupants, motorcycle riders and pedestrians. The company operates two of the world's most sophisticated crash test facilities, and is responsible for numerous pioneering efforts in the areas of crashwor-

thiness, airbag technology, collision compatibility and pedestrian safety.

Based in part on advancements to Honda's Advanced Compatibility Engineering(tm) (ACE(tm)) body structure, Honda is a leader in third-party crash test ratings within the industry. The company also is broadly applying advanced safety and driver-assistive technologies. Also, all Honda vehicles have applied a rearview camera as standard equipment since the 2015 model year.

## WHY THE EU SAYS APPLE MUST PAY IRELAND \$14.5BN IN TAX

**LONDON:** The European Commission (EC) ordered Apple Inc. to pay Ireland unpaid taxes of up to 13 billion euros (\$14.5 billion) yesterday as it ruled the firm had received illegal state aid.

### What is the EC alleging?

The European Union's (EU) executive arm has ruled that Ireland made a deal with Apple that had no basis in tax law. The Commission said this involved cutting Apple's tax bill to almost zero, in return for Apple building factories in Ireland. The EC says that is unfair and that Apple must pay Ireland the tax it would have paid if normal tax rules were applied.

### Why does the EU care if Ireland does not tax Apple?

The EU believes sweetheart tax deals help divert investment and jobs away from countries where it would normally go. Also, the tens of billions of dollars in profits which Apple enjoys tax free in Ireland each year are generated almost exclusively outside Ireland. Hence, Ireland's deal deprives other EU countries of tax revenue they might otherwise earn.

### Is Ireland about to land a windfall?

Not anytime soon. Ireland's finance minister said he plans to appeal the ruling in Europe's highest court. That will likely take two years or more and Apple may make legal challenges and is also likely to be able to fight any demands from Ireland's Revenue Commissioners in Irish courts, tax lawyers say.

### Might Apple settle?

It can certainly afford to, with more than \$200 billion in cash or readily marketable securities. But since \$13 billion is not a major sum for Apple, investors won't be too worried about the uncertainty it faces and consequently it won't be under pressure from shareholders to settle. The company has been aggressive in defended its tax practices, with CEO Tim Cook testifying to Congress on the issue.

### What does the US government think?

The US Treasury and lawmakers have criti-

cized the EU approach of using competition law to challenge tax rulings. They say the approach is targeting US companies, deviates from accepted international practice and threatens US investment in Europe.

A US Treasury Department White Paper last week said "it continues to consider potential responses should the Commission continue its present course".

U.S law allows the President to double taxes on citizens and companies from countries which apply "discriminatory or extraterritorial taxes" on US firms. If the EC prevails, does this mean that multinationals won't be able to avoid tax in the EU?

No. The Commission's case against Ireland

was helped by its ability to secure access to documents in which Irish officials were unusually frank about the agreement they made with Apple.

EU states wanting to secure investment by helping companies avoid tax will in future be more careful about leaving a paper trail which could suggest a tax ruling is a sweetheart deal.

The EU's principal legal adviser on tax, Richard Lyal, wrote in a legal journal last year that "It is likely to be only in extreme cases that one can with confidence say that a particular decision reflects a misapplication of the chosen method". Without evidence of an "extreme" deviance from accepted norms, the Commission would likely be reluctant to initiate a tax case. — Reuters

## IMF INSISTS ON INTERNATIONAL AUDIT OF MOZAMBIQUE DEBT

**MAPUTO:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is demanding an external forensic audit of Mozambique's public debt to regain investor confidence after a scandal over more than \$2 billion in secret loans, its local representative said yesterday.

Parliament and the attorney-general's office have launched investigations into the undisclosed borrowing in 2013 and 2014 but the government has balked at opening up its books to outside auditors. However, the IMF, which suspended assistance when the loans came to light this year, has insisted on external scrutiny as a precursor to resuming financial aid to what is one of the world's poorest countries. "It is important to move quickly to an international forensic audit," its representative, Alex Segura-Ubiergo, said

in an interview on Radio Mozambique, the public broadcaster.

"Investors are still interested in investing in Mozambique and this will bring foreign exchange, will bring dollars, but for this we need also the return of confidence," he added.

The debt crisis and aid suspension has hit Mozambique hard, with its currency, the metical, losing nearly 40 percent against the dollar since January and economic growth slowing to below 4 percent. With foreign debt soaring towards 100 percent of GDP, the government has been forced to revise its 2016 budget, which now shows a deficit equal to 11.3 percent of GDP, while the central bank hiked interest rates by 300 basis points in July to try to prop up the currency and contain inflation. — Reuters



TOKYO: A woman walks past an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. — AP



## SELECTING YOUR STRATEGIC DATACENTER PARTNER

By Sachin Bhardwaj

The right selection of a datacenter is a blend of auditing tangible metrics and assessing the human side of operations. Every datacenter has its share of strengths and characteristics that is the sum of its capital investments and innovative way of operations. An end-customer wanting to select a datacenter that meets its requirements in terms of availability and reliability must be ready to go down both the paths of assessments.

What should you look for in your datacenter partner? Below are some important categories for assessment:

### 1. Certifications

Third party certifications can help end customers gain confidence in the publicly available credentials of a datacenter. As an example, The Global Data Center Authority, Uptime Institute's Tier Standard offers four grades I, II, III, IV in the areas of constructed facility and operational sustainability. If a datacenter is compliant and graded for its constructed facility it becomes eligible to be certified for operational sustainability.

In summary, it covers staffing levels, skills, training, qualifications, effectiveness of maintenance and datacenter operations, policies that affect planning and coordination of activities, building characteristics, site location, organisational controls and security. Certifications are also independently provided by Payment Card Industry and HIPAA amongst others.

### 2. Location

The location of the datacenter is one of the most important single factors that can influence its selection. Is the datacenter located in a region of extreme weather change susceptible to large scale changes of wind, rain, and snow? These can fre-

quently limit movement and activity. Or is the datacenter located in a region of geologic activity with frequent tectonic movements that can stress the building structures?

Is there a significant power feeder connection or utility substation nearby that ensures that uninterrupted power is available for the datacenter? What is its distance to the nearest highway, urban city, airport, nuclear plant, important infrastructure, that needs to be balanced in terms of remoteness, accessibility and proximity as required?

### 3. Design

An important attribute inside a datacenter is not just how much existing equipment is stacked and how it is stacked, but also how new equipment will be stacked and configured. What are the options available to bring in new equipment in terms of individual cabinets, cages with racks, data modules and private rooms? And once decided how the equipment will be stacked and configured, what is the availability of power and cooling per square area of space leased.

Does the datacenter follow raised floors and cooling below with equipment racks directly secured to the concrete floor slabs? This is usually an important consideration for heavy and sensitive equipment. Other parameters to validate during selection are cooling efficiency, power density per rack, modular approach to build up, and just in time space expansion. Lastly, what is the availability of temporary office space when employees from end-customer organizations are expected to function on-site.

### 4. Connectivity

The best advantages for an end-customer are when the datacenter offers the choice of network connectivity from multiple service providers and from multiple landing points. This allows the end-



customer to become less susceptible to latency issues that may arise from time to time with specific providers and through specific routes.

The ideal situation arises when the datacenter provides direct connectivity to service providers they are contracted with. As well as the option of bringing in other service providers on demand without any specific preferences or bias towards any of them. This is sometimes referred to as carrier neutrality.

### 5. Operations

Auditing the physical attributes of a datacenter is usually one side of the selection process. The other side is the human audit. How well does a data-

center go to reduce human errors? Are the processes and procedures of operation documented? How well are the staff trained on these processes and procedures? Are the processes flexible enough and is change management built into the datacenter operations? How does the datacenter manage service level agreements, maintenance schedules, and planned downtime?

Datacenters compliant with Tier III and Tier IV levels have redundant and fault tolerant capacities inbuilt and hence should rarely have any downtime. But datacenters compliant with Tier I and Tier II levels will need to go through planned downtime and will need to actively manage their service level agreements accordingly. A datacenter is also a business and the stability of the business model, shareholders, and profitability is an important part of the consideration.

### 6. Other factors

Physical security is an integral part of the operations with varying degrees of importance for every datacenter. This usually includes surveillance, biometrics and two factor authentication. Similarly, commissioning and maintenance of critical equipment is an important operational procedure. This covers end of life replacement, selection of new equipment, and incorporation of redundant equipment. Critical equipment is usually UPS devices, generators, switchgear, chillers, utility connections, control monitoring systems. Another key aspect is the presence of Data Center Infrastructure Management that can alert when there is a reduction in planned availability and reliability in real time. Finally, most datacenters tend to offer their own share of hosted IT solutions and going forward this may increasingly become the final point of differentiation. — Sachin Bhardwaj is Director, Marketing & Business Development at eHosting DataFort.



CORK, Southern Ireland: A man passing by buildings on The Apple campus in Cork, southern Ireland. — AFP

## 13 BILLION EUROS WOULD BE HUGE WINDFALL FOR IRELAND

BRUSSELS: 13 billion euros (\$14.5 billion) looks like a ton of money for any nation. But for the 4.6 million people of the Republic of Ireland, among the least populous in the 28-nation EU, it's almost unfathomable. Should Apple eventually pay the Irish that sum, it would represent about 2,825 euros (\$3,150) per man, woman and child. In government coffers, that money would easily wipe out Ireland's 2016 deficit and put the country back in the black for the first time in a decade.

Ireland's accelerating economy is already producing rapid growth in tax collections from workers, sales tax and an EU-leading multinational sector of around 1,000 companies with Irish bases. Last year the country spent around 48.5 billion euros - some 13 billion euros of that on health care, the same sum as Tuesday's tax order - and recorded a deficit below 5 billion euros.

1:15 pm

Apple has derided the European Union's ruling that it must pay up to 13 billion euros (\$14.5 billion) in back taxes to Ireland. In a response yesterday, it accused the EU competition authorities of ignoring international and Irish tax law and seeking to scare foreign investment out of Europe. Like the Irish government, the company vowed to appeal and overturn the order. Apple said in a statement: "The European Commission has launched an effort to rewrite Apple's history in Europe, ignore Ireland's tax laws and upend the international tax system in the process." It added: "The commission's case is not about how much Apple pays in taxes, it's about which government collects the money. It will have a profound and harmful effect on investment and job creation in Europe."

1:05 pm.

Ireland's tax collection agency, the Revenue Commissioners, insists that Apple hasn't dodged a penny of lawfully calculated tax in Ireland. The Revenue Commissioner chairman, Niall Cody, says the overarching

problem is "mismatches between different countries' tax rules." Whereas Ireland taxes only a multinational company's profits on sales within Ireland - a country of barely 4.6 million and representing a tiny fraction of those companies' global business - the United States often seeks to recoup tax on a US-headquartered company's profits worldwide.

Cody said Apple's profits "that are not generated by their Irish branches - such as profits from technology, design and marketing that are generated outside Ireland - cannot be charged with Irish tax under Irish tax law." He says the Revenue Commissioners applied the same Irish tax rules to Apple as to around 1,000 other multinationals, most of them American, with bases in Ireland. He says: "Full tax due was paid in accordance with the law."

12:45 pm

Irish Finance Minister Michael Noonan has rejected the European Commission's ruling and says Ireland will appeal the judgment, insisting that Ireland's tax rules were transparent and straightforward. He has rejected findings that Ireland cut an especially generous tax-avoidance deal to boost Apple's investments in Ireland, where the company employs 5,500 and plans to expand further. Noonan said Tuesday in a statement issued minutes after the judgment: "I disagree profoundly with the commission's decision. Our tax system is founded on the strict application of the law ... without exception. The decision leaves me with no choice but to seek Cabinet approval to appeal the decision before the European courts." He accused European regulators of trying to undermine the integrity of Ireland's tax system and subverting rights reserved for sovereign EU states. He said a successful appeal, which could take years, would "provide tax certainty to business." Ireland's Cabinet will meet Wednesday to confirm plans to appeal the judgment. —AP

## LIVESTREAM OF KIM DOTCOM HEARING A FIRST FOR NZ

WELLINGTON: A New Zealand judge gave permission yesterday for the hearing of German tech entrepreneur Kim Dotcom's appeal against his extradition to be streamed on YouTube, making it the country's first court case to be broadcast on the Internet. The six-week hearing opened in Auckland this week, nine months after a lower court ruled Kim Dotcom could be sent to the United States to face copyright infringement and money-laundering charges over the file-sharing website Megaupload.

The case has been closely watched by the media industry and developers in the file-sharing business for signs of how far the United States is willing to go to protect US copyright holders. "It's very important that the entire world gets to see the court-

room," said Dotcom's lawyer, Ira Rothken. "The Internet isn't run by any one nation, so we thought the solution itself would come from the Internet." Dotcom was arranging for a videographer to start recording the proceedings from Wednesday, the lawyer added. They will appear on YouTube with a 20-minute time lag to ensure removal of any material suppressed by the court.

The judge ordered the stream to be taken down at the end of the hearing. New Zealand government prosecutors, who are representing the United States, had argued against the livestreaming. The government law office did not immediately respond to a request for comment but a spokeswoman on Monday said it was not appropriate to comment while the matter was before the courts. — Reuters

## SELF-DRIVING CARS GO PUBLIC; UBER NOW OFFERING RIDES

SCIENCE-FICTION STORIES SLOWLY BECOMING REALITY

SAN FRANCISCO: The option to hail a ride in a self-driving car, which was science fiction just a few years ago, will soon be available to Uber users in Pittsburgh, the first time the technology has been offered to the general public. Within weeks, the company announced Thursday, customers will be able to opt into a test program and summon an autonomous Ford Fusion. But since the technology has not been perfected, the cars will come with human backup drivers to handle any unexpected situations.

Although other companies including Google are testing self-driving cars on public roads, none offers rides to regular people. As an enticement, the autonomous rides will be free, the company said. Uber, which has a self-driving research lab in Pittsburgh, has no immediate plans to deploy autonomous cars in other cities. But in an interview with The Associated Press, CEO Travis Kalanick said development of the vehicles is paramount for the San Francisco company, which has grown exponentially after starting seven years ago. "We've got to be laser-focused on getting this to market, because it's not a side project for us," he said. "This is everything. This is all the marbles for Uber." Without drivers, the cost of hailing a ride will be cheaper than owning a car, changing the way we all get around, Kalanick has said.

### Signal of intent

By using human backup drivers, Uber is basically testing the technology and taking people along for the ride, said Bryant Walker Smith, a

University of South Carolina professor who studies self-driving technology. "Part of this is marketing in the sense that they're going to be doing continued research and development of these systems," he said. Uber also announced that it was acquiring a startup called Otto that has focused on developing self-driving big rigs and is stocked with big talent in the still-small world of self-driving technology, including Anthony Levandowski, one of the field's pioneers. Kalanick said the acquisition signals Uber's intent to get into the movement of goods and freight.

In another deal, the company announced a \$300 million alliance with Volvo to supply vehicles and technology. The announcements may push it ahead of its prime competitor, Lyft, which earlier this year took a \$500 million investment from General Motors. Those arrangements are part of a flurry of deals between Silicon Valley tech companies, traditional automakers and ride-hailing companies as they vie for autonomous car leadership. Google has been testing self-driving cars on public roads since 2009 but has never offered large-scale rides to the public. Uber's move to haul passengers with autonomous vehicles is not surprising, given the company's history of pushing into gray areas with little or no regulation, Walker Smith said.

Local laws in Pittsburgh may require a driver behind the wheel, but Pennsylvania has no laws governing autonomous cars and their role in ride-hailing, he said. He predicted that drivers will often have to intervene in Pittsburgh, with its winding, hilly roads and vast number of bridges.

Each winter the city gets about 30 inches of snow, which can cover lane lines and trick autonomous car sensors that use them to help guide the ride.

### Backup drivers

Use of the backup drivers is also an acknowledgement that current autonomous driving systems cannot handle the wide range of unpredictable circumstances on public roads. Timothy Carone, a Notre Dame professor who has written about the future of automation, noted that Uber is mitigating the risk with its own drivers - unlike Tesla Motors, which put semi-autonomous technology in the hands of individual customers. "This is a way to get autonomous cars out there and accepted and increase the adoption rate," Carone said. "It will take a decade of testing before an 18-year-old can get in the car and tell it where to go." Uber-branded test cars have been on Pittsburgh roads for several months. Standing at a bus stop, Anthony Fielder of the suburb of Carnegie was open to the idea. "I'd be willing to try it as long as there's a real human there to hit the brakes, you know, if the thing goes belly-up," he said. "We can only rely on technology so much or it's going to bite us." Kalanick would not speculate on when Uber might be ready to dispense with the human driver, saying that full automation can only be used now in limited places with little traffic. That's different from the relative chaos of even a small downtown, much less a big city where drivers do not always follow the rules. — AP

## RACE FOR FACEBOOK DATA CENTER RAISES TAX-BREAK QUESTIONS

SALT LAKE CITY: The race between a small town on the Rio Grande in New Mexico and a Salt Lake City suburb to entice a new Facebook data center with millions of dollars in tax breaks and subsidies is raising questions about public investments in a booming cloud-computing economy that typically brings few local jobs.

In West Jordan, Utah, an initial plan to offer some \$240 million in tax breaks over two decades fell apart after several local leaders said the lure was too rich. Negotiations have since restarted. In New Mexico, the Los Lunas Village Council agreed to give up all property taxes for 30 years in exchange for annual payments that start at \$50,000 and top out at nearly a half-million dollars. The village has yet to provide a tally of the revenues it would forgo under a complex economic development agreement that also involves tax breaks on billions of dollars in computer equipment over time. Officials in West Jordan say they can hardly compete with the generous offer from the town of 15,000 people in New Mexico. Dave Swenson, an economist at Iowa State University, says West Jordan's initial offer was greater than the total combined tax breaks offered for seven other data centers in Iowa. "This is nothing but a giveaway," Swenson said. Los Lunas officials foresee a possible \$1.8 billion construction project that provides as many as 300 direct temporary jobs, and just 50 permanent jobs thereafter - a fraction of the steady employment at the local Walmart distribution center.

Still, supporters of such deals see an opportunity to attract a hot company that would bring tax revenue despite the incentives and could attract other high-tech companies. "If you're in the market for a new car and this dealer offers a rebate for the same car and this dealer doesn't, where are you going to buy the car?" said Vale Hale, executive director of the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development. Facebook's latest expansion comes as the social media giant looks to beef up its video presence, said John Harrington, a data center expert with Verify Research Associates. Video is increasingly the



WEST JORDAN UTAH: Land in West Jordan, Utah, that may be purchased by Facebook for a data center. The race between the small town of Los Lunas in New Mexico and the Salt Lake City suburb of West Jordan to entice a new Facebook data center with millions in tax breaks and subsidies is raising questions about public investments in a booming cloud-computing economy that typically brings few local jobs. — AP

way to attract advertisers and eyeballs, but it also requires more space.

Data centers are typically large facilities filled with rows of hard-drives and servers that store and process vast amounts of information. They're increasingly essential to the global economy, but on the ground they function more like storage facilities that need few people to keep them running.

While the Facebook plan has been contentious in Utah, it's enjoyed broad political support in New Mexico, where the Los Lunas Village Council voted to sweeten the offer last week.

New Mexico officials appear eager to please businesses willing to set up shop in a state hit

hard by a downturn in the oil and natural gas sectors, and where computer chip maker Intel has been steadily unwinding a major manufacturing plant that was an early beneficiary of similar property tax breaks using industrial revenue bonds. There's been some question about whether the estimated 50 jobs are worth the trouble, but state Rep. Alonzo Baldonado, R-Los Lunas, anticipates that construction will spill over into other parts of the economy. Among other infrastructure upgrades, three industrial-scale solar power plants would be built to offset electricity consumed by the data center. The plants would be paid for through a power purchase agreement with Facebook. — AP



## DOGS, LIKE HUMANS, DISTINGUISH WORDS AND INTONATION



**BUDAPEST:** Some trained dogs involved in a study to investigate how dog brains process speech sit around a scanner in Budapest, Hungary. Scientists have found that dogs use the same brain areas as humans to process language. — AP

**WASHINGTON:** Dogs distinguish words and intonation in the same region of the brain as humans, according to a new study of how man's best friend interprets our language. Published Monday in the journal *Science*, the report by researchers at Budapest's Eotvos Lorand University shows the canine brain is capable of interpreting both what we say and how we say it.

Dogs, like humans, use the brain's left hemisphere to interpret words and regions of the right hemisphere to analyze intonation. The brain's pleasure center is activated only when words of kindness and praise are accompanied by the appropriate intonation, the researchers determined. The observations suggest that the neural mechanisms for processing words evolved much earlier than previously believed and that they are not unique to the human brain.

In surroundings with many spoken words such as a family home, understanding of word meanings can develop even in the brains of animals unable to speak, the study shows. "The human brain not only

separately analyzes what we say and how we say it, but also integrates the two types of information, to arrive at a unified meaning," says Attila Andics, a research fellow at Eotvos Lorand University. "Our findings suggest that dogs can also do all that, and they use very similar brain mechanisms," a discovery that could help facilitate communication and cooperation between dogs and humans.

The scientists studied thirteen dogs who remained lying still while a brain scanner measured their brain activity as they listened to their owners speak. They found the dogs would activate an area of the right brain to distinguish between intonation signaling kindness and neutral tones. The researchers had already identified that the same part of dogs' brains interprets non-verbal sounds that elicit emotions. The same area of the human brain plays a similar role, suggesting that the mechanisms for interpreting intonation aren't specific to speech. "What makes words uniquely human is not a special neural capacity, but our invention of using them," the scientists said. — AFP

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN BRAZIL HELP LOCAL FARMERS STAY ON THE LAND

### WORLD'S BIGGEST UNIVERSAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

**BRASILIA:** At an elementary school in Brazil's capital, students are not too concerned about who has produced their food as they tuck into an afternoon snack of pineapple and watermelon. Nevertheless, they are among 45 million students benefiting from the world's biggest universal school feeding program, whose meals are helping keep Brazil's small farmers on the land. Family farmers and cooperatives have seen their fortunes rise as a result of the program, which guarantees them a local market and has helped to expand formal land rights nationwide.

"Incomes have increased significantly because of it," Amanda Venturim, agricultural adviser to a cooperative of 56 small farmers outside Brasilia, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "The government makes a contract with us beforehand so farmers know how much food they need to produce and how much they will receive," said Venturim, standing beside vast grain elevators on the dry savannah land that surrounds the capital. The cooperative has been selling food to the government for school meals for three years, she said, enabling farmers to invest in new equipment and to retain control of their land.

#### Local preference

First developed in the 1950s, Brazil's school feeding initiative has expanded rapidly over the past decade as part of a successful push for "zero hunger" in Latin America's most populous country. About a quarter of Brazilians receive free meals under the program as it provides food to all of the country's students enrolled in government schools. Brazil has about five million small farms, according to the UN's Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brasilia.

These farmers are some of the prime beneficiaries of hundreds of millions of dollars of government spending on school meals.

A 2009 law stipulates that authorities must spend at least 30 percent of their school meal budget on produce from smallholder farmers. At the elementary school in south Brasilia, nutritionist Sumara de Oliveira Santana said the law is helping farmers to stay on the land because it encourages local production. "Smallholder farmers and local producers have priority when we buy food for the schools," Santana told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, as she supervised several dozen rowdy students during snack break. For their part, the kids were not too concerned with the details of land politics. "Pineapple is my favorite fruit for a snack," said seven-year-old Anderson Souza. "For lunch I like meat, but I don't know where all the food comes from."

#### Landed farmers

Most of Brazil's food - about 70 percent of what's consumed in the country - comes from small farmers, according to the UN. About three-quarters of these small farms are owned by farmers who have official land title deeds, according to government data. Access to a guaranteed market through the feeding program allows small farmers to keep control of their land, Venturim said. Farmers say they now know roughly how much they will be earning each year and can apply for credit and other government support due to their participation in the initiative. It means they don't have to migrate to cities in search of work, unlike many farmers in the developing world who leave their land in the hopes of earn-

ing more in the city. The program also helps farmers make decisions on investing in new seeds or technology because they can plan ahead on what crops they will grow by liaising with nutritionists like Santana.

#### Unique link

Across Brazil, more than one million small farms have no formal land title deeds, according to official data. These farmers simply occupy the land where they produce or live in settlements with no formal title, but even they benefit from the program. Having a direct relationship with the state through the school feeding program helps small farmers and cooperatives to gain formal ownership over their land. Many farmers who work with Venturim on the cooperative farm lease public land from the state, but they use their earnings from school meal contracts as a springboard to gain title deeds. "We have a process going to receive final land titles," Venturim said. "Now, we have a concession, but we would rather be owners."

Formal title deeds can be difficult for small farmers to obtain; the process for formalizing land claims has been criticized as expensive, time-consuming and bureaucratic. As Brazil is mired in political crisis and suffers its worst recession since the 1930s, analysts see the school feeding program and its support for small farmers' land rights as a rare public policy bright spot. "We believe this is an excellent example for other countries," Isadora Ferreira, a UN official who monitors the program, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "The link with smallholder farmers is unique." — Reuters



**CALIFORNIA:** A Northern Spotted owl sits on a branch in Point Reyes, Calif. Wildlife officials say the northern spotted owl has been listed under the California Endangered Species Act. The state's Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously to add the threatened bird to the list, ending a four-year process by the Environmental Protection Information Center, or EPIC. — AP

## CANADA LEADER TOUTS AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AMID CHINA CANOLA DISPUTE

**BEIJING:** Canadian farm goods are high quality and safe, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in Beijing yesterday as his trade minister said Canada was working hard to resolve a canola import dispute that threatens C\$2 billion (\$1.5 billion) in business. Trudeau is seeking deeper ties with China but a the canola spat, government divisions over China policy and the case of a detained citizen could limit his gains.

China is Canada's top export market for the oilseed, and Ottawa has taken an increasingly strong line in talks on a new standard, which industry participants say would significantly raise costs for exporters. China says the standard is necessary to prevent the spread of blackleg disease from Canadian canola into Chinese crops of rapeseed, another name for the agricultural commodity.

Speaking to Chinese entrepreneurs shortly after landing in Beijing, Trudeau said Canada had always had a reputation as a safe, clean and responsible country. "In our agriculture, we use high-quality products and we create high-quality products and goods," Trudeau said, without making direct reference to the canola dispute. Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland told reporters after Trudeau's speech that Canada had made very clear what a key issue canola is. "This is a big deal for Canada," she said. Canola is the country's

second-largest trading product with China.

Canada's canola farmers are close to harvesting this year's crop, and Freeland said the government was "working really hard" to keep the China market open and find a resolution. Chinese officials in Ottawa have said the two countries were having "positive consultations" and the issue could be "resolved properly through joint efforts". Under the new standard, China will allow no more than 1 percent of foreign matter per canola shipment, down from a current maximum of 2.5 percent. There has been no reply to a request for further information or comment to China's quarantine authority, the agency that formulated the new standard.

Traders have suggested that China's real reason for a higher standard is that its domestic rapeseed oil stocks are high. Beijing sold 2.8 million tons of rapeseed oil from state reserves in the first half of the year, reducing import demand. Trudeau, who meets Chinese Premier Li Keqiang today, has also said he will raise human rights, an issue of great sensitivity in Beijing. Ottawa is pressing the case of Canadian citizen Kevin Garratt, who was indicted on charges of spying and stealing state secrets earlier this year. Yesterday, China's state-run Xinhua news agency said Canada should not let "groundless concerns" about human rights stand in the way of cooperation. — Reuters



**CARTERTON:** Cows stand in a pen before they are milked on a dairy farm near Carterton, New Zealand. New Zealand police said yesterday, that they were investigating reports of the unlikely crime at a South Island farm. Locals said 500 milking cows could have been taken from the herd of 1,300 anytime between early July, when they were last counted, and late August. The stolen cows are worth about 750,000 New Zealand dollars (\$543,000). — AP

## IRAN GOVERNMENT TO COVER INFERTILITY TREATMENT COSTS

**TEHRAN:** Iran will help couples meet the cost of infertility treatment as the government tackles a growing crisis that has seen millions of couples failing to conceive, the government announced yesterday. "As of today, all infertile Iranian couples, who number about two million couples, can enjoy the coverage of their expenses," ISNA news agency quoted deputy health minister Mohammad Aghajani as saying. State insurance will cover 85 percent of the costs, he said the first time infertility treatments have been covered-and the government has allocated around \$30 million (27 million euros) for the project. Experts believe infertility has been on the rise in Iran, and say Iran's worsening pollution is a key cause.

A study in 2012 found that 20 percent of couples were failing to conceive after trying for a year-putting the country around five to eight percentage points higher than the global average reported by the World Health Organization. Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has called for efforts to increase the population, currently 80 million. In recent years family

planning budgets have been cut and prevention methods like vasectomies have been banned. A growing number of clinics offer in-vitro fertilization (IVF) — fertilizing a sperm and an egg in a lab-but a cycle of treatment can cost around \$2,000, around five months' wages for the average worker, and success is not guaranteed.

Iran has a broadly progressive attitude to modern medicine, and some of the most advanced facilities in the Middle East, but such treatments remain a sensitive issue. As well as social taboos, Iranians must contend with varying instructions from religious leaders. It is illegal, for instance, to directly insert into a woman the sperm of a man who is not her husband. Using another woman's eggs is less controversial, although a "temporary marriage" is recommended between the man and female donor that can be annulled after the operation. There is a grey area, however, since some clerics say an egg that has already been fertilized in a lab-even with a third party's sperm-is considered to have its own identity and can therefore be implanted into the womb. — AFP

## GOODBYE, HERRING? BIOTECH BAIT GIVES LOBSTERMEN ALTERNATIVE

**PORTLAND:** Lobster and crab fishermen have baited traps with dead herring for generations, but an effort to find a synthetic substitute for forage fish is nearing fruition just as the little fish are in short supply, threatening livelihoods in a lucrative industry. With about \$1 million in funding from the National Science Foundation, a small company has developed "OrganoBait," a hockey puck-shaped product packed with an artificial attractant crabs and lobsters love. Commercial fishermen have long experimented with alternative baits. They have tried other fish species, processed slabs of horseshoe crab, even cow hide and pigs feet. Some products remain on the market; many have gone quickly.

No one has made commercially successful synthetic bait, and even animal-based alternatives don't always gain market acceptance, said Bob Bayer, a professor of veterinary science at the University of Maine who studies lobsters and has worked on attractants for 30 years. "If somebody comes up with a good one, it will be used," Bayer said. "If it's effective and cost effective." The lobster catch has been booming, but the fleet is suffering the most acute bait shortage facing the fishing industry. Lobster traps typically are baited with herring. However, not enough herring are being caught in the waters far off New England. If prolonged, experts say, the shortage could raise

the price and reduce the availability of lobsters and crabs.

Development of synthetic baits could cut into the \$20 billion US bait fishery, which dates to the Colonial era and plays a role in some other commercial fisheries, as well as in food products and nutritional supplements. Fishermen caught more than 200 million pounds of herring and 1.2 billion pounds of menhaden in 2014. New England fishing managers are guiding the industry through a shortage of herring offshore by limiting the number of days they can fish closer to the coast. Without the restrictions, officials say, fishermen would be at risk of exceeding quotas the government establishes to protect fish species from over-exploitation.

OrganoBait, developed by the Greensboro, North Carolina, firm Kepley Biosystems, is different from other alternative baits. It's not an animal product, but instead a calcium-based tablet made with synthetic materials that replicate the smell of decaying fish to attract lobsters and crabs. Kepley president Anthony Dellinger said the product could take pressure off forage fish, which some environmentalists say need protection. "This is an area that can benefit from some science and technology," Dellinger said. "You can just eliminate the bait sector and it will be more fish in the ocean. Less impact on sea turtles, dolphins, all of the cute little critters."

The product has been tested with blue crab fishermen off Virginia and North Carolina since 2014 and with New Jersey blue crab fishermen and Florida stone crab fishermen since last year. There was also a pilot test with lobster fishermen in Nova Scotia, and an extensive test is scheduled for November. In coastal Virginia, blue crab fisherman Malcolm Luebker is one of a handful of fishermen testing out the synthetic bait, and he said he's bracing for a future when bait fish shortages become the norm. So far, he said, the synthetic alternative seems effective. "When menhaden becomes scarce, we need an alternative, and we need one that's good," he said.

Mark Pfister, a bait dealer who intends to sell OrganoBait in Florida once it is on the market, said the early returns on stone crabs are promising. The price point for the product has not been determined, though Dellinger said it will be priced competitively with bait fish, which can cost about 30 cents per pound. "There have been baits out before, but they've all failed," Pfister said. "This one looks like it's not going to fail." Getting fishermen on board will present challenges. Stephen Train, a lobster fisherman based in Long Island, Maine, said he's more inclined to suffer high prices and volatility in bait fish availability than take a chance on an unproven alternative. "I don't know if it would fish," Train said. — AP



## ALASKANS LIVE AMONG BEARS BOTH REAL AND BRIGHTLY COLORED

**ANCHORAGE:** Alaska's largest city is home to more than 300 grizzly and black bears - and now more than a dozen multicolored ones. Life-size statues painted by city artists for a public art installation called "Bears on Parade" are popping up as part of an effort to raise awareness that if you live in Anchorage, you live near bears. "The whole point of this was to engage in conversation about bears and their habitat - the food that they eat, where they live," said Brenda Carlson, a tourism official who helped organize the program.

The city spans 1,958 square miles, but people occupy only about 204 square miles, according to

the state Department of Fish and Game. The rest of Anchorage includes national forest, a state wildlife refuge, 55 to 65 grizzlies and 250 to 350 black bears. Bears can be deadly if they are surprised. To minimize maulings, the department's Anchorage Bear Committee, which is dedicated to local bear conservation, tries to educate people about how to live alongside the animals. "Not all bears eat salmon," said Carlson, also a committee member. "Some eat berries, depending on where they are. We really wanted it to spark conversation about the bears."

The panel wanted to coordinate the installation

of statues with a summer conference of 700 international bear scientists brought to Anchorage by the International Association for Bear Research & Management. Carlson reached out to America's Fiberglass Animals of Seward, Nebraska, which has helped create more than 300 public art projects with fiberglass sculptures. Fifteen bears arrived by flatbed truck looking like polar bears - completely white. Sponsors paid either \$1,750 or \$3,000 for bears. So far, 13 have been painted, sealed and erected. Artists received loose instructions. The adornment had to be family-friendly and reflect the beauty of Alaska, Carlson said.

One bear has a birch forest painted on its side, while others are painted with rivers, wildflowers or the northern lights. A bear sponsored by an ice cream shop has a tongue that appears to be licking ice cream off its face. "I love that tongue," Carlson said, and it could fit into the theme of what a bear should not eat - human food. "Make sure your trash is put away, because that trash bear will be a problem," she said. The statues arrived too late for the early summer bear conference, but some scientists will benefit. The committee is donating nearly \$8,000 from statue sponsorships to the next conference to cover scientists' expenses. — AP



**SINGAPORE:** A National Environmental Agency (NEA) scatters mosquito pellets in a drainage around the Aljunied neighborhood in Singapore yesterday. Singapore on August 29 confirmed more Zika infections, bringing the total number of cases past 50 as mosquito-fighting teams saturated the scene of the outbreak amid growing public alarm. — AFP

## PREGNANT WOMEN URGED TO AVOID SINGAPORE AMID ZIKA

AUSTRALIA, TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA ISSUE TRAVEL WARNINGS

**SINGAPORE:** Australia, Taiwan and South Korea advised pregnant women and those attempting to get pregnant to avoid travel to Singapore after an outbreak of the Zika virus infected more than 50 people in the city-state. The outbreak and the warnings come as a potential blow to tourism in one of the world's busiest travel hubs, which is already struggling to recover from a slump amid tepid global growth.

Singapore reported its first case of locally-transmitted Zika at the weekend, and the number of reported infections of the mosquito-borne virus has since jumped to 56. At least three dozen of those have since made a full recovery. The Zika virus was detected in Brazil last year and has since spread across the Americas. It poses a risk to pregnant women because it can cause severe birth defects. It has been linked in Brazil to more than 1,800 cases of microcephaly, a rare birth defect where babies are born with abnormally small heads and brains.

The 56 confirmed cases in Singapore include only one woman. Taiwan, Australia and South Korea advised pregnant women and those planning pregnancy to postpone trips to Singapore. Those returning from the country should avoid

pregnancy for two months. South Korean travelers will receive text messages with the warning when they arrive in Singapore. Malaysia and Indonesia, Singapore's closest neighbors, have stepped up protective measures following the outbreak, introducing thermal scanners at airports and border checkpoints.

Singapore's Tourism Board said it was monitoring developments, adding the city state remained a "safe travel destination", and it was premature to consider any impact. More than 55 million people pass through Singapore's Changi airport every year. In the first half of this year, tourism arrivals reached almost 8.2 million, compared with around 7.3 million in the same period of last year. Online retailer Lazada Singapore said yesterday it has seen sales of mosquito repellent and other deterrent products rise fivefold over the past three days compared to a week ago.

### Foreign workers

Authorities continued to inspect thousands of homes in seven parts of Singapore, including five foreign worker dormitories, on Tuesday. Officials sprayed insecticide and removed potential mosquito breeding habitats such as stagnant water

and moist dirt from drains. The majority of those infected with Zika in Singapore were foreign workers, but the government has not disclosed their nationalities. The High Commission of Bangladesh, which represents the largest community of foreign workers, said none of the workers were Bangladeshis. The Chinese and Myanmar embassies in Singapore said they had not been notified by Singapore whether their citizens were among those infected. The Thai embassy did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Foreign workers in Singapore, employed mostly in the construction and marine industries, can earn as little as \$52 (\$1.47) an hour, often work 12-14 hours a day and take few days off. They are unlikely to travel often. The GuocoLand construction site, where the infected workers were found, remained closed on Tuesday morning, according to a Reuters photographer at the scene. It was ordered on Sunday to halt work and rectify the conditions that allowed mosquitoes to breed. Regional health experts said the Zika virus is likely to be significantly under-reported across tropical Southeast Asia as local health authorities fail to conduct adequate screening. — Reuters

## VECTURA'S THERAPY MISSES THE PRIMARY GOAL IN TRIAL

**LONDON:** Drugmaker Vectura Group Plc said its asthma therapy Flutiform had not met the primary endpoint in a late-stage trial to determine its ability to treat COPD, a type of lung disease, sending the British firm's stock to its lowest in 21 months. Flutiform had not significantly reduced the yearly rate of worsening conditions in patients with moderate and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), versus mono-component LABA treatment, respiratory drug specialist Vectura said on Tuesday.

Vectura said its European license partner Mundipharma, which carried out the study, had indicated that these phase III result would prevent it from making a regulatory filing for COPD indication in Europe. "Whilst several previous ICS/LABA studies have also failed to show a similar

benefit, the news is clearly disappointing since it means Flutiform will remain limited to promotion for use in asthma," Stifel analysts wrote in a note.

With asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) affecting about 500 million people worldwide, the opportunity in the sector is considered massive, Goldman Sachs analysts estimated in a report last year. Vectura agreed to buy rival SkyePharma in March for 441 million pounds, in a tie-up to create a lung disease group with expertise across different inhaler technologies. The final-stage COPD trial involved 1,767 randomly picked patients in 16 countries, where neither the patients nor the administrator know the critical aspects of the experiment, guarding against both experimenter bias and placebo effects. — Reuters

## SPACE X DRAGON RETURNS TO EARTH WITH STATION SCIENCE

**CAPE CANAVERAL:** A SpaceX Dragon capsule returned to Earth on Friday with scientific gifts from the International Space Station. NASA astronaut Kate Rubins waved goodbye as the Dragon slowly flew away Friday morning. Six hours later, the spacecraft parachuted into the Pacific, just off Mexico's Baja California coast. It's loaded with 3,000 pounds of research and equipment, including 12 mice that flew up on the Dragon as part of a genetic study. "Good splashdown of Dragon confirmed," SpaceX reported via Twitter. Rubins and Japanese astronaut Takuya Onishi used the big robot arm to release the capsule. Mission Control thanked the astronauts for their effort, then added, "To the Dragon recovery team, fair

winds and following seas."

The Dragon delivered a new docking port last month that will be used in another year or two by SpaceX and Boeing, which are developing crew capsules for NASA. Its shuttles five years retired, the space agency has turned over orbital deliveries of both cargo and astronauts to private companies, in order to focus on Mars exploration. In the meantime, NASA astronauts ride in Russian capsules to the space station. SpaceX is the only space station shipper capable of returning items for analysis back to Earth; that's why the Dragon is so important to NASA. Everyone else's cargo ships are filled with trash at mission's end and burn up on re-entry. — AP



**NASA Administrator Charles Bolden (second right) and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk (right) look at the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft at the SpaceX Rocket Development Facility in McGregor, Texas. — AP**

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## GUST STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN NEPAL

Students and staff from Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) joined forces with the Kuwait-based NGO, OxAdventure, to undertake a two-week volunteer trip to Nepal between July 19 and August 2 as part of a university-sponsored internship. The goal of this trip was to help renovate a school building in Kathmandu, the Nepalese capital and conduct educational outreach. In addition to volunteering, the students had the opportunity to hike the Himalayan Mountains and visit remote communities.

During the trip, students visited six villages, giving them first-hand experience with some of Nepal's traditions and culture. The interns and staff who accompanied them stayed in modest local guesthouses, executed demanding physical labor and developed teamwork skills. The intent was to have them experience life as the local Nepalese do while also helping the communities. Since the students were representatives from the Mass Communication and Media (MCM) major at GUST, they also prepared media materials and documented their activities with photos, videos, and journals.

Dr Fahad Al-Sumait, Head of the Mass Communication and Media Department, commented, "We encourage our students to undertake trips like this every year because it helps build their character while also providing them with opportunities to practice various media skills. So it benefits everyone involved: the students, the university and most importantly the local communities in which they work."

This trip is the third annual aid-work internship conducted by the MCM Department at GUST in partnership with OxAdventure, which is a local non-profit organization established by young Kuwaitis in 2013, with the aim of educating a younger generation about global citizenship and donating their time and energy to affected communities. The previous two trips had students build an orphanage for a school community in Bangalore, India and a community center with a computer-training lab in Sri Lanka.



A campaign to paint the disabled parking spaces in blue kicked off at Mais Al-Ghanem restaurant this week, in cooperation with volunteers from the 'I Can' group. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat





## ENJOY A MEMORABLE EID AL-ADHA AT JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL AND SPA

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa is offering guests the most memorable stay during the upcoming Eid Al-Adha holiday. During the festive period, the luxurious five-star hotel is providing families and friends with the ultimate experience. From the most luxurious rooms and tantalizing menu options available at the idyllic resort's restaurants, to bespoke treatments provided at the country's Best Luxury Spa, as voted in 2015 by the World Luxury Spa Awards.

"Eid Al-Adha is one of the most important events during the year and we look forward to being a part of these celebrations, while continuing to offer memorable experiences suited to the tastes of our guests," General Manager Hakan Petek said.

Whether looking to unwind and relax, or to celebrate in a unique environment, guests are welcomed to take advantage of the hotel's array of room options. From the well-appointed Deluxe Rooms, exquisitely decorated and

offering all the amenities to ensure a relaxing stay, to the Five-Bedroom Villas that provides views of the glittering Arabian Gulf, the hotel's majestic pools and the hotel gardens, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa has a room to suit all needs.

The needs of younger guests are catered to with the hotel's Sinbad's Kids' Club and The Scene Teens Club. With the latest computer games and table-top activities, to watersports fun, children of all ages will be inspired,

entertained and engaged. While Eid is the perfect time to gather on one table, the hotel's mouth-watering buffet restaurant, Garden Cafe, is providing a special Eid offering. Live cooking stations, featuring mixed grills, tandoor, seafood dishes, ouzi and other favorite Arabic specialties are all on the menu. During lunch and dinner from 10 September through to 12, families and friends can indulge in a variety of dishes, while enjoying the restaurant's panoramic views.



## ABK INTRODUCES NEW OFFER FOR VISA CARDHOLDERS AT JUMEIRAH RESTAURANTS

In partnership with Visa, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced its latest offer, whereby ABK Visa credit, prepaid and debit cardholders are offered an exclusive 20 percent discount when dining at any of Jumeirah Kuwait's seven signature restaurants. The offer will run until 30 September, 2016.

The seven signature restaurants where the offer

applies include: Salt restaurant, Pepper Steakhouse, Garden Cafe, Olio, Arabesque, Mint Cafe and Tea Lounge. To make use of the offer, ABK Visa cardholders must request the discount prior to paying the bill. For more information on Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit [eahli.com](http://eahli.com) or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.



Sebamed participated in various health awareness activities organized recently by the Ministry of Health at medical centers around Kuwait.



**BBC FIRST**

- 03:25 Orphan Black
- 04:15 Doctors
- 04:45 Doctors
- 05:15 Dickensian
- 06:00 Doctors
- 06:30 Doctors
- 07:00 Holly City
- 07:55 Death In Paradise
- 08:50 Call The Midwife
- 09:45 Dickensian
- 10:30 Doctors
- 11:00 Doctors
- 11:35 Death In Paradise
- 12:30 Call The Midwife
- 13:25 Dickensian
- 14:15 Doctors
- 14:45 Doctors
- 15:15 Death In Paradise
- 16:10 Call The Midwife
- 17:10 Dickensian
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 Eastenders
- 19:05 Death In Paradise
- 20:00 Maigret
- 21:30 Silent Witness
- 22:25 Orphan Black
- 23:10 Doctors
- 23:40 Eastenders
- 00:10 Holly City
- 01:05 Maigret
- 02:35 Silent Witness

- Serial Killer
- 22:40 The Return Of The Monster
- Mako
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud
- 00:20 Kindig Customs
- 01:10 Mythbusters
- 02:00 Wrath Of A Great White
- Serial Killer
- 02:50 The Return Of The Monster
- Mako

**DISCOVERY SCIENCE**

- 03:00 Mega World
- 03:48 Smash Lab
- 04:36 Sci-Fi Science
- 05:00 Prank Science
- 05:24 Moon Machines
- 06:12 How Do They Do It?
- 06:36 Food Factory
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Smash Lab
- 08:14 Moon Machines
- 09:02 Mega World
- 09:50 How Do They Do It?
- 10:14 Food Factory
- 10:38 Sci-Fi Science
- 11:02 Magic Of Science
- 11:26 Smash Lab
- 12:14 Moon Machines
- 13:02 How Do They Do It?
- 13:26 Food Factory
- 13:50 Mega World
- 14:38 Sci-Fi Science
- 15:02 Magic Of Science
- 15:26 Smash Lab
- 16:14 Moon Machines
- 17:02 Mega World
- 17:50 Smash Lab
- 18:40 Moon Machines
- 19:30 Secret Space Escapes
- 20:20 How Do They Do It?
- 20:45 Food Factory
- 21:10 Mega Engineering
- 22:00 Secret Space Escapes
- 22:50 Moon Machines
- 23:40 Smash Lab
- 00:30 How Do They Do It?
- 00:55 Food Factory
- 01:20 Secret Space Escapes
- 02:10 Moon Machines

**COMEDY CENTRAL**

- 03:00 Nathan For You
- 03:25 Nathan For You
- 03:50 Impractical Jokers UK
- 04:15 Impractical Jokers UK
- 04:40 Ridiculousness
- 05:00 Ridiculousness
- 05:55 Tosh.0
- 06:20 Lip Sync Battle
- 06:50 Lip Sync Battle
- 07:15 Catch A Contractor
- 08:05 Ridiculousness
- 08:30 Ridiculousness
- 08:55 Nathan For You
- 09:20 Nathan For You
- 09:45 Impractical Jokers UK
- 10:10 Impractical Jokers UK
- 10:35 Key And Peele
- 11:00 Workaholics
- 11:25 Catch A Contractor
- 12:15 Nathan For You
- 12:40 Nathan For You
- 13:05 Impractical Jokers UK
- 13:30 Impractical Jokers UK
- 13:55 Ridiculousness
- 14:20 Ridiculousness
- 14:45 Lip Sync Battle
- 15:10 Lip Sync Battle
- 15:35 Catch A Contractor
- 16:30 Nathan For You
- 16:55 Nathan For You
- 17:25 Workaholics
- 17:50 Impractical Jokers UK
- 18:15 Impractical Jokers UK
- 18:39 Key And Peele
- 19:03 Workaholics
- 19:27 Tattoo Disasters
- 19:50 Tattoo Disasters
- 20:13 Lip Sync Battle
- 20:37 Lip Sync Battle
- 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

**Disney Channel HD**

- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Hank Zipzer
- 06:25 Jessie
- 06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:20 Dog With A Blog
- 07:45 Bunk'd
- 08:10 Austin & Ally
- 08:35 Shake It Up
- 09:00 Hannah Montana
- 09:25 Hannah Montana
- 09:50 Wizards Of Waverly Place

- 04:00 Art Attack
- 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:35 Calimero
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:00 Loopdidoo
- 05:15 Art Attack
- 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopdidoo
- 06:35 Art Attack
- 07:00 The Hive
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Loopdidoo
- 07:40 Jungle Cubs
- 08:05 Sofia The First
- 08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 08:40 PJ Masks
- 09:10 Doc McStuffins
- 09:40 Doc McStuffins
- 09:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 10:00 Sofia The First
- 10:30 Sofia The First
- 11:00 The Lion Guard
- 11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 12:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 12:30 Gummi Bears
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:30 Doc McStuffins
- 14:00 The Lion Guard
- 14:30 Aladdin
- 14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 15:05 Goldie & Bear
- 15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:00 Doc McStuffins
- 16:25 Doc McStuffins
- 16:55 Sofia The First
- 17:25 Sofia The First
- 17:50 The Lion Guard
- 18:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 19:00 PJ Masks
- 19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 20:00 Doc McStuffins
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 PJ Masks
- 21:30 Aladdin
- 22:00 Jungle Cubs
- 22:25 Gummi Bears
- 22:50 Zou
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 Loopdidoo
- 00:05 Art Attack
- 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:45 Calimero
- 01:00 Zou
- 01:15 Loopdidoo
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 02:00 Calimero
- 02:15 Zou
- 02:30 Loopdidoo
- 02:45 Art Attack

**XD**

- 06:00 Boyster
- 06:10 Super Matrak
- 06:35 Super Matrak
- 07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
- 07:25 K.C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Danger Mouse S1
- 08:40 Phineas And Ferb



JUPITER ASCENDING ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 12:05 Fashion Police: 2016 MTV Video Music Awards
- 13:05 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 14:05 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 15:00 Just Jillian
- 16:00 Just Jillian
- 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 19:00 El News
- 20:00 Fashion Police: 2016 MTV Video Music Awards

- 08:00 Cities Of The Underworld
- 09:00 The Universe
- 10:00 Ancient Aliens
- 11:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
- 12:00 Ancient Aliens
- 13:00 Patton 360
- 14:00 Cities Of The Underworld
- 15:00 The Universe
- 16:00 Ancient Aliens
- 17:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
- 18:00 Ancient Aliens
- 19:00 Patton 360
- 20:00 Cities Of The Underworld
- 21:00 The Universe
- 22:00 Last Days Of The Nazis
- 23:00 Blood And Glory: The Civil War In Color
- 00:00 Ancient Aliens
- 01:00 Patton 360
- 02:00 Cities Of The Underworld
- 02:50 The Universe

**NAT GEO WILD HD**

- 03:45 When Sharks Attack
- 04:40 America's National Parks
- 05:35 Lion Battle Zone
- 06:30 Japan's Hidden Secret
- 07:25 When Sharks Attack
- 08:20 America's National Parks
- 09:15 America The Wild
- 10:10 Predator Patrol
- 11:05 Live Like An Animal
- 12:00 Shark Men
- 12:55 Cheetah: Fatal Instinct
- 13:50 Japan's Wild Year
- 14:45 Hidden Worlds
- 15:40 A Penguin's Life
- 16:35 America The Wild
- 17:30 Predator Patrol
- 18:25 Cheetah: Fatal Instinct
- 19:20 Hidden Worlds
- 20:10 A Penguin's Life
- 21:00 America The Wild
- 21:50 Predator Patrol
- 22:40 Cheetah: Fatal Instinct
- 23:30 Shark Men
- 00:20 Cheetah: Fatal Instinct
- 01:10 Japan's Wild Year
- 02:00 Top Cats
- 02:50 Animal Intervention

- 12:05 Mega Factories
- 13:00 4 Babies A Second
- 14:00 Mega Factories
- 15:00 Engineering Connections
- 16:00 Science Of Stupid
- 16:30 Science Of Stupid
- 17:00 In Search Of The Straits Born
- 18:00 Machine Impossible

**OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**

- 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:48 Henry Danger
- 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 05:00 Max & Shred
- 05:24 Henry Danger
- 05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:48 Winx Club
- 08:12 Harvey Beaks
- 08:36 Breadwinners
- 09:00 Get Blake
- 09:24 Rabbits Invasion
- 09:48 Henry Danger
- 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 11:00 Winx Club
- 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 12:36 Breadwinners
- 13:24 The Loud House
- 13:48 Harvey Beaks
- 14:12 Rabbits 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
- 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants

- 04:00 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
- 06:00 The Expendables 3
- 08:15 Reclaim
- 10:00 The Taking Of Pelham 123
- 12:00 Heatstroke
- 13:45 The Expendables 3
- 16:00 The Fugitive
- 18:15 The Taking Of Pelham 123
- 20:15 S.W.A.T.
- 22:15 Mercury Rising
- 00:15 Tomorrow You're Gone
- 02:00 Hansel & Gretel

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

- 04:00 Space Dogs
- 06:00 Father Hood
- 08:00 Easy A
- 10:00 Space Dogs
- 12:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
- 14:00 Mr. Destiny
- 16:00 Easy A
- 18:00 The Proposal
- 20:00 Wish I Was Here
- 22:00 Army Of Darkness
- 00:00 Dom Hemingway
- 02:00 The Proposal

**OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**

- 03:00 The Zero Theorem
- 05:00 Viktor
- 07:00 A Stranger In Paradise
- 09:00 The Silent Mountain
- 11:00 Viktor
- 13:00 Before I Disappear
- 15:00 Young Ones
- 17:00 The Silent Mountain
- 19:00 Miss Meadows
- 21:00 You're Not You
- 23:00 Horns
- 01:15 The Grief Tourist

**OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY**

- 03:15 Sky High
- 05:15 Tinker Bell And The Legend Of The NeverBeast
- 07:00 Wreck-It Ralph
- 09:00 Aladdin
- 11:00 Three Wishes
- 13:00 Muppets Most Wanted
- 15:00 The Princess And The Frog
- 17:00 Bedtime Stories
- 19:00 The Book Of Life
- 21:00 The Pacifier
- 23:00 The Princess And The Frog
- 01:00 The Book Of Life

**OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL**

- 03:30 Parkland
- 05:30 Fearless
- 07:30 Powder
- 09:30 One Fine Day
- 11:30 Fearless
- 13:30 Parkland
- 15:15 Anna Karenina
- 17:30 One Fine Day
- 19:30 Short Term 12
- 21:30 Blood Ties
- 00:00 The People vs Larry Flynt
- 02:30 Mobius

**OSN MOVIES HD**

- 03:00 Insurgent
- 05:00 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
- 06:45 Jupiter Ascending
- 09:00 Paper Towns
- 11:00 Insurgent
- 13:00 Jackie & Ryan
- 15:00 Hotel Transylvania 2
- 16:45 Jurassic World
- 19:00 Words And Pictures
- 21:00 Absolutely Anything
- 23:00 Straight Outta Compton
- 01:30 Life After Beth
- OSN Movies Kids HD
- 04:30 Goat Story 2
- 06:00 Echo Planet
- 08:00 The Adventures Of Don



THE EXPENDABLES 3 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 21:30 Kristen Schaal: Live At The Fillmore
- 22:18 Patton Oswalt: Tragedy Plus Comedy Equals Time
- 23:05 Another Period
- 23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 00:00 Tosh.0
- 00:25 Lip Sync Battle
- 00:50 Lip Sync Battle
- 01:15 Another Period
- 01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 02:05 David Spade: My Fake Problems
- 03:40 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
- 04:05 Storage Hunters
- 04:30 Dallas Car Sharks
- 05:00 How Stuff's Made
- 05:30 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 06:50 Kindig Customs
- 07:40 Fast N' Loud
- 08:30 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
- 08:55 Storage Hunters
- 09:20 Dallas Car Sharks
- 09:45 How Stuff's Made
- 10:10 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 Boy To Man
- 11:25 Air Jaws: Night Stalker
- 12:15 The Killing Games
- 13:05 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
- 13:30 Storage Hunters
- 13:55 Dallas Car Sharks
- 14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 15:10 Kindig Customs
- 16:00 Fast N' Loud
- 16:50 How Stuff's Made
- 17:15 How Do They Do It?
- 17:40 Mythbusters
- 18:30 World's Top 5
- 19:20 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
- 20:05 Storage Hunters
- 20:35 Dallas Car Sharks
- 21:00 Mythbusters
- 21:50 Wrath Of A Great White

- 10:15 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:40 Good Luck Charlie
- 11:05 Good Luck Charlie
- 11:30 Jessie
- 11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 12:00 The 7D
- 12:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 12:40 Hank Zipzer
- 13:05 Star Darlings
- 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 Star Darlings
- 16:10 Gravity Falls
- 16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 17:00 Backstage
- 17:50 Girl Meets World
- 18:15 Austin & Ally
- 18:40 Mako Mermaids
- 19:05 Liv And Maddie
- 19:30 Jessie
- 19:55 Violetta
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta

- 09:05 Counterfeit Cat
- 09:10 Gravity Falls
- 09:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 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: Bionic Island
- 13:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 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: Bionic Island
- 16:30 Danger Mouse S1
- 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 Counterfeit Cat
- 19:10 Gravity Falls
- 19:35 Pickle And Peanut
- 19:45 Pickle And Peanut
- 20:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 20:25 Supa Strikas
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
- 21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

**EHD**

- 03:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 04:10 Giuliana & Bill
- 05:05 Giuliana & Bill
- 06:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 07:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 08:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

**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
- 09:00 The Kitchen
- 10:00 The Pioneer Woman Takeaway
- 11:00 Chopped
- 12:00 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 Takeaway
- 18:00 Chopped
- 19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 20:00 Chopped
- 21:00 Kitchen Inferno
- 22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:00 Iron Chef America
- 00:00 Chopped
- 01:00 Kitchen Inferno
- 02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

**H2 HD**

- 03:40 Ancient Aliens
- 04:30 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
- 05:20 Ancient Aliens
- 06:10 Ancient Aliens
- 07:00 Patton 360

**HISTORY HD**

- 03:40 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 04:05 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Outlaw Chronicles: Hells Angels
- 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
- 09:20 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 09:45 Leepu And Pitbull
- 10:35 Ice Road Truckers
- 11:25 Hunting Hitler
- 12:15 American Pickers
- 13:05 Storage Wars
- 13:30 Storage Wars
- 13:55 Ax Men
- 14:45 Storage Wars Miami
- 15:10 Storage Wars Miami
- 15:35 Shipping Wars
- 16:00 Ax Men
- 16:50 Mountain Men
- 17:40 Swamp People
- 18:30 Hunting Hitler
- 19:20 American Pickers
- 20:10 Pawn Stars
- 20:35 Pawn Stars
- 21:00 Counting Cars: Best Of Car Hunters
- 21:25 Car Hunters
- 21:50 American Restoration
- 22:15 American Restoration
- 22:40 Time Team
- 23:30 Counting Cars: Best Of Car Hunters
- 23:55 Car Hunters
- 00:20 American Restoration
- 00:45 American Restoration
- 01:10 Ultimate Wheels
- 02:00 Swamp People
- 02:50 Mountain Men

**itv CHOICE**

- 03:25 Grantchester
- 04:20 Don't Tell The Bride
- 05:15 Eggheads
- 05:45 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 07:05 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 08:00 Grantchester
- 08:55 Don't Tell The Bride
- 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 Emmerdale
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 Murdoch Mysteries
- 15:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 16:30 Vera
- 18:20 Emmerdale
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 20:30 Vera
- 22:20 Coronation Street
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Emmerdale
- 23:40 Murdoch Mysteries
- 00:30 Eggheads
- 01:00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 02:30 Murdoch Mysteries



SKY HIGH ON OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Kuwait GINEMA

| SHARQIA-1 | MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK | 11:30 AM |
|-----------|---------------------------|----------|
|           | MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK | 1:30 PM  |
|           | THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS   | 3:30 PM  |
|           | THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS   | 5:30 PM  |
|           | MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK | 7:30 PM  |
|           | JAHEEM FI ILHIND          | 9:45 PM  |
|           | THE BFG                   | 12:05 AM |
| SHARQIA-2 | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 11:45 AM |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 1:45 PM  |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 3:45 PM  |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 6:00 PM  |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 8:00 PM  |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 10:00 PM |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 12:05 AM |
| SHARQIA-3 | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 12:30 PM |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 2:30 PM  |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 4:30 PM  |
|           | SKIPTRACE                 | 6:30 PM  |
|           | SKIPTRACE                 | 8:45 PM  |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 11:00 PM |
|           | SKIPTRACE                 | 1:00 AM  |
| MUHALAB-1 | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 11:45 AM |
|           | MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK | 1:45 PM  |
|           | THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS   | 3:45 PM  |
|           | MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK | 5:45 PM  |
|           | THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS   | 7:45 PM  |
|           | SKIPTRACE                 | 9:45 PM  |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 12:05 AM |
| MUHALAB-2 | SKIPTRACE                 | 1:00 PM  |
|           | SKIPTRACE                 | 3:15 PM  |
|           | SKIPTRACE                 | 5:30 PM  |
|           | JAHEEM FI ILHIND          | 8:15 PM  |
|           | JAHEEM FI ILHIND          | 10:30 PM |
|           | SKIPTRACE                 | 12:45 AM |
| MUHALAB-3 | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 12:30 PM |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 2:30 PM  |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 4:30 PM  |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 6:45 PM  |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 9:00 PM  |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 11:15 PM |
|           | MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 1:15 AM  |
| FANAR-1   | THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS   | 11:45 AM |
|           | THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS   | 1:45 PM  |
|           | MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK | 3:45 PM  |

## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (25/08/2016 TO 31/08/2016)

| THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS   | 5:45 PM  |
|---------------------------|----------|
| JAHEEM FI ILHIND          | 7:45 PM  |
| JAHEEM FI ILHIND          | 10:00 PM |
| JAHEEM FI ILHIND          | 12:15 AM |
| FANAR-2                   |          |
| SKIPTRACE                 | 12:45 PM |
| HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE | 3:00 PM  |
| HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE | 5:15 PM  |
| HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE | 7:30 PM  |
| SKIPTRACE                 | 9:45 PM  |
| SKIPTRACE                 | 12:05 AM |
| FANAR-3                   |          |
| MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 1:00 PM  |
| MOHENJO DARO - Hindi      | 3:00 PM  |
| A FLYING JATT-Hindi       | 6:00 PM  |
| A FLYING JATT-Hindi       | 9:00 PM  |
| MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 12:05 AM |
| FANAR-4                   |          |
| MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 11:30 AM |
| MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 1:30 PM  |
| MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 3:30 PM  |
| MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 5:45 PM  |
| MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 8:00 PM  |
| MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 10:15 PM |
| MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 12:45 AM |
| FANAR-5                   |          |
| GENIUS                    | 1:00 PM  |
| GENIUS                    | 3:15 PM  |
| THE BFG                   | 5:30 PM  |
| GENIUS                    | 8:00 PM  |
| GENIUS                    | 10:15 PM |
| GENIUS                    | 12:30 AM |
| MARINA-1                  |          |
| MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK | 11:30 AM |
| MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK | 1:15 PM  |
| MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK | 3:15 PM  |
| THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS   | 5:15 PM  |
| THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS   | 7:15 PM  |
| SKIPTRACE                 | 9:30 PM  |
| THE BFG                   | 11:45 PM |
| MARINA-2                  |          |
| MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 11:30 AM |
| MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 1:30 PM  |
| SKIPTRACE                 | 3:45 PM  |
| JAHEEM FI ILHIND          | 6:15 PM  |
| JAHEEM FI ILHIND          | 8:30 PM  |
| SKIPTRACE                 | 10:45 PM |
| MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 1:00 AM  |
| MARINA-3                  |          |
| MECHANIC: RESURRECTION    | 12:00 PM |



## NOTICE

July 24, 2016

Mr. Narayana Kamineni son of Mr. Guravaiah Kamineni, resident of 12/52-A, Uttarapu Veedhi, Varadaiahgaripalli, Rajampet, YSR District, Andhra Pradesh and Miss Bhagyamma Chevula daughter of Mr. Chevula Pullaiah, resident of Ammavaripalli, Mantapampalli, Vontimitta, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, both Indian nationals, presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

(Krishan Kumar Pahal)  
First Secretary (Consular) Embassy of India, Kuwait.  
And Marriage Officer Ph. 00965-22533315



## FOR RENT IN SALMIYA

2 BEDROOM - 1 MASTER WITH BATHROOM - LIVING ROOM  
FITTED KITCHEN - COMMON BEDROOM & BATHROOM - CCTV, GYM & SHADED PARKING

### CONTACT:

98010125 / 25711288

info@q8realtor.com | www.q8realtor.com



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TOTAL HOME SOLUTIONS & RELOCATION SERVICES

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mukilarasan Lingesan S/o Lingesan, holder of Indian Passport No. G9180281 and Civil ID No. 287070104885 has changed my name to Abdul Rahaman, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Abdul Rahaman. (C 5208) 31-8-2016

## REQUIRED

### SALES LADY

- For a small shop
1. Transferable visa
  2. Presentable

Interested candidates should send their CVs with photo by email:

hblackivy@gmail.com  
Tel No: 95581180

## PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 04:03  
Shorook 05:25  
Duh: 11:48  
Asr: 15:22  
Maghrib: 18:12  
Isha: 19:31



## APARTMENT FOR RENT

### KHAITAN

- 2 BEDROOM
- 2 BATHROOM
- LIVING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- CABLE TV
- PARKING

This is a new building located in Khaitan, close to Indian Carmel School. This building consist of 2 bedroom apartments.

### CONTACT:

99927041 / 25711288



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## Flight Schedule

## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

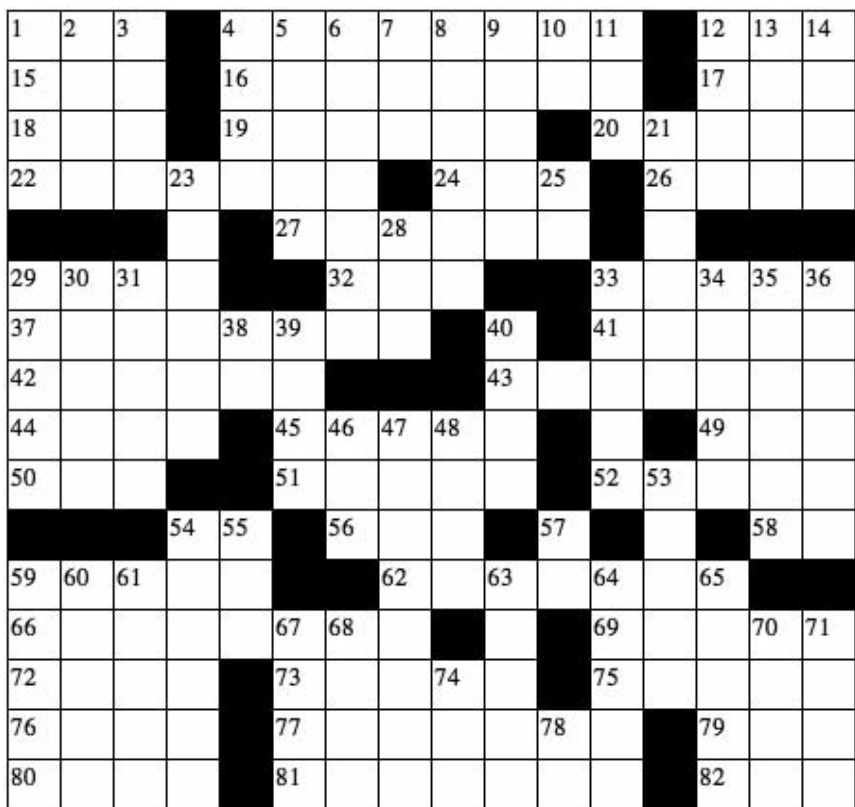
## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

### Arrival Flights on Wednesday 31/8/2016

| Airlines | Fit  | Route          | Time  | ABY | 127  | Sharjah         | 15:35 | MSR | 615  | Cairo           | 00:30 | IRC | 6512 | ABD             | 14:25 |
|----------|------|----------------|-------|-----|------|-----------------|-------|-----|------|-----------------|-------|-----|------|-----------------|-------|
| THY      | 772  | Istanbul       | 00:10 | UAE | 857  | Dubai           | 15:45 | FDB | 072  | Dubai           | 00:30 | CLX | 792  | Hanoi           | 14:30 |
| JZR      | 239  | Amman          | 00:20 | NIA | 251  | Alexandria      | 15:50 | JZR | 502  | Luxor           | 01:15 | KNE | 382  | Taif            | 14:55 |
| JZR      | 267  | Beirut         | 00:30 | RJA | 640  | Amman           | 16:00 | FDK | 804  | Damascus        | 01:35 | KAC | 773  | Riyadh          | 15:00 |
| FDK      | 803  | Damascus       | 00:35 | TBM | 6313 | Mashhad         | 16:05 | THY | 773  | Istanbul        | 01:40 | MSR | 576  | Sharm el-Sheikh | 15:00 |
| FDB      | 069  | Dubai          | 00:55 | FDB | 051  | Dubai           | 16:10 | DLH | 675  | Frankfurt       | 02:00 | KAC | 673  | Dubai           | 15:05 |
| DLH      | 635  | Doha           | 01:00 | QTR | 1072 | Doha            | 16:15 | THY | 765  | Istanbul        | 02:45 | GFA | 222  | Bahrain         | 15:05 |
| QTR      | 1086 | Doha           | 01:15 | JZR | 535  | Cairo           | 16:20 | PGT | 859  | Istanbul        | 02:55 | FDB | 058  | Dubai           | 15:05 |
| JZR      | 539  | Cairo          | 01:20 | MSC | 507  | HRG             | 16:30 | KKK | 751  | TZX             | 02:55 | KAC | 617  | Doha            | 15:15 |
| PGT      | 858  | Istanbul       | 01:40 | JZR | 787  | Riyadh          | 16:45 | KKK | 6505 | Istanbul        | 02:55 | QTR | 1079 | Doha            | 15:15 |
| RJA      | 642  | Amman          | 01:45 | IRC | 526  | Mashhad         | 16:50 | MSC | 406  | Sohag           | 03:30 | KAC | 741  | Dammam          | 15:30 |
| THY      | 1464 | Istanbul       | 01:50 | KAC | 562  | Amman           | 16:55 | UAE | 854  | Dubai           | 03:45 | SVA | 503  | Madinah/Jeddah  | 15:45 |
| KKK      | 750  | TZX            | 01:50 | SAW | 705  | Damascus        | 17:05 | THY | 769  | Istanbul        | 03:45 | JZR | 188  | Dubai           | 15:50 |
| KKK      | 6506 | Istanbul       | 02:00 | SVA | 510  | Riyadh          | 17:15 | KAC | 417  | Manila          | 03:55 | KAC | 613  | Bahrain         | 16:00 |
| GFA      | 211  | Bahrain        | 02:15 | JZR | 357  | Mashhad         | 17:30 | RJA | 645  | Amman           | 03:55 | OMA | 646  | Muscat          | 16:10 |
| CEB      | 018  | Manila         | 02:20 | GFA | 215  | Bahrain         | 17:30 | OMA | 644  | Muscat          | 04:05 | ABY | 128  | Sharjah         | 16:15 |
| DHX      | 170  | Bahrain        | 05:10 | JZR | 177  | Dubai           | 17:45 | FDB | 068  | Dubai           | 04:05 | ETD | 304  | Abu Dhabi       | 16:20 |
| THY      | 770  | Istanbul       | 05:15 | JZR | 777  | Jeddah          | 17:50 | ETD | 306  | Abu Dhabi       | 04:10 | KAC | 563  | Amman           | 16:30 |
| KAC      | 412  | Manila/Bangkok | 06:30 | QTR | 1080 | Doha            | 17:55 | MSR | 613  | Cairo           | 04:15 | NIA | 252  | Alexandria      | 16:50 |
| BAW      | 157  | London         | 06:40 | JZR | 483  | Istanbul        | 18:20 | PGT | 861  | Istanbul        | 04:30 | RJA | 641  | Amman           | 16:55 |
| JZR      | 529  | Asyut          | 06:40 | MSR | 620  | Cairo           | 18:30 | QTR | 1077 | Doha            | 04:35 | TBM | 6314 | Mashhad         | 17:00 |
| JZR      | 1541 | Cairo          | 07:10 | KAC | 774  | Riyadh          | 18:35 | CEB | 019  | Manila          | 04:50 | FDB | 052  | Dubai           | 17:00 |
| FDB      | 5061 | Dubai          | 07:15 | KAC | 786  | Jeddah          | 18:35 | JZR | 560  | Sohag           | 05:00 | JZR | 266  | Beirut          | 17:10 |
| JZR      | 503  | Luxor          | 07:25 | KAC | 502  | Beirut          | 18:35 | MEA | 407  | Beirut          | 05:10 | QTR | 1073 | Doha            | 17:25 |
| KAC      | 382  | Delhi          | 07:30 | SYR | 341  | Damascus        | 18:45 | THY | 1465 | Istanbul        | 06:00 | MSC | 508  | HRG             | 17:30 |
| KAC      | 346  | Ahmedabad      | 07:35 | KAC | 742  | Dammam          | 18:50 | FEY | 954  | Asyut           | 06:00 | UAE | 858  | Dubai           | 17:40 |
| KAC      | 206  | Islamabad      | 07:40 | KAC | 618  | Doha            | 18:55 | RJA | 643  | Amman           | 06:25 | IRC | 527  | Mashhad         | 17:50 |
| KAC      | 204  | Lahore         | 07:40 | KAC | 542  | Cairo           | 18:55 | QTR | 1087 | Doha            | 06:30 | SVA | 511  | Riyadh          | 18:15 |
| KAC      | 302  | Mumbai         | 07:50 | KAC | 166  | Paris/Rome      | 19:05 | THY | 771  | Istanbul        | 06:45 | SAW | 706  | Damascus        | 18:20 |
| FDB      | 053  | Dubai          | 07:50 | UAE | 875  | Dubai           | 19:05 | GFA | 212  | Bahrain         | 06:50 | GFA | 216  | Bahrain         | 18:20 |
| KAC      | 156  | Istanbul       | 08:00 | GFA | 217  | Bahrain         | 19:05 | JZR | 240  | Amman           | 06:55 | JZR | 184  | Dubai           | 18:20 |
| KAC      | 354  | BLR            | 08:00 | FDB | 063  | Dubai           | 19:10 | FDB | 070  | Dubai           | 07:05 | JZR | 538  | Cairo           | 18:30 |
| KAC      | 286  | Dhaka          | 08:05 | KAC | 614  | Bahrain         | 19:10 | JZR | 164  | Dubai           | 07:15 | JZR | 238  | Amman           | 18:45 |
| KAC      | 332  | Trivandrum     | 08:15 | KAC | 614  | Bahrain         | 19:10 | JZR | 164  | Dubai           | 07:15 | JZR | 238  | Amman           | 18:45 |
| KAC      | 344  | Chennai        | 08:15 | ABY | 123  | Sharjah         | 19:15 | JZR | 256  | Beirut          | 07:30 | KAC | 1801 | Cairo           | 18:55 |
| KAC      | 352  | Kochi          | 08:20 | MSR | 606  | Luxor           | 19:30 | FDB | 5062 | Dubai           | 07:55 | QTR | 1081 | Doha            | 19:05 |
| KAC      | 362  | Colombo        | 08:20 | KAC | 674  | Dubai           | 19:35 | BAW | 156  | London          | 08:25 | JZR | 124  | Bahrain         | 19:20 |
| UAE      | 855  | Dubai          | 08:25 | KAC | 154  | Istanbul        | 19:45 | FDB | 054  | Dubai           | 08:30 | MSR | 621  | Cairo           | 19:30 |
| ETD      | 301  | Abu Dhabi      | 09:00 | FDB | 059  | Dubai           | 19:50 | KAC | 511  | Mashhad         | 08:40 | SYR | 342  | Damascus        | 19:45 |
| ABY      | 125  | Sharjah        | 09:05 | KAC | 102  | New York/London | 19:50 | KAC | 539  | Sharm el-Sheikh | 08:50 | GFA | 218  | Bahrain         | 19:50 |
| IRC      | 6511 | ABD            | 09:15 | KAC | 102  | New York/London | 19:55 | KAC | 117  | New York        | 09:00 | FDB | 064  | Dubai           | 19:50 |
| QTR      | 1070 | Doha           | 09:20 | DLH | 634  | Frankfurt       | 20:05 | KAC | 787  | Jeddah          | 09:30 | ABY | 124  | Sharjah         | 19:55 |
| IRA      | 665  | Shiraz         | 09:25 | MEA | 402  | Beirut          | 20:15 | KAC | 671  | Dubai           | 09:30 | KAC | 361  | Colombo         | 19:55 |
| IRM      | 1188 | Mashhad        | 09:40 | OMA | 647  | Muscat          | 20:20 | JZR | 534  | Cairo           | 09:40 | MSR | 619  | Alexandria      | 20:30 |
| FDB      | 055  | Dubai          | 09:50 | JZR | 189  | Dubai           | 20:25 | JZR | 482  | Istanbul        | 09:40 |     |      |                 |       |



CROSSWORD 1359



ACROSS

1. Any of various units of capacity.
2. A resident of Alabama.
3. Annual grass of Europe and North Africa.
4. Fish eggs or egg-filled ovary.
5. Gradually decreasing in tempo.
6. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet.
7. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
8. (electronics) Of a circuit or device having an output that is proportional to the input.
9. Of or belonging to or suitable for a duke.
10. A doughnut-shaped chamber used in fusion research.
11. Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the faces.
12. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
13. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
14. Adopted in order to deceive.
15. A close friend who accompanies his buddies in their activities.
16. Be about.
17. British composer (1857-1934).
18. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
19. English philosopher and jurist.
20. Pulled or drawn tight.
21. (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation) Optical device that produces an intense monochromatic beam of coherent light.
22. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
23. (electronics) Of something that has length.
24. Any of various small plant-sucking insects.
25. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
26. An emotional response that has been acquired by conditioning.
27. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
28. Eaten as mush or as a thin gruel.
29. Delivered from danger.
30. Capital of Tuvalu.
31. A region of central Europe rich in deposits of coal and iron ore.
32. Wild goat of mountain areas of Eurasia and North Africa having large recurved horns.
33. Measuring instrument in which the echo of a pulse of microwave radiation is used to detect and locate distant objects.
34. An indohiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
35. A feeling of intense anger.
36. Speak unfavorably about.
37. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
38. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
39. A bag used for carrying money and small personal items or accessories (especially by women).
40. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. A very troublesome child.
2. A cord fastened around the neck with an ornamental clasp and worn as a necktie.

3. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
4. The biblical name for ancient Syria.
5. Ions are accelerated along a linear path by voltage differences on electrodes along the path.
6. A member of an Indian people formerly living along the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
7. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity equal to 10 decibels.
8. Of or at or relating to an anode.
9. Type genus of the Mugilidae.
10. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
11. A sign of assent or salutation or command.
12. Predatory black-and-white toothed whale with large dorsal fin.
13. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
14. An aromatic balsam.
15. Undo the bolt of.
16. A band worn around the arm for decoration.
17. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
18. A flexible container with a single opening.
19. (Old Testament) The minister of the Persian emperor who hated the Jews and was hanged for plotting to massacre them.
20. Using the voice.
21. A republic in eastern Africa.
22. The ninth month of the Hindu calendar.
23. (South African) A camp defended by a circular formation of wagons.
24. A large fleet.
25. A soft silvery metallic element.
26. Offering fun and gaiety.
27. A United Nations agency created to assist developing nations by loans guaranteed by member governments.
28. A drug combination found in some over-the-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).
29. Irish playwright remembered for his satirical comedies of manners (1751-1816).
30. A republic consisting of 26 of 32 counties comprising the island of Ireland.
31. A Hindu disciple of a swami.
32. Of hair color.
33. (sports) The chief official (as in boxing or American football) who is expected to ensure fair play.
34. The district occupied entirely by the city of Washington.
35. Of or relating to o occurring in a tube such as e.g. the fallopian tube or eustachian tube.
36. Lake in northwestern Russia near the border with Finland.
37. Of inferior or mixed breed.
38. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
39. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
40. Goddess of fate.
41. A village in eastern Ireland (northwest of Dublin).
42. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
43. God of love and erotic desire.
44. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
45. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.

Yesterday's Solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | D | D | M | U | S | E | T | T | E | G | U | A | M |
| G | U | I | A | N | A | G | R | A | M | O | S | L | O |
| A | B | A | I | N | G | E | R | T | E | N | O | R |   |
| M | A | L | A | C | C | A | M | L | A | T | E | N | T |
| A | I | D | I | E | Y | A | K | B | H | A | G | A |   |
| P | I | A | F | F | E | K | E | A |   |   |   |   |   |
| C | R | E | E | R | A | D | A | S | L | O | P | E |   |
| H | A | N | U | K | K | A | H | N | S | C | A | N |   |
| I | N | N | E | C | C | R | A | B | T | D | T |   |   |
| C | A | N | N | I | B | A | L | F | A | C | A | D | E |
| A | S | T | A | S | I | A | R | A | D | A | R |   |   |
| N | O | M | A | B | M | A | I | M | E | D |   |   |   |
| A | C | T | I | N | A | R | N | O | D | A | I | L |   |
| M | E | A | D | E | A | N | A | M | B | O | Y | N | A |
| P | A | R | P | A | N | D | A | N | U | S | A | T | M |
| A | N | U | A | S | S | A | M | E | S | E | H | I | E |

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You take an attitude of gratitude today as you move forward with your career plans-loved ones support your ideas. Your system of values may deepen, providing you with a better sense of discrimination and good taste. You will begin to make good choices in the area of investments now. There is a lot of mental energy to complete your plans but there must be a balance maintained so you are not too stressed. At home you get down to the business of cleaning up your act, taking care of loose ends and attending to any details you may have neglected up to now. Health, food and physical condition come under scrutiny and you work to care for these matters. Perhaps you will encourage loved ones to join you in some new and fun daily exercise.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There could be some restrictions on your activities at work today-you may find yourself pacing the floor much of the morning. Inactivity can be just as stressful as too much activity. Repairing machinery or perhaps taking inventory would be beneficial. Perhaps you could find ways in which you can be of help to someone else. This will speed things along and then you will find a busy afternoon. Your ambitions are admirable but sometimes one has to take small steps before the leaps forward can be beneficial. Things are beginning to look better in the financial realm and this would be a good time to seek financial advice on investments. Honest, frank and to the point, you hate routines and love the outdoors, travel and sports. It is time to consider a vacation.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your outward seriousness and no-nonsense approach to things are obvious to all. This deliberate sense of responsibility comes across and is central to your personality and the way you relate to other people. Everything is run through your check-point to see if it holds up and can pass the test. You can be a stickler with details today. You are driven and passionate in your pursuit of change and inner growth. You possess, at the core, an intensity that burns through superficialities, searching for opportunities to face the truth and render the evident to view. This ceaseless analytical activity, while central to your nature, may be the source of discomfort to others. You will find opportunities to be with your friends this afternoon.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are a solid supporter, always gravitating to the heart of things. You may have trouble getting yourself motivated today, but others had better watch out once you get rolling! You have a stick-to-itiveness that will find you in the thick of things-toughing it out today. This is a good day for accomplishing whatever you set out to do. Lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart are emphasized now. You may be surprised at those who come forward to show their appreciation of your talents and your hard work. Taking chances can bring big rewards. This can be an expansive, creative and even romantic phase; a time you will look back on with pride and fondness; a camera would be an important item to bring with you.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You express yourself well and enjoy teaching and guiding others. You are willing to speak to a variety of groups in order to get an important message across. You present a clever presentation. You are very motivated when it comes to communication of all forms-phone, voice, letters, computers and the like. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general get your attention this afternoon. You may find yourself wanting to catch up on the lives of your loved ones as well. While working with young people you will be able to teach sound ideas to them. You will be able to gain some insight, perhaps new ideas or methods from these young people as well. There is a relentless drive to pursue knowledge. A literary club holds a special fascination.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have flashes of intuition all day long and seem to know the right answers to most any quandary. You could be unique in matters of psychology and all that is mystical. You have unusual ways to help or care for others and there are insights into your physical well-being. The urge for family travel is strong at this time. If you are not working today, you will be on the road to a fun destination. If you are working today, you could find yourself really looking forward to a weekend trip-perhaps a camp-out. You are very creative in your approach to home, family and the domestic scene. You have natural insight into just living life. You may want to relax this evening by gardening, cooking or just being with the family.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Professional and creative projects will keep you busy all day long-working overtime may be a possibility. Intuition is a fact of life and you are sensitive, kind and gentle, a little romantic too-with a tender heart. You always work for a real future, doing what has to be done. You love all that is musical and artistic. You also have a sensitivity to all that is psychic. Your energies are available when needed and that attitude of cooperation is how you gain the most of any one moment-living fully. This evening is a good time to relax with your loved one. A quiet walk or a dinner outside your living area gives you opportunities to grow together and understand one another. Romance is possible. Put on some of your favorite music and dance to the beat.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You appreciate your particular situation and enjoy the professional support from those around you. This may mean it is your turn to lecture or speak to a group of people about your progress or about your technique or to encourage financial gifts for a cause. You constantly cultivate only a joyful mind and do the utmost to pass that attitude along to others. It's wisdom, not knowledge, that counts now. You may find yourself surrounded by your peers after the workday has ended. This evening you may be helping a relative or friend by babysitting. Your creative imagination is in full swing. You have a strong sense for the dramatic and the ability to express ideas of a mystical flavor. If there is a sort of story time tonight, it will be lots of fun.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Everything seems to be working together and you enjoy all the communication technology. New gadgets for communication are the latest, greatest tools. You are very skilled at implementing change and improving existing circumstances. You will seek to understand and improve situations wherever you are, as you enjoy securing ways to a better living. Inventions and discoveries, in particular in communications, computers and electronics, may be possible. Perhaps you have a new computer, exercise machine or cooking tool. You bring incentive to areas where new development or improvement is taking place. You can teach and help others to improve conditions in their lives. This is a good day with much inspiration.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This morning will be a time of introspection. You may find yourself visiting a new location for your business or checking out a real-estate investment. Whether this is personal or professional, your input seems to be an important factor in completing the deal. A difficult co-worker may vocalize a bit of jealousy. You show tolerance and are accepting of differences-you have good insights into a need for better communication. You will compromise or otherwise show your abilities and possibilities. There is an opportunity for a social affair this afternoon and positive communication among co-workers, friends, neighbors or relatives will put you in a good position to have your own needs met. Take the opportunity this evening to relax.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You could be planning the weekend from your desk today. A family outing is just what has been needed to really enjoy the input that each person can offer. Phoning ahead will allow you reservations for a place at a park or motel at a popular resort or tourist attraction. If you want emotional support and attention, you must communicate and that is what this weekend is all about-positive communication. Don't forget to take your camera, as there will be some funny moments you will want to refer to later. You may look back on this time as very comfortable. You have a great sensitivity about the needs of others-an awareness of karma, or the link between the present and the past, is your path to spiritual growth now.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Completing old projects finally gives you a sense of relief. Unanswered questions finally have an answer. If you are looking to change jobs, now is a good time to prepare your resume and plan your path of action-not necessarily a time to change. If you have complaints, take notes of dates, times and facts. You may change your mind about changing your job. Ideas and thoughts will have greater meaning and form this afternoon. You may be encouraged to try your hand at some new project or help in some planning committee. You can appreciate an imaginative approach and may value communal or futuristic ideas. Refinement and relationships are the keys to emotional satisfaction this evening. Close personal ties to other people are most important now.

WORD SEARCH

Beatles Songs 1

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | O | G | M | J | Y | L | A | D | Y | M | A | D | O | N | N | A |
| L | H | E | E | B | G | B | T | N | Y | G | A | J | J | D | N | D |
| O | D | T | F | Y | W | O | G | W | N | A | M | X | A | T | I | S |
| V | A | B | I | O | L | W | Y | I | O | J | J | Y | W | G | Q | E |
| E | R | A | L | C | V | P | K | H | R | O | T | U | A | L | D | Y |
| L | L | C | Y | N | K | N | E | T | W | R | F | P | L | L | J | A |
| Y | I | K | M | S | U | E | J | R | I | E | O | U | L | I | T | D |
| R | N | E | N | S | G | L | T | P | O | N | M | N | S | W | A | R |
| I | G | W | I | N | L | W | P | T | Y | N | E | L | A | I | U | E |
| T | L | R | I | G | R | E | H | T | O | N | A | K | L | E | O | T |
| A | C | Y | T | L | R | S | R | I | M | R | I | V | C | E | L | S |
| M | L | I | E | I | P | Y | E | N | O | H | I | U | W | C | T | E |
| F | A | Z | C | Q | H | E | Y | J | U | D | E | D | Y | L | D | Y |
| W | N | B | E | B | I | R | T | H | D | A | Y | Q | E | N | D | I |

- |               |              |                |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| ANOTHER GIRL  | HONEY PIE    | SUN KING       |
| BIRTHDAY      | I WILL       | TAXMAN         |
| DAY TRIPPER   | IN MY LIFE   | TELL ME WHY    |
| DIG A PONY    | JULIA        | TICKET TO RIDE |
| ELEANOR RIGBY | LADY MADONNA | TWO OF US      |
| FLYING        | LOVELY RITA  | WAIT           |
| GET BACK      | NO REPLY     | YESTERDAY      |
| HEY JUDE      | OH DARLING   |                |

Yesterday Solution

60's Songs 2 - Solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | L | U | E | M | O | O | N | C | R | A | Z | Y | M | B | S | S |
| H | P | P | M | V | J | I | H | U | O | Z | Y | G | P | X | R |   |
| E | E | D | E | G | T | A | J | T | C | S | G | U | I | C | L | E |
| R | H | Y | M | O | I | T | Y | B | C | I | A | T | F | M | A | X |
| A | A | B | J | N | P | W | Q | T | R | E | R | P | E | N | S | O |
| L | I | L | G | U | H | L | I | L | I | E | P | V | L | P | T | B |
| O | R | A | F | O | D | S | E | L | G | C | O | S | O | E | K | E |
| V | N | K | P | D | V | E | S | N | D | S | F | T | E | T | I | H |
| G | S | T | U | O | E | P | I | W | D | T | S | R | D | R | S | T |
| Q | H | Z | E | I | O | F | N | R | B | S | H | F | U | Y | S | Y |
| S | E | Q | T | O | V | Y | O | I | U | H | G | I | K | S | P | Z |
| Q | R | W | K | N | O | W | G | B | O | T | G | L | N | X | Y | Z |
| U | R | Y | N | O | T | S | E | V | L | A | G | M | A | G | F | I |
| K | Y | M | T | H | E | S | E | E | Y | E | S | K | S | X | S | D |

- |            |           |            |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| BLUE MOON  | HAIR      | SURF CITY  |
| BUS STOP   | HEY JUDE  | THE BOXER  |
| CHAIN GANG | LAST KISS | THESE EYES |
| CRAZY      | MY GIRL   | VOLARE     |
| DIZZY      | PEOPLE    | WILD THING |
| EL PASO    | RESPECT   | WIPEOUT    |
| FINGERTIPS | SHERRY    | WORDS      |
| GALVESTON  | SPOOKY    |            |

Daily SuDoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | 1 |   |   | 4 |   | 6 |
|   | 9 | 2 |   | 6 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 6 |   |   | 7 |   | 3 |   |
| 4 |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 2 | 3 |   |   |   | 9 | 5 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |   | 4 |
|   | 3 |   | 5 |   |   | 6 |   |   |
|   |   |   | 2 |   |   | 5 | 8 |   |
| 7 |   | 5 |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |

Yesterday's Solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| 3 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 1 |



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 |
| Khalidiya           | 24848075 |
| Kaifan              | 24849807 |
| Shamiya             | 24848913 |
| Shuwaikh            | 24814507 |
| Abdullah Salem      | 22549134 |
| Nuzha               | 22526804 |
| Industrial Shuwaikh | 24814764 |
| Qadisiya            | 22515088 |
| Dasmah              | 22532265 |
| Bneid Al-Gar        | 22531908 |
| Shaab               | 22518752 |
| Qibla               | 22459381 |
| Ayoun Al-Qibla      | 22451082 |
| Mirqab              | 22456536 |
| Sharq               | 22465401 |
| Salmiya             | 25746401 |
| Jabriya             | 25316254 |
| Maidan Hawally      | 25623444 |
| Bayan               | 25388462 |
| Mishref             | 25381200 |
| W Hawally           | 22630786 |
| Sabah               | 24810221 |
| Jahra               | 24770319 |
| New Jahra           | 24575755 |
| West Jahra          | 24772608 |
| South Jahra         | 24775066 |
| North Jahra         | 24775992 |
| North Jleeb         | 24311795 |
| Ardhiya             | 24884079 |
| Firdous             | 24892674 |
| Omariya             | 24719048 |
| N Khaitan           | 24710044 |
| Fintas              | 23900322 |



## PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

| GOVERNORATE | PHARMACY  | ADDRESS  | PHONE  |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| Ahmadi      | Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan   | Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd   | 23915883<br>23715414<br>23726558   |
| Jahra       | Modern Jahra Madina Munawara  | Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92   | 24575518<br>24566622   |
| Capital     | Ahlam Khaldiya Coop   | Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop  | 22436184<br>24833967   |
| Farwaniya   | New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan  | Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11   | 24734000<br>24881201<br>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<br>25647075<br>22625999<br>22564549<br>25340559<br>25326554<br>25721264<br>25380581<br>25628241 |

### STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

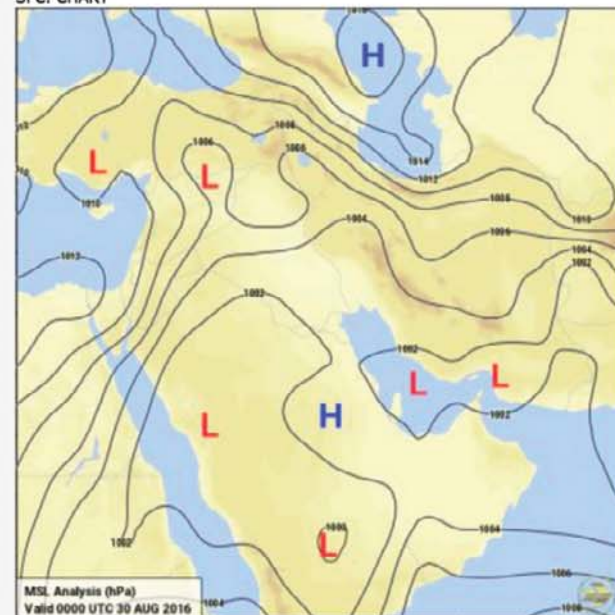
#### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 30/08/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 48 °C

**By Day** : Very hot with light to moderate south westerly changing to south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear  
**By Night** : Relatively hot with light to moderate south easterly changing to south westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h and some high clouds will appear

#### SFC. CHART



#### Four-Day Forecast

|                  | Wednesday                                 | Thursday                             | Friday         | Saturday                    |
|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Expected Weather |   |                                      |                |                             |
| Min Temp °C      | 30  | 32                                   | 32             | 31                          |
| Max Temp °C      | 48  | 48                                   | 49             | 48                          |
| Wind Direction   | north westerly changing to south easterly | north westerly changing to southerly | north westerly | north westerly to northerly |
| Wind Speed km/h  | 10 - 30                                   | 10 - 30                              | 12 - 35        | 12 - 35                     |

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

#### Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

#### Kuwait Forecast

| Station        | MIN °C | REC | Max °C | EXP |
|----------------|--------|-----|--------|-----|
| KUWAIT CITY    | 35     |     | 46     |     |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 29     |     | 48     |     |
| ABDALY         | 33     |     | 49     |     |
| BUBYAN         | 29     |     | 40     |     |
| JAHRA          | 34     |     | 49     |     |
| FAILAKA ISLAND | 31     |     | 43     |     |
| SALMIYAH       | 35     |     | 40     |     |
| AHMADI         | 35     |     | 39     |     |
| JAL ALLYAH     | 31     |     | 49     |     |
| QAROH ISLAND   | 34     |     | 37     |     |
| UMM AL-MARADEM | 34     |     | 37     |     |
| NUWAISIB       | 29     |     | 48     |     |
| WAFRA          | 30     |     | 48     |     |
| MANAGISH       | 31     |     | 49     |     |
| SALMY          | 30     |     | 48     |     |
| MUTRIBA        | 32     |     | 49     |     |

#### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Max Temp (°C)                       | 49    |
| Min Temp (°C)                       | 28    |
| Max Rel Hum (%)                     | 35    |
| Min Rel Hum (%)                     | 07    |
| Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction | 39 SE |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR             | 0 mm  |

|  |         |       |
|--|---------|-------|
|  | Sunrise | 05:25 |
|  | Sunset  | 18:13 |

#### Prayer Times

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Fajr    | 04:03 |
| Sunrise | 05:25 |
| Zuhr    | 11:49 |
| Asr     | 15:23 |
| Sunset  | 18:13 |
| Isha    | 19:33 |

### INTERNATIONAL CALLS



|                       |         |                      |        |
|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|--------|
| Afghanistan           | 0093    | Lithuania            | 00370  |
| Albania               | 00355   | Luxembourg           | 00352  |
| Algeria               | 00213   | Macau                | 00853  |
| Andorra               | 00376   | Macedonia            | 00389  |
| Angola                | 00244   | Madagascar           | 00261  |
| Anguilla              | 001264  | Majorca              | 0034   |
| Antiga                | 001268  | Malawi               | 00265  |
| Argentina             | 0054    | Malaysia             | 0060   |
| Armenia               | 00374   | Maldives             | 00960  |
| Australia             | 0061    | Mali                 | 00223  |
| Austria               | 0043    | Malta                | 00356  |
| Azerbaijan            | 00994   | Marshall Islands     | 00692  |
| Bahamas               | 001242  | Martinique           | 00596  |
| Bahrain               | 00973   | Mauritania           | 00222  |
| Bangladesh            | 00880   | Mauritius            | 00230  |
| Barbados              | 001246  | Mayotte              | 00269  |
| Belarus               | 00375   | Mexico               | 0052   |
| Belgium               | 0032    | Micronesia           | 00691  |
| Belize                | 00501   | Moldova              | 00373  |
| Benin                 | 00229   | Monaco               | 00377  |
| Bermuda               | 001441  | Mongolia             | 00976  |
| Bhutan                | 00975   | Montserrat           | 001664 |
| Bolivia               | 00591   | Morocco              | 00212  |
| Bosnia                | 00387   | Mozambique           | 00258  |
| Botswana              | 00267   | Myanmar (Burma)      | 0095   |
| Brazil                | 0055    | Namibia              | 00264  |
| Brunei                | 00673   | Nepal                | 00977  |
| Bulgaria              | 00359   | Netherlands          | 0031   |
| Burkina               | 00226   | Netherlands Antilles | 00599  |
| Burundi               | 00257   | New Caledonia        | 00687  |
| Cambodia              | 00855   | New Zealand          | 0064   |
| Cameroon              | 00237   | Nicaragua            | 00505  |
| Canada                | 001     | 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              |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor       | 25622444         |
| Dr. Samy Al-Rabea             | 25752222         |
| Dr. Masoma Habeeb             | 25321171         |
| Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy           | 25739999         |
| Dr. Mohsen Abel               | 25757700         |
| Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl        | 25732223         |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly        | 25732223         |
| Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)      |                  |
| Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner        | 24555050 Ext 510 |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali           | 25644660         |
| Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel   | 25646478         |
| Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah         | 25311996         |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory         | 25731988         |
| Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary          | 22620166         |
| Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz           | 25651426         |
| General Practitioners         |                  |
| Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi         | 24555050 Ext 123 |
| Dr. Yousef Al-Omar            | 24719312         |
| Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem       | 23926920         |
| Dr. Kathem Maarafi            | 25730465         |
| Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah     | 25655528         |
| Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi          | 24577781         |
| Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea    | 25333501         |
| Urologists                    |                  |
| Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy        | 22641534         |
| Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul          | 22639955         |
| Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi | 22616660         |
| Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)  | 25313120         |
| Dr. Leons Joseph              | 66703427         |

| Plastic Surgeons               |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf         | 22547272           |
| Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari           | 22617700           |
| Dr. Abdel Quttainah            | 25625030/60        |
| Family Doctor                  |                    |
| Dr Divya Damodar               | 23729596/23729581  |
| Psychiatrists                  |                    |
| Dr. Esam Al-Ansari             | 22635047           |
| Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan           | 22613623/0         |
| Gynaecologists & Obstetricians |                    |
| Dr Adrian arbe                 | 23729596/23729581  |
| Dr. Verginia s. Marin          | 2572-6666 ext 8321 |
| Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan        | 22655539           |
| Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami     | 25343406           |
| Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly            | 25739272           |
| Dr. Salem soso                 | 22618787           |
| General Surgeons               |                    |
| Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer         | 22610044           |
| Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher     | 25327148           |
| Internists, Chest & Heart      |                    |
| Dr. Adnan Ebil                 | 22639939           |
| Dr. Mousa Khadada              | 22666300           |
| Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisani        | 25728004           |
| Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra            | 25355515           |
| Dr. Mobarak Aldoub             | 24726446           |
| Dr Nasser Behbehani            | 25654300/3         |

| Paediatricians                     |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Dr. Khaled Hamadi                  | 25665898        |
| Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed          | 25340300        |
| Dr. Zahra Qabazard                 | 25710444        |
| Dr. Sohail Qamar                   | 22621099        |
| Dr. Snaa Maarouf                   | 25713514        |
| Dr. Pradip Gujare                  | 23713100        |
| Dr. Zacharias Mathew               | 24334282        |
| Dermatology                        |                 |
| Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University | 23845955        |
| Dentists                           |                 |
| Dr Anil Thomas                     | 3729596/3729581 |
| Dr. Shamah Al-Matar                | 22641071/2      |
| Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed              | 22562226        |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer               | 22561444        |
| Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan                | 22619557        |
| Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash         | 22525888        |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisani          | 25653755        |
| Dr. Bader Al-Ansari                | 25620111        |
| Neurologists                       |                 |
| Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri         | 25633324        |
| Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan              | 25345875        |
| Gastrologists                      |                 |
| Dr. Sami Aman                      | 22636464        |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly            | 25322030        |
| Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali           | 22633135        |

| Endocrinologist   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman  | 25339330                  |
| Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari   | 25658888                  |
| Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr  | 25329924                  |
| Physiotherapists & VD   |                           |
| Dr. Deyaa Shehab  | 25722291                  |
| Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees   | 22666288                  |
| Rheumatologists:  |                           |
| Dr. Adel Al-Awadi   | 25330060                  |
| Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah  | 25722290                  |
| Internist, Chest & Heart  |                           |
| DR.Mohammes Akkad   | 24555050 Ext 210          |
| Consultant Cardiologist   |                           |
| Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital | 25339667                  |
| Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC  | 2611555-2622555           |
| Inaya German Medical Center   | Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123 |

|                                 |   |  |                        |    |
|---------------------------------|---|--|------------------------|----|
| Psychologists /Psychotherapists | Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688 | info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com | Kaizen center 25716707 | No |
|---------------------------------|---|--|------------------------|----|



# Inside Nepal's forgotten medieval kingdom



A Nepalese shepherd watching his herd in the Korala border area near the Nepal-China Border in Upper Mustang.



This file photograph shows a Nepalese woman and her horse walking past a small temple in Ghemi Village in Upper Mustang.



A general view of animals near a stupa (chorten) at Ghemi village in Lo Manthang in Upper Mustang.

In Nepal's isolated, high-altitude desert of Upper Mustang, a new road to China is bringing economic transformation to the former Buddhist kingdom, once a centre for trans-Himalayan commerce. The remote region is ringed with vast canyons and red mountains that, legends say, are stained with the blood of a demon killed by the founder of Tibetan Buddhism. Yet the recently completed unpaved highway that connects Upper Mustang with China is also bringing unprecedented cultural change to a region that was closed off to foreign visitors until 1992.

In the medieval walled capital of Lo Manthang, young men have swapped Tibetan robes for blue jeans and local cafes broadcast live coverage of Euro 2016 matches to rapt viewers. Nevertheless, while modern life holds considerable allure for many, the push to preserve traditional culture is no less important to the local Loba community. Buddhists who speak a variant of the Tibetan language, they have lived in Upper Mustang for centuries.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the ongoing effort to restore sacred murals and monuments, supported by foreign and Nepali non-profit organizations, including the Lo Gyalpo Jigme Foundation, which is headed by the former king of Upper Mustang. Although the region's rich heritage escaped the ravages of the Cultural Revolution that hit neighboring China, its monuments fell prey to environmental damage.

Wind and rain eroded mud walls and caused wooden rooftop beams to decay, while smoke from ceremonial butter lamps darkened indoor frescos. Over the last decade, restorers have been working hard to shore up structures, clean murals and retouch damaged paintings in line with Buddhist beliefs. Buddhists believe it is better to pray to undamaged images of the Buddha, and see it as their duty to repair and retouch them when necessary. The painstaking process involves grinding gemstones like lapis lazuli and malachite into a fine powder, which is then mixed with water and animal glue to create luminous pigments fit for gods. After last year's massive earthquake killed nearly 9,000 in Nepal and severely damaged monasteries in Lo Manthang, restorers now face an even bigger challenge. Like many here, they too are locked in a race to preserve Upper Mustang's unique cultural legacy for future generations. — AFP



A view of the walled city monastery and stupa of Lo Manthang in Upper Mustang.



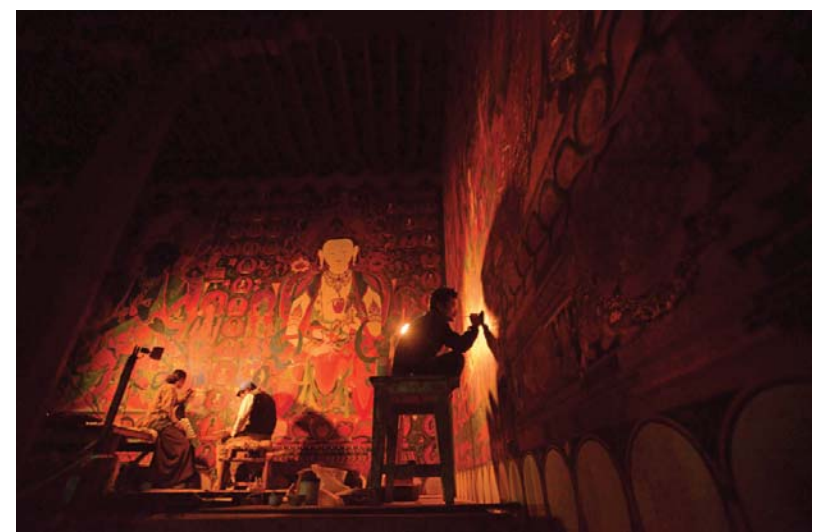
A Buddhist monk walking past children in Ghemi Village in Upper Mustang, north-west of Kathmandu.



Vehicles driving along a dirt road to Lo Manthang in Upper Mustang.



A Nepalese herder with several horses leading mules through the mountains in Upper Mustang, north-west of Kathmandu.



File photograph shows Nepalese artists as they restore sacred murals in a monastery in Lo Manthang in Upper Mustang.

## Kerry Washington: 'Two pregnancies have been very different'

"Scandal" creator Shonda Rhimes didn't know that star Kerry Washington had another baby on the way when a less-is-more plan was put in place for season six of the political thriller. The ABC series will have just 16 episodes next season. And fans will have to wait until January to see how the show's many cliffhangers play out. Rhimes "knows

what the story is," Washington said recently when she sat down with The Associated Press. "She knows about how many episodes she needs left to get there. And that was her decision."

It was only a couple weeks after Rhimes' announcement about the new "Scandal" game plan that Washington told her boss that she and her husband, former NFL star and current film actor and producer, Nnamdi Asomugha, were expecting again. They have a two-year-old daughter, Isabelle Amarachi Asomugha.

### The mum mom

Washington, 39, smiles and jokingly denies she's carrying a second child. She pats her baby bump, laughs and says she'd merely eaten too much for lunch. So, how is having a second child different from having the first? "Every day is different," she says. "And, for me, definitely these two pregnancies have been very different." When asked how each pregnancy has been unique, she veers away from the subject. Kerry Washington is not one to talk publicly about her personal life.

### The color purple

For the last three years, Washington has been an ambassador for the Allstate Foundation Purple Purse campaign, which raises money to benefit nearly 200 domestic-violence nonprofits worldwide. What's

new for 2016 is that fashion industry heavy-hitters - including Tory Burch and Christian Louboutin - are joining Washington, with each designing limited-edition purple purses to be auctioned off for the cause. The auctions are set to take place in October. They will be followed by a retail bag sometime this fall, and there will be a monthlong daily handbag giveaway to contributors to the Purple Purse Challenge. The 2015 campaign raised more than \$3 million, and a spokesperson for the Allstate Foundation says the charity is aiming to best that with the 2016 campaign.

Washington says purses also will be given to charities to use for their own fundraising. Purple is the color for domestic-violence awareness. The purse represents freedom from financial abuse, a tactic frequently used to trap victims in the relationships. Washington recalls a recent encounter an abuse victim, "A woman came up to me, in a room full of people (and said), 'I just want you to know, that when I left, I wore purple for an entire year,'" Washington says. "I knew what that meant and she knew what that meant. And it was the power of this metaphor: That she didn't need to give me details about her black eyes. She didn't have to give me details about her destroyed credit, or her empty bank account, or the mode of transportation that was taken from her. She could just say to me, 'I wore purple.'"

### Her 'inner Olivia pope'

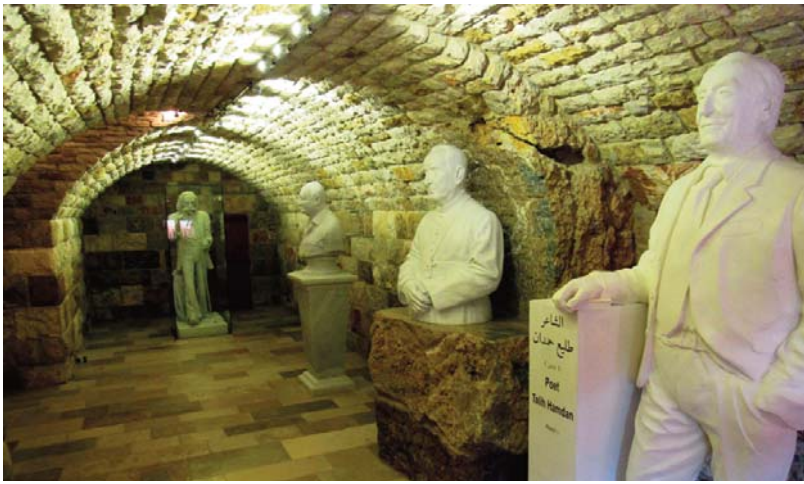
The Purple Purse campaign comes at a particularly busy time for Washington. In July, she returned to work on "Scandal," in which she plays Olivia Pope, a fictional fixer for Washington's elite. The actress also has been navigating Emmy season. She has two nominations for the TV movie "Confirmation," which centers on the Supreme Court confirmation hearing of Clarence Thomas (played by Wendell Pierce) and allegations he sexually harassed one of his employees, Anita Hill (played by Washington). Washington is nominated for her performance, as well as for serving as one of the movie's executive producers.

"I think the thing that most surprised me about producing is that it kind of brings out my own inner Olivia Pope, ironically," Washington says. "I love producing because it allows me to play other characters in other worlds in other situations. But that part of me, that part of Kerry that likes to be a fixer and a helper and solve problems, is really able to play. I'm not exactly wearing a white suit or a white hat or carrying Prada. I usually have on sneakers and jeans and a baseball cap. But I still have a little Olivia Pope with me when I'm producing." — AP



Actress Kerry Washington poses for a portrait at The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in Los Angeles. — AP



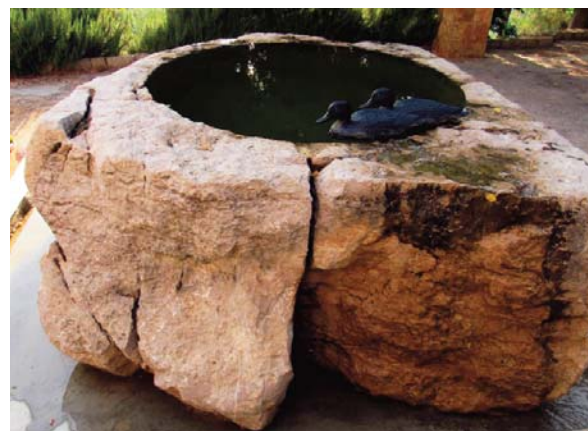


Photos show the village of Assaf in Chouf District, Mount Lebanon governorate. — Photos by Ayoub Khaddaj

## Lebanon's Assaf village: A marvelous location in Chouf district



The village of Assaf in Chouf District, Mount Lebanon governorate, is a haven for culture, outstanding natural scenery, and arts. From meticulously carved sculptures, houses built from natural stones, as well as the abundance of trees and vegetation, Assaf village is one of the locations that would surely leave visitors marveling in awe of what they have experienced and seen. — KUNA



## Skyscraper-filled Dubai burnishes arts scene with new opera

Already filled with towering skyscrapers, Dubai will soon offer soaring arias inside a new opera house. The city-state is opening the Dubai Opera on Wednesday night, in the shadow of the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. This isn't the first opera house built on the Arabian Peninsula, as Oman opened the Royal Opera House Muscat in 2011. But the arrival of the performance center comes as part of a greater push by the United Arab Emirates, already home to engineering marvels, into the world of the fine arts.

"It certainly couldn't be said that Dubai has no culture; it's got an enormous amount of culture," Dubai Opera's chief executive Jasper Hope told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "What it hasn't had is a world-class stage, a world-class facility to display that culture." "What Dubai Opera offers is an opportunity now for people to know that there is a home - a true home - for world-class culture here in Dubai." The opera house resembles a dhow, the traditional wooden boat that can still be seen plying the waters of the Dubai Creek. Its glass bow rises up to a point looking out at the dancing Dubai Fountain, and a multi-story glass chandelier resembling a fishing net hangs in the lobby. The building sits near the 828-meter (2,717-foot) -tall Burj Khalifa and the nearby Dubai Mall in the city-state's chic downtown.

Inside, individual air conditioning vents beneath the 2,000-some seats are designed to quietly cool the auditorium during the desert city's boiling summers, when temperatures exceed 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). The auditorium can be reconfigured for gala events and other performances. Emaar Properties, which is partially owned by the Dubai government, developed the opera house. It refused to say how much the structure cost when asked by the AP.

Those on hand for a dress rehearsal Tuesday of the opera "The Barber of Seville" also stopped journalists and those gathered from taking pictures outside of the building, as migrant workers rushed to finish constructing a set of exterior stairs. The opera will open Wednesday night with a performance by famed Spanish tenor Placido Domingo.

The Dubai Opera offers a new draw for planned Emaar high-rise residential towers downtown, and could bring concerts and events out of the cavernous, air-conditioned halls of the city's World Trade Center. The arrival of the opera house comes amid a push in the seven-sheikhdom United Arab Emirates to increase its presence on the global arts stage. In the country's capital, construction continues on the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the forthcoming Emirati branch of the famed Parisian art gallery. A branch of the New York-based Guggenheim Museum is also planned. And in Dubai, a fledgling art district has sprung up among the factories and warehouses of its Al Quoz industrial area.

The new development has proven divisive at times. Many in the art world have criticized Abu Dhabi's penchant for franchising existing names, and human rights groups have raised concerns about the conditions faced by migrant workers. But Hope said the building of the opera house wouldn't mark the end of Dubai's efforts at drawing cultural events, but rather its beginning. "This can inspire all kinds of performance - amateur and professional," he said. "It can inspire the next generation to really understand what world-class live entertainment is all about. And that deserves something of this scale." — AP



Singers perform on stage yesterday during a dress rehearsal of Gioacchino Rossini's opera "The barber of Seville" at Dubai's new opera house, on the eve of its official opening in the Gulf Emirate. A boat-shaped hulk of steel and glass at the foot of the world's tallest tower, Dubai's new opera house is set to boost the cultural life of the Gulf's business hub. The ultra-modern 2,000-seat venue was developed by Dubai-based Emaar Properties, which also built the Burj Khalifa, and can transform into three modes, operating as a theatre, concert hall and a flat-floored hall suitable for banquets and weddings. — AFP



Opera singer Rocio Ignacio, left, performs the role of Rosina as singer Domenico Balzani, right, performs the role of Don Bartolo in a dress rehearsal of "The Barber of Seville" at the new Dubai Opera in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



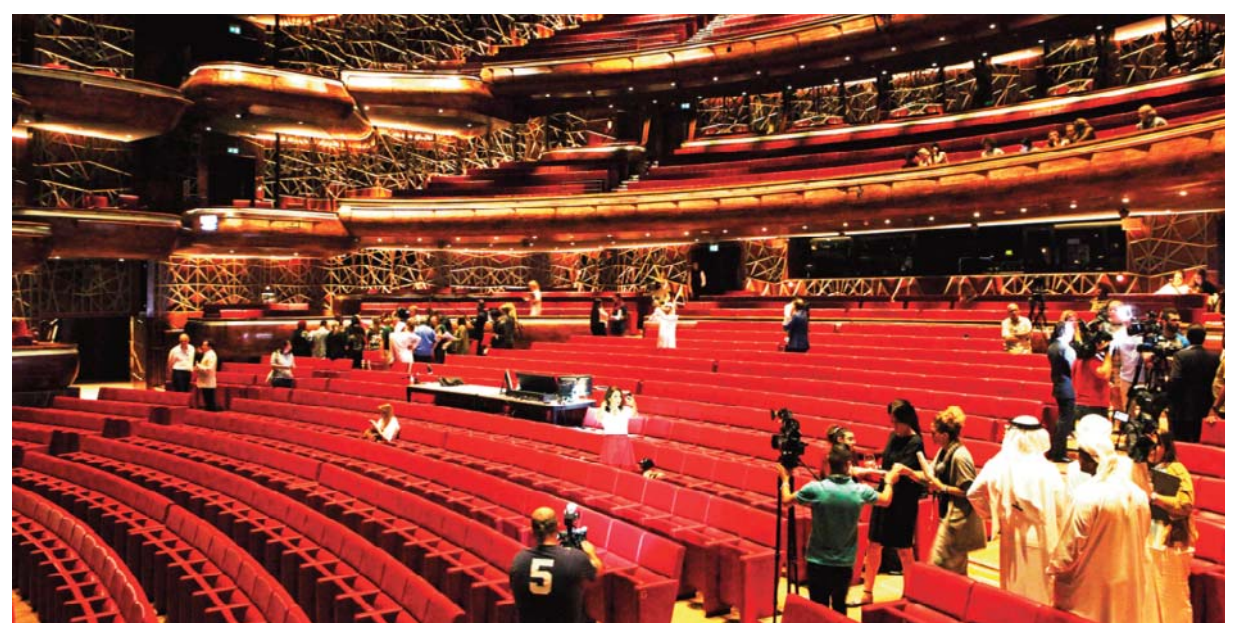
Opera singer Rocio Ignacio performs the role of Rosina in a dress rehearsal of "The Barber of Seville".



Singer Domenico Balzani, center, performs the role of Don Bartolo as singer Massimo Cavalletti performs the role of Figaro in a dress rehearsal of "The Barber of Seville".



Massimo Cavalletti, left, performs the role of Figaro as Bogdan Mihai, right, plays the role of Il Conte d'Almaviva and Rocio Ignacio, above, performs the role of Rosina in a dress rehearsal of "The Barber of Seville".



Journalists and onlookers stand during the intermission of a dress rehearsal of "The Barber of Seville".



# Film Review: 'Morgan'

**R**obots, supercomputers, automatons: The history of sci-fi can be boiled down to a laundry list of humanoid machines whose very existence raises the question, "Yes, but do they have feelings?" The title character of "Morgan" is, in many ways, a successor to all those spooky-chilly faux-human techno marvels. Except that Morgan does have feelings. She's not a replicant built out of diodes and synthetic skin; she was bred-and-born-in a lab out of synthetic DNA. She's a not-so-far-fetched version of a "human" being who emerges out of the era of cloning and the corporate obsession with genetic modification.

Anya Taylor-Joy, the actress who plays her (it's her first major movie role), was 19 when "Morgan" was shot, but she looks much younger, and though she does have eyebrows, they barely register. All you notice, under Morgan's gray hoodie, is her luminous ghostly pallor, her upper lip cut like an "M," and the startling intensity of her oversized dark almond eyes, which recall the image of extraterrestrials from the '70s. She may on some level be human, but she is every inch a creature.

### Explosive scene

The movie is a sci-fi potboiler that starts off by fostering some genuine interest in a character who seems to express something of her moment. Morgan, who's technically just 5 years old (though far smarter and stronger than her years), is a corporate experiment who has grown up in a glassed-in concrete bunker. The film opens with an explosive scene in which she's told, by one of her guardians

(Jennifer Jason Leigh), that they're going to have to cut back on the time she spends outdoors-time that Morgan values with so much emotion that she reacts to the news by leaping out of her chair and trying to claw the guardian's eye out.

So here's the rub: Morgan has feelings, but she also has a highly overdeveloped (or maybe just uncontrolled) id. She'll stare down an interviewer across the table with a look to kill, and then she'll attempt to make good on it; she can glare into a surveillance camera and let the person watching feel as if she's looking right back at them. In her cell, she sits in her sweatshirt, listening to classical music, a sulky figure of hovering brilliance and menace, like Dr Lecter crossed with Negasonic Teenage Warhead. The person who's been assigned to determine Morgan's fate is Lee Weathers (Kate Mara), a risk-management consultant with a mysterious agenda.

### Cold and rigid

It's part of the way the movie works that as soon as we see Mara, with her fastidious slick clipped hair and steely eyes, as well as a manner so professionally cold and rigid that she makes her sister Rooney look like Sarah Silverman, it's hard not to notice that Lee seems to share a certain spirit with Morgan, even though she's basically been brought in to shut her down. The others are a team of hipster scientists who have been secluded, for seven years, in a top-secret mansion headquarters that resembles a bombed-out Wayne Manor, located on the edge of a woods that looks like it could be the setting for a remote summer camp. There, they've raised

Morgan and become her wary family. They tend to think of her as a real person, whereas Lee hews to the company line that Morgan should be referred to as "it" (which seems a bit extreme, given that even ocean liners are called "she").

The hang-loose team, the members of which live like drunken bohemians in Portland, include Toby Jones as the head scientist, Michelle Yeoh as Morgan's stern lab-coated "mother," and Rose Leslie as her vivacious behaviorist BFF. All of them remain loyal to her, even after Morgan gets interviewed by a smug psychiatric evaluator (Paul Giamatti) whose driving motivation seems to be to prove that he's superior to her. By the time he's done goading her, she has made mincemeat of him. "Morgan" is linked, in theme and design, to last year's "Ex Machina," which also told the story of an eerie lifelike humanoid experiment locked away inside a corporate woodland bunker. But the highly creepy originality of that film, apart from its eye-popping flesh-meets-metallurgic-skeleton effects, is that it wasn't just about whether the robot in question had feelings or not.

### 'Commercial' action

It was about the compulsive need of everyone around her, especially the men, to believe that she had feelings. "Morgan" is the first feature directed by Luke Scott, the son of Ridley Scott (who serves as one of the producers), and it's little more than a schlock replay of "Ex Machina." It toys around with some of the same situations, but it doesn't know where to take them. Instead of developing its



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Kate Mara, right, in a scene from 'Morgan.' — AP

themes, it uses them as grist for an overload of "commercial" action. "Morgan" isn't a movie that should be climaxing with fistfights, yet by the time Morgan gets out in the woods again, trying to escape Lee, the efficiency expert-turned-company assassin, she's become the tween Hannibal Lecter meets Jason Bourne.

It's all to set up the film's big kicker of a twist (in a scene that features the original big-screen Lecter, Brian Cox). "Morgan," in the end, takes enough overwrought and even ridiculous turns to seriously compromise its chance of finding an audience. Yet there

are a few moments when something in the movie strikes a chord. All science fiction is metaphor, and a thriller about a hellion ingenue with a dead stare who is really a thing but has feelings anyway, and will kill you if you threaten to take them away, is expressing something about the state of girlhood today. If only it could figure out what. — Reuters

## KEYS TO PAY TRIBUTE TO CLIVE DAVIS DURING BLACK BALL

**A**licia Keys is paying tribute to the record executive who offered her a recording contract more than 15 years ago at her charity's annual black-tie event. Music mogul Clive Davis will receive the humanitarian award at the 13th annual Black Ball on Oct 19 in New York. The event is an extension of Keys' charity, Keep a Child Alive, which launched in 2003 and supports HIV and AIDS victims in Africa and India. Patti Smith and ASAP Rocky will perform at the event at the Hammerstein Ballroom.

Keys says she's honoring the 84-year-old Davis "for his long-standing commitment in the fight against AIDS." Davis is credited with launching the careers of Whitney Houston, Keys, Smith and Barry Manilow. He also helped engineers the comebacks of Aretha Franklin and Carlos Santana.—AP



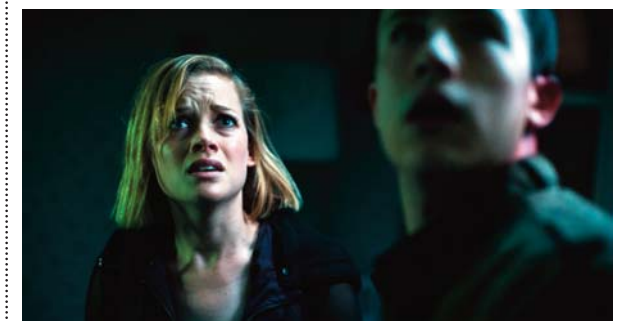
Alicia Keys

## Box Office Top 20: 'Don't Breathe' inhales \$26.4 million

**T**he modestly budgeted horror movie "Don't Breathe" scared off competitors at the box office this weekend, taking first place with \$26.4 million in its first days in theaters. Directed by Fede Alvarez, "Don't Breathe" cost only around \$10 million to produce. It knocked the comic book movie "Suicide Squad" into second place, after a three-week run in first. "Suicide Squad" took in \$12.2 million, bringing its domestic total to \$283 million.

Holdovers "Kubo and the Two Strings" and "Sausage Party" took the third and four place spots with \$7.8 million and \$7.5 million, respectively. Rounding out the top five was the Jason Statham-led sequel "Mechanic: Resurrection," which debuted to \$7.5 million. The top 20 movies at US and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by comScore:

1. "Don't Breathe," Sony
2. "Suicide Squad," Warner Bros
3. "Kubo And The Two Strings," Focus Features
4. "Sausage Party," Sony
5. "Mechanic: Resurrection," Lionsgate
6. "Pete's Dragon," Disney
7. "War Dogs," Warner Bros
8. "Bad Moms," STX Entertainment
9. "Jason Bourne," Universal
10. "Ben-Hur," Paramount
11. "The Secret Life Of Pets," Universal
12. "Hell Or High Water," Lionsgate
13. "Florence Foster Jenkins," Paramount
14. "Southside With You," Roadside Attractions
15. "Star Trek Beyond," Paramount
16. "Hands Of Stone," The Weinstein Company
17. "Lights Out," Warner Bros
18. "Finding Dory," Disney
19. "Greater," Hammond Entertainment
20. "Ghostbusters," Sony — AP



This undated file image released by Sony Pictures shows Jane Levy, left, and Dylan Minnette in a scene from 'Don't Breathe.' — AP

# Fall Preview: Warren Beatty's Hughes film finally takes off

**W**arren Beatty is standing outside an early screening of his new film, "Rules Don't Apply" - definitely NOT a Howard Hughes biopic, he wants to make clear - discussing his connection to the famously reclusive industrialist and movie mogul. "I never met him," he says, grinning. "And I met everybody." At 79 and 15 years since his last film, the man affectionately known as "The Pro" is back. Beatty, whose exploits on and off the screen made him an unqualified Hollywood legend, has finally made the Howard Hughes film he's contemplated on and off for 40 years.

here," says Beatty, who was taken under the wing of Elia Kazan and cast in 1961's star-making "Splendor in the Grass."

### Vibrant film

Many doubted whether Beatty, a notorious fiddler and perfectionist known for bouts of indecision, would ever make his Hughes film. He first obtained the rights in the mid '70s. But the happy surprise of "Rules Don't Apply," which 20th Century Fox will release Nov. 23, is not only that Beatty has at last completed it, but that he's made a

most renowned playboys making a movie about sexual repression. Before marrying Annette Benning, Beatty was linked to everyone from Diane Keaton to Madonna. Peter Biskind's 2010 biography, "Star," tried to estimate the women he's slept with, coming up with 12,775 - a figure Beatty disputes. He and Benning (who has a smart part in the film) have four nearly grown children. Of his 180 degree turn from bachelor to family man Beatty says, "The idea of divorce appalled me and still does." Family has been his primary interest in the years since his last film, the 2001 disappointment "Town & Country." "They're more interesting than any movie," he says.

### Outspoken politically

The title "Rules Don't Apply" is also well suited to Beatty, who reigned over 1970s Hollywood and later with distinctly unconventional films like the era-defining "Bonnie and Clyde" and the communist epic "Reds." "Bonnie and Clyde" he made happen at a time when it was seen as arrogant for, as he puts it, "a pretty boy in the movies" to produce a film. Beatty was also unusually outspoken politically, and used his celebrity for political influence.

"I grew up in a circumstance where there were societal rules, there were rules laid down by custom or religion," says Beatty. "I don't know that I'm such a courageous rule-breaker but I do like it when you say it. I've been very lucky. The words that might sum it up are: The access that early fame and fortune can bring one if they are alert. Rules will be changed. Rules will be broken." Beatty, 15 times an Academy Award nominee and an Irving G. Thalberg Award recipient in 2000, hasn't directed since 1998's political satire "Bulworth." He remains gentlemanly and deliberate with his words. Asked about his views on Donald Trump, he suggests anyone reading this article would already know his opinion. "I hope you'll put in parentheses, 'He said laughingly,'" he adds.

Beatty now finds himself wading back into a somewhat foreign movie business. "The public seems to want to know what it's going to get before they leave the house," he says. "I think that sort of applies to fast food also." But another trend is more heartening to him: "I would say that the biggest change the world is going through ... is the liberation of the female," says Beatty. He's been attending screenings of "Rules Don't Apply" partly to get a better feel for today's movie distribution. Looking over at a small theater before the movie starts, he sardonically observes: "You're all on your iPhones." Asked how it feels for him to finally be releasing his Hughes film, Beatty smiles. "Old," he says. Yet Beatty has already navigated a series of eras in Hollywood. What's one more?—AP



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Lily Collins, left, and Alden Ehrenreich in a scene from 'Rules Don't Apply,' in theaters on November 23. — AP

The focus of the film - written, directed, produced and starring Beatty - has shifted with time. Its central characters are a Southern Baptist actress (Lily Collins), one of two dozen Hughes has put up in bungalows for either starlet or romantic consideration, and her young Methodist driver (Alden Ehrenreich). They're both ambitious but innocent new arrivals to Los Angeles hoping to catch a break with their unseen benefactor. Not coincidentally, the year is 1958, the same year Beatty - a Virginia Southern Baptist, himself - came to Hollywood, following his sister, Shirley MacLaine. "I got kind of lucky kind of fast when I came out

snappy, vibrant film, carried by its young stars and memorable for its portrait of Hollywood power players and their pawns. Sex plays a significant role. "I felt it was time to make another movie and time to make a movie about a big subject - what I would call the comical and sometimes sad consequences of American sexual puritanism," says Beatty. "That attitude, I don't think it's expired. We have to admit it's made us the laughing stock of France, for instance, where the chief of state gets into some mischief and his numbers go up. Here the opposite is true."

There's something fitting about one of Hollywood's

## Oops! Bieber not back on Instagram after a 2-week break

**F**alse alarm! Justin Bieber hasn't actually returned to Instagram. Bieber's account briefly returned to public view Monday for his nearly 78 million Instagram followers with week-old pictures and videos of Bieber introducing his new dog, Todd. However, the pop star later turned it off again and said on Twitter, "it was an accident." Bieber left Instagram two weeks ago amid criticism of pictures of him and Lionel Richie's daughter Sofia from fans of Bieber's ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez.

Before his account disappeared, he responded to the negativity by writing, "I'm gonna make my Instagram private if you guys don't stop the hate this is getting out of hand, if you guys are really fans you wouldn't be so mean to people that I like." Bieber's return was celebrated Monday on Twitter with #Justin ReactivatedParty. It followed the #Justin Deactivated Party trend that popped up when he left Instagram. — AP



Justin Bieber



MUSIC & MOVIES



In this Aug 27, 1981 file photo, Gilda Radner, center, and Gene Wilder, right, perform in a scene from the film 'Hanky Panky,' directed by Sidney Poitier in Boston. — AP photos



This file photo taken on September 7, 1984 shows US actor and director Gene Wilder poses with his wife Gilda Radner, during the 10th American Film Festival of Deauville.



# Actor Gene Wilder, star of Mel Brooks movies, dies at 83

## Gene Wilder: 30 years of laughter

Gene Wilder, who died on Monday following a battle with Alzheimer's, left behind a body of work that began 50 years ago and includes some of the greatest ever comedies. Here are 10 of his landmark roles:

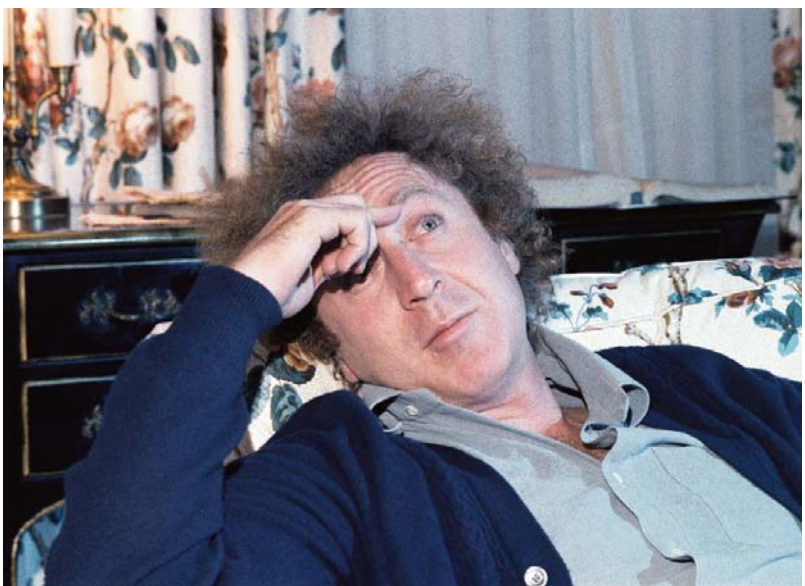
- 1. "Death of a Salesman" (1966)**  
Alex Segal's Emmy Award-winning adaptation for television of Arthur Miller's iconic play, starring Lee J. Cobb from the original 1949 Broadway cast as Willy Loman. Wilder played Bernard, the son of Loman's neighbor.
- 2. "Bonnie and Clyde" (1967)**  
Wilder portrays Eugene Grizzard, one of the fugitive duo's hostages, in his big screen debut.
- 3. "The Producers" (1968)**  
Wilder was nominated for a best supporting actor Oscar for the first of his many collaborations with legendary filmmaker Mel Brooks.
- 4. "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" (1971)**  
Wilder plays candy impresario Willy Wonka in perhaps his most celebrated role. Legend has it-incorrectly that Fred Astaire was in the running for the part. Ron Moody and Jon Pertwee were considered before Wilder was chosen.
- 5. "Blazing Saddles" (1974)**  
Mel Brooks's searing satire of racism and depictions of the American Old West and the collaboration that nearly never was. Oscar-winning Gig Young was cast as the Waco Kid, but he collapsed during his first scene and Wilder was flown in to replace him.
- 6. "Young Frankenstein" (1974)**  
An affectionate parody of the horror genre in which Wilder plays a descendant of Mary Shelley's Victor Frankenstein. Another Mel Brooks collaboration and another Oscar nomination, this time for the script he wrote with the director.
- 7. "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975)**  
A musical comedy remarkable only for the fact that it was Wilder's directorial debut. "Wilder seems to be taking things somewhat seriously, yet the details are often so obscured, you never get around to caring all that much," concludes a reviewer on the Classic Movie Guide website.
- 8. "Stir Crazy" (1980)**  
With Sidney Poitier at the helm, Wilder delivers a bravura performance in this prison comedy that reunited him with Richard Pryor after "Silver Streak" (1976) and was a huge hit. The box office total marked the first time a film directed by an African-American earned more than \$100 million.
- 9. "The Woman in Red" (1984)**  
Another movie directed by and starring Wilder that won an Oscar for best original song—"I Just Called to Say I Love You," written and performed by Stevie Wonder. Wilder started a relationship with co-star Gilda Radner, who became his third wife in 1984.
- 10. "Will and Grace" (1997)**  
With his big screen career behind him, Wilder guest-starred on two episodes of NBC's "Will and Grace," winning an Emmy Award for outstanding guest actor on a comedy series. — AFP



In a Dec 27, 1977 file photo, actor Gene Wilder looks thoughtful during an interview in New York.

Gene Wilder, the frizzy-haired actor who brought his deft comedic touch to such unforgettable roles as the neurotic accountant in "The Producers" and the mad scientist of "Young Frankenstein," has died. He was 83. Wilder's nephew said Monday that the actor and writer died late Sunday at his home in Stamford, Connecticut, of complications from Alzheimer's disease. No funeral arrangements have been announced. Jordan Walker-Pearlman said in a statement that Wilder was diagnosed with the disease three years ago, but kept the condition private so as not to disappoint fans.

Wilder started his acting career on the stage, but millions knew him from his work in the movies, especially his collaborations with Mel Brooks on "The Producers," "Blazing Saddles" and "Young Frankenstein." The last film - with Wilder playing a California-born descendant of the mad scientist, insisting that his name is pronounced "Frah-ken-SHTEEN" - was co-written by Brooks and Wilder and earned the pair an Oscar nomination for adapted screenplay. "Gene Wilder, one of the truly great talents of our time, is gone," Brooks wrote in a statement Monday. "He blessed every film we did together with his special magic and he blessed my life with his friendship. He will be so missed." With his unkempt hair and big, buggy eyes, Wilder was a master at playing panicked characters caught up in schemes that only a madman such as Brooks could devise, whether reviving a monster in "Young Frankenstein" or balking Broadway in "The Producers." Brooks would call him "God's perfect prey, the victim in all of us."



In a Dec 9, 1977 file photo, actor Gene Wilder is shown during an interview with Jean Claude Bouis at his New York City Hotel.

### Funniest and sweetest energies

But he also knew how to keep it cool as the boozing gunslinger in "Blazing Saddles" or the charming candy man in the children's favorite "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." His craziest role: the therapist having an affair with a sheep in Woody Allen's "Everything You Wanted to Know About Sex." Tweeted Jim Carrey: "Gene Wilder was one of the funniest and sweetest energies ever to



This file photo taken on March 17, 2008 shows actor and author Gene Wilder posing with copies of his new book 'The Woman Who Wouldn't' at Barnes & Noble Bookstore at The Grove in West Hollywood, California.

take a human form. If there's a heaven he has a Golden Ticket."

Cloris Leachman, Wilder's "Young Frankenstein" co-star, tweeted, "Oh, Gene, it's too soon!" Wilder was close friends with Richard Pryor and their contrasting personas - Wilder uptight, Pryor loose - were ideal for comedy. They co-starred in four films: "Silver Streak," "Stir Crazy," "See No Evil, Hear No Evil" and "Another You." And they created several memorable scenes, particularly when Pryor provided Wilder with directions on how to "act black" as they tried to avoid police in "Silver Streak." But Wilder would insist he was no comedian. He told Robert Osborne in a 2013 interview that it was the biggest misconception about him.

### Nothing special

"What a comic, what a funny guy, all that stuff! And I'm not. I'm really not. Except in a comedy in films," Wilder said. "But I make my wife laugh once or twice in the house, but nothing special. But when people see me in a movie and it's funny then they stop and say things to me about 'how funny you were.' But I don't think I'm that funny. I think I can be in the movies." A Milwaukee native, Wilder was born Jerome Silberman on June 11, 1933. When he was 6, his mother suffered a heart attack that left her a semi-invalid. He soon began improvising comedy skits to entertain her, the first indication of his future career. He started taking acting classes at age 12. In 1961, he became a member of Lee Strasberg's prestigious Actor's Studio in Manhattan.

That same year, he made both his off-Broadway and Broadway debuts using the stage name Gene Wilder. He won the Clarence Derwent Award, given to promising newcomers, for the Broadway work in Graham Greene's comedy "The Complaisant Lover." A key break came in 1963 when he co-starred with Anne Bancroft in Bertolt Brecht's "Mother Courage," and met Brooks, her future husband. Brooks cast Wilder in "The Producers" as Leo Bloom, an accountant who discovers the liberating joys of greed and corruption as he and Max Bialystock (Zero Mostel) conceive a Broadway flop titled

"Springtime for Hitler" and plan to flee with the money raised for the show's production. Wilder's performance received a supporting actor Oscar nod.

### Outstanding guest actor

Beyond starring in "The Producers," he had a small role as the hostage of gangsters in the 1967 classic "Bonnie and Clyde." He peaked in the mid-1970s with the twin Brooks hits "Blazing Saddles" and "Young Frankenstein." Wilder went on to write several screenplays and direct five features, including "The Woman in Red" and "Haunted Honeymoon," in which he co-starred with his third wife, Gilda Radner. The two met while making the 1982 film "Hanky-Panky" and married in 1984. After Radner died of ovarian cancer in 1989, Wilder spent much of his time after promoting cancer research and opened a support facility for cancer patients. In 1991, he testified before Congress about the need for increased testing for cancer.

That same year, he appeared in his final film role: "Another You" with Pryor. Wilder worked mostly in television in recent years, including appearances on "Will & Grace" one of which earned him an Emmy Award for outstanding guest actor - and a starring role in the short-lived sitcom "Something Wilder." In 2015, he was among the voices in the animated "The Yo Gabba Gabba! Movie 2." As for why he stopped appearing on the big screen, Wilder said in 2013 he was turned off by the noise and foul language in modern movies. "I didn't want to do the kind of junk I was seeing," he said in an interview. "I didn't want to do 3D for instance. I didn't want to do ones where there's just bombing and loud and swearing, so much swearing... can't they just stop and talk instead of swearing?" Wilder is survived by his wife, Karen, whom he married in 1991, and his daughter from a previous marriage, Katherine, from whom he was estranged. — AP

## 'Beauty and the Beast' producer posts character images



In this July 31, 2011, file photo, actor Dan Stevens poses for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP

A producer on the upcoming live-action adaptation of "Beauty and the Beast" has invited his social media followers to be his guest to a first look at several characters from the film. "Beauty and the Beast" co-producer Jack Morrissey posted images on his Facebook account Friday of computer-generated renditions of Ewan McGregor as candelabra Lumiere and Ian McKellen as clock Cogsworth, as well as Dan Stevens in his human prince form.

Morrissey says the images are from a sneak preview that will be included in the 25th anniversary edition of the 1991 animated "Beauty and the Beast" out Sept 20. Emma Watson, who plays protagonist Belle, was previously glimpsed in a teaser trailer released earlier this summer. Disney's live-action "Beauty and the Beast" is set for release March 17, 2017. — AP



In this March 14, 2016, file photo, Carol Kane attends a special screening of 'Everything Is Copy' at The Museum of Modern Art in New York. — AP

## Kane says Gene Wilder gave her a second chance

At age 23, Carol Kane was fresh off a Best Actress Oscar nomination with no prospects on the horizon. The phone hadn't rung for a year, she said. Then Gene Wilder called. "Out of the blue I got a call from Gene saying that he'd like to meet me about 'The World's Greatest Lover,'" Kane said Monday. "It was a comedy, which I'd never done before. I have no idea why he thought I could do it, but he was a purist, he was kind of a poet and I met him and he asked me to do this movie with him."

Wilder, who died Sunday at 83, wrote, directed and starred in "The World's Greatest Lover," about a baker (Wilder) and his wife (Kane) who move to Hollywood during the silent film era to enter a talent search for someone who might compete with Rudolph Valentino. Kane, 64, was only 25 by the time it wrapped, but getting that call from Wilder still felt to her like "a second chance," she said.

She remembers Wilder being compassionate and inspirational as a director but serious and sensitive, too. "(He was) clearly one the

great clowns - the Chaplin of talkies in some ways," she said. "The World's Greatest Lover" was not particularly well-received when it came out in 1977. Kane thinks it might not have gotten the right publicity. "It was a little under the radar unfortunately," she said. "But I think that it holds up beautifully and that it's lovely and funny and worth a second look." Kane would stay in touch with Wilder on and off over the years, and she loved seeing the friendship of Wilder, Mel Brooks and Dom DeLuise (who also starred in "The World's Greatest Lover" as the studio mogul).

Wilder and Kane reunited in 2001 to perform in three classic one-act farces at the Westport Country Playhouse, but she'll always remember the great significance of that phone call more than 40 years ago. "He was a gentle man and a gentleman ... a true, true artist," Kane said. "We never saw anyone like him before or after." — AP



Actor Gene Wilder, star of Mel Brooks movies, dies at 83

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Steampunk enthusiasts attend the first day of 'The Asylum Steampunk Festival' in Lincoln, northern England. — AFP



A picture shows Palestinian singer Adel Meshoukhi performing on a rooftop overlooking Gaza City. — AFP photos



Palestinian singer Adel Meshoukhi (center) performing during a wedding in Rafah in the southern Gaza City.



Palestinian singer Adel Meshoukhi (center) performing during a wedding in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.



Palestinian singer Adel Meshoukhi posing for pictures during a wedding in Rafah.

## Internet star sings of Gaza cat and 'My Trousers'

**M**obbed by fans wherever he goes, Adel Meshoukhi is the kind of singer that perhaps only Gaza could produce: An internet sensation who depends on a modest stipend from Hamas. Very few people in Gaza, the small Palestinian territory ruled by the Islamist movement Hamas, haven't heard of the young and disenchanted Meshoukhi. He has performed for 10 years as a singer and also acts in television and radio dramas.

But despite his fame among Palestinians, he earns barely anything from his art and used to work for the Hamas security services until he was accidentally shot in the leg during training three years ago. Still convalescing, he gets a partial-and sporadic income-from them. The musical comedian's most popular song is actually an ode to a cat. "Do not be afraid of me pussycat, do not run away," sings the 32-year-old in Arabic, while wandering the dark empty streets of Rafah in southern Gaza. "I'm only a human being."

The video was made with just his own cellphone and a computer, but it has been shared hundreds of thousands of times on Facebook. Young people listen to the song, called "Fear Not", and other hits repeatedly on their phones or at wedding parties. The secret of his success? His light style, which mixes jokes and irony for Gazans keen to forget politics for a few minutes. "I no longer speak of politics and war because we are all fed up, we want to have some fun," said Meshoukhi, round-faced with cropped black hair.

The singer causes a stir every time he arrives, sunglasses on his nose as ever, at crowded cafes on the Mediterranean seafloor. On the night AFP spent with him, Meshoukhi was invited to a wedding party in a refugee camp in Rafah, where he was guest of honour. "Everyone loves Adel here," grinned Ibrahim al-Nireb, brother of the groom, who repeatedly took selfies with the star who "brings smiles to people's faces". Gaza, in which 1.9 million people live behind largely closed borders with Israel and Egypt, is still in recovery from a devastating 2014 war with Israel. Around 45 percent of its workforce are unem-

ployed and two-thirds of the population depend on foreign aid. "I am a human being, I don't want to make war with anyone, I just want to live," said Meshoukhi in the house he still shares with his parents in the Rafah refugee camp. "But nobody listens to us."

### Hamas employee

If he talks to cats in the song that made him famous, "it's because they at least are harmless". His lyrics are mild but often gently satirical. His latest song, "My Trousers," posted earlier this month, tells of dirty laundry but evokes the economic struggles of young people. As such, he has

become popular with the under-30s who see no future for themselves in Gaza. The Gaza Strip is a "giant prison" where people live like "sardines in a tin," said Meshoukhi. For psychiatrist Samir Zaqout, the singer's success comes from tapping into "the desperation born of social and economic pressure on young Palestinians".

This has allowed him to "achieve enormous popularity in a short time", Meshoukhi speaks from experience of struggling to make ends meet. He has no lucrative contract or flashy lifestyle-fame has not brought riches. The English graduate, divorced and childless, relies on the stipend from the department of national security. Three years after the shooting accident, he receives only half his former monthly wage. "How can you live on a salary of 1,200 shekels (\$318)?" he asked.

And that is only when the money is paid, which it is often not because of political infighting and financial shortfalls. In conservative Gaza, even moderately satirical songs can spark a backlash. Hamas authorities even accused him of "harming the military" by acting and singing in his spare time, he said. "These wild songs aim to destroy our conservative youth," posted one critic on Facebook. And he has been detained by Hamas police eight times, he said.

In a video posted on YouTube, Meshoukhi has a crack at the territory's Islamist rulers. "Hamas, leave office. It's been 10 years you've been responsible for the plight of Gazans. You sent us back 300 years," he bellows. "We have no electricity, no water, no jobs and borders are closed. Life, dreams, hopes, everything is finished!" It is precisely because "he is afraid of nothing and speaks the needs of youth" that he is so popular, said Saleh Al-Moughir, a Gazan actor. — AFP



Palestinian singer Adel Meshoukhi performing on a rooftop overlooking Gaza City.



Palestinian singer Adel Meshoukhi speaking on the phone at his home in Rafah.



Palestinian singer Adel Meshoukhi writing at his home in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.