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## KUWAITI WOMAN SLAIN IN HER SLEEP BY MAID

### ALLEGED KILLER TRIES TO COMMIT SUICIDE



Min 05°  
Max 21°  
High Tide 00:16 & 13:46  
Low Tide 07:31 & 19:29



150 FILLS  
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## MPS BREAK AGENTS' MONOPOLY, DISCUSS SUBSIDIES

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly yesterday passed in the second reading the commercial agencies law, but after introducing a crucial amendment that allows more than one agent or dealer for commodities in the country, officially breaking the monopoly of agents over imports.

MPs, led by Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, also called on the government to present a specific program for economic reforms as they debated plans to cut subsidies on fuel and electricity. The debate on the issue will continue today. MPs were disappointed that Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh did not

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present a specific plan on economic reforms, and Ghanem called on the government and the Assembly's financial affairs committee to work out such a plan before the next meeting on March 1.

The minister however told the house that he submitted a comprehensive plan for reforms to the Assembly bureau on Monday, adding that the government does not plan to completely lift subsidies but to "rationalize" them. Saleh said the cost of subsidies on fuel, electricity and water alone constitutes 70 percent of total subsidies amounting to KD 2.9 billion in the 2016/2017 budget. The minister complained that between the 2004/2005 and 2014/2015 fiscal years, spending rose from KD 6.3 billion to KD 21.4 billion, more than threefold.

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KUWAIT: MPs take part in a parliament session yesterday at the National Assembly. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A 24-year-old Kuwaiti woman was allegedly killed by the family's maid at her home in Andalus yesterday. The maid, an Ethiopian, slit the throat of the woman, Fatima Al-Otaibi, while she was sleeping. She then tried to commit suicide by also slitting her throat.

The victim's body was recovered and the assailant was sent to Sabah Hospital. Unconfirmed reports indicate that the young Kuwaiti woman worked as an investigator at the Ministry of Interior. The maid was planning to travel to her home country within a week's time after the family had booked her a ticket. There was no immediate information available on the motive behind the attack.

Kuwait has witnessed several similar violent attacks in recent years. In March 2014, an Ethiopian domestic worker stabbed her employer's teenage daughter to death in Sulaybiqhat. Twenty-two-year-old Rabiya Mahmoud stabbed 19-year-old Seham Al-Shemmari, daughter of former Kuwaiti national football team defender Hmoud Flaiteh Al-Shemmari, while she slept. Mahmoud was later sentenced to death. In 2011, an Ethiopian maid killed a 25-year-old Kuwaiti woman Aisha Al-Failakawi.



Blood is seen at the scene of the crime.

## News

in brief

### Nine dead in IS Damascus blast

**BEIRUT:** A suicide car bombing killed nine people yesterday at a police officer's club in the Syrian capital, a monitor said, in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 20 people were also wounded in the Damascus blast, adding that policemen were among the dead and injured. The monitor said the suicide bomber had been wearing a police uniform, a tactic used in the past by IS. The jihadist group said one of its members had detonated an explosives-laden car at the club.

### Dubai presses ahead with largest mall

**DUBAI:** Dubai said yesterday it would press ahead with plans to build the world's largest shopping mall despite an economic slowdown looming in the region, but would assess market demand before proceeding with the project's later stages. The Mall of the World project, encompassing 745,000 sq m of shopping space connected to a theme park, 100 hotels and serviced apartment buildings with 20,000 rooms, was announced in mid-2014, just as oil prices began a precipitous plunge.

### UAE tries 'Hezbollah,' 'Qaeda' cell members

**ABU DHABI:** Separate trials have opened in the United Arab Emirates of three men accused of links to Lebanon's Hezbollah movement and 23 others for ties to Al-Qaeda, newspapers reported yesterday. The three Lebanese men charged with "forming and managing a group linked to Hezbollah without obtaining a permit" appeared Monday before Abu Dhabi's state security, Emarat al-Youm newspaper said. One of the men is a Canadian. In the other trial, 23 mostly Yemeni defendants have been charged with forming a cell linked to Al-Qaeda as well as forgery.

### GCC debt to double, assets to slide by 2020

**KUWAIT:** Public debt of the oil-rich Gulf states is expected to double and assets decline by a third by 2020 as they seek to finance budget deficits due to sliding prices, a report said yesterday. After having posted massive deficits of \$160 billion last year and faced with a \$159 billion deficit in 2016, the six Arab states of the Gulf will have to borrow and tap into their huge fiscal reserves to finance the budget shortfall, said the report released by the head of research at Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) M R Raghu. (See Page 25)

## KUWAIT WON'T SEND TROOPS TO SYRIA

### KUWAIT TO RAISE OUTPUT, SEES NEW EUROPE DEALS KPC TO SELL LOSS-MAKING ASSETS

**DUBAI:** Kuwait plans to raise its crude oil production by 150,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the third quarter and aims to sign new export deals with European customers soon, a senior Kuwaiti official was quoted as saying yesterday. New contracts are to be signed soon with a number of European companies "with good prices and in large volumes", Nabil Boursesli, managing director of international marketing at Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC), told state news agency KUNA. Kuwait currently produces 3 million bpd and plans to boost its output to 3.15 million bpd in the third quarter of 2016, he said. He said KPC is currently focusing on the European market which is facing "fierce competition" among producers.

Meanwhile, KPC plans to sell loss-making assets to cut costs as low oil prices pressure its finances, KUNA also reported yesterday. Nizar Al-Adsani, chief executive of KPC, was quoted as saying the company had started efforts to sell its Europoort refinery in the Netherlands and had decided to shut a fertilizer plant of Kuwaiti unit Petrochemical Industries Co. KPC's affiliates, including Kuwait National Petroleum Co and Kuwait Oil Co, have already cut costs by 15-20 percent, he added. As part of the exercise, KPC plans to set up a company to manage the integration of its new refinery at Al-Zour and a petrochemical complex and liquefied natural gas facilities, Adsani said. — Agencies

**DUBAI:** Kuwait backs international efforts against hardline Islamist groups in Iraq and Syria although the state's constitution prevents it from sending troops to fight abroad, a senior Kuwaiti official said. Kuwait, a US ally and neighbor of Saudi Arabia and Iraq, is part of a 34-nation alliance announced by Riyadh in December aimed at countering Islamic State and Al-Qaeda in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Afghanistan.

Several Gulf Arab states including Kuwait also provide varying kinds of support to a US-led coalition that has been fighting Islamic State in Syria since 2014. The issue of Gulf Arab participation in Iraq and Syria has come to the fore because Saudi Arabia said last Tuesday it was open to sending special forces to Syria, and the United Arab Emirates has said it would be willing to send troops to train and support a US-led coalition against Islamic State.

"Kuwait stands shoulder-to-shoulder with our brothers in Saudi on all fronts. We are always ready and able to provide what is needed to our Gulf partners within the confines of our constitution," said Sheikh Mohammad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah,

Kuwait's Minister for Cabinet Affairs, in an interview in Dubai. Speaking late yesterday, he said this could be "intelligence-sharing, the provision of establishments required by the coalition to facilitate their activities". He did not elaborate.

Diplomats in the region have said Kuwait has permitted some foreign air forces participating in the US-led coalition to use airfields in its territory. Major OPEC oil producer Kuwait, which was invaded by Iraq in 1990, can declare defensive war if under direct threat but offensive war is prohibited by the constitution. Home to several US military bases, Kuwait suffered its deadliest militant attack in decades in June when a Saudi suicide bomber blew himself up inside a packed Shiite mosque, killing 27 people. Islamic State claimed responsibility.

"It's very difficult to stop a lone, deranged person from doing something like that," Sheikh Mohammad said, when asked about security measures since the attack. "However many new procedures have been put in place in public areas in order to make it more difficult ... be it religious venues or commercial or social venues."

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## 10 KILLED AS TRAINS CRASH IN GERMANY

**BAD AIBLING, Germany:** German authorities were investigating how two commuter trains fitted with automatic braking systems to prevent accidents collided in southern Germany yesterday, leaving at least ten dead and dozens injured. Rescuers were still searching for one missing person in the mangled wreckage in a wooded area near Bad Aibling, a spa town about 60 km south-east of Munich, although police said there was now little hope of finding the victim alive.

One of the trains had sliced into the other, ripping its side apart. Blue, yellow and silver metal debris was strewn around the crash site next to a river in the southern state of Bavaria. Police said 10 people had lost their lives in total, while 18 people were seriously hurt and 63 had light injuries. The two drivers and two conductors were among those killed, local broadcaster Bayerischer Rundfunk reported.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed shock at the accident that hap-

pened shortly after 7:00 am. "I am dismayed and saddened by the serious train accident this morning at Bad Aibling," Merkel said in a statement. "My sympathy goes out especially to the families of the nine people who have lost their lives." Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt said the rail track was fitted with an automatic braking system aimed at preventing such crashes, and that investigators were probing if there had been "a technical problem or human error." "One train was jammed into the other and the carriage of the second train was completely torn apart," he said.

Three black boxes on the trains should help shed light on the accident, he said, adding that two had already been recovered, and the third should be found in the course of the day. The trains collided at high speed on a single track, and the drivers probably did not see each other until the last minute because the crash happened at a curve, said Dobrindt.

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BAD AIBLING, Germany: An aerial view shows firefighters and emergency doctors working at the site of a train accident yesterday. — AFP



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visits Kuwait's Embassy in the United Kingdom. — Amiri Diwan photo

## AMIR VISITS KUWAIT EMBASSY IN UK

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday visited Kuwait's Embassy in the United Kingdom (UK) where he was received by Kuwait Ambassador to the nation, Khaled Abdulaziz Al-Duwaisan, accredited heads of the

Kuwaiti offices and Embassy staff. His Highness the Amir is set to return to Kuwait this evening after heading Kuwait's delegation to the fourth international donors conference on Syria which was held in London. — KUNA

## AMIR TO PATRONIZE STATE AUDIT BUREAU CELEBRATION

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will patronize today an event celebrating the anniversary of establishment for the State Audit Bureau (SAB). The event takes place in Sheraton Hotel and starts at 10:30 am. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will attend the event on the behalf of His Highness the Amir.

SAB is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its establishment, an event which coincides with the celebration of the 10th anniversary of His Highness the Amir's assumption of power. SAB was established on July 7, 1966, as an independent financial control apparatus. The bureau's first article stated that SAB was established as an independent commission for financial control which is connected with the National Assembly.

The event will be attended by senior state officials including His Highness the Crown Prince as well as

heads of state audit bureaus and members of the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABO-SAI). The ceremony, held under the



**Adel Al-Saraawi**

auspices of His Highness the Amir, will feature a documentary film on the bureau as well as a sideline gallery of photos and documents showcasing SAB's history. Meanwhile, SAB's Acting Chairman Adel Al-

Saraawi said that SAB adheres to highest transparency criteria, accounting and professional principles. He said that due to personal care by His Highness the Amir for the Bureau and its staff, they have become committed to doubling their efforts for tighter auditing. He also noted continuing encouragement on part of the executive and legislative authorities for the department, "the guarding eye of the State funds."

SAB throughout the years has sought to enforce its jurisdictions for protection, rationing and sound management of the public funds, according to legal and constitutional bases. "The staff are quite aware of the difficulties and challenges that warrant certain guarantees to ensure that the tasks are performed in an independent and neutral fashion," he added. He expressed gratitude to the employees for their devotion, noting that the Bureau had trained and employed citizens to serve in the process of developing the administration and auditing methods. — KUNA

## AMIR CONGRATULATES CROWN PRINCE ON 10TH ANNIVERSARY

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a congratulatory cable to His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of assumption of office.

In his cable, His Highness the Amir voiced heartfelt congratulations, good sentiments and sincere wishes to His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the assumption of office.

His Highness the Amir also highly appreciated His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad's dedication to the service of the nation and people. His Highness the Amir prayed Allah the Almighty to help them lead the country to continue the process of development and prosperity, as well as bless Kuwait with security and stability.

In return, His Highness the Amir received a cable of thanks from His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince, appreciating the cable of congratulations on the 10th anniversary of Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad's appointment as Crown Prince. In his cable, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad wished His Highness the Amir good health and wellbeing, and Kuwait everlasting security, stability and welfare under his wise leadership.

### Wise leadership

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received a congratulatory cable from National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of assumption of office. In his cable, the speaker said, on behalf of his colleagues at parliament, he would like to express sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad on this occasion, wishing him good health and wellbeing. He added that this occasion was a good chance to renew loyalty to the wise



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**

leadership and to appreciate the achievements accomplished in the country in various domains.

In return, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince sent the parliament speaker a letter of thanks, thanking him and other members of parliament for their sincere congratulations and good sentiments, wishing Kuwait everlasting security, stability and welfare under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir.

### Development

His Highness the Crown Prince also received a congratulatory cable from His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who expressed heartfelt congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf on the 10-year anniversary since he became Crown Prince. He also appreciated development accomplishments made under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Deputy Amir during a critical period of Kuwait's history, in which they were keen to take care of people's concerns, to answer their needs and to ensure national unity and social fabric.

His Highness Sheikh Jaber further wished His Highness Sheikh Nawaf wellbeing and Kuwait everlasting security and stability. In return, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince sent a cable of thanks to His Highness the Prime Minister, voicing much thanks and appreciation to his congratulatory cable and good wishes, and praying Allah the Almighty to bless Kuwait with security and stability.

Also, Highness the Crown Prince received congratulatory cables from, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, chief of the National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Deputy Chairman of the National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, senior Sheikhs, ministers, governors, senior state officials, MPs, diplomats, citizens and residents on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of assumption of office. They expressed sincere greetings and heartfelt sentiments to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad through cables, contacts and newspapers, wishing the nation everlasting security, stability and welfare. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets PAAET officials and members. — KUNA

## CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES PAAET OFFICIALS, MEMBERS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received top officials and members of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET). His Highness the Deputy Amir called on the PAAET to continue its efforts in bolstering the educational scene in Kuwait, stressing that the authority was the main building block for the future development of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the PAAET representatives expressed their thanks and appreciation to the country's leadership and expressed their intentions to continue to develop education in Kuwait. The meeting was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Local Affairs at His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah. Earlier, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-

Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

In other news, His Highness the Crown Prince is set to patronize the awarding ceremony for the 2015-16 horse racing championship organized by Jahra Al-Forsan (horse riders) society. Governor of Jahra Fahad Al-Amir will represent His Highness at the ceremony to be held at 3:30 pm yesterday. — KUNA

## KUWAIT KEEN TO DEVELOP HUMAN RESOURCES: MINISTER

**DUBAI:** Kuwait's Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah yesterday stressed Kuwait's keenness on developing human resources.

On the sideline of the World Government Summit, Minister Al-Abdullah told KUNA that he participated in a closed session which reviewed several studies in the field of human resources development. He also stressed Kuwait's keenness on benefiting from the successful international experiences in the field of human resource development.

Minister Al-Abdullah praised the UAE's experience in manpower field and the Gulf state's application of international programs and plans that have contributed to the development of the UAE's human resources.

Meanwhile, Undersecretary at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Mohammed Al-Roumi said in similar statement to KUNA the session focused on the integration of the actual application of human resource

development in the UAE and the experiences of relevant international institutions in this area.

The session also tackled the global paradigm shift in the application of modern technological systems to measure the performance of the workforce in the government and the move from paperwork to smart programs in this area, he said. The World Government Summit held in Dubai is a primary global forum dedicated to shaping the future of governments

worldwide. Each year, the Summit sets an agenda for the next generation of governments with focus on how they can harness innovation and technology to solve universal challenges facing humanity. It is a gateway to the future as it functions as an analysis platform for the future trends, issues and opportunities facing humanity. It is also an opportunity to showcase innovations, best practice and smart solutions to inspire creativity to tackle these future challenges. — KUNA



**DUBAI:** Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah (second from left) attends the World Government Summit in Dubai. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah is pictured with Interior Ministry personnel at the exhibition. — KUNA

## FARWANIYA GOVERNOR INAUGURATES 55TH INDEPENDENCE DAY EXPO

**KUWAIT:** Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah inaugurated yesterday the 55th Independence Day exhibition, which is organized by Kuwait International Fair (KIF) and lasts until February 13th with participation of 25 state bodies and institutions.

The expo highlights an important phase in Kuwait's history, assuring the solidarity of the Kuwaiti people and their loyalty to the political leadership, Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud said following the opening ceremony, in presence of the diplomatic missions in Kuwait.

The event poses an opportunity to get acquainted with the government's role in serving the citizens and resi-

dents, protecting the country, and establishing safety and security for citizens and residents, he said, pointing out the state bodies' participation, in this regard, to showcase their services and role to the public. Sheikh Faisal also stressed the importance of using such national events to not only express joy and celebration, but also to work harder and faithfully in order to benefit the country and its people.

These occasions also provide a valuable opportunity in showcasing the Kuwaiti people's solidarity and loyalty to His Highness the Amir, and their opposition and rejection to any attempt of undermining their national unity, he said, expressing his gratitude to all sponsoring bodies, diplomatic

missions in Kuwait, and the participants.

Marwa Al-Qenaei, director of the expo, stated meanwhile that the 55th Independence Day expo has attracted 25 state bodies and institutions as participants and sponsors, among which the foreign ministry had the "diamond" sponsorship, the Social Development Office, the "platinum", and the National Guard, "gold".

She added that other sponsors also included the higher education ministry, interior ministry, Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation (KAPF), Zakat House, and social affairs and labor ministry. — KUNA



# HELP SAVE Q&BOOKS

By Fajer Ahmed

Nearly three years ago we had an idea to takeover a bookstore and turn it into a community space where people could recycle their old books. Our mission was to encourage reading and writing in Kuwait. We are honored to not just be a team, but a community, a community of not only readers and writers, but families and young learners as well.

I am proud to say that it has been a very successful journey. We have kids readings in multiple languages, various book clubs and literary groups, activities to encourage writing and reading like poetry nights, script writing competitions, book discussions just to name a few. Unfortunately though, we found out a few weeks ago that Bayt Lothan, our number one supporter, whom we owe so much to, will be closing down. This means we are left without a space. So I am writing

this today to say a few important things:

First, a huge thank you to everyone that has supported the idea in any shape or form. We hope that we have benefited you in any way possible and we apologize if we could not help you or if we did not do the best we could in any situation. Please forgive us, we are a small team of volunteers and most of us have full time jobs. Second, if anyone has any ideas on where we can relocate to or would like to support us with our move to our new

home (fingers crossed we find one) please email us [ask@q8bookstore.com](mailto:ask@q8bookstore.com) or our Instagram account @q8bookstore.

Third, I do not know what is happening to Bayt Lothan but I think it is fair to say that we are all very disappointed to see a house as beautiful with so much culture and an organization that has supported multiple artists and visionaries in the past two plus decades close down. Please stop this. We do not need another mall. This is wrong.



—photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



## KUWAIT PARLIAMENT 'DEALS FIRST BLOW TO MONOPOLY' SINCE 60S

### DEALERS LOSE 'EXCLUSIVE AGENT' STATUS

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly, during its regular session yesterday, approved trade agencies' bill and referred it to the Government. "What the Assembly endorsed today is first blow to monopolization of the trade agencies since 1965," announced Parliament Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem in a statement following the approval affirming great significance of the parliamentary measure that came amid various State schemes intended to cope with economic problems, in shadow of declining oil prices. The attached clarification memo of the bill indicated rapid economic and commercial development, locally and abroad; four decades after effecting Law 36/1964, which regulated the trade agencies. "Therefore, it became necessary to review the law provisions and enact a new one that could cope with the current situation, namely the development in the field of regulating the trade agencies."

The first provision says that a trade agency agreement is any deal where a trader or a company in the State is entitled to promote or distribute commodities or products or services in his (her) capacity as the agent, distributor or owner of the franchise, or owner of the product license or the original importer, in exchange for profit or commission.

The second article largely incorporated rules of the Law 68/1980, where the client can have more than one

agent or distributor in Kuwait. It further states that the agent must be a citizen or a non-Kuwait provided that share of the Kuwait partner must account to 51 percent of the capital. The same article mentioned other rules, such as registration in the commercial record and having a permit. Imported products must bear accredited GCC and international specifications, along with a guarantee by the producing factory or plant.

The fourth provision meanwhile states that importing or distributing any commodity or product shall not be exclusive to its dealer or distributor, even if he or she are the exclusive dealer of said commodity or product, provided that the imported material match the standards specified by the law.

The fifth provision says the agent must provide maintenance and repair of products, imported by a third party, and to be marketed in Kuwait. They must be free of any defect. Moreover, spare parts must be provided, along with the maintenance, therefore, workshops must be set up.

The twentieth article states that the Kuwaiti courts shall undertake all suits related to implementation of the above-mentioned bill. Arbitration can be sought to settle disputes. Article 21st grants the Minister of Commerce the right to issue executive regulations and resolutions for effecting the law, during six months since publishing it in the official gazette. — KUNA

## RETIRED CANADIAN COMMANDER RECALLS GULF WAR: EXHIBITION OF PHOTOS, PAINTINGS OF WAR

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** An exhibition of photographs and paintings on the contribution of Canada to the liberation of Kuwait in 1990-1991 Gulf War kicks off today at the Ahmed Al-Adwani Gallery in Dahiyat Abdullah Salem. Retired Canadian Rear-Admiral Ken Summers, Commander of the Canadian Task Force that oversaw about 4,500 Canadian soldiers during the Gulf War, was invited by Kuwait to present some facts about Canada's role in the liberation. The exhibition will continue until Feb 14, 2016.

Summers will be accompanied by Dr Richard Gimblett, navy command historian from the Canada Department of National Defense, and Ali Hussein Assad Al-Taqi, retired emergency response coordinator at Kuwait Oil Company. "The exhibition will showcase the timeline of Canada's role in the liberation of Kuwait. You will discover many photographs and paintings that tell stories and many will see these images and paintings for the first time in this exhibition," said Matine Moreau, Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait, during a press conference held at the Canadian Embassy in Jabriya.

Summers was invited on the occasion of the 25th liberation anniversary of Kuwait, according to the Canadian envoy. "We invite the public to see the photographs and paintings. The rear admiral has a lot of his personal photos in the exhibition. He will meet with some local and ranking defense and air force officials and will discuss some matters related to the Gulf War. The rear admiral will also speak with students at Kuwait University and the defense college," she said.

### Celebration

Summers said he was the commander of the Canadian contingent here at that time and was privileged to raise the Canadian flag over the embassy on March 1 while the rest of Kuwait was jubilating over the liberation. "The streets



**KUWAIT:** (From left) Matine Moreau, Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait, Retired Canadian Rear-Admiral Ken Summers and Dr Richard Gimblett, navy command historian from the Canada Department of National Defense attend a press conference at the Canadian Embassy.

— Photo by Joseph Shagra

were empty, but many people were celebrating. You could see the happy faces of everyone in the streets," said Summers. "We had large contingent of Canadian forces here - from air force to navy personnel, security groups and surgical groups; we had many aircraft and three naval ships at that time, along with soldiers on the ground conducting a series of operations. We had a team of firefighters as well. We also had airbases in Bahrain and on the Saudi-Kuwait border," he noted.

"Canadians were in charge of clearing bunkers, and we helped clear the airport to

make it operational as soon as possible. The city was still in dark because of the smoke billowing from the oil wells set alight by Saddam Hussein's forces. We had a huge contribution, not just during the liberation, but also later in the clearing up operations. So today, we are here to reminisce and show to everyone the real timeline of what Canada contributed during that dark part of Kuwait's history. I am very happy to be here today and talk to the people of Kuwait, because not many know that we made a large contribution which wasn't covered by CNN at that time," Summers said.

## KUWAIT EYES BEST SOLUTIONS OF SPENDING CUTS: MINISTER

### 'SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH NOT AFFECTED BY OIL PRICES'

**KUWAIT:** The State of Kuwait seeks to find the best solutions of spending rationalization and addressing economic disorders facing the country, Minister of Public Works Dr Ali Al-Omair has stressed.

In a press statement on the sidelines of inauguration of the Kuwait International Nanotechnology Conference and Exhibition yesterday, Omair, also Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, said the State always works on developing education and coping with scientific revolution.

Nanotechnology aims to benefit peoples and scientific researches in all fields, he added, expecting that this technology will be

used in oil industry to achieve best goals in this field. Scientific research has not been affected by ups and downs of oil prices, he said, stressing the continuing researches of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and Kuwait University so as to enhance the country's status on regional and international levels.

He extolled the role of employees of information technology, KISR and KU in organizing the exhibition, referring to the significance of the three-day conference to discuss this industry and its applications in modern sciences. The event sheds light on the importance of implementing this technique in the

areas of energy, medicine, agriculture, environment, engineering and communication.

### Computer resources

Acting Director General of Central Agency for Information Technology Qusai Al-Shatti stressed the important role of nanotechnology in developing computer resources and upgrading their efficiency. In a speech during the event's inauguration, Shatti said this technology contributes to improving performance of computer and all smart devices, and doubling their capabilities.

Nanotechnology has a great influence on information technology in terms of its contri-

butions to launching information revolution, and cutting cost of computers and their associates, he added. Technology has become a fertile field for innovation and creativity in several and varied areas, he noted.

Meanwhile, Assistant Dean of Scientific Affairs and Graduate Studies at Kuwaiti University Dr Ali Bu Majdad said the conference seeks to present the latest scientific researches on nanotechnology in different specializations across the globe. Participants are keen on raising the society's awareness on nanotechnology as several countries work on investing billions of dollars in this field, he indicated.

Among the conference's axes is to focus on challenges and opportunities of nanotechnology applications in information technology, and other devices which could be used in these applications like computer and smart devices, he said.

The event deals with several materials of nanotechnology used in manufacturing medical and pharmaceutical industries, and the early detection as well as other different applications, he noted. The three-day conference sheds light on the importance of implementing this technique in the areas of energy, medicine, agriculture, environment, engineering and communication. — KUNA

In Brief

NUTRITION PHONE APP LAUNCHED

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti inventor Naser Al-Mosaed launched the first global application via smart phones, 'Clickless,' which provided information and inquiries services at high speed and accuracy. The app provides information about medical and nutritional products in an easy and accurate way, he said, adding that this unique application is the first of its kind in the world. The app has now been launched in Kuwait and the UAE and will be available via smart devices in seven other countries during the next couple of months. —KUNA



STUDENTS CONTEST FOR AMIR'S CUP

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Education announced yesterday the conclusion of the Maa Al-Talaba (with students) TV program, announcing Al-Farwaniyah Education District as the winners of the His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Cup. The program was organized again after being suspended for years following coordination with the Ministry of Information, assistant undersecretary Faisal Al-Maqseed said. Broadcasting of the program began in October. Overall results will be declared in middle of March. —KUNA



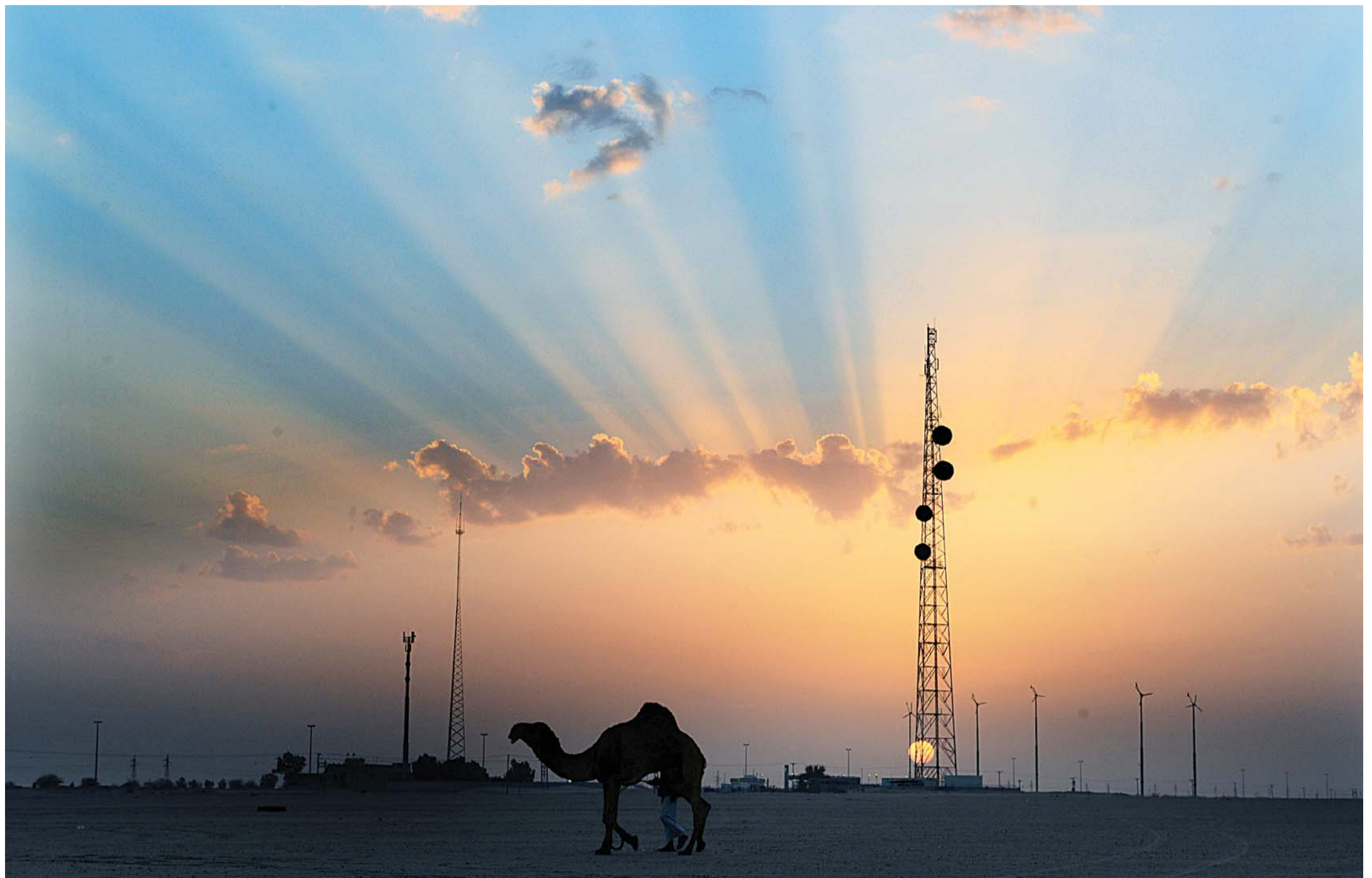
KUWAIT, CYPRUS PROMOTE TIES

**BEIRUT:** Kuwait's Ambassador to Cyprus Ahmad Al-Wehaib underlined yesterday the importance of enhancing relations with Cyprus through exchanging visits on all levels. He made his statement after delivering an invitation from National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem to his Cypriot counterpart Yiannakis Omirou to visit Kuwait. The two sides reviewed mutual cooperation, means of boosting bilateral relations, mainly the parliamentary ones, and the scheduled visit of the delegation of Kuwait-Cyprus parliamentary friendship group to Nicosia this month, he said. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A camel walks in the desert in Kuwait during sunset. —KUNA photo

In my view

SYRIA'S HUMAN TRAGEDY

By Labeed Abdal

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**F**inding the bodies of six people, including an infant, off the shores of Kos island after a boat carrying refugees from Turkey to Greece capsized, calls for more cooperation amongst countries in terms of their regional coastlines that are normally subject to local as well as international surveillance and security against any criminal activity.

The fact that after swimming to the island in the Aegean Sea, one of the survivors notified the Greek authorities that 10 people had been onboard a small boat that turned over due to violent winds calls for reconsidering the current state of hesitation in conducting the needed rescue operations to reduce the daily increasing number of refugees getting killed.

The human tragedy in Syria has resulted in forcing over 45,000 refugees and immigrants to cross from Turkey to Greek islands since the beginning of 2016 (according to IOM), while hundreds others are waiting, which calls for declaring an international case of emergency and combining efforts, especially when the crossing points are known and have been repeatedly used.

The current migrations are not, of course, as serious as smuggling drugs or illegal items such as weapons and explosives that is already incriminated across various borders. In these cases, we find miserable people opting to fighting mighty waves and currents endangering their entire families, fathers, mothers and children's lives to escape death. Their bodies have been found on various coasts and it was only then that the world paid more attention and realized that those washed ashore were dead human beings and not dead fish!

The stars of such tragic stories were human beings, who driven by wishes to escape the threats of the war going on in their lands, endangered their lives to reach Europe regardless of the high walls, inspections and having to walk long distances in extremely low temperatures.

We all watched how in 2015, over 800,000 refugees landed on Greek islands on very old boats used by smugglers ferrying them to the other side of the Aegean Sea. We all watched how over 3,500 of them drowned in the Mediterranean in the same year, and this calls for the international community to 'humanize' those incidents and accelerate the pace of international joint efforts to save them.

IFTAH YA SIMSIM PLAY FRUIT OF GCC COOPERATION: MINISTRY

**KUWAIT:** A Ministry of Education official said Monday a play titled Iftah Ya Simsim (Open Sesame) was the fruit of cooperation with the GCC Joint Program Production Institution Establishment. Faisal Maqseed, Assistant Undersecretary for Education Development and Activities, said in a statement to the press that the Ministry of Education was keen on supporting Iftah Ya Simsim play, which was offering educational values in an interesting fashion for kids in kindergarten and elementary schools.

He said the ministry planned to take a further step beyond the play, in which the parents accompany their children to spend a day in a "social and artistic framework with high educational dimensions." Ali Al-Rayyes, Director General of the GCC Joint Program Production Institution Establishment, thanked the education ministry's support of the play which featured characters adored by the kids. He said the establishment would continue its service to the societies in the GCC countries. —KUNA



NATIONAL GUARD DEPUTY CHIEF SAYS KEEN ON ENHANCING PERSONNEL SKILLS

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Chairman of the National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday affirmed keenness on promoting personnel's skills and staying abreast of latest innovations in sciences and training, in line with the State Strategic Objectives Document (2020), themed 'Security First.'

During reception of a number of officers who graduated from the Qatari Ahmed Bin Mohammed Military College, Sheikh Meshaal relayed congratulations of the Guard's senior command for their success in joining ranks of their fellow officers for serving and safeguarding the homeland.

The deputy chief urged the commissioned officers to do their best, arm themselves with knowledge and know-how, "for they are the real arms to safeguard the homeland security." He also noted necessity of discipline, maintaining physical fitness and shooting sharpness. —KUNA

UN GROUP LAUDS KUWAITI WOMEN CONTRIBUTIONS

**GENEVA:** A United Nations group praised yesterday the outstanding position of Kuwaiti women, saying that they play an important role in the development of their country. This came during a meeting between Eleonora Zielinska, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Work Group on Discrimination against women in law and in practice, and Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN headquarters in Geneva Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim. Zielinska said that she was looking forward to witness the achievements of Kuwaiti women during a visit by a delegation from the work group to Kuwait. Meanwhile, Ambassador Ghunaim affirmed that the upcoming visit will focus on the status of women in Kuwait, adding that several meetings will be held between the delegation and Kuwaiti officials to discuss issues connected with women affairs. —KUNA



## MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER WARNS SILK CITY AUTHORITY WOULD OVERSTEP GOVT AGENCIES

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Municipal council member Ahmed Al-Bughaili said that government efforts to push ahead plans for the construction of the KD 25 billion Silk City (Madinat Al-Hareer) project is promising in view of the falling oil prices and concerns about a budget deficit.

"This is the largest project in the Middle East and needs combined efforts in order to contribute to increasing national income from non-oil resources," he added, pointing out that the project is expected to annually add KD 5 billion to the state budget. "If properly utilized, the project will be true development," he said. Bughaili also noted that the project's bill currently discussed by parliament was about Kuwait's future and that it had to be passed immediately and transparently executed. Bughaili added that the government had referred a bill on establishing a public authority for the Silk City, Boubyan Island developments and the Mubarak Al-Kabeer port so that the construction of the largest architectural projects in the region could commence. However, Bughaili remarked that the government's bill needed to be amended because it author-

ized the proposed public authority to practice the responsibilities of various ministries within the city, the island and the port, which meant having a 'state within the state.' "This is not acceptable," he underlined. Tensions between the Municipality, the Municipal Council and the national authority over distribution of powers and authority over development projects are common in Kuwait.

### First Ring Road

In other Municipal Council news, council member Hassan Kamal suggested conducting a full traffic study of the area overlooking the First Ring Road including commercial and investment areas and high towers, taking into consideration the effect building such high towers had on traffic, parking capacity and infrastructure.

### Central prison

The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) announced that 78 percent of the construction work in a project to expand the Central Prison had been completed and explained that the project includes 30 kilometers of roads, 16 kilometers of land-line cables, 32 power station and illumination grid.

### Tender for South Mutlaa city roads

General coordinator of the South Mutlaa residential city group Khaled Al-Enezi said that upon request from MPW, the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) had offered a tender to build, execute, develop and maintain road and junctions to serve the future city. Enezi added that a preliminary meeting would be held on February 28 for interested bidding companies at the roads design department manager's office, MPW. He added that interested bidders could purchase the tender documents by February 24 and accompany the purchase receipt with them to the meeting.

### Water pumping

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) yesterday announced re-pumping fresh water supplies in Block 4 of Abu Fateera area, after finishing cleansing and sanitizing the fresh water grid pipes. This was announced by the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Water Operation and Maintenance Khalifa Al-Furaj, noting that the ministry was keen on supplying water to residents in new residential areas. Furaj added that subscribers wishing to connect water supply services in the above mentioned block should check with the consumers affairs section in Shuwaikh or Fahaheel, providing ownership deeds, IDs and MEW clearance.



**KUWAIT:** These handout photos provided by the Interior Ministry shows drug dealers arrested during police operations yesterday.

## OOREDOO CONDUCTED FIRE DRILL AT HEADQUARTERS

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, had recently conducted a fire drill in collaboration with General Administration of Civil Defense and Ministry of Interior at its headquarters,

to increase its employees' awareness on how to protect themselves in case of fire. All staff at the head office rehearsed evacuation procedures during the drill to ensure that they knew where to go and what to do at the

event of a real emergency.

The emergency evacuation exercise is a top priority for Ooredoo Kuwait and is part of the safety plan it follows. The success of the fire drill has helped ensuring that all staff are fully aware of the procedures they must follow to ensure their own safety and safety of the others including customers and visitors in the event of a fire or similar emergency.

The fire drill was successfully completed in less than 10 minutes, where the appointed volunteers for safety on each floor supervised the evacuation process and guided individuals directly to the assembly points outside the building. Ooredoo Kuwait organizes regular safety drills and briefings for employees as part of its strong commitment to upholding world class standards and operational practice.



## 15 ARRESTED ON DRUGS CHARGES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Drugs Control General Department (DCGD) officers arrested 15 suspects of different nationalities yesterday on drug-related charges. DCGD officials estimated the total amounts of drugs confiscated with the suspects at 260 kilograms hashish, 25 grams of shabu (meth), 250 grams of heroin in addition to several seedlings of Marijuana and 2,175 illicit tablets. DCGD said eight suspects are being processed for deportation after they

were arrested and charged with helping drug pushers.

### No injuries in fires

Mina Abdallah and Um Al-Haiman Fire Centers put out a fire that broke out in a factory in Mina Abdullah. The fire started in plastic material kept in a container. Oil reservoirs nearby were cooled as the fire was being fought. Meanwhile, firemen from Industrial Shuwaikh Center put out a fire in a vehicle, and kept it from spreading to other cars.

### Fire prevention

Deputy Director General for Prevention Sector at Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (DGCS) Major General Khalid Al-Mikrad said the department will be very strict in implementing the law on violators of regulations set by KFSD to prevent fires. He said that compliance of land owners is a national duty that they must honor. He made the statement during a campaign on industrial stores and shops in Shuwaikh to make sure that owners are complying with the law.

## ENGINEERS SOCIETY REJECTS HOUSING PROJECTS' MASTER PLAN

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of Kuwait Engineers Society's Syndicate Abdul Wahab Mohammed Al-Kandari expressed absolute rejection of a future master plan that includes six small geographically isolated cities, noting that the plan was full of fatal mistakes and would lead to nothing but draining the public budget and wasting billions making the same mistake of building major service projects, such as government universities, hospitals and roads, while citizens, on the other hand, lack trust in state bodies' capability to execute such vital projects in those 'isolated' neighborhoods. "Future generations will never forgive us for the current master plan because it contradicts the simplest economic principles of building new cities," he underlined. Kandari added that the government must review public satisfaction and willingness to move and live in those six new cities. "Decision-makers in both powers must realize the flaws in the coming master plan before spending tens of millions on it," he said, calling for coming up with better alternatives.

Kandari particularly urged the Supreme Planning Council to review the master plan and deal with its problems after some executive bodies utilized KOC's cooperation by disclaiming 5,566 sq km of land by only using 523 sq km of that area for residential purposes in the form of those six cities.

### Shift allowances

Mohammed Al-Thuwaini, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Employees' Syndicate criticized delays in paying shift allowances and bonuses. "The syndicate will always support employees' legitimate rights and fight for them," he underlined, calling for paying the bonuses as lawful rights of all employees with excellent performance reports as per CSC. Thuwaini also urged the civil aviation not to delay payments and to do so by the end of the fiscal year.

### PTB building

Kuwait Municipality yesterday approved a request by the Partnership Technical Bureau (PTB) to allocate a headquarters for it in Shuwaikh administrative area, provided that the building matches construction conditions in the surrounding area in terms of height and providing enough parking spaces. Informed sources added that around 3,536 sq m have been allocated for the project.

### Fatal crash

Two people were killed in an accident reported yesterday at the Fourth Ring Road. Paramedics and police rushed to the scene located near the old scrapyard location in Amghara where a collision between a truck and a sedan was reported. Two men, Syrian and Indian, were pronounced dead on the scene. An investigation was opened.

## JORDAN, KUWAIT INK COORDINATION DOCUMENT



**AMMAN:** Jordan and Kuwait signed yesterday minutes of the meetings that had been held within framework of the joint military committee over the past days. The document, featuring various issues concerning coordination and matters pertaining to the armed forces of the two brotherly countries, was signed by Kuwait's Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khoder and General Mishal Al-Zaben, Jordan's King's Military Advisor and Armed forces Chief of Staff. Lt Gen Al-Khoder affirmed on the occasion depth of the bilateral relations stressing on necessity of boosting mutual military cooperation and expertise swap at various levels. The two senior military chiefs had presided over sessions of the joint commission that began on Sunday. Jordan and Kuwait are bonded with a mutual military cooperation pact. —KUNA

## OFFICIAL STRESSES GULF SECURITY COORDINATION



**Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad**

**DOHA:** Kuwaiti Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad has underscored the importance of continued security cooperation and coordination among GCC member states, amid the current situations and developments in the region.

In a statement to KUNA following talks with Major General Saad bin Jassim al-Khalifi, head of public security of Qatar's Interior Ministry yesterday, Fahad said promoting bilateral cooperation on the issues of mutual interest was discussed.

He added that the talks dealt with coordination between the two countries pertaining to

security topics so as to achieve security and stability, and enhance scientific capabilities aiming to upgrade security action between the two sides.

"We also discussed the latest developments in the region and means of sharing relevant information and expertise," he said, praising the current "distinguished" cooperation between the two sisterly countries and continued coordination pertaining to security topics and issues. Fahad, who arrived in Doha on Monday, was accompanied by a security delegation on a two-day visit to hold talks with a number of Qatar's security officials. —KUNA

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## Crime

Report

## FORMER MP ACCUSES WIFE OF DAMAGING CAR

**KUWAIT:** A former MP lodged a complaint at Surra police station against his wife, charging her with damaging his car. A security source said the former MP told police that he was surprised to see his rental car damaged, and accused his wife of causing it. Police are investigating.

## Transsexuals arrested

Hawally police arrested two transsexuals in Salmiya and sent them to criminal detectives. A security source said that patrol officers spotted a car with tinted windows, in violation of the law, so they stopped it and found the two cross-dressers with makeup inside.

## Bootlegger caught

Ahmadi police arrested a Sri Lankan man who sold liquor in Mahboula. Four boxes of locally made liquor and two imported bottles were found with him. He was sent to the Drugs Control General Department.

## Search for swindler

A female citizen accused a man she knows of swindling her out of KD 7,000 as he told her he will import some goods and trade in them. The man disappeared after receiving the money. The woman told Salmiya police that the man, also a Kuwaiti, convinced her to trade through the Internet by ordering goods and sell them, so she gave him the money. Detectives are investigating.

## Children 'kidnapped'

Qairawan police arrested a citizen following a report by his ex-wife that he kidnapped her two children, who were returned to her. The man did not return the children, aged three and one, after a court-ordered visitation.

## Student breaks nose

An elementary school student stabbed another student in a Mubarak Al-Kabeer school with scissors, breaking his nose in the process. The student's father told police about the incident and filed a complaint. The case will be referred to the juvenile department for further action.

—Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

## STATION DROPS WATER PRODUCTION COST

**KUWAIT:** Informed sources at the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) said the experiment of operating distillers of the third stage at Zoor station at low temperature proved successful. The sources said the experiment that was conducted during the past five months on one distiller resulted in saving KD 475 per month from the fuel cost used to produce steam, as the distiller consumes 105 tons of steam per hour instead of 160 tons when operated on high temperature, bearing in mind that the cost of each ton of steam is KD 12. They said operating on low temperature preserves the turbine's efficiency during summer and does not affect its production of electricity, in addition to reducing the formation of salt residues inside it. They said the experiment's success means reduction of the cost of producing 1,000 gallons of water by the rate of two dinars. The cost of producing one thousand gallons of water currently is estimated at KD 7. They said the production of the distiller when operated on high temperature was 7 million imperial gallons, and it drops in summer to 6.5 million, while its production in the second condition is 6 million imperial gallons, which is a small difference, compared with the achieved benefit. —Al-Qabas

## DEPARTMENT TACKLES 'SAND DUNES'

**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry's traffic department intensified its efforts to face the problem created by the formation of sand dunes on expressways. The department prepared a comprehensive study on this phenomenon, after several traffic accidents were reported on these roads. A security source said the traffic department held several meetings with concerned government bodies to discuss the reason of this phenomenon.

The study recommended allocating funds for the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to remove the sand periodically, especially with the start of the summer season, which sees an increase in sand storms. The roads that experience this phenomenon include the Salmiya, Abdali, Newaiseeb, Wafra, and Um Safaq roads. —Al-Anbaa

## Audit



Al-Jarida



Al-Anbaa

## MASSACRES UNDER UN FLAGS

By Sami Al-Nisf

In 1994, the Canadian commander of the UN peace-keeping force in Rwanda (known as UNAMIR), Brig Gen Dallaire sent several warnings to the UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali (1992-1996) about massacres and annihilation committed by the Hutu army against Tutsi tribes, and asked for permission to destroy Tutsi army weapon stores and warehouses to prevent further killings, but the UN kept silent and did nothing until at least one million Tutsis were killed.

In 1995, during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the terrible Srebrenica massacre took place where Serbian men and boys were killed and Bosnian women were raped before the eyes of the UN peacekeeping Dutch battalion designated to protect civilians there.

In 2007, the International Court of Justice passed a verdict considering what happened in Bosnia as a disgraceful genocide and referred to the UN and its force's failure to prevent such massacres, which eventually led to not renewing Ghali's tenure to become the first UN secretary general to only serve only one term in his history. He stepped down to make way for Kofi Annan.

In 1995, UN resolution number 986 that was known as the 'oil for food' program in Iraq was issued but was never put into practice until 1996. The program involved selling Iraqi oil and using the money in purchasing food and medicine for the besieged Iraqi people. According to Paul Volcker's committee report, it was later found out that the entire process was full of corruption and that the program's chief, the Cypriot Benon V Sevan, Annan's son and hundreds of politicians and media figures had illegally benefited from the program and that funds went to their own pockets, leaving around a million Iraqi children victims of Saddam regime's as well as the UN's corruption.

Nowadays, we hear about raising millions that make the mouths of corrupt people water within and outside the UN with the excuse of aiding the Syrian people. We do hope not to find out later that these funds had been subjected to corruption as usual, leaving thousands of Syrian children deprived of food, education and health-care despite collecting millions to alleviate their sufferings. —Translated by Kuwait Times



## ZAIN MAIN SPONSOR OF SEVENTH 'FRIENDS OF HEARTS' MARATHON

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the seventh edition of the "Friends of Hearts" marathon; a unique sporting and social event that was recently organized by the Chest Diseases Hospital under the patronage of HE the Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi.

Zain's support to this initiative came in line with its Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability strategies towards the health sector, as the event aimed at promoting

the adoption of sport and health activities as a lifestyle to avoid coronary and heart diseases.

The marathon witnessed high public participation, involving around 1500 participants from all ages. Zain was keen to take part in the event to encourage the community and direct them to pursue a healthier lifestyle in order to live healthy and fit through sports activities, especially that coronary and heart diseases are the main death causes in Kuwait. Zain will continue to find ways to inspire and motivate

people in leading humanitarian initiatives so as to foster a better world for all members of society. The company will always be keen on shouldering initiatives that work towards enhancing the society's welfare. Zain's solid corporate social responsibility and sustainability strategies primarily focus on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference to people's everyday circumstances.



**KUWAIT:** Major General Abdullah Dashti, Director of the Mubarak Al-Abdullah Academy for Joint Staff and Command, visited the Special Forces Camp in Sulaiyiba to inspect the latest combat and defensive training preparations. He was accompanied by officers from the Kuwaiti Army and Kuwait National Force, as well as army officers from Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, the United States, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Pakistan, South Korea and Bangladesh.

## LABOR FEE INCREASES INEVITABLE; KUWAIT COLLECTS LEAST IN GCC

**KUWAIT:** Acting Director of the Manpower Public Authority Ahmed Al-Moussa stressed that fees collected by the authority's departments for various labor transactions were the least of their kind in GCC states and that increasing them is inevitable. Moussa explained that a vision on the fee increases had been already set pending discussion during the authority's next meeting to be presided by Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih. "Law number 6/2010 authorized the concerned minister to increase the fees and this does not need a special legislation," he underlined.

Responding to a question concerning the committee formed to review government projects' needs of labor, Moussa said that the committee had already finished its work and submitted its recommendations to Subaih for a final decision. "These recommendations make the authority a basic partner in the labor assessment process," he said, adding that the committee's recommendations aim at preventing the leak of government project laborers into local markets or the private sector, as this had been a major factor behind the demographical imbalance problems Kuwait is currently suffering.

Commenting on the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's online transactions, Moussa said that these would help facilitate various transactions with a click of a button and that technical teams were currently working on updating and upgrading the authority's automated systems to provide the best services. Moreover, Moussa reassured everybody that workers due to arrive to execute government projects would not arrive all at once. "They will arrive in groups according to different phases and the group that finishes its phase tasks will leave and be replaced by the next one," he underscored. —Al-Jarida

## LABOR RECRUITMENT TO BE REDUCED TO 20% OF NEEDS

**KUWAIT:** The Manpower Public Authority is currently conducting a comprehensive study on assessing labor needs and putting into effect a ministerial decision on limiting labor recruitment from outside Kuwait to 25 percent of the workers each employer is entitled to hire, sources inside the authority said.

The sources also disclosed that suggestions had been made to reduce the ratio to 20 percent only or even 0 percent in some specialties. "The authority's aim of this study of the decision that has been in effect for already a year now is to probe the impact of laborers arriving annually on Kuwait's demography on the one hand, and determine local markets

needs for them and their activities on the other," the sources explained, adding that the study also compared labor markets in various GCC states, and that the main purpose behind the decisions was to regulate labor market rather than annoy employers.

Further, the sources highlighted that the authority constantly works on regulating the labor market and reevaluate organizational decisions with the aim of regulating labor in the private sector in ways that fully observe Kuwait's greater good and public interests. "Once the study is complete, a full report with recommendations will be submitted to Minister Hind Al-Subaih to take the right decisions. —Al-Rai

## ONLY THREE DAYS OFF FOR NATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES

**KUWAIT:** The Civil Services Commission (CSC) submitted a directive to the Cabinet pertaining the upcoming national and liberation days holidays, said informed sources, noting that CSC's directive included only three days off as the two days will fall on Thursday, Feb 25 and Friday, Feb 26, considering Saturday, Feb 27 as a substitute for Friday. "This way, Sunday, February 28 will be a normal official working day," said the sources. Commenting on the possibility that Sunday would be given as a day off, the sources reminded that the Cabinet had already done so, giving Sunday, Jan 3 off instead of Friday, Jan 1. —Al-Qabas



**New Hampshire votes in presidential primary**

**NO KIDDING: INDIA POLICE ARREST GOAT FOR GRAZING IN GARDEN**



**ADEN:** Cars drive past the Shamel shopping centre in the Mansura suburb of Aden in the aftermath of clashes between forces loyal to Yemen's Saudi-backed President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi and Al-Qaeda members. Yemeni forces clashed with Al-Qaeda militants in Aden as the Saudi-led coalition provided air cover, in a bid to drive the jihadists out of the city, security officials said. — AFP

**WAVE OF ADEN KILLINGS TESTS GULF ROLE IN YEMEN**

**COALITION, LOCAL SECURITY FORCES BLAME SALEH FOR UNREST**

**DUBAI:** The recapture of Aden by Gulf Arab coalition troops last summer has failed to provide any respite from Yemen's civil war, with residents facing a wave of bomb and gun attacks that is crippling efforts to stabilize the city. Seven months after rebel fighters from the Iranian-allied Houthi militia were driven out of the strategic southern port, there are almost daily assassinations of judges, security officials and police.

Since July, the Gulf coalition and local security forces have struggled to impose order in Aden, opening the way for Islamic State, Al-Qaeda and other armed groups to operate there with impunity. The challenges in Aden show how difficult it will be to restore order to a country gripped by months of conflict in which 6,000 have been killed and where Islamist militants have exploited widespread security weaknesses in what Saudi Arabia sees as its backyard.

In Aden's Mansoura district, Al-Qaeda have clashed in the streets with local security forces. Four Yemeni soldiers and three civilians were killed in heavy clashes overnight between security forces and suspected Islamist militants in old Mansoura, a local official said yesterday. Residents reported that the area was rocked by blasts as aircraft believed to belong to the Arab coalition flew above, and the gunbattles set ablaze a newly-built mall. The local official said dozens of gunmen belonging either to Islamic State or Al-Qaeda are thought to be holed up in the neighborhood among hundreds of civilians.

A Reuters witness described a tense scene in the neighborhood as residents stayed in their homes for their safety and armed militants walked the streets. Residents said a family of four including two little girls were killed when an errant RPG crashed into their apartment as they were sleeping. The Saudi-led coalition launched military operations this year to prevent the Houthis, whom Riyadh sees as a proxy for its enemy Iran, from taking control of Yemen after they seized much of the north. For their part, the Houthis deny backing from Tehran and accuse the coalition of launching a war of aggression.

Continuing violence in Aden, the biggest prize yet won by President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi in Yemen's 10-month-old civil war, threatens to undermine the campaign waged on his behalf by the coalition against the Houthis and army units loyal to former president

Ali Abdullah Saleh. "If we leave the situation as it is, you will have the situation you have in Libya," coalition spokesman Brigadier General Ahmed Asseri said, referring to the situation in Yemen as a whole. A lot of people who oppose the Houthis would form their own militias, he said, and Islamic State would also see an opportunity. "There will be a chaotic situation. So I think when we start something we have to finish it, by bringing back security and stability to Yemen," Asseri told Reuters.

**Patchwork of rival groups**  
 Islamist militants from Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula have mounted operations in southern Yemen, including Aden, for years. But the pace of attacks in Aden has accelerated since July, when local forces backed by Hadi's government and the Saudi-led alliance recaptured the city from the Houthis after months of street fighting, but have seemingly failed to secure it. Aden residents blame the attacks on Islamist militants, including the Yemeni wing of Islamic State, who appear to be present in the city. But in reality, it is impossible to know who is responsible, given the number of armed groups in Aden and the authorities' failure to investigate. The coalition and Aden's security forces suspect that Saleh and loyalist fighters are orchestrating the violence to derail any progress in Aden. Saleh, ousted after Arab Spring protests in 2011 and whose exact whereabouts are unknown, denies such accusations.

In December alone, the governor of Aden, a colonel in the southern secessionist movement that seeks independence from Yemen, and a senior militia leader fighting alongside the government, were all killed. Three senior southern Yemeni officials narrowly escaped a car bomb attack in January. Regardless of who is behind the attacks, stabilizing Aden is a priority for the Saudis, not only to counter Islamist militants, but to show that Riyadh's aggressive intervention to stop what it sees as Iranian expansionism is working.

"Restoring some modicum of security to Aden remains a - if not the - key challenge facing the coalition and their allies in Yemen," Adam Baron, a Yemen specialist with the European Council of Foreign Relations said. "While it's certainly not an insurmountable one, it's proven unsurprisingly - difficult, owing to the myriad of differ-

ing factions and a significant influx of arms, to say nothing of the widespread destruction and dissolution of order owing to months of conflict." The International Crisis Group said that after nearly a year of combat, no side is close to a decisive military victory. "Neither is defeated or exhausted; both believe they can make additional military gains; and neither has been willing to make the compromises required to end the violence," it said in a report.

**Bats of darkness**  
 Spooked by the attacks in Aden, one southern secessionist activist said he had moved to Sanaa, which is under Houthi control. "In Aden, if you leave your home, you can't guarantee that you will return safely," said Fahmy, who declined to have his full name published out of fear for his safety. Extremists can shoot at people in shops, in the market where the drug qat is sold, or while they are travelling in their cars, he said.

East of Aden, Al-Qaeda militants have taken control of entire towns, meeting little resistance before displaying their black flags and setting up checkpoints.

Even Hadi, who fled Aden last year when the Houthis overran the city, never ventures too far from home since returning to his temporary capital in November. In late January, a suicide car bomb targeted a security checkpoint near the gate of the palace where he lives, killing at least six people, in an attack claimed by Islamic State. Aden's security directorate has blamed attacks in recent weeks on the "bats of darkness", groups it says are affiliated to intelligence services and armed gangs loyal to Saleh and the Houthis, rather than Islamic State.

Saudi-led coalition spokesman Asseri also said attacks ostensibly claimed by Islamic State in Yemen are really the work of Saleh and his loyalists to make it appear that the government is unable to run the country. In the meantime, Aden residents say coalition forces, mostly troops from the United Arab Emirates, are rarely seen on the streets. Many in the city doubt the security situation will improve anytime soon. "We never think we won't be targeted," said Salah Saqladi, a journalist. "The coalition has been weak to a large extent," he said. "There are many coalition troops in Aden and the suburbs, but they're all in their bases and haven't spread out on the streets." — Reuters

**More battery, more to say with Shamel!**

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In this photo made from the footage taken from Russian Defense Ministry official website, an aerial image shows what it says is a column of heavy trucks carrying ammunition hit by a Russian air strike near Aleppo, Syria. — AP

## BORDER CAMPS OVERFLOW AS SYRIANS FLEE REGIME ASSAULT

FIVE-YEAR-OLD CONFLICT CLAIMS 260,000 LIVES

**BEIRUT:** Emergency camps along Syria's border with Turkey are overwhelmed by a flood of displaced families, aid workers warned, as the regime kept up an assault against embattled rebels yesterday. In and around the Syrian town of Azaz near the frontier, people are sleeping in the streets, or up to 20 people to a tent, having left their homes with nothing but the clothes they were wearing.

"There are no longer enough places for families to sleep," said Ahmad al-Mohammad, a field worker with medical aid group Doctors Without Borders (MSF). "Many of them in the first days were sleeping in the streets and outdoors without blankets or covers." "Most of the families left with just the clothes they were in," he said,

adding that the cold and the crowded conditions were causing health problems including diarrhoea. The United Nations says up to 31,000 people have fled Aleppo city and surrounding areas in recent days, as government forces press an offensive that could encircle the rebel-held part of the city. Syria's nearly five-year-old conflict has claimed 260,000 lives and displaced half the population. The continuing violence hit Damascus yesterday, with a car bomb killing at least eight people at a police club in the north of the city, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor. Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said Monday that a "worst case scenario" could see up to 600,000 refugees arrive at the border. "Our

objective for now is to keep this wave of migrants on the other side of Turkey's borders as much as is possible, and to provide them with the necessary services there," Kurtulmus said.

### Camps full

Turkey, which hosts more than 2.5 million refugees from Syria's civil war, faces calls to let in those stuck at the border. But it is also under pressure by European leaders to stop people trying to cross the Mediterranean from Turkey to Europe—a journey not all survive. Huge crowds of Syrians, mainly women and children, have been forced to wait on the other side of Turkey's Ocuquin border crossing, which remained closed yesterday with only medical emergencies

allowed through. A Turkish official said four wounded Syrians had been let through on Monday. MSF said aid groups were distributing warm clothes and mattresses to those stranded on the Syrian side. "They are trapped," Mohammad said. "They've left their homes and everything they have behind, and they can't get into Turkey." The UN's humanitarian aid agency OCHA said on Monday that eight informal camps on the Syrian side of the border were at "full capacity".

### Food urgently needed

UN aid chief Stephen O'Brien said he was "gravely concerned" by the mass displacement, noting that about 80 percent of the tens of thousands of people on the move were believed to be women and children. "We have reports that civilians have been killed and injured, and that civilian infrastructure, including at least two hospitals, has been hit," he said in a statement. "People urgently require shelter, food and basic household items." He called on all parties to end targeting civilian infrastructure and allow civilians to move to safer areas.

Syrian government forces backed by allied militias and Russian air strikes began a major operation in the northern province of Aleppo last week. They have advanced around much of Aleppo city, virtually encircling the rebel-held eastern part, and are now around 20 kilometers from the Turkish frontier. "It's the first time since 2013 that the Syrian regime has been this close to the Turkish border in Aleppo province," said Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Syria's mainstream rebels are now in danger of a crushing defeat after the regime severed their main supply line to Aleppo city.

Peace talks in Geneva collapsed last week amid rebel anger over the government offensive. More than 21 suspected Russian air strikes hit targets in several towns northwest of Aleppo city and in the northern countryside yesterday morning, the Observatory said. Suspected Russian air strikes also hit parts of Tal Rifaat during the night, according to the monitor, which relies on a network of sources on the ground. Regime forces and their allies meanwhile were fighting rebels, including jihadists from Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Nusra Front, in the southwestern countryside of Aleppo province. — AFP

## ISRAEL TAKES THE FIRST STEP TO PASS CONTENTIOUS 'NGO BILL'

**JERUSALEM:** A controversial bill that would compel NGOs receiving most of their funding from foreign governments to declare it in official reports passed its first reading in the Israeli parliament yesterday. The proposal denounced by critics as likely to encourage a witch-hunt against leftist groups that campaign for the defense of Palestinian rights was passed in a 50-43 vote following a tense debate. Two more readings of the bill by the parliament, or Knesset, are required for it to become law. The text, which is supported by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has renewed tension between one of the most right-wing governments in Israeli history and the United States and the European Union. Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked, who proposed the law, argues it will boost transparency as the government seeks to fight foreign interference and attempts to delegitimize the state of Israel. She has insisted it does not target any specific NGO. Israeli media reported that Shaked said during the debate preceding the vote that "after years in which the left wing exploited the issue of transparency and used it as an administrative and political tool against the right wing, you began to think that trans-

parency was your inheritance and began to treat it like your own property".

"Transparency doesn't belong to you and is not your inheritance," she was quoted as saying. The text does not specifically refer to leftist organizations, but they are expected to be most affected as right-wing NGOs, such as those supporting Israel's occupation of the West Bank, tend to rely on private donations, particularly from within the United States. Several left-wing Israeli NGOs receive large percentages of their funding from abroad, including from European governments. The bill has sparked international criticism, with the US and EU ambassadors to Israel both expressing concern over its implications.

### Chilling effect?

It stipulates that NGOs receiving more than half of their funding from foreign governments will have to declare it in all their official reports. At the request of Netanyahu, however, a proposed requirement for NGO members to wear a badge indicating their organization is funded by a foreign country was dropped.

"I do not understand how a requirement

for transparency is anti-democratic; the opposite is true," Netanyahu said last month. "In a democratic regime, we need to know who is financing such NGOs, from the right, the left, up or down." Israeli left-wing NGOs have expressed concern at increasingly personal attacks they have been subjected to in recent months, including regular harassment and even death threats. Settlement watchdog Peace Now has called the bill "a hate crime against democracy" while the United States has warned it could have a "chilling effect". In a statement yesterday, Peace Now said "the passing of the NGO bill is a violent and discriminatory act of public shaming against those criticizing the government." "Despite Netanyahu's statements, the bill resembles the situation in Russia and not that in the United States or in any other democratic country," it said. In a letter on Monday, 50 members of the European Parliament said it was "part of a worrying trend, promoted and condoned by the current Israeli government, to restrict, delegitimize and stifle the work of NGOs, organizations, artists, writers, and thinkers who may be critical of current Israeli government policy." — AFP

## News

in brief

### Saudi Patriot intercepts Scud fired from Yemen

**RIYADH:** A Patriot missile shot down a Scud fired from the Yemeni capital towards southern Saudi Arabia yesterday, the Saudi-led coalition said, the day after another Scud attack. In the latest incident, debris from the destroyed Scud fell in the kingdom's Jazan border province, causing no injuries, Brigadier General Ahmed al-Assiri, the coalition spokesman said. He said rebels launched it from inside the Yemeni capital Sanaa, located around 200 kilometers from Jazan—which they seized in late 2014. The Saudis have deployed Patriots designed to counter tactical ballistic missiles, which have been fired occasionally since March when the Saudi-led coalition began air strikes in support of the Yemeni government after Iran-backed Houthi rebels seized much of the neighboring country. In April last year the Saudi defense ministry said coalition strikes had removed threats to the kingdom's security "by destroying heavy weaponry and ballistic missiles" seized by the Yemeni rebels. With coalition-backed anti-Houthi forces now 30 to 40 kilometers from Sanaa, the rebels are retaliating, Assiri said.

### Gambler kills two in Kenya sword attack

**NAIROBI:** A gambler in Kenya went berserk after losing his money, grabbing a sword to kill two casino managers before being stoned to death by a mob, police said yesterday. The Tanzanian man flew into a rage after losing some \$300 at a casino in Nairobi's Eastleigh district in the early hours of yesterday morning, and attacked a manager after she refused to lend him cash to continue to play. He then left the casino and returned with a sword. "He first attacked a female manager who declined to lend him money to continue gambling—and that is when he went out to fetch a sword and slashed her to death," Nairobi police chief Japheth Koome said. "He then slashed a security manager who tried to intervene and killed him." Another security officer was wounded, but other gamblers then chased the attacker before beating him to death in the street using rocks. "By the time our officers arrived, they found him dead," Koome said. Another gambler in the casino who saw the killings said the attacker was playing a game called jackpot.

### 'Dead' baby boy awakes just before cremation

**BEIJING:** A Chinese baby boy who was declared dead and spent the night in a morgue showed signs of life just as he was about to be cremated, local TV reported. Workers at the crematorium in Pan'an in the eastern province of Zhejiang were preparing to cremate the baby on Friday when he suddenly starting moaning, provincial television reported. The boy had been declared dead the day before and had spent 15 hours in the morgue at a temperature of about -12 degrees Celsius (10.4 F). After finding the child alive, the crematorium notified his father and the baby was taken to a hospital intensive care unit. "It's the first time I've seen this. It's a true miracle," said a doctor at the Pan'an hospital where the infant was born prematurely in January. The child spent 23 days in an incubator and was then taken home by his father, who wanted him there for the start of the Lunar New Year which began Monday. But the baby's condition worsened a few days after returning home. He was declared dead on February 4 after a doctor decided his heart had stopped beating.

### Protests intensify in Kurdistan amid crisis

**ERBIL:** Protests intensified in Iraq's Kurdistan region yesterday after the government unveiled new austerity measures to avert an economic collapse that officials warn could undermine the war effort against Islamic State. Some Kurdish peshmerga fighters blocked the main road outside their base in the city of Sulaimaniyah on a third day of strikes and demonstrations by police and other government employees demanding their salaries. Hit hard by the global slump in oil prices, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) last week said it would pay only part of state workers' salaries until its fiscal health improved. The new measures do not include employees of the Interior Ministry or peshmerga who have pushed Islamic State back in northern Iraq, but the KRG is already several months in arrears. "It's four months since we received our salaries," one of the protesters told local TV channel NRT. "Frankly the peshmerga can no longer put up with this." Another peshmerga chipped in: "This government has lost its legitimacy. They must make way for other people."



**JOHANNESBURG:** South African opposition Economic Freedom Fighter (EFF) supporters, march towards the constitutional court in Johannesburg yesterday where judges heard a case over public money spent on President Jacob Zuma's private house. — AFP

## PROTESTS AS S AFRICA COURT HEARS CASE AGAINST ZUMA

**JOHANNESBURG:** South African opposition protesters yesterday marched on the country's Constitutional Court in Johannesburg, where judges heard a case over public money spent on President Jacob Zuma's private house. The upgrades at Zuma's homestead, which were valued in 2014 at 216 million rand (then \$24 million), have become a symbol of alleged corruption and greed within the African National Congress (ANC) government. Among the supposed security work was a swimming pool described as a fire-fighting facility, a chicken run, a cattle enclosure, an amphitheatre and a visitors' centre. Several hundred protesters from the radical Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party marched through the city to the court, chanting "Pay back the money" and "Zuma

must fall".

Public Protector Thuli Madonsela, the country's ombudswoman, ruled in 2014 that Zuma had "benefited unduly" from the work on his Nkandla property, and she said that he should pay back some of the funds. "The president's defiance of the public protector violated his duties under the constitution," Wim Trengove, a lawyer representing the EFF, told the court yesterday. "He doesn't recognize that her orders enjoy any status beyond that of recommendations." In a U-turn ahead of the court hearing, Zuma last week agreed pay back some money, in an apparent attempt to end the two-year scandal. But the two main opposition parties—the Democratic Alliance (DA) and the EFF—declined to drop their Constitutional Court bid. — AFP

## SISI REGIME ECLIPSES MUBARAK'S FIVE YEARS AFTER EGYPT REVOLT

**CAIRO:** Five years after being ousted after a mass uprising, Egypt's ex-president Hosni Mubarak is in a military hospital suite and his clan has been nearly rehabilitated under an even more repressive regime. Mubarak stepped down on February 11, 2011 after 18 days of street protests against the police abuses and corruption that marred the Arab world's largest country during 30 years of Mubarak rule. But five years on, human rights groups are once again denouncing deaths in police stations, arbitrary arrests and the mysterious disappearances of opponents of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's regime.

The groups say that Sisi, who as then army chief ousted freely elected Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013, has installed a regime which is more repressive than Mubarak's, crushing all opposition. "The present regime continues to follow the line of Mubarak, but is more brutal," said human rights lawyer Gamal Eid, who like many other rights activists has been banned from travelling abroad. On January 25, 2011, millions of Egyptians had taken to the streets, making central Cairo's Tahrir Square the epicenter of an uprising that mobilized protesters using social media networks. The military eventually asked Mubarak, himself a former general, to step aside and installed a military junta in its place. The military council organized the country's first democratic presidential and parliamentary elections in 2012.

### Blistering police crackdown

Both were won by Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood movement, which for decades had been Egypt's biggest opposition movement. Just 12 months later Sisi overthrew Morsi after millions of people protested against his single year of divisive rule. Morsi's removal led to a blistering police crackdown overseen by Sisi that left hundreds of Morsi supporters dead in street clashes and thousands jailed. Hundreds more, including Morsi himself, have been sentenced to death or given lengthy jail

terms after speedy mass trials denounced by the United Nations as "unprecedented" in modern history. Egypt, which now has a dilapidated economy, has also been rocked by attacks on the security forces by the local affiliate of the jihadist Islamic State group. Mubarak, 87, has spent the past five years in a suite at a Cairo military hospital, apart from his courtroom appearances on a stretcher, often sport-

ing sunglasses. In 2012, he was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of hundreds of protesters during the previous year's revolt, but that judgment was later overturned by the country's top court and a retrial was ordered. The retrial saw murder charges against the veteran strongman dropped. The prosecution appealed against that ruling, and the top court overturned it again. Mubarak's case is once again before the courts amid regular adjournments.

### Sons now free

In May last year, Mubarak and his two sons Alaa and Gamal were sentenced to three years in jail in a separate case after being found guilty of embezzling millions of dollars of public funds. In October, a court ordered the sons' release taking into account time spent in jail since their detention months after the 2011 uprising. Alaa, a wealthy businessman, and Gamal, who was once seen as Mubarak's successor, now lead a low-profile but comfortable family life.

Several former Mubarak aides were also tried on corruption charges but either acquitted or sentenced to short prison terms. Egyptian media outlets, which never fail to praise Sisi, have also contributed when it comes to publicly rehabilitating leaders of the former regime. And most lawmakers in the new parliament elected in late 2015 are members of Mubarak's now dissolved National Democratic Party. — AFP



**CAIRO:** This file photo shows ousted Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak sitting in the defendant's cage during his verdict hearing in a retrial for embezzlement in the capital Cairo. — AFP





BELMONT: Citizens line up to vote at Belmont High School yesterday in Belmont, New Hampshire. —AFP

# NEW HAMPSHIRE VOTES IN US PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

## DEMOCRAT SANDERS PRIMED TO UPSTAGE HILLARY CLINTON

**MANCHESTER:** New Hampshire began voting yesterday in the first US presidential primary with Republican Donald Trump calling on supporters to propel him to victory and Democrat Bernie Sanders primed to upstage Hillary Clinton. The northeastern state, home to just 1.3 million people, sets the tone for the primaries and could shake out a crowded Republican field of candidates pitting Trump and arch-conservative Senator Ted Cruz against more establishment candidates led by Senator Marco Rubio.

Kicking off the primary in a time-honored tradition, the handful of voters in Dixville Notch, one of three small communities to vote at the turn of midnight, went to the polls. Sanders took four votes to none for Clinton, while Republican Ohio Governor John Kasich received three to Trump's two. But everything still remains in play in New Hampshire due to a high number of registered independents, who can choose to vote in either party, along with up to 30 percent of voters who were still undecided in the days before polling. Snow fell heavily in the state late Monday, snarling traffic and creating a last-minute obstacle for voters and candidates who braved plunging temperatures and freezing winds.

"This is crunch time," the Republican frontrunner Trump told thousands of cheering supporters at an event delayed slightly by snow in Manchester late Monday. "You have to go out, you have to vote, we have to celebrate tomorrow evening," added Trump, who traded barbs with rival Jeb Bush on the eve of the vote. "Let's have a big, big victory." Trump has energized broad swaths of blue-collar Americans,

angry about economic difficulties and frustrated at what they see as their country losing its stature in the world.

But the New York billionaire will have to translate his soaring lead in the polls into a win in New Hampshire if he is to recover from the embarrassment of finishing second behind Cruz in the Iowa caucuses last week that kicked off the presidential nomination process. The rest of the Republican pack has been fighting it out, aiming for a strong second or even solid third-place showing that could reinvigorate them for South Carolina and Nevada, the next stops on the long road to becoming the party's nominee. A poor result will likely rupture the presidential dreams for 2016 for former and current governors Bush, Kasich and Chris Christie.

### 'No perfect candidate'

On the Democratic front, Clinton will be looking to confound polls that predict her insurgent challenger, Senator Sanders of neighboring Vermont, will gallop to victory in the state. The RealClearPolitics poll average shows the self-described democratic socialist who has called for nothing short of a "political revolution" leading 53.3 percent to 40.5 percent for Clinton in New Hampshire. Clinton won Iowa by a hair, but Sanders is keen to show that his campaign, built on economic fairness for all, can give the former secretary of state a run for her money deep into election season.

"For all those of you who are still deciding, still shopping, I hope I can close the deal between now and the time the polls close," Clinton told a rally at a

community college on Monday. She also enlisted her husband Bill Clinton as the ultimate campaign surrogate. The former president has hammered Sanders for his supporters' "sexist" attacks on his wife. "Not one of the candidates are perfect," said Robbie Grady, a retiree attending a final Clinton rally. "In my eyes I think she's the most qualified and she's the person I'd like to see in the Oval Office."

### Trading barbs

Rubio in particular will be hoping to match or better his strong third-place finish in Iowa, despite taking a drubbing in Saturday's debate when New Jersey Governor Christie eviscerated the first-term senator for regurgitating scripted talking points. Bush, who tangled with Trump at the debate, sharpened his attacks on the real estate tycoon, calling him unfit to be president. "You aren't just a loser, you're a liar and a whiner," Bush said on Twitter. Trump shot back that Bush was a "low-energy guy" who "doesn't like my tone."

The former reality TV star also delighted in repeating a woman's insult in the crowd, calling Cruz "a pussy," to laughter. Brian Carey, who runs a construction company and custom-made a neon Trump sign for his barn in his largely Democratic town said at the final Trump rally: "You need a businessman to run the country. The country is being destroyed right now." But some say they have become disillusioned with the frontrunner's bombast and arrogance. "He's got some good ideas, but he's a bit much sometimes," said Joseph, 19, a student. — AFP

## QUANDARY IN MARYLAND

### CAN LAWMAKER VOTE TWICE ON SAME BILL?

**ANNAPOLIS:** Maryland lawmakers have a potential quandary on their hands that is rare, if not unprecedented: Can one of their own vote twice on the same bill? At issue is a measure that would allow felons to vote while they're on probation or parole. Supporters say it's an important measure to help reintegrate felons into society at a time when lawmakers hope to reduce recidivism and control corrections spending, but opponents say those felons haven't yet paid their debt to society.

Republican Gov Larry Hogan has vetoed it. The House got just enough votes to override the veto last month.

Here's where it gets tricky: the lawmaker who will likely be the deciding Senate vote was recently appointed to his seat after already voting for the override as a member of the House. While Democrats say recent legal advice of counsel indicates it's OK for the new senator to vote on the bill again in his new role, Republicans aren't so sure. Sandra Brantley, counsel to the Democratic-led General Assembly, wrote that she believes the vote is fine because each chamber can judge the qualifications of its members.

In a written letter of advice last week, however, she noted a potential counterargument that allowing a legislator to vote twice violates a requirement for the two houses to be "distinct." But, Brantley wrote, the "more reasonable and persuasive view" is that a senator appointed to fill a vacancy may vote as the qualified senator of his or her district. "I can find no authority in Maryland law or elsewhere that precludes the senator from voting under these circumstances," Brantley wrote.

But Sen JB Jennings, the Senate minority leader who asked for the opinion, said the matter could end up being challenged in

court. "This is something that a lot of people are passionate about, and somebody out there could definitely stand up and say, 'This isn't right,'" Jennings, a Republican, said. Last month, Del Craig Zucker was one of the 85 votes in the House for the override, the bare minimum needed to reach a three-fifths majority. Zucker, a Democrat, was sworn in last week to replace a retiring senator, whose departure left the body one vote short of the 29 needed for the three-fifths majority.

Zucker was officially appointed to the Senate by none other than the Republican governor, who is required to appoint the candidate chosen by officials of the party of the lawmaker who left the office. Republicans, who oppose the bill, have been critical of the Senate for twice postponing a vote, which was set for yesterday, the third time it has been set. Last month, when the vote was first postponed, Republican Sen. Stephen Hershey asked on the Senate floor whether the delay was simply a stall tactic so that the appointed senator could take office and give Democrats the needed majority.

Senate President Thomas V Mike Miller's response was succinct: "Yes," prompting laughter and applause from supporting senators in the chamber. The vote was delayed again Friday, after Zucker's appointment, because three Democratic senators were not in the chamber when the measure came up. "You know, this has been hanging over our head for the last four weeks," Jennings said. But Democrats say every senator in the chamber should be able to vote on the override. "We would want you to have that same opportunity to cast your red vote for the bill for your constituents," Sen Joan Conway, D-Baltimore, said Friday. — AP

## US PROF LEAVES CHRISTIAN COLLEGE AFTER HIJAB ROW

**CHICAGO:** A professor at a US Christian college who courted controversy after donning a hijab in solidarity with Muslims has agreed to leave her tenured position. Larycia Hawkins was placed on administrative leave from Wheaton College in December after posting a picture of herself wearing a hijab on Facebook. Hawkins said she was standing "in religious solidarity with Muslims because they, like me, a Christian, are people of the book."

Her statement came amid a swell of Islamophobia in the wake of attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, California. The school faced a backlash in which it was accused of bigotry and curtailing academic freedom. Administrators at the suburban Chicago evangelical college said the problem was not the fact that Hawkins donned a hijab, but that she wrote "we worship the same God." The idea that Christians and

Muslims worship the same God is a direct contradiction of the core of the college's statement of faith, which affirms that salvation is achieved through Christ alone. Faculty and staff members are expected to commit to "accept and model" the college's statement of faith with "integrity, compassion and theological clarity," Wheaton said in a statement. While Hawkins received a groundswell of support that included demonstrations on campus, some Muslims also expressed unease at her assertions that they worship the same God. Some also criticized her very act of wearing a hijab. After initiating a termination process in January, the college and Hawkins said in a joint statement Monday that they had "found a mutual place of resolution and reconciliation." The statement said the two parties reached "a confidential agreement under which they will part ways." — AFP

## INMATE RECAPTURED AFTER 'MISTAKEN' RELEASE IN LA

**LOS ANGELES:** A murder suspect who was mistakenly released from a Los Angeles jail last month was recaptured Monday in Nevada, authorities said. Los Angeles County sheriff's detectives learned earlier in the day that Steven Lawrence Wright might be hiding in a Boulder City hotel and asked for help from the FBI and local police departments. Wright was arrested without incident. The 37-year-old was unarmed and there was no indication that he committed any crimes while he was out, said sheriff's Cmdr Keith Swensson.

Swensson said a man and a woman also were arrested at the hotel on charges of aiding and abetting, but Swensson did not immediately have details about how they know Wright. He declined to say what led detectives to the hotel where Wright was found, though he did say a \$20,000 reward generated a lot of tips from the public. Authorities do not plan to file any additional charges against Wright, who will be held in Nevada pending an extradition hearing. "It's not like it's really an escape. It's our mistake," said Sgt. Tim

Duerr, a longtime investigator in the Major Crimes Bureau, which was tasked with finding Wright.

Besides, he said, Wright already faces life in prison if convicted of the charges that put him behind bars. "Really, what's he going to get" with a new charge, Duerr said. "He's facing other charges more detrimental to him than anything we can do to him now." Duerr declined to detail what Wright had been up to the nine days he was a free man again. "I guess he had time to watch the Super Bowl," Duerr said. Investigators had been scrambling to recapture Wright since his release from the Inmate Reception Center in Los Angeles on Jan. 30 and had been notifying potential targets he might seek, interviewing those who know him best, and chasing down tips from the public.

Deputies didn't realize the mistake until more than 24 hours after the release, when they launched their manhunt. Wright had been behind bars since April 2011 following his arrest in the shooting death of a 47-year-old man that year in Pasadena. At the time, police said Wright

belonged to the Altadena Blocc Crips, and the victim belonged to a rival gang. Wright had been found guilty of the killing in 2014 but his conviction was overturned last year after a judge found the trial wasn't fair. Wright was set for a preliminary hearing in a new trial next month, when he also was set to be sentenced for an attempted murder conviction.

A court clerk incorrectly wrote down the case number of Wright's murder charge next to details of his sentence, officials said. The clerk did write the correct information on the second page of Wright's paperwork, but three sheriff's staff members missed it. The sheriff's department is conducting a review to prevent future accidental releases. Swensson said the sheriff's department is working with the court to automate their systems. Currently, 42 different courts send information about inmates to the sheriff's department in handwritten paperwork, Swensson said. "You're talking about a human factor with many hands touching this," he said. — AP

## BATTLE TO PLACE HEROIN CRISIS AT THE HEART OF US ELECTION

**MANCHESTER:** New Hampshire may conjure up images of pristine winter skiing, crystal-clear lakes and summer hiking, but scratch the surface and there is a deadly war at the heart of the US presidential campaign. A heroin epidemic is ensnaring thousands of people—young and old, rich and poor—and overdoses are rising exponentially in the small state which votes in the first-in-the-nation primary. Across New Hampshire there were around 450 overdose deaths in 2015, up from 380 the previous year, say officials. While other US states are fighting the same curse, treatment in New Hampshire lags almost everywhere else in the country.

In Manchester, the largest city, there were 726 suspected heroin and fentanyl overdoses and 83 deaths in 2015, up from 320 in 2014. Five people died in the first six days of February alone. Paramedics are called out to overdoses in public restrooms, restaurants and cars in affluent homes and in low-income neighborhoods. "It's everywhere," says Christopher Hickey, a paramedic from the Manchester fire department. "We probably only see a fraction of the

actual users." Democrat and Republican presidential candidates canvassing for votes have all spoken about the need to combat the epidemic—thanks in no small part to one woman.

Kriss Blevens is one of America's top political make-up artists. She has worked with every US president since Jimmy Carter and is managing, for a sixth New Hampshire primary, the make-up of the candidates. She lost her step-daughter to a heroin overdose in 2014. Taking advantage of her unique one-on-one access, she has spent the last year telling the candidates Amber's story and raising awareness about the need to expand recovery treatment.

### 'Soul sickness'

In a sign of how prevalent drug addiction has become, Republican candidate Jeb Bush's daughter was jailed for drugs, Carly Fiorina lost a step-daughter to addiction and Ted Cruz's sister died of an overdose. Amber's addiction started with over-the-counter sedatives to treat what Blevens believes were undiagnosed mental health issues, before moving

onto marijuana, opiate pills and heroin. She was her husband Mark's only child. "He kept saying to me, she's going to die, she's going to die," Blevens said. "The roller coaster of being parents of a child that is addicted is so incredibly painful because it's just filled with fear."

Blevens has set up Amber's Place to offer emergency recovery for overdose patients, giving them a rooming house for up to two weeks as coaches help to find them a detox program or a safe place. She is now raising funds to staff it around the clock. In Manchester, the youngest overdose patient was 16 and the oldest 74, but those most at risk are aged 18-35, officials say. "It's a soul sickness. It's almost like people aren't ok in their soul and they need to escape through any number of addictions, instead of just learning to be comfortable in their skin," Blevens said. Dennis Dutra, 43, knows first hand the misery of heroin. It took him to prison 31 times and he spent 13 years homeless. He is now a trained recovery coach who moved to New Hampshire late last year to take a job to help patients overcome addiction. — AFP

**First prize**

- Canon Camera Eos 70D + Canon EF-S 18-200mm f/3.5-5.6 IS.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai-Kuwait.

**Second prize**

- Canon Camera Eos 70D + Canon EF 20mm f/2.8 USM.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai-Kuwait.

**Third prize**

- Canon Camera Eos 70D + Canon EF-S 18-135 mm.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai - Kuwait

**Fourth prize**

- Canon Camera EOS 760D + Canon EF 85 mm f/1.8 USM.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait- Bahrain- Kuwait

**Fifth prize**

- Canon Camera EOS 760D + Canon EF 70-300mm f/4.5-5.6 DO IS USM.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Bahrain - Kuwait

**Sixth prize**

- Canon Camera PowerShot G15.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Bahrain - Kuwait

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- The competition is open to individuals of all ages.
- The submitted photos should be taken by the participant.
- Every participant is allowed to submit maximum five entries.
- The photos can be black and white or colour size 40X30 cm.
- All entries should be provided a hard copy and Soft Copy on a CD (in high resolution)with photo of the participant needs to be included in the CD.
- The original coupon should be attached to the back of each photo and should include a complete information about the participant.
- The coupons are advertised at Kuwait Times and Al Anba newspapers during the period of competition.
- All submitted photos will become property of Kuwait Times newspaper and can be used for different purposes.
- The winners will be chosen by a panel of judges.
- All photos must be original and should not be doctored with any design program, such as Photoshop.

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# LAWSUIT BY KILLER PROMPTS SOUL-SEARCHING IN NORWAY

## SEEKING TO FORGET, SCHOOL ERASED HIS FACE FROM PHOTOGRAPH

**OSLO:** Locked away in a Norwegian prison since he killed 77 people in a rampage in 2011, Anders Behring Breivik goes to court next month to argue that his effective solitary confinement makes him a victim of cruel and inhuman treatment. The move has prompted renewed soul-searching in a country where many want to move on and forget. Breivik killed eight people with a car bomb in Oslo then gunned down 69 people at a meeting of the Labor Party's youth wing on an island.

He is now serving a 21-year sentence, Norway's maximum, confined to a specially constructed cell with no contact with other prisoners. The term can be extended if he is still considered a threat. "His case is so exceptional and so hard for Norwegian society that we don't know how to tackle it," headmaster Trond Lien told Reuters at Handeslyngskolen high school in Oslo, which Breivik attended in the 1990s. Breivik's lawyer says he feels depressed and lonely because he only has access to guards, doctors and other professionals. His only visitor was his mother, whom he briefly hugged before she died of cancer in 2013.

"The core of the case is that he should be allowed to have some kind of normal human relationships," lawyer Oeystein Storrvik said. The case is due to run from March 15-18 when Breivik will accuse the state of cruel and inhuman punishment. Storrvik says the rules are so harsh that they violate the European Convention on Human Rights. He says he knows of no precedent for

someone being held in isolation so long in Norway. The Norwegian Correctional Service says the conditions are as liberal as possible for an unrepentant right-wing fanatic and anti-Muslim killer who risks being attacked if he mixes with other inmates.

Storrvik said Breivik, now aged 36, simply wants a chance to discuss his ideas with other people. He would like to exchange letters and perhaps receive visits. His letters are now subject to heavy censorship, for fear of conspiracy. The Correctional Service denies Breivik is held in solitary confinement, preferring the phrase "excluded from the company of other prisoners". There is no maximum time for how long he can be held in such "extra high security", service official Atle Syvertsen said. In one of the jails in which he has been held, he has three rooms - one to sleep, a second for study and a third for exercise. Each measures about eight sq. meters (86 square feet).

### Censorship

A report by Norway's civil ombudsman last year said the conditions were so strict that it represented "an elevated risk of inhumane treatment". Yuval Ginbar, a legal advisor for Amnesty International, said Norway should ensure that all prisoners get "daily, meaningful human contact lasting over 2 hours". Anything less amounts to solitary confinement, he said. Contact could include interaction with prisoners, staff or outside

people during work, education or other activities, he said.

Amnesty often criticizes solitary confinement, usually used for those seen as the most violent inmates. A sample of 110 prisoners held in super maximum security in the United States showed they had been held isolated for an average of 8.2 years, it said. Breivik has a personal computer but no Internet access and is studying international relations at Oslo University by post. The trial will be held in the gym at Skien prison, south of Oslo, to avoid having to transport Breivik to court in the capital. Norway has one of the world's most liberal prison systems and one of the lowest numbers of detainees - 71 per 100,000 people compared to 698 in the United States, according to the London-based Institute for Criminal Policy Research.

In Oslo, headmaster Lien faced a dilemma after the killings in July 2011 - one of the dead was a female student at the Handeslyngskolen school. He unscrewed the photograph of the class of 1998 from a wall, with black and white pictures of about 150 students including Breivik, and stashed it in his office. A couple of years later, Lien decided to edit out Breivik's face before hanging the picture up again. Breivik left the school months before finishing so did not qualify for the graduation photo, he argued. "On reflection, it may have been the wrong decision," he said, saying it was a sad historical fact that Breivik had attended the school. "No decision would have been right." — Reuters



**MADRID:** Spain's Princess Cristina and her husband Inaki Urdangarin, leave a makeshift courtroom after attending a corruption trial, in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, yesterday. — AP

## POLITICS, PRINCESS' TRIAL CAST SPAIN'S KING IN TESTING ROLE

**MADRID:** Sympathy for the Spanish monarchy is in short supply among the spectators heading into a theatre in Madrid's edgy Lavapies district, where an irreverent look at the former King Juan Carlos' fall from grace is playing to sell-out audiences. His son and successor, King Felipe VI, who is trying to steer the crown through a period of sweeping change in Spain, also gets faint praise from the crowd. The play, called "El Rey" (the King), is billed as a fresh look at the monarchy's place over the past 40 years and questions whether Juan Carlos really had a useful role in shaping modern Spain. It is less than flattering.

Felipe, 48, took over the throne in June 2014 after his father abdicated following a series of embarrassing episodes. He is now facing his biggest test yet after the most fractured election result in decades left Spain without a clear government and thrust him into the role of broker between political parties. At the same time, his sister Princess Cristina is standing trial on fraud charges, the first time a Spanish royal has been put before a criminal court. The new king's attempts to draw a line under the family scandals and modernize the monarchy have restored some of its popularity but scored few points with the theatre crowd in a neighborhood known for its leftist roots.

"I suppose that given he is from a new generation, that he married a journalist, he might have a different attitude," said Jose Antonio Ortega, a retired theatre director waiting in the crowded bar to take his seat in El Teatro del Barrio. But Ortega doubted whether Felipe had any scope to bring change to an institution he sees as an anachronism. Others Spaniards may have embraced the monarchy's fresher, more frugal image under Felipe in the 18 months he has reigned. A poll in June 2015 showed a record 61.5 percent approved of the parliamentary monarchy system, more than at the height of Juan Carlos' popularity.

Felipe has also managed to build up the type of personal following his father once enjoyed, with approval ratings of nearly 75 percent. Juan Carlos was at one time revered, largely for his role in smoothing Spain's transition from dictatorship to democracy and in particular in foiling a coup attempt on Feb. 23, 1981, when heavily-armed civil guards took over the parliament. But a series of gaffes in recent years, including a luxury elephant-hunting trip to Botswana in 2012 at a time of severe economic hardship for many Spaniards, eroded a huge amount of support for the royals. Now Spain's greatest period of political upheaval since the transition in the 1970s has set the stage for Felipe's own chance to define the monarchy for years to come.

### Risks for Royals

The splintered result of the December election, when the ruling People's Party won most parliamentary seats but fell far short of a majority, marked a rejection of the old guard that has largely governed Spain in those four decades. Like other monarchs in Europe, Felipe holds no real power to make political decisions although he does give the green light to negotiations between parties in a country with little tradition of coalitions.

Any sign he is overstepping the mark would be risky. (In Britain, heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles has faced criticism over his perceived meddling in policy issues). Felipe's closed-door contacts with parties - including two new parties, the anti-austerity Podemos and centrist Ciudadanos received an unusual degree of scrutiny when leaders gave their versions of the meetings in televised news conferences. And while the king has now asked the second-placed Socialists to try to form a coalition, the chances of this option failing are high, which could lead to another election.

Still, the wrangling over a government in Spain could work to Felipe's advantage, said Javier Tajadura, a professor of constitutional law at the University of the Basque Country. The king had emerged as a dignified figure as parties squabble, Tajadura said. "He's been very prudent, and followed the steps he needed to take with a scrupulous neutrality," he said. At a butcher shop in the expensive Madrid neighborhood of Salamanca, owner Jose Alvarez echoed that mood, joking with a customer that the monarchy may face no option but to shut leaders in a room to work things out. "Felipe is doing very well," 42-year-old Alvarez said, breaking away from selling his cured Iberian hams. "He's carrying out his role - the only one he's really going to have in his life."

### 'Truly scandalous'

The coalition talks are not the only political problem facing Felipe. An independence push in the northeastern region of Catalonia, which is governed by pro-secession parties, is putting the head of state in another bind. But Princess Cristina's trial, due to resume in Mallorca on Tuesday, is potentially the most toxic subject of all. The princess, who is charged with two counts of being an accessory to tax fraud in a case centered on her husband Inaki Urdangarin's business dealings, faces weeks of court appearances. She denies any wrongdoing. Even some convinced monarchists like retired insurance worker Jaime Cobian believe Cristina should give up her right to the throne, for which she is seventh in line. "Cristina and Urdangarin have done so much damage to the monarchy. It's truly scandalous," said the 75-year-old Cobian. — Reuters

# GERMANY PUTS TWO SS MEN ON TRIAL OVER AUSCHWITZ KILLINGS

**BERLIN:** Two former SS men will go on trial this month for their alleged complicity in the murder of thousands of people at Auschwitz, as Germany accelerates its bid to prosecute ageing Third Reich criminals. Reinhold Hanning, 93, faces court in the western town of Detmold from Thursday, charged with at least 170,000 counts of accessory to murder in his role as a former guard at the camp in occupied Poland. Hubert Zafke, 95, will have to answer at least 3,681 counts of complicity in killings in separate proceedings in the eastern town of Neubrandenburg from February 29. Zafke was a medical orderly at the camp in a period when 14 trains carrying prisoners-including the teenage diarist Anne Frank-arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau where many would eventually be killed in the gas chambers.

Holocaust survivor Angela Orosz, who will take the witness stand in the Hanning trial said that all Auschwitz staff "were part of this killing machine." "Without these people and their active support for the Holocaust, what happened in Auschwitz, the murder of 1.1 million people in just a few years, would not have been possible, and perhaps many of my family members would still be alive," said Orosz, who was born in Auschwitz just over a month before it was liberated on January 27, 1945. The defendants face between three and 15 years in jail, but in view of their advanced age and the period required for any appeals, they are unlikely to serve time.

### 'Age has no bearing'

Nevertheless, Andreas Brendel, who leads the prosecuting team against Hanning, said Germany "owes it to victims and their relatives" to pursue Third Reich criminals. "Age has no bearing for me," he said. Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, agreed. "If anyone deemed responsible for any aspect of the Holocaust is still able to stand trial, he or she should be prosecuted," he said. "As long as it's possible to bring any of them to justice, it must be done. There is no statute of limitation for mass murder, and there shouldn't be."

The two trials come on the heels of last year's high-profile case against Oskar Groening, dubbed the "Bookkeeper of Auschwitz". Groening was sen-



**This file photo taken on January 25, 2015 in Oswiecim shows the entrance to the former Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau with the lettering 'Arbeit macht frei' ('Work makes you free'). — AFP**

tenced last July to four years in prison, even though he had previously been cleared by German authorities after lengthy criminal probes dating back to the 1970s. But the legal foundation for prosecuting ex-Nazis changed in 2011 with the German conviction of former death camp guard John Demjanjuk, solely on the basis of his having worked at the Sobibor camp in occupied Poland. Separately, a German court announced Friday that another former guard at Auschwitz, 93-year-old Ernst Remmel, would have to stand trial in April.

### 'Facilitated killings'

Hanning, like Demjanjuk, was a camp guard, and stands accused of having watched over the selection of which prisoners were fit for labour, and which should be sent to gas chambers. He is also

deemed to have been aware of the regular mass shooting of inmates at the camp, as well as the systematic starvation of prisoners. "Through his capacity as a guard, he facilitated... the several thousand killings of inmates by the main perpetrator," prosecutors said. Hanning has admitted to working in Auschwitz but denies a role in the killings. Zafke likewise claimed he knew nothing of the mass murder. Ahead of proceedings, prosecutors said the former medic was "aware of the purpose of the Birkenau camp as an extermination camp" as well as of its structure. "Given his awareness, the accused lent support to the organization of the camp and was thereby both involved in and advanced the extermination," said prosecutors, who are meanwhile seeking to have the presiding judges removed for partiality. — AFP

## US' CARTER IN EUROPE TO DRUM UP ANTI-IS SUPPORT

**WASHINGTON:** US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter left for Europe yesterday to lead a major summit for key members of the US-driven coalition struggling to defeat the Islamic State group. Carter has in recent weeks chastised members of the 65-nation alliance for not helping enough in the fight against the extremists, who despite suffering some significant setbacks remain firmly in control of large parts of Iraq and Syria and have a growing foothold in Libya.

In all, 27 coalition members who have contributed militarily to the 18-month campaign will join the US delegation in Brussels tomorrow. Partners include Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and several Western nations including France, Britain and Australia. Another 21 coalition countries will attend the talks as observers. Carter "is going to be looking... for contributions in a whole range of forms, whether it's additional combat aircraft, whether it's (intelligence), whether it's refuelers," Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said, adding that even pledges of financial assistance would help. "Look at... the devastation in Ramadi. Footing the bill to get the water on again and the electricity in a place like Ramadi is critically important to the Iraqi people and to making sure that we deliver a lasting defeat to ISIL and that those people get a decent life back," Cook added, using an alternative name for the IS group. So far, the campaign has cost \$5.8 billion-about \$11.4 million daily-since it began at the end of summer 2014, according to Pentagon figures.

### New Canadian commitment

Carter, who has only been in the job for a year and remains fairly cautious in his public pronouncements, has taken an increasingly forceful tone in recent weeks, bashing some members of what he said was the "so-called" coalition for doing "nothing at all," while

America carries out the lion's share of the military campaign. Pentagon officials say his efforts are bearing some fruit.

Canada, for instance, announced Monday it would triple the number of special forces training Kurdish militia in northern Iraq to about 210. The move comes even after the new government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said it will bring home six warplanes that had been conducting air strikes. Carter "looks forward to discussing with his Canadian counterpart... what the other needs are going forward that not only Canada could perhaps play a role in, but other countries assembled there in Brussels could assist us with," Cook said. Despite some successes, such as the coalition-assisted takeback of Ramadi by Iraqi security forces, the IS group still holds several important cities like Mosul in Iraq and Raqa in Syria. Carter and President Barack Obama are facing growing criticism at home over the pace of progress of the campaign and hawks are calling for intervention in Libya, where IS jihadists have doubled in number to about 5,000 in recent weeks. Last year, they seized control of the city of Sirte and an adjoining length of Mediterranean coastline. Carter will also discuss the situation in Syria's Aleppo province, where a government assault backed by Russian air support has resulted in tens of thousands of newly displaced people and refugees.

### NATO summit

Ahead of his anti-IS meeting, Carter is attending a summit for NATO defense ministers that will feed into a general NATO summit in Warsaw in July. The 28-member alliance is trying to figure out how to adapt to a massively complicated array of potential threats, including future Russian land grabs along the borders of countries in eastern Europe and the Baltic nations. — AFP

## SECOND MAN KILLED IN DUBLIN'S 'GANG FEUD'

**DUBLIN:** A man was shot dead in Dublin on Monday, Irish police said, in a suspected gangland reprisal attack for a fatal shooting at a boxing event last week. Police said the man had been shot by masked men on a residential street in north central Dublin, in the latest attack thought to be related to a feud between Irish criminal gangs based domestically and in Spain. "The man was aged in his 50s and it's believed that four men were involved in it," said a spokesman for An Garda Siochana police force. "The scene has been preserved for a Garda technical examination and we are appealing for witnesses."

The victim was named by Ireland's national broadcaster RTE as Eddie Hutch, brother of the north Dublin crime figure known as "The Monk" and the uncle of Irish criminal Gary Hutch, whose

2015 killing in Spain is thought to have begun the feud. It comes after gunmen dressed in police-style uniforms and carrying automatic rifles burst into a boxing weigh-in at Dublin's Regency Hotel on Friday, killing 33-year-old David Byrne and injuring two others. A man who declared he was a spokesman for republican splinter group the Continuity IRA had claimed responsibility for the Friday attack on its behalf in a statement to the BBC.

But Irish national broadcaster RTE reported that a later statement, also purporting to be from the Continuity IRA, claimed the group "did not have any involvement" in the shooting. Police have said that they suspect the killings to be related to organized crime, and justice minister Frances Fitzgerald described the events as a gang

feud. "Tonight's fatal shooting in Dublin is another deplorable example of the ruthlessness of gangland criminals," Frances Fitzgerald said in a statement to press. "It seems that some gangs are intent on waging a feud where human life counts for nothing." Fitzgerald is to meet with senior police figures to discuss the events on Tuesday.

### 'Clash of the clans'

Irish newspapers have reported that the killings are part of a feud between north Dublin gangsters and an Irish criminal group based in Spain dubbed the "Kinahan gang". Irish police had noted the risk of retaliatory attacks and set up checkpoints on roads and armed patrols. The police said at least six people were involved in the Friday shooting at the Regency Hotel-three of them uniformed and helmeted and carrying automatic weapons. Witness Daithi "Nuan-in told RTE the gunman were dressed as police. "I could see a man in the middle of the room looking around. He was wearing a bulletproof vest with 'Garda' written on it," he told RTE radio. A man disguised as a woman also took part, police said. Media images showed figures armed with handguns, one apparently wearing a wig, running from the scene which took place at the weigh-in for the "Clash of the Clans" boxing match, co-organized by Spain-based boxing gym MGM.

Lawmaker Gerry Adams, president of the Sinn Fein party once closely identified with the Provisional IRA, issued a statement blaming the attack on "criminal thugs" and questioning the apparent claim of responsibility by the Continuity IRA. "I understand a group calling itself the Continuity IRA has claimed responsibility for the attack at the Regency Hotel," the statement from Adams read. "They are not the IRA. The IRA are gone and their weapons are gone." The Provisional IRA formally ended its military campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland in 2005 in the wake of a landmark peace agreement. Dissident splinter groups that emerged since have carried out vigilante attacks on suspected drug dealers. — AFP



**DUBLIN:** Armed Gardaí from the force's Emergency Response Unit on patrol, as gang violence has resulted in two murders in four days, in Dublin yesterday. — AP

## SCIENTISTS STUDY INDIA'S DEADLY 'METEORITE'



**VELLORE:** Indian authorities inspect the site of a suspected meteorite landing - in an impact that killed a bus driver and injured three others. If proven, it would be the first such death in recorded history. —AFP

**NEW DELHI:** Indian scientists were yesterday analyzing a small blue object, described by local authorities as a meteorite, which fell from the sky and killed a bus driver. The team from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics was also examining the crater left in the ground by the plummeting object in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. Experts say other explanations are possible for the incident on Saturday. But if proven, it would be the first confirmed death by a meteorite in recorded history, they say.

"Our team has taken samples from the site and the object. It will take a couple of days to determine its origin," a senior official at the institute, who did not want to be named said. "As of now we cannot confirm if it is a meteor or not," he said. The mysterious object struck inside a college campus in Vellore district, shattering window panes of a nearby building and killing the driver who was walking past. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalithaa Jayaram said Monday the object was a meteorite. The college principal said he heard an

unusual sound on Saturday afternoon and rushed to the spot with other staff. "There was a very abnormal sound at 12:30 pm and over the sky there was white smoke stripe... I saw one of my drivers badly injured," G Baskar told the NDTV news channel.

Police said doctors have found rock fragments embedded in the driver's body. The object, being held by police, adheres to magnets, indicating it is made of metal, authorities have been quoted as saying. Experts have said the object could be debris from a rocket or a space shuttle. Meteors are particles of dust and rock that usually burn up as they pass through Earth's atmosphere. Those that do not burn up completely, surviving the fall to Earth, are known as meteorites. Indian experts say meteorites sometimes hit the Earth but no deaths have been recorded in recent history. In February 2013 a meteorite plunged over Russia's Ural Mountains, creating a shockwave that injured 1,200 people and damaged thousands of homes. — AFP

## NO KIDDING: INDIA POLICE ARREST A GOAT FOR GRAZING IN GARDEN

**RAIPUR:** Police in central India arrested a goat and its owner for repeatedly damaging a senior bureaucrat's garden, a local official said yesterday. Police in Chhattisgarh state sprang into action on Monday, registering a case against the man and his animal for chewing up the district magistrate's garden. They were later released on bail but face initial charges of causing mischief and damage to property, said officer Ram Sewak Paikra from Janakpur town in Korea district. "The goat and the owner were under police custody and are out, as both the sections 427 and 447 of the IPC (Indian Penal Code) are bailable offences," Paikra said.

He said the goat was allegedly a "repeat offender" in Janakpur town, some 340 kilometers north of state capital Raipur. Local media were running video footage of the offending and now tethered black goat. Rajesh Paikra, the official's gardener, herded the captured goat to the local police station on Monday, demanding action. "After the complaint, the owner of the goat, Abdul Hasan, was also arrested for the alleged crime," the officer said. "Since both the sections are bailable offences, Abdul Hasan filed a bond in the police station promising that the animal will not further damage the garden." —AFP

## SRI LANKA MUST CONFRONT, DEFEAT 'DEMONS OF PAST'

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka must "confront and defeat the demons of its past", the UN human rights chief said yesterday at the end of a visit to assess the island's progress in investigating war crimes. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said Sri Lanka had come a long way since this time last year, when former president Mahinda Rajapakse was ousted after a decade in power. But he said opinions differed about the extent of the progress, with police in some areas still resorting to "violence and excessive force" and new cases of torture continuing to emerge.

He urged the country's armed forces to face up to the "stain on their reputation" by addressing allegations of war crimes during the 37-year ethnic conflict that ended in 2009, including the killing of tens of thousands of civilians. "Sri Lanka must confront and defeat the demons of its past. It must create institutions that work, and ensure accountability," said Zeid. "It must seize the great opportunity it currently has to provide all its people with truth, justice, security and prosperity." Zeid travelled to the former war zones of Jaffna and Trincomalee as he tried to gauge the island's progress in investigating war-time atrocities. He is due to deliver two assessments to the UN Human Rights Council in June and March 2017.

The Human Rights Council adopted a resolution late last year calling for an investigation into atrocities committed by both the government-backed military and Tamil Tiger separatists. A UN report in September described horrific wartime atrocities committed by both the Sri Lankan military and Tamil Tiger rebels during the conflict which claimed at least 100,000 lives. Sri Lanka's new government has agreed to a domestic investigation into allegations that troops killed at least 40,000 ethnic Tamils. In contrast, the previous regime had resisted calls for an investigation, maintaining that not a single civilian had been killed by troops under its command. — AFP



**KATHMANDU:** Prakash Man Singh (centre left), former deputy prime minister and minister of local development, vice president of the Nepali Congress Party Ram Chandra Poudel (center), former deputy prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba (centre right), and Foreign Minister Sujata Koirala (4th right) pay final tributes next to the body of late Nepali Congress Party president Sushil Koirala in Kathmandu yesterday. —AFP

## DEATH OF FORMER LEADER POSES POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FOR NEPAL

### NEPAL IN TURMOIL; CONSTITUTION ISSUES LINGER

**KATHMANDU:** Former Nepali Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, a moderate figure in the impoverished country's unsettled politics, died yesterday, presenting a potential hurdle in attempts to win greater rights for minorities in a new constitution. Koirala, 78, a senior figure in one of Nepal's biggest political dynasties, stood down as prime minister in October. He died overnight of respiratory illness, one of his doctors said, at his nephew's home in Kathmandu.

He had helped prepare Nepal's first republican constitution that, its authors hoped, would take the Himalayan nation closer to stability and peace after years of conflict and the abolition of the 239-year-old monarchy. Koirala was head of the centrist Nepali Congress party, the largest opposition group in parliament that has traditionally close ties to India. Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj was due to fly to Kathmandu yesterday to pay her respects. Koirala's funeral will be held today.

Nepal has been in turmoil since the

new constitution was adopted in September. The ethnic Madhesi community launched protests against the charter, saying it did not address their desire for a greater say in government. Laxman Lal Karni, from the Sadbhavana Party that organized those protests, said Koirala's death would not derail talks aimed at securing greater rights for minorities. Others said his death presented a succession problem for the Koirala dynasty. He never married. "More crucial will be who will carry the legacy of the Koirala dynasty that has produced four prime ministers in the past and dominated the Nepali Congress party in the past six decades," said Yubaraj Ghimire, editor of the Annapurna Post daily.

The Congress will hold a leadership election next month, with some in the party saying it could then seek to engineer the downfall of Prime Minister KP Oli, whose tough line against Madhesi protesters has angered India. The front runner to take over as party leader is Sher Bahadur Deuba, a three-time former

prime minister who comes from the same social democratic tradition as Koirala and would likely show little sympathy towards the constitutional protesters. Although talks have made scant progress on meeting the grievances of minority Madhesis, who live in Nepal's southern plains and have close ties to India, tensions eased when they lifted a border blockade on Monday.

Confirming the thaw in ties, Pramod Dahal, an aide to Oli, said the prime minister would travel to India on Feb. 19 to meet his counterpart, Narendra Modi. Koirala spent several years in India, where he had close political ties. He was jailed there for three years for his role in the hijacking of a Nepali plane during the democracy struggle of the 1970s. Thousands of mourners, many carrying bouquets of flowers, gathered outside the house where Koirala's body lay. Koirala had undergone treatment for tongue cancer in the United States and was given a clean bill of health in November before succumbing to pneumonia and bronchitis, aides said. — Reuters

## News

In brief

### Man sets himself on fire outside London palace

**LONDON:** A man died yesterday after setting himself on fire outside Kensington Palace, the London home of Prince William and his wife Kate, police said. The incident was not being treated as suspicious or related to terrorism, they added. Police said they had been alerted just after midnight by officials from a central London hospital to say a man in their care had failed to return. Three hours later, officers were called to a site near the locked parks of the palace, located in Kensington Gardens in central London, after reports of a man acting suspiciously. When they arrived they found the man, in his 40s, ablaze. He was declared dead not long afterwards. Kensington Palace is the official London residence of William although he, Kate and their two children, George and Charlotte, spend most of their time at their country mansion in Norfolk, eastern England, close to where the prince works as an air ambulance helicopter pilot.

### Britain's Cameron mother signs petition against cuts

**LONDON:** British Prime Minister David Cameron's mother has signed a petition against spending cuts that would affect children in the region he represents in parliament, a report said yesterday. Mary Cameron, 81, a retired magistrate, has put her name to a petition to save dozens of children's centers in Oxfordshire, southern England, the Daily Mirror newspaper said. Cameron, 49, leads the Conservative Party, which currently controls the Oxfordshire County Council local authority. "My name is on the petition but I don't want to discuss this any further," Mary Cameron told the Mirror. The prime minister, as the MP for Witney in west Oxfordshire, has previously written to the county council voicing his "disappointment" at its planned cuts to libraries, museums, and day centers for the elderly. But council leader Ian Hudspeth insists the moves are due to central government funding cuts. Jill Huish, from the Save Oxfordshire Children's Centers campaign, told the Banburyshire Info website: "It seems to be a bizarre situation where David Cameron is unable to defend children's centers against the cruel cuts he's allowed his own government to impose on local authorities."

### South Africa prosecutes four apartheid-era cops

**JOHANNESBURG:** South African prosecutors plan to charge four former members of the apartheid-era security forces for the 1983 murder of a young woman who had recently graduated from university and was a courier for the then-banned African National Congress. Nokuthula Simelane disappeared while being held by the Soweto Special Branch, a police unit, the National Prosecuting Authority said. Simelane was kidnapped and tortured, and her body has not been recovered, it said. After apartheid ended in 1994, South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission investigated past atrocities and granted amnesty to some accused perpetrators. Luvuyo Mfaku, a prosecution spokesman, said yesterday that three of the four suspects in Simelane's death applied for amnesty for her kidnapping, but not for her murder. The fourth suspect will be charged with both kidnapping and murder, he said. Simelane was an "underground operative" for the African National Congress, the main anti-apartheid movement that became South Africa's ruling party, according to prosecutors. She was illegally held for a week at a police barracks in Johannesburg, where she was tortured under questioning, prosecutors said.

### Indonesia jails 7 men for supporting Islamic State

**JAKARTA:** An Indonesian court yesterday sentenced seven men to between three and five years in jail for supporting the Islamic State group, weeks after the extremist network launched a deadly assault on Jakarta. Court officials said four of the men on trial had travelled to Syria to undertake military training with IS, while the three other culprits helped purchase tickets and recruited people to join the group. "Indonesians who departed for Syria and supported IS should be considered to have conducted terrorism acts," Mochammad Arifin, a presiding judge over several of the cases, said. Tuah Febriwansyah, who received a five-year sentence yesterday, told the court that he had known one of the culprits in last month's attacks that killed four civilians and four assailants. Hundreds of Indonesians are feared to have travelled to the Middle East to join the IS group, which controls vast swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq. Several have been detained on their return.

### Ghanaian opposition MP stabbed to death

**ACCRA:** A leading opposition lawmaker in Ghana, Joseph Boakye-Danquah, has been found stabbed to death at his home in the capital Accra, police said yesterday. Greater Accra regional police commander George Dampare said the killing happened yesterday and an investigation had been launched. "We can't immediately tell what might have led to this," he added. Boakye-Danquah, who represented the Abuakwa North constituency in the Eastern Region, was a member of the main opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP). In 2010, he was attacked and stabbed, suffering deep cuts to his hand. Three people were prosecuted and convicted for the attack in 2013. But it was not immediately clear whether there was a link with the latest attack. Dampare said two security guards at the politician's house were taken in for questioning. The NPP is Ghana's biggest opposition party and its candidate, Nana Akufo-Addo, was President John Dramani Mahama's rival in the 2012 presidential election in Ghana.

## INDIA SOLDIER CRITICAL AFTER SIX-DAY ORDEAL

**NEW DELHI:** An Indian soldier rescued nearly a week after he was buried by a deadly avalanche on the world's highest battleground was yesterday being treated in Delhi in "extremely critical" condition, the

army said. Hanamantappa Koppad spent six days trapped after a massive block of ice fell onto his army post 5,900 meters high in the Himalayas, killing nine of his colleagues. His rescue late Monday came days

after India said there was little hope of survivors from the disaster on the Siachen glacier in the disputed region of Kashmir.

General D S Hooda, who heads the Indian Army's northern command, said the man's survival under nearly 25 feet of snow in temperatures of minus 45 degrees Celsius (minus 49 Fahrenheit) was a "miracle". "It was not a typical soft snow avalanche. It was like a wall of rock-hard ice," he said describing how army rescuers used sniffer dogs and specialist radar to detect the buried soldiers before cutting them free.

"The effort went on day and night, except during two nights when blizzards hit the area. "In the end, the whole effort paid off as a miracle when a survivor was pulled out." The soldier, who was found conscious but severely hypothermic and in shock, was airlifted to a military hospital in Delhi yesterday. A government statement said he was now comatose and in an "extremely critical" condition and had been placed on a ventilator.

### 'God has been kind'

"We are all very, very happy," Koppad's father told reporters in comments broadcast on television. "God has been very kind to us. His mother had been crying, I was also crying," he said, without giving his name. "We don't have money to go and vis-



**SIACHEN GLACIER:** An Indian soldier cuts through ice and snow in the search for survivors after a deadly avalanche on the Siachen glacier. —AFP

## N KOREA TURNS TO 'OLD WORKHORSE' ROCKET TO REPEAT PAST SUCCESS

**SEOUL:** North Korea's weekend rocket launch repeated earlier success rather than breaking new ground, using a nearly identical design from a 2012 launch, experts said, adding the reclusive country probably remained years from building a long-range nuclear missile. The rocket was based on engines taken from its massive stockpile of mid-range missiles based on Soviet-era technology and electrical parts too rudimentary to be targeted by a global missile control regime, the experts said. South Korea and the United States say Sunday's launch was a long-range missile test that violated UN Security Council resolutions barring the North from using ballistic missile technology. It followed North Korea's Jan 6 test of a nuclear device, also in breach of Security Council resolutions.

The three-stage launch vehicle, named Kwangmyongsong, separated its boosters successfully and put an object, which the North says is an earth observation satellite, into orbit, South Korea said yesterday. A signal from the satellite had yet to be detected, Seoul said. No signal was detected from the object North Korea launched into space in

2012. "I suspect the aim of the launch was to repeat the success, which itself provides considerable engineering knowledge," said Michael Elleman, a missile expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

South Korea's navy recovered parts of the first-stage booster but failed to retrieve a significant section as it did in 2012 because the stage self-destructed after lift-off, the South's military said. South Korea said the launch resembled the one in 2012: The shape of the rockets was similar, as were the locations where the first and second stages splashed into the sea. The 200-kg object launched on Sunday was about double the size of that launched in 2012, a difference South Korean officials said was not significant.

### Circumventing sanctions

The UN Security Council has imposed sanctions against the North for its nuclear tests and long-range rocket launches dating to 2006, banning arms trade and money flow that can fund its arms program. But the North has managed to circumvent those measures in pursuing a rocket program, widely sus-

pected to be aimed at building an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) that could threaten the United States, and its fourth nuclear test last month. "Sanctions raise the cost and impact reliability, but a determined country can access the needed items if it is a priority acquisition," Elleman said.

After the 2012 launch, South Korea retrieved a number of parts associated with the first-stage booster, including one of the steering engines, a nearly intact section of the fuel tank that contained propellant, wiring and pressure sensors. Some of those components were imported, "ranging from cannibalized Soviet Scud parts to equipment produced in the United States, Europe and Asia," said Jeffrey Lewis, a nuclear expert at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies. "Most of the items are available commercially, off-the-shelf and are not controlled. The underlying components are less important than North Korea's ability to integrate them in a functioning rocket program," he said.

If the Kwangmyongsong was powered by the same system as the Unha-3 launched in



An object that the South Korean Defense Ministry believes to be a part of a North Korean rocket is displayed on a South Korean navy ship yesterday in undisclosed location. — AP

2012, it used a cluster of Rodong missile engines with thrust of about 27 tons each encased in an aluminum-magnesium alloy body, welded unevenly by hand. North Korea is believed to have more than 200 medium-range Rodong missiles with a range of 1,300

km, developed from Scud missiles with Soviet technology. South Korea's defense ministry said the rocket had a potential range of 12,000 km, Yonhap reported, similar to that of the 2012 rocket, and putting the US mainland in reach. — Reuters



HONG KONG: Riot police arrest a protestor in Mong Kok district of Hong Kong yesterday. — AP

## HONG KONG POLICE FIRE WARNING SHOTS IN BLOODY STREET CLASHES

48 POLICE INJURED; 24 PROTESTERS ARRESTED

**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong riot police fired warning shots yesterday during angry clashes that erupted when authorities tried to remove illegal street stalls set up for Lunar New Year celebrations, the worst street violence since pro-democracy protests in 2014. Protesters prised bricks from the sidewalk to hurl at police, while others toppled street signs and set fire to rubbish bins in Mong Kok, a gritty neighborhood just across the harbor from the heart of the Asian financial centre. As many as 48 police were injured in the clashes, a police spokeswoman said. Hong Kong television showed police officers being beaten with poles and sticks as they lay on the ground.

Many protesters and police were also shown with blood streaming down their faces. The police spokeswoman also said 24 protesters were arrested. Police said two warning shots were fired into the air, with pepper spray and batons also used to disperse the crowd. Television footage showed the shots were fired as protesters surrounded several traffic police, pelting them with rubbish, bricks and bottles and wrestling one of them to the ground. The remains of burned bins and flower pots, chunks of brick and broken bottles lay scattered along the world-famous Nathan Road shopping strip later. A taxi with shattered windows was parked nearby. The clashes broke out after police moved in to clear "hawkers", or illegal

vendors who sell local delicacies, trinkets and household goods from makeshift streetside stalls. The hawkers, a common sight on Hong Kong's bustling streets, quickly attracted a strong social media following under the hashtag #FishballRevolution. Hong Kong Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying told reporters at a hastily called news conference that the city's government strongly condemned the violence. Secretary for Security Lai Tung-kuok said police were investigating "indications" that the clashes had been organized. When asked about the warning shots, Lai said police had taken all necessary actions.

### 'Not the first time'

The protesters had dispersed by 8 am local time but more than 100 had confronted police in a tense, pre-dawn stand-off during the Lunar New Year holiday, when most of the city is shut down. Police said they were awaiting orders about security plans. Paul Lee, a 65-year-old security guard, said: "This is not the first time there has been violence in Mong Kok." "I am deeply disappointed in the government," he said. The underground train station for Mong Kok, a bustling shopping district packed with street markets, shops and high-rise residential buildings, was closed temporarily. The narrow streets in and around Mong Kok were the scene of some of the most violent clashes

during protests in late 2014 to demand greater democracy in the former British colony that returned to Beijing rule in 1997.

Yesterday's clashes, however, appeared more violent. Hong Kong Indigenous, a "localist" group that is fielding a candidate in a Legislative Council by-election in a few weeks, was involved in the protest, the South China Morning Post newspaper reported. The group said on its official Facebook page that its candidate, Edward Leung Tin-kei, had been arrested. They could not be reached immediately by telephone to confirm his arrest. Hong Kong police declined to comment on who had been involved in the protests or to confirm who had been arrested. Many so-called localists remain deeply embittered by the lack of any concessions from Beijing or Hong Kong authorities during the pro-democracy protests. Television footage showed protesters yesterday shouting: "Establish a Hong Kong country!" during running battles with the police. Radical protesters and "localists" demanding greater Hong Kong autonomy have vowed to keep fighting even as China shows signs of tightening its grip. The clashes in December 2014 came when authorities cleared the last of pro-democracy demonstrators from the streets after more than two months of protests that had posed one of the Beijing's greatest political challenges in decades. — Reuters

## THE EYES IN THE SKY OVER NORTH KOREA

**SEOUL:** Global concerns over North Korea's latest nuclear test and long-range rocket launch have shone a spotlight on the perennial, high-tech game of hide-and-seek played around Pyongyang's advanced weapons programs. On the seeking side are analysts using high-resolution images from a circling constellation of commercial satellites to pick up whatever data they can on the North's fast-developing nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities.

It's a challenging task that more often than not is reduced to educated guesswork, as the number of clues they have to work with is diminished by an increasingly effective North Korean concealment program. Satellite imaging has been around for decades, but for most of that time was almost exclusively for government and military use. It was only at the start of the 21st century that high-resolution commercial images became publicly available.

### A new window

For civilian North Korea watchers, the aerial snapshots provided by organizations such as DigitalGlobe and Airbus DS opened an entirely new window onto one of the most closed regions in the world. Two of the main monitoring targets are on opposite sides of the country: The Punggye-ri nuclear test site in the northeast and the Sohae satellite launch complex in the northwest. "From early on the demand for informed analysis on North Korea was higher than for any other country, with the possible exception of Iran," said Allison Puccioni, an imagery analyst with expertise in North Korea.

"The fervor over the Punggye-ri test site was unlike anything else, especially in terms of media interest." Effective analysis requires high-level expertise in areas like nuclear fuel cycles and advanced weapons systems. But the key raw materials are images and, in recent years, the North Koreans have become far more adept at hiding their activities from the satellite lenses. "They have certainly adopted additional concealment measures," said Puccioni. "They are clearly well aware of the orbital patterns of the satellites and are operating around those patterns to avoid detection," she added. Another tactic is to work at night or on cloudy, rainy days.

### Under wraps

In a recent post on the 38 North website run by the US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University, imagery analyst Jack Liu noted how North Korea's fourth nuclear test on January 6 had taken the international community by surprise. "Unlike the 2013

test, when heavy activity was seen in the weeks prior to that test, very little preparation activity was visible leading up to the 2016 test," Liu wrote.

"The North Koreans have continued to improve their operational security and concealment procedures, limiting what is visible to commercial imaging satellites," he added. 38 North specializes in satellite imagery analysis of North Korea, which is also provided by Jane's IHS and the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security. Managing editor of 38 North, Jenny Town, said North Korea had quickly become wise to the satellite monitoring process. "They've learned what we are looking for, and so they've learned when not to do things," Town said. They have also covered, screened or moved underground structures at sensitive sites to shield them from observation.

This is particularly true at the Sohae satellite launch site where a rocket can now be brought in, assembled and erected on the launch pad without being directly caught on camera. "We can see movement, but we still don't know what, if anything, is actually being moved," said Town. During preparations for the North's first successful space rocket launch in December 2012, satellite images showed the three-stage carrier sitting on the launch pad. By contrast, the rocket that blasted off on Sunday was never seen, although an image collected the day before the launch showed a tractor-trailer that was "probably" bringing in the third stage, Town said. "Again, that's down to the concealment procedures. They just didn't reveal what was there during the satellite hours," she added.

### Sharper eyes

North Korean efforts to avoid detection have been partly mitigated by technical developments on the monitoring side. In June 2014, US federal law permitted American companies to sell satellite imagery with a resolution of 25 centimeters (10 inches) per pixel—a dramatic 400 percent increase in resolution from the sharpest images previously available. An even stronger weapon is the development of radar and infrared imaging. "With radar, you still get returns on objects under concealment as the radar hits right through the camouflage," Puccioni said. At the same time, there is an increasing number of commercial companies providing images. That will result in the launch of around 70 new satellites over the next five years, adding to the 14 already in orbit, Puccioni said. "So obviously, that's a much larger constellation." — AFP

## THAI MILITARY ACCUSED OF TORTURE IN WAR-HIT SOUTH

**BANGKOK:** Thai security forces have tortured scores of detainees in the country's conflict-torn south, rights groups said yesterday, with beatings, suffocations and death threats among a litany of alleged abuses. Special security laws govern Thailand's Muslim-majority southernmost provinces, where more than 6,500 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in a 12-year insurgency against Thai rule.

Under martial law and the emergency decree that smothers the south, suspected rebels can be detained for six weeks without charge. As a result many young Muslim men have been swept into arbitrary detention where they are vulnerable to torture, according to a report by several well-respected advocacy groups to be released today. The study, rare research in a dangerous zone cloaked by security forces and insurgents, is based on interviews with 54 former detainees between 2014-15 who alleged they were physically or mentally tortured over the last few years. Alleged beatings of suspects, threats at gunpoint, sensory deprivation and suffocation were all routine during detention, researchers said.

Many of the suspects were later released without charge. "What we have documented is the tip of the iceberg," said Pornpen Khongkachonkiet, of the Cross Cultural Foundation, a rights group. The situation has worsened since Thailand's 2014 coup put the military in power, she added. "With no accountability or oversight mechanisms since the coup... interrogation officers have almost a free hand" over detainees, she explained. The insurgents are seeking greater autonomy

from Thailand, which annexed the culturally distinct region more than a century ago. The rebels employ brutal tactics including shootings, beatings and bombings often targeting perceived civilian collaborators such as teachers and even Buddhist monks.

### 'I couldn't breathe'

One suspect, Weasohok Doloh said that he was hauled into custody in May 2015 on suspicion of involvement in a bombing—an accusation he denies. He was taken to Inkayuth military camp, an interrogation centre in Pattani province, where he alleged he was abused over several days. "At first they just slapped me," the 32-year-old builder said, adding he resisted confessing to links with the rebels. But the abuse worsened and after a few days he alleged he was stripped naked by three interrogators who also tied his hands. "Suddenly one (interrogator) pushed me onto a chair and forced a plastic bag over my head. I couldn't breathe... they released the bag when I said I would confess. But I had nothing to confess to, so they did it again," he said. In total he spent 84 days in custody before prosecutors decided not to press charges. "Inkayuth military camp is a place where bad things are swept under the carpet," says Anchana Heemmina of Duay Jai, a local rights group which co-authored the report. "We have heard stories of suffering from there for 12 years," she added, urging the army to allow lawyers access to suspects from the moment of arrest. A Muslim man died in custody at Inkayuth in December last year. The army says it was from a heart attack. — AFP

## DEVELOPER QUIZZED OVER TAIWAN QUAKE COLLAPSE; 100 STILL BURIED

**TAINAN:** The developer of a 16-storey Taiwan apartment complex that collapsed during a quake was taken in for questioning yesterday as rescuers deployed heavy machinery to find 100 people still feared trapped in the rubble. Prosecutors in the southern city of Tainan launched an investigation into Saturday's disaster after photos showed cans and foam had been used to fill parts of the complex's concrete framework. The district court will later decide whether the developer, identified as Lin Ming-hui, and two of his employees should be formally detained, said court spokeswoman Kuo Chen-hsiu. The three were taken to the prosecutors' office early Tuesday.

Around 40 people have been confirmed dead and some 100 are still missing after the collapse of the Wei-kuan building. Tuesday's hearing came as the 72-hour "golden window" for finding survivors expired. It was the only high-rise in the southern city of Tainan to crumble completely when the 6.4 magnitude quake struck before dawn on Saturday. More than 210 people have been rescued from the building but authorities believe over 100 others could still be buried. Tainan mayor William Lai ordered rescuers to start using heavy machinery early Tuesday to remove giant concrete slabs to better detect signs of life, after completing a search of the upper parts of the structure. One woman said she was losing hope after three days of waiting for news of loved ones. "My brother and sister-in-law are trapped in Building A at the bottom of the wreckage. I feel like they've given up on them," Cheng Ya-ling said. "I'm losing hope and losing faith in the rescue. If there's no miracle and they don't come out alive, I only hope they died quickly and didn't suffer."

"I've been waiting since Saturday in freezing weather at night and I have blankets. How are they going to survive buried down there?" she said. Distraught relatives waiting for news of loved ones repeatedly interrupted the mayor as he gave a briefing on the rescue, complaining that they had to wait

for information from the media rather than being informed directly. "I beg you to save us. Our family still have three people trapped inside," one tearful woman shouted at Lai as she broke through cordons and threw herself to the ground. "We are going to break down," another man complained. — AFP



TAINAN: Tin cans are exposed in the cement structure of the collapsed building complex in Tainan, Taiwan. — AP



An Indian performs a fire breathing act during a procession to mark the 661st anniversary of the birth of a Hindu guru in Amritsar yesterday. — AFP

## 10 KILLED AS TRAINS CRASH IN GERMANY

Continued from Page 1

"At the moment we will have to wait (for the result of the investigation). Everything else is speculation, and would be unhelpful and inappropriate," he said.

Police chief for the Upper Bavaria region, Robert Kopp, said the trains were carrying about 150 passengers, fewer than on a regular work day as many people were off for the region's winter holidays. A passenger named as Patrick B told local radio Rosenheim 24 that shortly after leaving the station of Kolbermoor, "the train suddenly braked, there was a loud noise and the light went out". He said he "heard people shouting for help everywhere" and together with a young man, he opened the carriage door using the emergency system. "We led passengers onto a slope, and only one man with a broken leg could not be helped out. Shortly after, the first emergency workers arrived."

Some 700 firefighters, emergency services workers and police officers were deployed in the rescue operation, which was complicated because the forest crash site was difficult to access. Rescuers focused on the impact area of the trains, using electric saws to cut through the mangled wreckage, while helicopters hoisted up the injured on stretchers. Underlining the difficulty of the emergency operation, mountain rescuer

Joerg Becker told NTV rolling news channel: "The terrain is not only difficult to access but the large number of injured also requires a massive coordination effort between so many rescue and aid groups."

"The accident is an enormous shock for us," said Bernd Rosenbusch, who heads the Bavarian rail company BOB that operates trains on the route. "We will do everything to help travellers, their relatives and our employees." Christian Schreyer, chief executive of Transdev, said: "We are deeply shocked and stunned that something like this could have happened. Our thoughts are with the victims and families of the victims". After German rail was liberalized at the end of the 1990s, BOB - a subsidiary of Transdev, became one of the train operators competing with state-run Deutsche Bahn. Although it has lost its monopoly operating status, Deutsche Bahn still owns the rail network.

The accident is believed to be Germany's first fatal train crash since April 2012, when three people were killed and 13 injured in a collision between two regional trains in the western city of Offenbach. The country's deadliest post-war accident happened in 1998, when a high-speed ICE train linking Munich and Hamburg derailed in the northern town of Eschede, killing 101 people and injuring 88. —AFP

## MPS BREAK AGENTS' MONOPOLY, DISCUSS...

Continued from Page 1

Wages and salaries, which account for over 50 percent of the budget, ballooned from KD 3 billion to KD 11 billion in the same period, an almost fourfold rise, the minister said. Transfers to the public pension fund amounts to KD 3 billion a year, said the minister, adding that real measures are needed to finance the real budget deficit.

The government has projected the budget deficit in the current budget at KD 7 billion and the shortfall in next year's budget at KD 11.5 billion. Ghanem said that in the face of these gloomy economic situations, "we need to take decisive and immediate measures". The speaker said that the number of Kuwaiti employees in the government increased fivefold in the past decade, which increased the wage bill. "In the past, we were a state selling oil to pay salaries. Continuing in this situation is suicidal," he said.

He said that the government should work out a program of specific figures with the Assembly financial and economic affairs committee before the next session on March 1. "We should not lie to the Kuwaiti people by telling them that the expected measures will not touch their pockets," the speaker affirmed.

MPs strongly criticized the government, holding it responsible for the deterioration in the economy and for

wanting to tax the people before taking any measure against the rich class, especially merchants who exploit state properties at very low prices. MP Saleh Ashour warned that the current direction of the government to reduce subsidies is very dangerous. He said that instead of cutting people's consumption, the government should first cut its spending and it can save hundreds of millions of dinars.

MP Khalil Al-Saleh called on the government to closely monitor the market to check any unjustified price increases after reducing subsidies. MP Abdullah Al-Turajji called on the government to raise the value of leases of state land to merchants and that the private sector should have a role to play in this crisis. MP Mohammad Tana said the government is ignoring thieves of public funds who stole billions of dinars and now plans to target low-income people.

The Assembly will continue the debate today to pass recommendations on the issue. According to parliamentary sources, the government has proposed to the Assembly bureau to raise the price of high-grade petrol to 105 fils from 65 fils a litre and low-grade petrol from 60 fils to 85 fils a litre. It also proposed to keep electricity charges at 2 fils a kilowatt for the first 5,000 KW, 5 fils for 5,000 to 10,000 KW and 19 fils for usage of more than 10,000 KW per month.

# CLIFFHANGER PHILIPPINES PRESIDENTIAL RACE BEGINS

MANILA: A cliffhanger race to lead the Philippines began yesterday with emotion-charged rallies by a dead movie star's adopted daughter, a politician who brags about killing criminals and other top contenders. The three-month election campaign got under way with four aspirants standing a genuine chance of succeeding popular President Benigno Aquino, who is limited by the constitution to a single term. The Philippines has endured a turbulent democracy since emerging from the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship three decades ago - with coups, corruption, celebrities and violence dominating politics.

The run-up to the May 9 polls for president, as well as for thousands of other posts, promises more chaos and intrigue. The current presidential frontrunner is Grace Poe, an inexperienced politician riding a wave of popularity among the tens of millions of poor for her adopted father, Fernando Poe Jr. He became one of the nation's most loved actors by playing characters who championed the poor, then nearly translated that into political success by coming second in the 2004 presidential elections.

Addressing supporters yesterday night at a Manila church venue that was a favorite setting for her father's films, Poe promised to fight for the millions of poor Filipinos who have largely not felt the benefits of strong economic growth under Aquino. "I stand before you today as a Filipino, a woman who knows how to fight bullies and oppressors, a leader with a heart that loves our country and people," Poe said, while repeatedly referring to her father.

Poe, 47, began the presidential campaign as the frontrunner with about 30 percent support, according to two national surveys released in recent days. But opponents have petitioned the Supreme Court to disqualify Poe, arguing she cannot prove she is a "natural-born Filipino" because she does not know who her biological parents are. The Supreme Court could also disqualify Poe for failing to meet residency rules, because she spent many years living in the United States and



MANILA: A boy shouts the name of Davao City mayor and presidential candidate Rodrigo Duterte during his party's proclamation rally yesterday. — AFP

gained US citizenship before renouncing it and returning home.

If Poe is knocked out, with a court ruling expected during the campaign, the nation would be plunged into political turmoil with three contenders who are currently each polling about 20 percent support ready to pounce. Aquino, who has overseen growth averaging 6.2 percent since 2010 and won international applause for trying to fight corruption, wants to hand over to longtime ally Mar Roxas. However Roxas, 58, a US-educated investment banker from one of the nation's richest families, has consistently trailed in the polls. Analysts blame a lack of charisma and Roxas sought in his rally yesterday to remedy his perceived inability to connect with the poor. "We will make sure that every family is free from hunger, free from fear and free to dream," Roxas, who served as interior and transport ministers in the Aquino government, told supporters in his home province of Capiz.

Controversial populist politician Rodrigo Duterte, 70, who is making a spectacular charge for the presidency by vowing a ruthless crackdown on

crime, headed to Manila's most famous slum to launch his campaign. Human rights groups have accused Duterte of running vigilante "death squads" that killed more than 1,000 suspected criminals during his many years as mayor of the southern city of Davao. In various public events, Duterte has acknowledged the existence of the death squads, boasted specifically of killing alleged drug traffickers and offered more of the same for the rest of the country.

"There will be killings. There will be a lot of blood," Duterte said this week as he pledged to wipe the streets clean of criminals if he was president. The final major contender is Jejomar Binay, who heads the main opposition party and is the current vice president - the nation's two top posts are elected separately. Binay, 73, has spent decades building a vast political machine but has had to endure a barrage of corruption allegations that have seen him lose his frontrunner status. He denies all the allegations but some analysts expect the ombudsman to charge Binay with corruption during the campaign. — AFP

## KUWAIT WON'T SEND TROOPS TO SYRIA

Continued from Page 1

This included new legislation requiring government buildings to install closed-circuit television and for private institutions to have CCTV with a data log in public areas. He described the attack as a failed attempt to stir up sectarian tensions in Kuwait, which is home to a sizeable Shiite minority active in business and politics. "If anything, that bombing showed the world, and showed specifically the deranged people who adhere to this skewed doctrine, what it is to be Kuwaiti," said Sheikh Mohammad, a member of the ruling Al-Sabah family. "It brought us closer together," he said, because it had reawakened the idea of Kuwaiti national identity.

Kuwait, which sits across the Gulf from Shiite power Iran, welcomed Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers and hoped it would bring greater regional security. But, like other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, it stood beside Saudi Arabia in a flare-up of tensions between Riyadh and Tehran. That erupted when Saudi Arabia executed a prominent Shi'ite cleric on Jan. 2 and Iranian protesters retaliated by attacking Saudi diplomatic missions.

Iran should respect Saudi Arabia's implementation of its sovereign law, Sheikh Mohammad said. "What occurred in the aftermath, specifically the abhorrent

infringement of the Vienna convention and the bullying tactics with the Saudi embassy and consulate ... were and are a great cause for concern in Kuwait, the GCC and the wider diplomatic world."

Sheikh Mohammad, who is also acting minister of electricity and water, said Kuwait's widening budget deficit had made urgent economic reforms necessary, including reducing subsidies for utilities, which he said would help prevent waste. Most Gulf states are planning economic reforms as low oil prices strain their finances. Kuwait needed to protect its welfare program over the longer term, to ensure it is enjoyed by those who need it, by cutting out "free-riders" from the system, he said. The plan, which would be Kuwait's biggest subsidies reform since the 1980s, is being discussed by the government and parliament this week.

Thanks to subsidies it costs just over \$10 to fill a car's 50-litre petrol tank while electricity costs less than 1 US cent per kilowatt hour, a fraction of what it costs to produce. "One of the issues that is worrying for us, is within the next 10-15 years, if electricity and water consumption remains at present levels, more than a quarter of installed oil production will have to go to the power plants, irrespective of what the price of the barrel is," he said, adding it was important to maximize oil exports. — Reuters

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## Focus

PYONGYANG AND  
ITS PROVOCATIONS

By Tim Sullivan

In Japan, the prime minister said North Korea would be committing a "grave, provocative act" if it followed through on plans to launch a long-range rocket. South Korea warned of "searing consequences" if the launch went ahead. Moscow and Washington, which rarely agree on much of anything these days, both denounced Pyongyang's plans. Even China, North Korea's closest ally, said it was worried.

But in the end, the international outrage didn't make any difference. On Sunday, Pyongyang launched its rocket - which it says was designed only to carry a satellite into orbit, but which much of the world insists was a camouflaged long-range missile test - and then proudly proclaimed its success. Because North Korea learned long ago that it could achieve a great deal with deliberate belligerence. Here's a look at Pyongyang's provocations.

## Nuclear Tests

Years after North Korea first agreed to shut down its nuclear weapons program, even as it quietly built it up, Pyongyang no longer makes a secret of its ambitions. Its 2012 constitution enshrines its status as a nuclear state. When it set off its fourth nuclear weapons test just a few weeks ago, infuriating the international community, it called the explosion "a great deed of history."

The test "guarantees the eternal future of the nation," the government declared. If the statement was over the top, there was also truth amid the hyperbole. North Korea is an impoverished nation with a military often reduced to using decades-old Soviet equipment. It is profoundly isolated, facing sanctions that cut it off from most international trade. Its leaders are mocked regularly in the Western media.

Nuclear weapons, though, make the world pay attention. Even to a country so poor that 24-hour electricity is considered a luxury. North Korea's nuclear weapons technology has given it immense international negotiating power, allowing Pyongyang to alternate nuclear tests with talks to ratchet back its weapons programs. Over the years, those talks have resulted in billions of dollars in aid.

The nuclear tests are also powerful messages for domestic consumption, proof of how North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, like his father and grandfather before him, had developed the country's military technology to withstand the ever-looming threats of South Korea and the United States. Or as Kim put it in his New Year's address: "If invasive outsiders and provocateurs touch us even slightly, we will ... answer with a merciless, holy war of justice."

## Rocket Launches

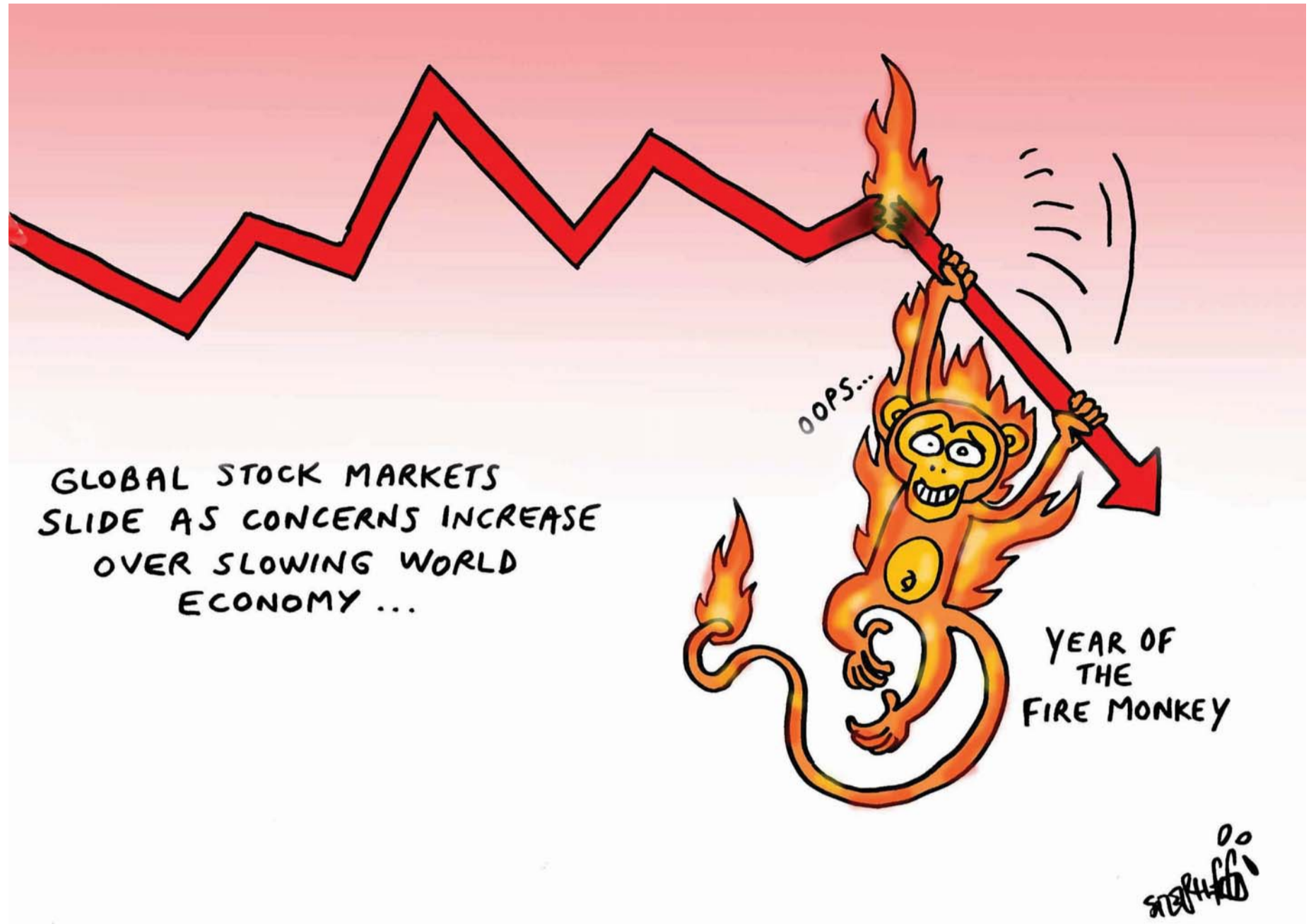
Nuclear weapons are inherently dangerous, of course, but they are far more dangerous if they can be launched quickly against targets around the world. That, however, requires missiles, along with the technology to miniaturize nuclear explosives so they can fit onto warheads. In announcing its launch plans, Pyongyang insisted its intentions were peaceful, calling it part of a "space development program" and saying the rocket would carry an Earth-observation satellite.

Many experts believe the North's rockets look more like they are designed to carry satellites into space - and less like long-range missiles - but the technology is similar, and forbidden by a series of UN resolutions. As a result, much of the world denounced the Sunday launch as yet another ballistic missile test, and one more step toward a North Korean arsenal of nuclear weapons capable of striking as far away as the United States.

The announcement was also quickly followed by demands to further tighten trade restrictions on North Korea, already among the most-sanctioned nations in the world. It also sparked renewed calls, particularly from US officials, for China to exert pressure on Pyongyang. While Beijing quickly expressed regret Sunday that North Korea had "obstinately insisted in carrying out a launch," it also pushed back against simply ratcheting up sanctions. China's UN ambassador, Liu Jieyi, said any new UN resolution should "do the work of reducing tension, of working toward denuclearization."

Beijing has also made clear it believes there is plenty of blame to go around, and that it does not like being lectured to by Washington. Soon after the January nuclear test, China's official Xinhua News Agency said the United States was responsible for much of the tension on the Korean Peninsula, saying "it boils down to Uncle Sam's uncompromising hostility ... flaring up the country's insecurity and thus pushing it toward reckless nuclear brinkmanship." Such talk is welcome in Pyongyang, which has long portrayed itself as a courageous nation standing up to American aggression. Strained relations between Beijing and Washington also give North Korea more room for its own diplomatic maneuvering. —AP

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## EU RELUCTANCE SINKING RELOCATION PLAN

By Lachlan Carmichael

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker's flagship plan to stem Europe's migration crisis by redistributing refugees around the bloc risks crumbling as EU states balk at sharing the burden, diplomats, officials and experts have told AFP. Since adopting the scheme last September to relocate 160,000 asylum seekers from frontline states Greece and Italy, European Union countries have moved at a snail's pace, taking in just 500 people.

Having pushed through his pet project for easing a crisis that saw more than one million people flood Europe's shores last year, former Luxembourg premier Juncker last month vowed "not to give up" on the scheme. But two EU diplomats, an official from an EU country, an analyst, and a person working on relocation spoke of growing doubts the plan will succeed in the face of the reluctance of many governments in the 28-nation bloc.

"I think people are afraid it's going to fail," one diplomat told AFP. "Some are losing hope and some are exploiting this loss of hope." European sources blame the delays on a series of factors: governments trying to screen jihadists in the wake of the Paris attacks, a lack of housing and education for asylum seekers, and logistical problems over chartering planes.

## Discrimination

They say some countries are setting unacceptable conditions by refusing Muslims, black people or large families, with Eastern European states the worst for discriminating on religious or racial grounds. "They (other countries) ask us not to be black, they ask us not to be big families, they ask us for more security," Greece's interior minister for migration Yiannis Mouzalas said, adding that less than half of all EU states had offered relocation places.

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban has been the most vocal eastern European opponent to admitting Muslims, saying in October that "Islam has never been part of Europe". The relocation plan is designed to help people fleeing the mainly Muslim war-torn countries of Syria and Iraq as well as the repressive east African state of Eritrea. In the wake of attacks like the Paris massacre, officials working on relocation said France, Belgium, Sweden were leading a "misplaced" push for stricter checks to weed out jihadists from the bona fide refugee. The scheme's failure so far means many migrants have lost confidence that they will be moved from Greece or Italy, and instead are making their own way to preferred destinations like Germany and Sweden. This is putting extra strain on the EU's passport-free Schengen area, in which several states have already reintroduced border checks. "On the whole the sentiment that is felt in this Brussels bubble is that this (relocation) plan will never really be properly implemented, that it has been too idealistic," an eastern European diplomat told AFP.

## 'Recovery Underway'

With cases such as the Cologne New Year sex assaults still in the headlines, the European Commission had also failed to communicate its ideas on how refugees would be integrated into their new countries, the diplomat added. "The only thing we see in central and eastern Europe are the experiences of the western European countries, which are absolutely horrible, especially as presented by the media," the diplomat said. Demetrios Papademetriou, president of the Brussels-based Migration Policy Institute Europe, suspected EU countries were resisting the relocation quotas because they saw "no end in sight" to the migrant crisis. Instead, he urged the EU to commit to a large-scale scheme to directly take 500,000 people from Syrian refugee camps overseas in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, expanding it from the 20,000 Europe has so far pledged to take.

The European Commission warned against writing off its migration policy. "President Juncker compared the situation we face now with the refugee crisis to the situation in 2010 with the financial crisis," a spokesperson told AFP. "Many speculated about the euro failing but five years later, recovery is underway and the EU is expecting two percent growth this year. The building blocks of a sustainable migration policy are now on the table, what is needed is implementation." —AFP

## WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH RACIST ARCHITECTURE?

By Jay Reeves

Growing up in the 1950s, William Bell had to enter Birmingham's segregated Lyric Theatre through a side entrance, marked "COLORED," that was walled-off from the elegant lobby. He climbed a dimly lit stairwell to watch movies from the steep balcony where black patrons had to sit for generations. Now the city's mayor, he recalls the Lyric's beauty, but also the way it isolated black people. The inequity built into The Lyric Theatre's very architecture is a painful reminder of the city's ugly past as one of the most segregated places in America. But it also serves as a living history lesson, a symbol of how the Deep South has changed since the courts ended discriminatory Jim Crow laws.

Preservationists had to decide whether to keep reminders of The Lyric's discarded color line before they unveiled an \$11 million restoration of the 102-year-old theater, which had been closed for decades. In this case, they chose to highlight the history, installing a glass door with the etched words "Historic Colored Entrance" in the lobby wall so patrons can peer into the past.

Across the South, people are struggling with similar questions: What does a changing region do with the vestiges of back-alley service windows, segregated waiting rooms, dual water fountains and abandoned schools that once formed the skeleton of a society built on oppression? Northern states have such reminders, too. A black heritage trail in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, includes all-black burial grounds and a plaque which explains that blacks were forced to sit in designated pews in New England churches through the mid-1800s. In Detroit, murals decorate a 6-foot-tall concrete wall built in 1941 to separate a new development meant for whites from an existing black neighborhood.

But the issue has become particularly acute in the South, where millions still remember living through segregation. More so than in the past, many older people and younger generations now feel a need to discuss the legacy of Jim Crow, said Robert Weyeneth, a University of South Carolina history professor who specializes in preservation. "It has become more complicated today because people are more willing to think about the preservation of the architecture of white supremacy," Weyeneth said. "Initially, no one wanted to save these things."

Some say it makes them uncomfortable to see reminders of segregation at the Lyric, but the mayor believes people must see history as

it really was, even if that means glancing up at the segregated balcony where he sat as a young boy. The ornate theater was beautiful, he recalls, but blacks up there could never mingle with the white patrons far below. "The best seats were on the front row of the balcony because you could flick popcorn or peanuts down and it would land in their hair," said Bell, now 66, grinning at the memory. "We should not shield ourselves from our past," he added.

Some other places around the South where communities have had to come to terms with the physical reminders of segregation:

includes a Jewish section and a mixed-race "Potter's Field" for indigent burials. A recent visitor complained that the story of slave burials and segregation was "sad" and shouldn't be discussed. Moore disagrees. "Cemeteries provide a great place for people to look and try to figure out what happened before," he said.

## Montpelier Train Depot - Orange, Virginia

Built in 1910 when Virginia and the rest of the South had laws that prevented whites and blacks from mingling in many public spaces, the Montpelier Train Depot at Orange, Virginia,



In this Jan 7, 2016 photo, a woman stands in the doorway of the new Historic Colored Entrance at the Lyric Theatre in Birmingham, Alabama. —AP photos

## Oakland Cemetery - Atlanta

Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery, with 70,000 graves dating to 1850, is a reminder that segregation was meant to last eternally in the Jim Crow South, and operators don't shy away from its history. The city-owned cemetery was divided by race for generations until the City Council ended the practice in 1963, and today some black people are buried in previously all-white sections. That includes Atlanta's first black mayor, Maynard Jackson, who died in 2003 and lies in an ivy-covered grave.

Telling the story of this segregated past is part of the educational mission at Oakland, said executive director David Moore. A brochure, guided tours and audio exhibits explain the cemetery's black section, which holds about 12,000 graves, and signs denote the black section and other areas at Oakland, which also

was constructed with two waiting rooms - one for whites and another for blacks. Preservationists at President James Madison's Montpelier estate, where the white-and-yellow depot is located, decided to keep the segregated waiting rooms when the structure was renovated in 2010. The depot remains an active US Post Office, and some favored taking down the "WHITE" and "COLORED" signs that hang over the waiting room entrances. Instead, the depot has been equipped with exhibits that explain the legal history of "separate but equal" laws and their effects on black residents during the Jim Crow era.

## Jones County Courthouse - Ellisville, Mississippi

The metal plaques attached to two concrete water fountains outside the Jones County Courthouse in Ellisville, Mississippi,

hide an ugly truth: one fountain was exclusively for whites and the other for blacks during the segregation era. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People sought the removal of the dual fountains in 1989, calling them a painful reminder of segregation, but the white-controlled board of supervisors refused. Instead, officials plastered over the "COLORED" and "WHITE" inscriptions, which reappeared once rain washed away the plaster.

County leaders then decided to cover the old racial inscriptions with plaques denoting the year the courthouse was built, 1908. Today, the twin water fountains still flank the courthouse stairs. Nearby on the lawn stands a monument to Confederate veterans.

## Butler Beach - St Augustine, Florida

There's little to let visitors know that Frank B Butler County Park was once a thriving resort for blacks located just south of segregated St Augustine Beach, Florida, on the Atlantic Coast. The park's website tells the story of Butler, a black businessman who saw the opportunity for a black beach in the segregated South during the first half of the 1900s. The resort he created grew to include bathhouses, a casino, pavilions, a motel and other amenities for blacks who weren't allowed at white-only beaches in the South.

Yet those structures disappeared generations ago, and black historian Bernadette Reeves laments the lack of markers at the site on scenic A1A to explain its significance. "Can you imagine that the whole Atlantic Ocean wasn't big enough for whites and blacks to swim together?" she said.

## Rosenwald Schools - Regionwide

Philanthropist Julius Rosenwald spurred the construction of more 5,300 schools for blacks across the South over a two-decade period ending in 1932, and efforts to save those buildings are spotty. Rosenwald built the schools at the urging of black leader and educator Booker T Washington, who founded Tuskegee University in rural east Alabama and had a firsthand view of the inherent inequality of "separate but equal" schools for blacks and whites. Rosenwald's schools bridged the gap that white-controlled governments wouldn't fill. Today, some communities and groups have embraced the preservation of Rosenwald schools, which typically were wood-frame structures built along rural roads. Yet the National Trust for Historic Preservation estimates that fewer than 450 survive today. —AP

## DINAMO ZAGREB CHIEF EXECUTIVE RESIGNS

**ZAGREB:** Zdravko Mamic, the chief executive of Croatian soccer champion Dinamo Zagreb, under investigation over profits from player transfers, resigned yesterday saying he wanted to secure a stable future for the club. From now on I will act only as an adviser to the club, if and when the people in the club want to hear my advice," Mamic told a news conference. A spokeswoman for Dinamo Zagreb said the club had no immediate comment. Mamic denies any charges. One of his lawyers, Jadranka Slokovic, told reporters she had not so far seen any evidence that would underpin accusations of wrongdoing. Mamic and several other people linked to the sport were detained last November over alleged financial damage worth millions of kuna suffered by the club in relation to player transfers. He was released in December on bail worth 14 million kuna (\$2.06 million). The state attorney's office said this week it had opened fresh investigation against Mamic and several other people over the transfers and damage to the club worth at least 70 million kuna. Last season Dinamo won their 10th consecutive and 17th overall Croatian title. — Reuters



## BABY GIRL FOR TENNIS ACE ANDY MURRAY

**LONDON:** British tennis star Andy Murray has become a father for the first time after his wife Kim Sears gave birth to a baby girl on Sunday, the BBC reported yesterday. Murray and Sears, who are both 28, got married in the world number two's home town of Dunblane in Scotland in April last year. The Scot, who has won two Grand Slams in his career, reached the final of the Australian Open last month but lost to Serbian world number one Novak Djokovic. He made a dash to the airport to fly home to his pregnant wife after his defeat on January 31. Murray sent a message to Sears after the defeat to Djokovic, saying: "You have been a legend the last two weeks, thank you so much for all of your support. I'll be on the next flight home," he said. During the tournament in Melbourne, Murray and Sears suffered a major scare when her father Nigel, a tennis coach, collapsed outside and was taken to hospital. The Lawn Tennis Association, the sport's governing body in Britain, yesterday tweeted a picture of Murray and Sears on their wedding day with the message: "Congratulations to @andy\_murray & Kim Sears on the birth of their baby girl!" Murray last year reached the semi-finals of the French Open and Wimbledon and steered Great Britain to its first Davis Cup title in almost 80 years. The Olympic gold medalist won the US Open in 2012 and Wimbledon in 2013. — AFP

## POLLARD RULED OUT OF SUPER RUGBY SEASON

**PRETORIA:** South Africa flyhalf Handre Pollard will miss the Super Rugby season, the test series against Ireland and the Rugby Championship after rupturing knee ligaments in a freak training accident, the Bulls said yesterday. He will undergo surgery today and could be sidelined for nine months. "Handre was easing back into training, his first phase of final rehab before being cleared to play and was busy with a passing drill when he injured himself," coach Nollis Marais said in a statement. "This is pretty devastating for all of us as Handre was a key player for us." Pollard was undergoing fitness tests with the Bulls on his first day back at the franchise since returning from Japan where he had been playing club rugby. The 21-year-old has won 20 test caps for the Springboks since making his debut in 2014 and was among South Africa's leading performers when they finished third at last year's Rugby World Cup. He recently extended his contract with the Pretoria-based Super Rugby franchise until 2019 but was allowed to play in Japan for three months after the World Cup. The Bulls start their Super Rugby campaign on Feb. 27. — Reuters



## US ATHLETES SHOULD CONSIDER NOT ATTENDING OLYMPICS IF FEAR ZIKA

**NEW YORK:** The United States Olympic Committee told US sports federations that athletes and staff concerned for their health over the Zika virus should consider not going to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in August. The message was delivered in a conference call involving USOC officials and leaders of US sport federations in late January, according to two people who participated in the call. Federations were told that no one should go to Brazil "if they don't feel comfortable going. Bottom line," said Donald Anthony, president and board chairman of USA Fencing.

The USOC's briefing to sport federations is the latest sign that Olympics officials are taking the Zika threat to the games in Rio de Janeiro seriously, and acknowledging that at least some athletes and support staff could face a tough decision over whether to attend. The United States won most medals at the last Olympics in London in 2012, so any disruption to its presence would be important for the Rio games.

Global health authorities suspect the mosquito-borne Zika virus has caused a spike in Brazil of microcephaly, a birth defect marked by an abnormally small head. As a result, the World Health Organization declared an international health emergency Feb. 1, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is advising pregnant women or those considering becoming pregnant to avoid travel to places with Zika outbreaks.

The USOC's Alan Ashley, its chief of sport performance, and other USOC officials, briefed the leaders of the federations.

Ashley did not respond to email or phone calls requesting comment. USOC spokesman Mark Jones confirmed by email that Ashley had "briefed federation leaders on the CDC's recommendations and we will continue to ensure that athletes and officials affiliated with Team USA receive any updates from the CDC." The USOC has not issued its own set of recommendations for athletes and staff beyond what the CDC and WHO have issued.

Jones declined to comment further or respond to specific questions from Reuters before publication.

In a statement on Monday, another USOC spokesman Patrick Sandusky said media reports that the USOC has advised US athletes to reconsider competing in Rio due to the Zika virus were inaccurate. It was unclear what media reports he was referring to and he couldn't be immediately reached for comment. "Team USA looks forward to the Games and we did not, would not and will not prevent athletes from competing for their country should they qualify," Sandusky said.

### EXPRESSED OPTIMISM

Recalling the conference call, Anthony, a former Olympian, said: "One of the things that they immediately said was, especially for women that may be pregnant or even thinking of getting pregnant, that whether you are scheduled to go to Rio or no, that you shouldn't go."

"And no one should go if they feel at all as though that that threat could impact them," said Anthony, who praised the USOC's handling of the outbreak so far. Zika outbreaks have been reported in 33 countries, most of them in the Americas. Symptoms of infection often are mild or imperceptible. But the outbreak in Brazil that began last year has been accompanied by more than 4,000 cases of suspected microcephaly; investigators have confirmed more than 400. The link to Zika is unproven but strongly suspected.

In El Salvador, which is experiencing outbreaks of the virus, women are being advised to put off pregnancy until 2018. Will Connell, Director of Sport at the U.S. Equestrian Federation, said the USOC was leaving the decision up to individual athletes and staff members.

"They said no one who has reasons to be concerned should feel obliged to go," Connell said. "If an athlete feels that way, of course they may decide not to go." During the call, the USOC did not indicate they were concerned that large numbers of athletes would avoid Rio or that Zika could derail the Games, the two federation leaders said. Instead, officials expressed optimism that risk would be minimized by close cooperation among health agencies, mosquito control efforts and the Games' timing during Brazil's winter when mosquito-borne illnesses are less common. The USOC officials on the call said the organization would adhere to the recommendations of health agencies including the CDC, the sport federation leaders said. "As we get closer to the Olympics the guidance could get updated," Connell said.

In a Jan. 29 letter from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to national committees, the IOC's chief doctors said they were monitoring the situation closely. They passed along mosquito avoidance advice, but remained confident the games would go ahead as planned. Both Connell and U.S. Fencing's Anthony said the USOC's message was focused primarily on the potential risks for women who are pregnant or are thinking about trying to become pregnant. Since the call, the CDC has issued more guidance in light of increasing suspicion that Zika can be transmitted sexually. The CDC said Friday that men who reside in or have traveled to Zika-affected areas may want to abstain from sexual activity or use condoms. The Olympics have long promised to be a triumphant showcase for Latin America, which is playing host to the global sports spectacle for the first time. Rio has also been expecting more than 380,000 tourists for the Games, which come as Brazil's economy is mired in recession and its government reels from a corruption scandal at state oil company Petrobras.

An ongoing Zika epidemic could prompt some athletes, staff, sponsors and high-spending tourists to steer clear of the Games. Even if the risk of infection to any given visitor is very low - as health experts expect - uncertainties persist. There is no Zika vaccine, and currently available blood tests cannot always detect the virus. — Reuters



Sheikh Athbi Al Naif Al Sabah

# KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL RALLY 2016 ON SCHEDULE TIME

**KUWAIT:** The president of the higher organizing committee - Kuwait International Rally 2016 Sheikh Athbi Al Naif Al Sabah declined some news circulated at a number of media channels about discarding the idea of organizing the International Rally of Kuwait this year, he said that this news is false and has nothing to do with the reality, it was disseminated only to disorder the good reputation of Kuwait motor sport among the concerned Arab and international countries, we will not allow the circulation of this news anymore, we realize well who is standing behind these

The agenda of Middle East championship for rallies 2016	
Date	Round
Feb. 4 : 6	Qatar International Rally
March 24: 26	Kuwait International Rally
May 5 : 7	Jordan International Rally
Sep. 2 : 4	Lebanon International Rally
Oct. 7 : 9	Cyprus International Rally
Nov. 3 : 5	Om an International Rally
Nov. 17 : 19	Dubai International Rally

actions and know their targets. I confirm once again that the rally is listed into the FIA agenda - Middle East championship for rallies and will be in the schedule time. We will do our best to highlight the name of Kuwait, as this is our ultimate target meanwhile we

welcome all the participants wishing them all the best residency in Kuwait. About the role of Kuwait in supporting the sport events, Al Naif stated that the role of Public Authority for Sport is leading in all different areas including Motorsport, he also evaluated the role of Sheikh Ahmad Al Mansour GM public authority for sport in solving all the problems that may encounter the Motorsport, confirming meanwhile that board members of Basel Salem Sabah Motor Racing Club always seeks the improvement of the sport throughout organizing many concerned sport events.

# GOLFERS SAY ZIKA VIRUS WILL NOT PUT THEM OFF THEIR STROKE

**LOS ANGELES/DUBAI:** Leading male golfers say they will not allow fears about the Zika virus keep them away from Brazil when their sport returns to the Olympics after an absence of more than a century.

The spread of the mosquito-borne virus spread across Latin America has given some athletes preparing for the Games in Rio de Janeiro in August cause for concern.

The US Olympic Committee has told US sports federations that athletes and staff worried for their health should consider not going to the Games.

Kenya threatened yesterday to pull its elite runners and other athletes out unless it got assurances they would not be exposed to the virus outbreak in Brazil.

But golfers canvassed by Reuters at events in the past week said they were unperturbed by the situation, joining other sports personalities who have said they are still keen to go.

Golfers spend most of their time on the road competing in events across the globe, often in countries where they have to contend with a myriad of challenges off the course. Though the World Health Organization last week declared Zika an international health emergency that could infect as many as 4 million people in the Americas, symptoms are typically mild. "We've travelled all over the world playing golf," American world number 14 Brandt Snedeker said at last week's PGA Tour event, the Phoenix Open.

"We're used to being in different climates and different areas with many different concerns, not just the Zika virus or whatever it might be, so we realise the dangers when we do travel.

Snedeker, who is one of 10 US players vying for four spots at the Games, expressed confidence in local and international health authorities taking every pre-



**SINGAPORE:** In this Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, file photo, Jordan Spieth, of the United States, tees off on the third hole during the third round of the SMBC Singapore Open golf tournament at Sentosa Golf Club's Serapong Course in Singapore. Leading male golfers say they will not allow fears about the Zika virus keep them away from Brazil when their sport returns to the Olympics after an absence of more than a century. — AP

caution. "We have this sort of concern when we go to China every year with smog alerts, we have it when we go to Singapore, Thailand, India or any other Asian country," said Snedeker, an eight-times winner on the PGA Tour.

Fellow American Brooks Koepka, the world number 19, said he was not really concerned by the Zika virus. "You've just got to be careful, that's all," said Koepka, who clinched his first PGA Tour title at the 2015 Phoenix Open. "I've been to a

bunch of places where you've got to take medications and things like that just to kind of survive."

### DEJA VU FOR GRILLO

For Argentine world number 34 Emiliano Grillo, who is assured of a place in Rio, the Zika virus gave him a sense of deja vu. "Where I'm from, we've got another mosquito virus (Dengue fever) which is pretty similar," Grillo said. "Everybody is making a deal about the Zika virus just

because it's something new. The same thing happened when Dengue fever popped up in Buenos Aires for a couple of months and everybody made a huge deal about it.

"I am not scared of it." Health officials are most concerned by Zika's potential link to microcephaly, a birth defect in which babies are born with abnormally small heads and underdeveloped brains. Brazil is investigating Zika's possible links to more than 4,000 suspected cases of microcephaly among newborns. "I'm normally not easily scared but it's obviously not a good situation with the virus, it seems to affect pregnant mums in a very bad way," Sweden's world number five Henrik Stenson said at last week's Dubai Desert Classic. Asked whether his preparations for Rio would be affected in any way, Stenson replied: "Not really. I'm not bringing the kids, my wife is going to come down and some family. Englishman Danny Willett, who won his fourth European Tour title at the Dubai Desert Classic on Sunday, said the Zika virus would not change his plans for the Olympics, where golf will be making its first appearance since 1904.

"No, it only affects pregnant women and she's not coming," 13th-ranked Willett said, referring to his wife Nicole, who is due to give birth to their first child in late March or April. "She'll have given birth by then, plus she wasn't coming anyway, so no."

Pre-Olympic trials are scheduled in Rio before August and the International Olympic Committee says the Games will take place during the winter months when a drier, cooler climate reduces the presence of mosquitoes and the risk of infection. The IOC says there have been no discussions about cancelling or postponing the Games, although some medical experts they should be. — Reuters

## OLYMPIC CHAMP RINER SET FOR SHOULDER SURGERY

**PARIS:** France's Olympic judo champion Teddy Riner could have to undergo surgery on a painful shoulder injury next week, his coach told AFP yesterday.

Franck Chambily said Riner had a small piece of cartilage that was pushing on a tendon at the top of his left shoulder and

causing the athlete pain. "It's better to remove it," said Chambily, adding that a non-surgical technique would be tried first before resorting to surgery next week which could sideline the athlete for up to six weeks. Riner pulled out of the Paris Grand Slam last weekend because of

the problem. The eight-time world champion, unbeaten in more than 100 bouts dating back to September 2010, will be bidding to defend his +100kg Olympic title in Rio de Janeiro in August. Since the London Olympics in 2012, Riner, 26, has had a number of shoulder problems

which saw him stop his season in 2013 and 2014 before undergoing an operation on an elbow in 2015.

After a winter break, Riner had kicked-started training in early January before attacking an Olympic season that was to see him compete in Paris and then go on

to the European championships at the end of April. "We have time," insisted Chambily. "The objective once again is the Olympic Games. This hampers his preparations a bit. Obviously things could be better but everything will fall into place." — AFP



**MARCOUSSIS:** France's rugby team players warm up during a training session at the National Rugby Center in Marcoussis, south of Paris, yesterday. France will play against Ireland during their Six Nations tournament match on Saturday Feb. 13. — AP

## ENGLAND ADD KVESIC AND BEAUMONT FOR ITALY CLASH

**LONDON:** England added back rows Matt Kvesic and Josh Beaumont to their training squad ahead of Saturday's Six Nations clash against Italy. Kvesic and Beaumont were included in England coach Eddie Jones's 33-man squad for last weekend's Six Nations opener but failed to make the cut before the 15-9 win over Scotland at Murrayfield.

Gloucester openside Kvesic and Sale No.8 Beaumont were involved in English Premiership

victories for their clubs over the weekend and will both get to join the squad before the trip to Rome. England have retained a total of 27 players at their Surrey training camp, including the 23 chosen to face Scotland and travelling reserves Elliot Daly and Maro Itoje.

Kvesic and Beaumont will return to a squad buoyant after Jones' reign got off to a winning start. England No.8 Billy Vunipola was especially impressive against the Scots and he believes the

team are set for a renaissance following last year's dismal World Cup pool stage exit.

Vunipola hailed the compassionate way Jones deals with the squad, which appears to be a stark contrast to the more authoritarian style of his predecessor Stuart Lancaster.

"I respond to the love and compassion Eddie shows the boys, me especially. He is very personable," Vunipola said. "He has been really good for me since he came in. He has just filled me

with confidence and that is something I thrive on. "I don't need someone to shout at me. I know what I have to do. I just need someone to reassure me and look after me." Vunipola insists England are benefiting from being allowed to socialise more than under the previous regime, when players were told not to drink. He believes the squad would have benefited from being able to go down the pub after the World Cup to talk through their woes and it is a philosophy

that has been shared by Jones. "We have had a few bonding sessions. It's important for me to know what someone else is about, what motivates them, whether that be their family or scoring tries," Vunipola said.

"It's something you can't really measure or see but I definitely think it works. "It works better when you have a relationship with someone rather than just rocking up and playing for England." — AFP



**ST PETERSBURG:** In this May 1, 2015, file photo, Baltimore Orioles' Delmon Young fouls off a pitch during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays in St. Petersburg, Fla. Major League Baseball player Young was arrested after authorities say he choked and threatened a parking attendant at a Miami hotel on Sunday. — AP

## MLB PLAYER YOUNG CHARGED WITH ATTACKING ATTENDANT

**MIAMI:** Free agent outfielder Delmon Young was arrested after he choked and threatened a parking attendant at a Miami hotel Sunday night, police said.

Young, a 30-year-old who appeared in 52 games for the Baltimore Orioles last year, grabbed the attendant's neck and called him a "stupid Cuban," according to an arrest report. The attendant told police he had refused to let Young on an elevator to a club at the Viceroy Miami because the club was closed. Young left the area for a short time, then returned and attacked the attendant again, the report said.

The attendant got away and called police. Hotel security staff was familiar with Young and directed officers to his condominium, which is located in the hotel's rear tower. Young told police he didn't know anything about the attack on the attendant, the report said. An officer went on to describe Young's behavior as belligerent. Young was arrested and charged with battery. He was released Monday morning on \$1,500 bail, according to jail records.

His attorney declined to comment on Monday. Young was suspended for seven

days by Major League Baseball in 2012 after his arrest in New York City. Police said then Young yelled anti-Semitic epithets during a late-night, drunken tussle. He pleaded guilty later that year to aggravated harassment, was ordered to complete 10 days of community service and to enroll in a program at the Museum of Tolerance New York as part of the Manhattan District Attorney's office restorative justice program.

Young was the first pick overall in the 2003 amateur draft and made his big league debut with the Devil Rays in 2006. He also played for Minnesota (2008-11), Detroit (2011-12), Philadelphia (2013) before a second stint with the Rays in 2013 and two seasons with the Orioles. He has a .283 average in 10 big league seasons with 109 homers and 566 RBIs.

While playing for Triple-A Durham in the minor leagues in 2006, he was suspended for 50 games for flinging his bat underhanded, which struck an umpire, following a called third strike. Young said he did not mean to hit the umpire, who was a fill-in while regular minor league umpires were on strike. — AP

## HOOKEER HORIE NAMED CAPTAIN OF SUNWOLVES

**TOKYO:** Japan hooker Shota Horie has been named captain of the Tokyo-based Sunwolves, officials of the new Super Rugby franchise said yesterday.

The 30-year-old, who helped Japan win three out of four matches at last year's World Cup, can expect a baptism of fire when the side take on South Africa's Lions at home in their opening game on February 27.

Horie's previous experience in the competition with the Melbourne Rebels in 2013-14 had made him favourite to be selected as skipper by Sunwolves coach Mark Hammett.

"It's a great honour to be named captain for the first Japanese team to

play in the Super Rugby," Horie said in a statement. "There are definitely things I can't do alone so it's important for the team to come together and work for one another." The Sunwolves are expected to struggle in their first season, having been slow to assemble their playing squad and staff. Damage limitation could be the order of the day as they try to avoid being mauled by the Lions.

Their cause has not been helped by several marquee Japan players opting to sign for other clubs on more lucrative contracts and to accelerate their own rugby development.

Among those to have snubbed the Sunwolves, national team captain

Michael Leitch will turn out for the New Zealand-based Chiefs and full-back Ayumu Goromaru, Japan's new rugby poster boy, has joined the Reds in Queensland. "Defence is likely to be the key," added Horie, with no apparent hint of irony. "We have to be mindful of that when we go and play." Hammett backed Horie to rally his troops. "It was obvious he was the man for the job," the 43-year-old New Zealander was quoted as saying by Japan's Kyodo News agency.

"He leads by example, has experience of Super Rugby and is backed by the players." The Sunwolves take on a Japanese Top League select side in a warm-up game on Saturday. — AFP



**Japan's national team player Shota Horie.**



**MINNEAPOLIS:** In this May 5, 2016, file photo, Oakland Athletics relief pitcher Tyler Clippard throws against the Minnesota Twins in the eighth inning of a baseball game in Minneapolis. Clippard has agreed to a two-year contract with the Arizona Diamondbacks. — AP

## CLIPPARD, DIAMONDBACKS AGREE TO \$12.25M, 2-YEAR CONTRACT

**PHOENIX:** Reliever Tyler Clippard agreed Monday to a \$12.25 million, two-year contract with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The deal with the right-hander, who turns 31 on Sunday, adds a late-game option for the Diamondbacks, who expect to be a contender after boosting their rotation by signing Zack Greinke and acquiring Shelby Miller in a trade with Atlanta.

Clippard was 5-4 with a 2.92 ERA last year with the Oakland Athletics and New York Mets, holding batters to a .186 average, 10th-best in the majors. He was even better with runners in scoring position at .133.

He spent most of his nine-year major league career as setup man for the Washington Nationals and could fill the same role behind Arizona closer Brad Ziegler. Right-hander Daniel Hudson and left-hander Andrew Chafin are the other late-game options for Diamondbacks manager Chip Hale. Arizona general manager Dave Stewart said the Diamondbacks first looked internally to fill the late-inning needs.

"After further consideration, we started to look a little bit more at the free-agent market," Stewart explained during a telephone conference call. "With everything else we've done

this year, we felt that a pitcher that had been in those roles, has done the job, has a track record of doing the job, was the direction to go." Clippard is the only pitcher to appear in at least 69 big league games each of the last six seasons. He leads all relievers in that span with 34 wins, 440 games and 464 1/3 innings.

Clippard has a 42-29 career record with a 2.88 ERA, with 612 strikeouts in 562 innings. He was an All-Star with the Nationals in 2011 and 2014. The Mets acquired Clippard from Oakland for minor league pitcher Casey Meisner. Clippard had a terrific start in his time with the Mets but faded late in the season. He had a 6.14 ERA in September and allowed five runs in 6 2-3 innings in the postseason. The struggles didn't concern Stewart.

"We've done our research," he said, "and we do know that he was used often in the first part of the season, which can wear a guy down at the end of the year."

Stewart said he thinks the Diamondbacks have enough bullpen depth to prevent anyone from being overused. The general manager said Hudson, a starter before two Tommy John operations, will remain in the bullpen after doing "a very, very good job" primarily in the setup role last season. — AP



## SUPER BOWL GETS 111.9M VIEWERS, DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

**NEW YORK:** Setting television viewership records with the Super Bowl has become almost routine, but this year's average of 111.9 million viewers for Denver's victory over Carolina is down from the past two years. That makes Sunday's game the third most-watched event in U.S. television history, the Nielsen company said Monday. Last year's down-to-the-wire contest between New England and Seattle keeps the record with 114.4 million viewers. The Super Bowl had seemed to know

no ceiling in popularity, setting viewership records in six of seven years until this one. CBS, the nation's most-watched network, had pushed the event hard the past few months, playing up the historical nature of the 50th Super Bowl game. But Denver's 24-10 victory wasn't a sizzler, with defenses dominating the marquee quarterback matchup between Peyton Manning and reigning NFL MVP Cam Newton. Even more than television, social media reflected far less engagement in the

game than there was last year, when the result was decided on a last-minute, goal-line interception. Twitter said that there were 16.9 million tweets about the game, sharply down from last year's 25.1 million. Facebook reported that there were 200 million posts, comments or "likes," down from 265 million last year. This year, 60 million people took to Facebook to converse about the game, while last year it was 65 million. For both Twitter and Facebook, the moment of highest social

media activity occurred in the minute after the halftime show featuring Coldplay, Beyonce and Bruno Mars. On Facebook the next most-commented upon moments came at the end of the game and following Lady Gaga's rendition of the National Anthem.

Nielsen said 21.2 million stayed up to watch the special version of Steven Colbert's "The Late Show" that aired after the game. While it represented Colbert's biggest audience ever, that was almost a given - and it was

the smallest audience for a post-Super Bowl program since 17.4 million people watched "Alias" on ABC in 2003.

Colbert may have been hurt by the relatively late start, 10:54 p.m. on the East Coast, following post-game interviews and trophy presentations. Nielsen said an average of 1.4 million computer users watched the live stream of the game. The stream had just under 4 million unique visitors during the game. — AP



**SANTA CLARA:** In this Sunday photo, Denver Broncos' Peyton Manning holds the Lombardi Trophy after the NFL Super Bowl 50 football game against the Carolina Panthers in Santa Clara, Calif. No, Anheuser-Busch didn't pay Peyton Manning to say he'd be drinking a lot of Budweiser after winning the Super Bowl. — AP

## RECORD \$132.5M BET ON SUPER BOWL AT NEVADA SPORTS BOOKS

**NEVADA:** So you thought the Panthers and Broncos would put up a lot more points in Super Bowl 50, that Carolina quarterback Cam Newton would score at least once and probably be named the game's most valuable player?

So did a lot of people, and that had Nevada sportsbooks smiling a day after they took in a record \$132.5 million in wagers on the big game.

"It was a very good day," Johnny Avello, executive director of the sports book at Wynn Las Vegas, said Monday.

"A defensive battle was something we were rooting for and fortunately, that's exactly what it was," added Jay Kornegay, the odds maker at the Westgate Las Vegas Superbook. A 5.5-point underdog at the casinos, Denver upset Carolina 24-10 - a total well below the over-under projection of between 44 and 45. Newton was the overwhelming favorite to win this year's MVP, but he failed to score and watched Denver linebacker Von Miller take the honor at 12-1 odds.

Odds makers said gamblers bet heavily on the Panthers in the weeks ahead of the game. "But over the last few days, the pendulum swung in Denver's favor and really balanced a lot of things out," Kornegay said. "Our best case scenario was for the Panthers to win the game, but not cover. So it wasn't a best-case, but as long as we stayed under the total, we were in good shape."

The Nevada Gaming Control Board said in its preliminary estimate Monday that Nevada's 194 sports books kept about 10.1 percent of the \$132.5 million in Super Bowl wagers, for a total win of \$13.3 million.

The previous record of \$119.4 million was set two years ago when Seattle beat Denver 43-8. The total win that year was the best recorded over the past 10 years, about 16.5 percent or \$19.7 million. Wagers totaled just under \$116 million last year, with a casino win of 2.8 percent.

### ACCEPTING BETS

The last time Nevada books lost mon-

ey on the Super Bowl was 2008 when they paid out about \$2.6 million more than they took in as the New York Giants beat New England, 17-14.

This year marked the first time Nevada sportsbooks could accept bets on the MVP.

Traditionally, bets can be made only on things that happen during the game. But the Nevada Gaming Commission made the change after allowing bets on the Heisman Trophy for the first time last year.

"We were blown away by the wagering on the MVP," said Michael Grodsky, director of marketing at the William Hill Race & Sports Book. "It was a very healthy handle on that, and Von Miller winning the MVP was a big winner for the public. Ten percent of all the tickets we wrote were on Von Miller."

The odds makers said a low scoring Super Bowl usually translates into success for the house when it comes to the so-called prop bets - things like will so-and-so score more than so-many touchdowns, or will there be a safety, a 2-point conversion, or an overtime?

The betting public tends to bet "more overs and more yes than no" on those questions, Kornegay said.

"Cam not scoring a touchdown was a very good result for us so was Greg Olsen's performance overall," he said about the Panther tight end who was held to four catches for 41 yards. "(Carolina receiver) Ted Ginn not getting a rushing attempt was another one that went our way."

Nevada sports books avoided the controversy that plagued some offshore betting sites that had accepted bets on such things as how long it would take Lady Gaga to sing the national anthem. The actual ending point wasn't clear when she repeated the final word of the phrase, "home of the brave."

"That's exactly why we don't take wagers on that," Kornegay said. "There's no official result in a box score." — AP

## JAMES, IRVING LEAD CAVALIERS PAST KINGS

**CLEVELAND:** LeBron James had 21 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his 40th career triple-double, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 120-100 victory over the Sacramento Kings on Monday night. Kyrie Irving matched his season high with 32 points for Cleveland. The point guard was 13 of 21 from the field and tied his career high with 12 assists. It was James' first triple-double of the season. The four-time MVP rested during the fourth quarter. Cleveland went ahead early in the game and steadily built its lead against the listless Kings, who have dropped eight of nine. Rudy Gay and Omri Casspi led Sacramento with 16 points each.

### CLIPPERS 98, 76ERS 92, OT

J.J. Redick had 23 points, including the tying 3-pointer late in regulation, and Jamal Crawford also scored 23 points to lead the short-handed Clippers to the win. The Clippers overcame their largest deficit in a victory this season, coming back from 19 points down to win their 19th game in the last 23 overall and 12th in the last 14 on the road. Jerami Grant had 17 points to lead the 76ers, who were looking for their first winning streak of the season. Los Angeles took control in overtime, scoring the first eight points in the extra session as Philadelphia missed 10 straight shots to end regulation and start OT.

### MAGIC 117, HAWKS 110, OT

Nikola Vucevic scored 25 of his 28 points after half-time, and Orlando rallied from 20 points down to beat Atlanta in overtime. Orlando, which trailed by 20 in the opening period and by 18 in the third, took its first lead at 96-94 on Mario Hezonja's 3-pointer with 3:33 remaining in regulation. Orlando scored the first six points of overtime, including a jumper by Vucevic, who also had 13 rebounds. Kyle Korver's 3-pointer pulled the Hawks to 112-110, but Evan Fournier answered with a 3 for the Magic. Al Horford led Atlanta with 27 points, and Paul Millsap had 22 points and 13 rebounds.

### TRAIL BLAZERS 112, GRIZZLIES 106, OT

Damian Lillard scored 33 points for Portland, and C.J. McCollum had six of his 21 points in overtime. McCollum scored the first three baskets of OT to create a buffer for the Trail Blazers. Mike Conley led Memphis with 27 points. Zach Randolph added 26 points as the Grizzlies lost their second straight overtime game.

### THUNDER 122, SUNS 106

Kevin Durant scored 25 of his 32 points in the second half and Oklahoma City pulled away in the final four minutes to hand Phoenix its eighth consecutive loss. The Suns, losers of 23 of their last 25 games, were in it most of the way and led by as many as six late in the third quarter. But Durant sank two 3-pointers in a 16-4 Oklahoma City run to finish the game. Russell Westbrook added 29 points for the Thunder, who were coming off a 116-108 loss at Golden State on Saturday night. Markieff Morris scored 23 points for Phoenix, and Archie Goodwin had 20.

### RAPTORS 103, PISTONS 89

Kyle Lowry scored 25 points, and Toronto went on an 11-2 run at the start of the fourth quarter to pull away for its 14th victory in 15 games. Terrence Ross added 18 points for the Raptors, who recovered quickly after Detroit's Andre Drummond made a shot from about 80 feet to end the third quarter. Toronto led 70-65 at the start of the fourth, and Lowry's driving three-point play set the tone for the final period. Drummond had 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Pistons.

### NETS 105, NUGGETS 104

Joe Johnson's 3-pointer at the buzzer lifted Brooklyn to the victory. Thaddeus Young scored 20 points for the Nets. Markel Brown added a career-high 19 and Johnson finished with 12 points and eight assists. Danilo Gallinari had 24 points and Kenneth Faried added 24 points and 13 rebounds for the Nuggets.

### PELICANS 116, TIMBERWOLVES 102

Anthony Davis and Jrue Holiday scored 27 points apiece, and New Orleans snapped a four-game losing streak. Davis grabbed eight rebounds and Holiday had nine assists and five boards as well. Ryan Anderson chipped in 26 points and the Pelicans turned 12 turnovers into 21 points while turning the ball over just four times themselves. Karl-Anthony Towns had 19



**CLEVELAND:** Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving (2) drives past Sacramento Kings' Darren Collison (7) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, in Cleveland. The Cavaliers won 120-100. — AP

### NBA results/standings

Atlanta 110, Orlando 117 (OT); Brooklyn 105, Denver 104; Detroit 89, Toronto 103; Phoenix 106, Oklahoma City 122; Memphis 106, Portland 112 (OT); Minnesota 102, New Orleans 116; Charlotte 108, Chicago 91; Cleveland 120, Sacramento 100; Indiana 89, LA Lakers 87; Philadelphia 92, LA Clippers 98 (OT).

Eastern Conference				Western Conference			
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division			
	W	L	PCT				
Toronto	35	16	.686	Oklahoma City	39	14	.736
Boston	31	22	.585	Utah	25	25	.500
New York	23	31	.426	Portland	26	27	.491
Brooklyn	14	39	.264	Denver	21	32	.396
Philadelphia	8	44	.154	Minnesota	16	37	.302
Central Division				Pacific Division			
Cleveland	37	14	.725	Golden State	46	4	.920
Indiana	28	24	.538	LA Clippers	35	17	.673
Chicago	27	24	.529	Sacramento	21	31	.404
Detroit	27	26	.509	Phoenix	14	39	.264
Milwaukee	20	32	.385	LA Lakers	11	43	.204
Southeast Division				Southwest Division			
Miami	29	23	.558	San Antonio	43	8	.843
Atlanta	30	24	.556	Memphis	30	22	.577
Charlotte	26	26	.500	Dallas	29	25	.537
Orlando	23	28	.451	Houston	27	26	.509
Washington	22	27	.449	New Orleans	19	32	.373

points and 12 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who were looking for their first three-game winning streak since Nov. 27. They shot 44 percent and trailed by as many as 28 in a lackluster effort.

### PACERS 89, LAKERS 87

Indiana's Paul George scored all seven of his second-half points in the final 71 seconds, and Monta Ellis made two free throws with 20.6 seconds left to clinch the win. George finished with 21 points and nine rebounds. Myles Turner added 14 points and 13 rebounds on a night the Pacers (28-24) blew a 17-point second-half lead, and then scored nine straight points for the win. Kobe Bryant scored 19 points in his final appearance in Indianapolis. He made three straight 3-

pointers to give the Lakers an 82-79 lead with 2:30 left to play. But he also missed two 3s in the final 20 seconds. Los Angeles (11-43) has dropped 16 of its last 19 games.

### HORNETS 108, BULLS 91

Kemba Walker scored 30 points, powering Charlotte to the victory. Nicolas Batum had 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Hornets, who won their third straight over the Bulls at home. Michael Kidd-Gilchrist scored 20 points. Pau Gasol finished with 22 points and 10 rebounds for Chicago, which was missing three of its leading scorers due to injuries: Derrick Rose, Jimmy Butler and Nikola Mirotic. Doug McDermott added 14 points. — AFP

## RED BULL KING OF THE ROCK TO KICK OFF NEXT WEEK

**KUWAIT:** Red Bull King of the Rock is the world's most prestigious one-on-one street basketball tournament that will kick off with its initial qualifier in Kuwait early next week. The best 16 players out of 192 will qualify to the finals, which will be held at the Radisson Blu Hotel on March 4, 2016.

The first qualifier will kick off in GUST Basketball Courts on 12th February exclusively to university students. Limited to 32 players, the registration will start at 4:00 pm. The second qualifier will take place at AIS - Meidan Hawally on 13th February; the registration will start from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm and will be limited to 64 players. KU Khaldiya Basketball Courts will welcome applicants who are university students on 15th February at 11:00 am, and will only enroll 32 players. To finish, the final qualifier AIS - Meidan Hawally will be held on 20th February at 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm and will be limited to 64 players. The final tournament will take place in Radisson Blu on 4th March at 7:00 pm. For more information, you can visit [www.redbull.com/kingoftherockkw](http://www.redbull.com/kingoftherockkw)

### Competition Rules

The tournament follows a straightforward concept where players battle head-to-head in raw outdoor basketball, using a single-elimination tournament bracket. Games last five minutes and are subject to regulation hoops rules and scoring



(two and three pointers). Players have to be above 16 years old and not only should be tough to make it to the finals, but also have to play smart - five fouls equal an automatic loss. As a final point, after each game, the loser walks away, and the winner faces his next opponent. Tension and expectations are high.

Abdo Chidiac, a Lebanese professional basket-

ball player will be the competition director and in charge for the overall competition and the athlete management. Chidiac was part of the Lebanese National Basketball Team for 15 years, he also played for several professional clubs most notably Sagasse where he won the Arab Basketball Championship and FIBA Asia Championship. Chidiac a well-known three pointer won the



Lebanese Basketball league twice and achieved many individual accolades and accomplishments including several Defensive Player of the year and was among the top 5 scorers for five years.

### When and where will the champion be crowned?

The King of the Rock will be announced after

final tournament, which will take place on September 18, 2016 in Turkey. It is worth mentioning that the first King of The Rock was crowned in September 2010 in Alcatraz - San Francisco. The incident was the first sports event officially taking place at Alcatraz prisons and the first basketball game played ever since the prisoners left it 50 years ago.

## WICKETKEEPER WADE NOT WANTED BY AUSTRALIA AT WORLD

**SYDNEY:** Wicketkeeper Matthew Wade has been omitted from Australia's squad for the World Twenty20 tournament in India next month while the selectors have chosen two spin bowlers who have yet to play a Twenty20 international.

Test wicketkeeper Peter Nevill has been preferred to Wade in the 15-man Australia squad named Tuesday, though he has yet to represent his country in a limited overs match.

Wade has been Australia's wicketkeeper in Twenty20 and one-day internationals since the retirement of Brad Haddin after last year's World Cup but appears to have paid the price for a loss of form with the gloves and bat. The selectors have chosen left-armers Ashton Agar and legspinner Adam Zampa, though neither has played a Twenty20 international while test spin-

ner Nathan Lyon has been overlooked.

Steve Smith has taken over from Aaron Finch who is struggling to recover from a hamstring injury and will now captain Australia in all three formats. "Aaron Finch has done a very good job captaining Australia in T20 cricket," chairman of selectors Rod Marsh said. "He will have benefited enormously from the leadership opportunity and will remain a highly-respected leader within the Australian squad. "However, since he became T20 captain there has been a broader leadership transition in test and one-day international cricket with Michael Clarke retiring and Steve Smith assuming the captaincy in Test and one-day cricket.

"We think now is the right time for Steve to lead Australia in all three forms of the game as it offers us important conti-

nunity, not only ahead of the World T20 but beyond that tournament as well."

### INJURY

Finch has been named in the squad as has allrounder James Faulkner, who also has a hamstring injury, and fast bowler Nathan Coulter-Nile who is recovering from a dislocated shoulder. Coulter-Nile displaces Shaun Tait but will have to prove his fitness before his selection is confirmed. Nevill's selection ahead of Wade is a bold one. Nevill averages 15.75 and has a highest score of 25 in 20-overs matches, though his wicketkeeper is seen as likely to be superior to Wade's on low Indian pitches. "We feel our batting depth in this squad is sufficient enough that we can have a specialist wicket-keeper in the squad," Marsh said. "We want Australia's

best wicketkeeper playing in this tournament and we consider Peter Nevill to be the best in the country right now."

Spin bowling is expected to be an important part of the world tournament with many nations selecting three frontline spinners. Australia has gone with Agar and Zampa ahead of the more experienced Lyon and Cameron Boyce with backup from allrounder Glenn Maxwell.

Marsh said the selection of an off-spinner, left-armers and legspinner gives Australia "plenty of flexibility in the slow-bowling department which is incredibly important in this format."

"Given the conditions we are likely to face in India we wanted to have a number of different spinning options available to us," he said. "Overall, we believe the squad we have selected is well-balanced and has

the experience and talent required to be successful in India and help us win the World T20 title for the first time.

"We were able to look at a number of players during the BBL and the recent T20 International series against India and have selected the best short-form players available for the conditions we will encounter." The World Twenty20 title is the only major global cricket trophy to have eluded Australia which opens its campaign against New Zealand in Dharamsala on March 18.

Australia squad: Steve Smith (captain), David Warner, Ashton Agar, Nathan Coulter-Nile, James Faulkner, Aaron Finch, John Hastings, Josh Hazlewood, Usman Khawaja, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Peter Nevill, Andrew Tye, Shane Watson, Adam Zampa. — AP



**ROTTERDAM:** Belgium's David Goffin returns the ball to Cyprus' Marcos Baghdatis during their first round match of the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam, yesterday. — AFP

## CROSBY SCORES IN 7TH STRAIGHT AS PENGUINS TOP DUCKS 6-2

**PITTSBURGH:** Sidney Crosby scored on a pair of breakaways to extend his goal streak to a career-best seven games and added two assists to help the Pittsburgh Penguins continue their surge with a 6-2 win over the Anaheim Ducks on Monday night. Crosby beat John Gibson between the legs to give the Penguins a three-goal cushion in the second period and ripped one by Gibson's glove early in the third while Pittsburgh emphatically ended Anaheim's six-game winning streak. Chris Kunitz, Conor Sheary, Carl Hagelin and Olli Maatta also scored for the Penguins, who have won six of seven. Crosby, mired in a massive slump early in the year, now has 53 points in 51 games. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 36 shots. Ryan Getzlaf and Patrick Maroon scored for the Ducks. Gibson made 25 saves before being pulled early in the third.

### RED WINGS 3, PANTHERS 0

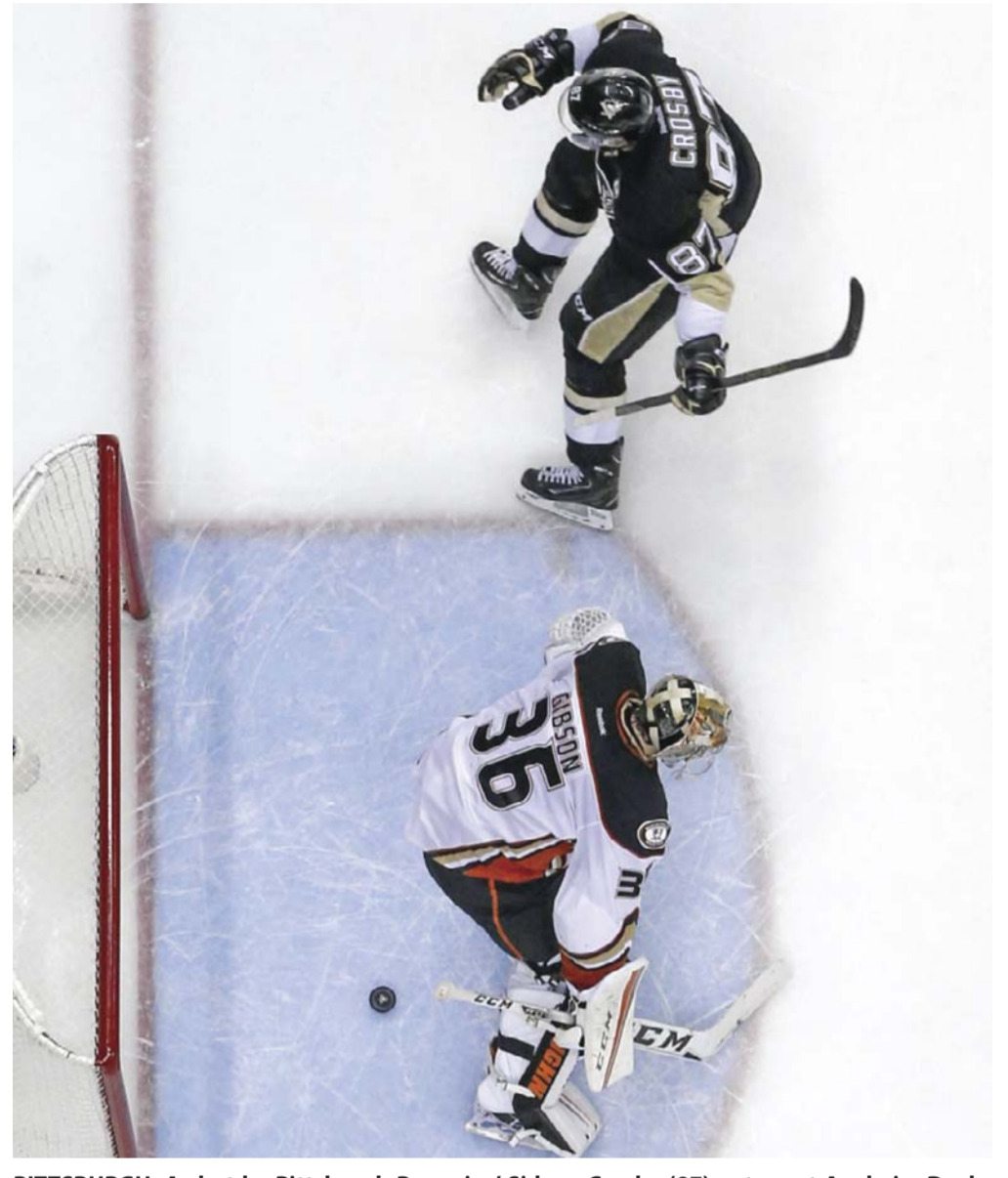
Pavel Datsyuk scored twice in a 1:08 span midway through the third after Tomas Tatar broke a scoreless tie earlier in the period and Petr Mrazek made 23 saves for Detroit in a win over Florida. Mrazek has a career-high four shutouts this season. Detroit has won two straight home games for the first time in two months. The Atlantic Division-leading Panthers lost a second straight game and perhaps a key player. Florida center Aleksander Barkov was knocked out of the game in the second period after getting hit high by the left shoulder of Red Wings winger Justin Abdelkader. Barkov's return to the game was ruled out because of what the team described as an upper-body injury. Florida's Al Montoya stopped 28 shots.

### RANGERS 2, DEVILS 1

Henrik Lundqvist made 27 saves and New York posted its first three-game winning streak since November with a victory over New Jersey. Kevin Klein, who broke a thumb last week, scored for the first time in 28 games and the streaking J.T. Miller scored for the ninth time in 10 games while the Rangers beat the Devils for the first time in three games this season. This win came with captain Ryan McDonagh sidelined with a concussion. It was New York's fifth straight victory at Madison Square Garden, and the Rangers are 7-3 in their last 10 overall. Cory Schneider made 35 saves for New Jersey, which lost its third straight (0-1-2). Travis Zajac scored a short-handed goal with 2:17 left to spoil Lundqvist's shutout bid.

### SENATORS 5, LIGHTNING 1

Mark Stone had two goals and an assist and Ottawa beat Tampa Bay. Stone has five goals and three assists in his past four games. He went eight straight without a point prior to this stretch. The Senators gave the Lightning their second loss in 12 games. Zack Smith, Shane Prince and Jean-Gabriel Pageau also scored for Ottawa, and Craig Anderson made 31 saves. Pageau added two assists. Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 24 of 28 shots for Tampa Bay. J.T. Brown scored the Lightning's only goal. — AP



**PITTSBURGH:** A shot by Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (87) gets past Anaheim Ducks goalie John Gibson (36) for a goal during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh, Monday. Crosby scored twice and had two assists in the Penguins 6-2 win. — AP

### NHL results/standings

NY Rangers 2, New Jersey 1; Pittsburgh 6, Anaheim 2; Ottawa 5, Tampa Bay 1; Detroit 3, Florida 0.

Western Conference						Tampa Bay							
Central Division						W	L						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS							
Chicago	36	16	4	159	128	76	Boston	28	18	6	155	138	62
Dallas	33	15	5	172	144	71	Detroit	27	18	8	134	134	62
St. Louis	30	17	8	135	132	68	Montreal	26	24	4	147	144	56
Nashville	25	20	8	138	140	58	Ottawa	25	23	6	157	170	56
Colorado	27	24	4	149	152	58	Buffalo	21	26	6	121	143	48
Minnesota	23	20	9	127	128	55	Toronto	19	23	9	122	145	47
Winnipeg	23	26	3	136	152	49	Metropolitan Division						
Pacific Division						Washington	38	9	4	169	115	80	
Los Angeles	31	17	3	137	119	65	NY Rangers	30	18	5	153	137	65
San Jose	27	20	4	149	139	58	Pittsburgh	27	18	7	139	135	61
Anaheim	25	19	7	115	123	57	NY Islanders	27	18	6	146	130	60
Arizona	24	22	6	139	162	54	New Jersey	26	21	7	122	128	59
Vancouver	20	20	12	124	145	52	Carolina	24	21	9	130	144	57
Calgary	23	25	3	135	150	49	Philadelphia	23	19	9	123	138	55
Edmonton	21	28	5	136	165	47	Columbus	21	28	5	138	170	47
Eastern Conference						Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).							
Atlantic Division						Florida	31	16	6	148	119	68	

## MERCEDES EXPECT MCLAREN TO RAISE THEIR GAME

**LONDON:** Formula One champions Mercedes expect to be beaten by Ferrari this season and also see McLaren catching up fast after a dismal 2015 for the Honda-powered team, engine head Andy Cowell said.

"Nobody here is assuming we are going to win. Everybody here is assuming we're going to get beaten by Ferrari, and Honda are a big threat," the BBC quoted the Mercedes executive as saying on a recent factory visit.

Ferrari won three of 19 races last season, the first year at Maranello for four-times champion Sebastian Vettel after the German's move from Red Bull.

Mercedes won the rest, with Britain's Lewis Hamilton clinching his third title and winning 10 grands prix to team mate Nico Rosberg's six. The team have won 32 of 38 races in the last two years.

McLaren, the sport's second most successful team after Ferrari, have not won a race since 2012 and were powered by Mercedes engines until starting a new partnership with Honda last year.

They have Spaniard Fernando Alonso and Britain's Jenson Button, both champions, racing for them. Honda faced a steep learning curve, returning a year after the introduction of the new V6 turbo hybrid engines triggered the era of Mercedes domination.

McLaren finished ninth of 10 teams last season, plagued by unreliability and a lack of power. "They have come in quickly and they are learning in front of the public but they're hugely determined, and partnered with McLaren, who are hugely determined," said Cowell. "We know exactly how McLaren work in terms of a data-driven approach, so they are going to make some big, big gains," he added.

Cowell said there was plenty more to come from the Mercedes engine, with some 'mind-blowing' gains seen in the area of thermal efficiency-how much of the energy in the fuel is converted into power from the engine. The season, with a record 21 races, starts in Australia on March 20. — Reuters



**CANELONES:** Uruguay's national football team coach Oscar Washington Tabarez is interviewed by AFP at the Celeste Sports Complex in Canelones, 27 km from Montevideo, yesterday. — AFP

## IAAF LOOKING INTO CLAIMS OF STATE DOPING IN CHINA

**BEIJING:** The IAAF is investigating the authenticity of a two-decade-old letter published in Chinese media that suggests state-sanctioned doping in the 1990s, and casts doubt on the long-standing world records set by Wang Junxia in the women's 3,000 and 10,000 meters.

Wang's records could be annulled if the former Olympic and world champion has admitted to doping before setting the marks in 1993, the International Association of Athletics Federations said Friday. Chinese website Tencent reported that Wang wrote a letter, signed by nine other members of coach Ma Junren's training program, in 1995 to journalist Zhao Yu allegedly revealing that athletes were forced to take banned substances and Ma injected athletes himself.

"It's all true that Coach Ma had beaten, verbally abused and mistreated us for years," said the letter, dated March 28, 1995. "It's also true that he had coaxed or forced us into using large quantities of banned drugs. "His crimes must be revealed because we don't want to see the same thing to happen to the next generation," according to the letter. "Such inhumane tortures have brought us to the brink of a complete collapse."

The IAAF issued a statement on Friday saying it only became aware of the allegations when contacted by Chinese media, and has asked the Chinese Athletics Association to assist with an investigation to verify if the letter - which is writ-

ten in Chinese and which Zhao provided to Tencent this week - is genuine. "If an athlete has admitted that, at some time prior to achieving a world record, he had used or taken advantage of a substance or technique prohibited at that time, then, subject to the advice of the medical and anti-doping commission, such record will not continue to be regarded as a world record by the IAAF," the statement said. A woman who answered the call at the Chinese Athletics Association said she had no knowledge of the case.

### SCANDAL RESURFACE

The scandal resurfaced this month in China, when social media began heated discussions on doping following a recently-published chapter about Ma's track team, which was known collectively as "Ma's Army."

The chapter had been banned for years but was printed in 2014 when publishing authorities believed the Chinese public would be able to accept the scandal, Zhao told the Chinese media.

Ma and his team were considered national heroes for winning medals and setting records at world events, which was then considered a paramount national pride not to be questioned.

In 2008, Wang denied doping in an interview with The Associated Press, ascribing her record times to her youth, health and a brutal training regimen. Drug tests then turned up no incrimi-

nating evidence, and Ma had claimed Wang was fed nothing more than turtle blood, ginseng and a stamina-boosting fungus.

In the chapter, Zhao wrote that the distance runners under Ma were deeply troubled by the use of the performance-enhancing drugs but were too afraid to speak up because national honor was at stake. Zhao wrote that the practice began before 1990 and that Ma used the drugs extensively on the athletes after 1991.

He explained the team fell apart at the end of 1994 when the national swimming team got hit with doping scandals and that the runners - after leaving Ma's program - saw their performances plunge. Just ahead of the 2000 Sydney Games, Ma's team was prohibited from competing, even though seven members qualified.

Nine years later, a senior Chinese sports official revealed that an internal doping test showed six of the seven runners from Ma's program were most likely to have been using drugs.

Wang clocked 29 minutes, 31.78 seconds at China's national games in September 1993, shattering the 10,000-meter mark by 42 seconds. No runner has come within 22 seconds of her time since then. Wang's record in the 3,000 is 8:06.11, also set at the 1993 national games. Wang won gold in the 10,000 at the 1993 world championships and in the 5,000 at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. — AP

## BIG EUROPEAN CLUBS SUPPORT INFANTINO FOR FIFA PRESIDENCY

PARIS: Europe's biggest soccer clubs have backed UEFA interim chief Gianni Infantino's FIFA presidential campaign having worked closely with the Swiss through their umbrella European Club Association (ECA) group.

ECA vice-chairman Umberto Gandini announced the decision on Tuesday at a news conference during the general assembly of the organisation, which represents over 200 clubs including major ones such as Real Madrid, Barcelona, Juventus and Bayern Munich.

"We know Gianni very well. He has

been instrumental in the creation of the relationship between UEFA and the ECA," Gandini said.

"We see his candidacy as a nice opportunity for him which hopefully will benefit football worldwide. He has the skills to perform very well," he added ahead of this month's vote at the scandal-plagued world governing body.

The independent ECA, which replaced the G-14 group of leading clubs in 2008, has two representatives on the UEFA executive committee but has no direct role in the presidential voting which is

conducted by FIFA's 209 members. The other election candidates are Bahrain's Sheikh Salman Bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, ex-FIFA executive committee member Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein, former FIFA deputy general secretary Jerome Champagne and South African Tokyo Sexwale, a former political prisoner who was jailed alongside Nelson Mandela.

UEFA's Infantino and Asian Football Confederation (AFC) chief Salman are front-runners to win the Feb. 26 vote at FIFA, which has been embroiled in a huge corruption scandal with 41 people and

entities indicted by the US Department of Justice. Salman has the backing of his own AFC and the Confederation of African Football (CAF), while 45-year-old Infantino, UEFA's general secretary, has the support of his European organisation along with the 10-member South American confederation CONMEBOL.

The ECA also voiced its strong opposition to the possible expansion of the World Cup from 32 to 40 teams - an idea supported by Infantino.

"This is in the hands of FIFA and it will be in the hands of the new FIFA structure

after the election," said Gandini.

"We will expect to be at the table to discuss all the possible reforms and we will bring our contribution and our evaluation, which can only be negative today.

"We are not there yet (at the point where changes to the World Cup format would be made) but we are not now in a situation of supporting such an idea," he added. The ECA promotes its members interests on European club matters and aims to maintain a high level of involvement in the decision-making of the game's governing bodies. — Reuters

## KLOPP WANTS LIVERPOOL TO FIND SOLUTION TO TICKET PRICE ROW

ANFIELD: Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp has urged the Liverpool board to find a satisfactory solution with the supporters after concerns were raised about the club's ticket pricing structure at Anfield next season.

Around 10,000 fans headed for the exits at Anfield during Saturday's 2-2 Premier League draw with Sunderland, in protest against the highest priced 77 pounds (about \$111) ticket for next season.

Klopp denied the fans' walkout on Saturday affected his players on the pitch,

as Liverpool let three points slip from their grasp after throwing away their two-goal lead in the final 10 minutes of the game.

"No, that's absolutely not allowed to think something like this I saw the reasons on the pitch and they had nothing to do with it. It was a completely different situation to what we spoke about a few months ago," Klopp told British media.

"In my position I have only a few words on this but we have to really think about it and to have talks. I know (chief executive) Ian Ayre has already had some talks but we are in contact and that is very important.

"We are really interested in finding a solution.

"We should talk about this and hopefully in the end find a solution that everyone can be satisfied with. It is really rare that you find a solution where everybody says 'yes!'. You have to make compromises. That's how it is."

Liverpool travel to take on West Ham United in the replay of the fourth round of the FA Cup before their away fixture at bottom side Aston Villa in the league on Sunday. — Reuters



NAPLES: Napoli's Italian forward Manolo Gabbiadini (R) vies with Carpi's Swiss defender Fabio Daprela (L) during the Italian Serie A football match SSC Napoli vs Carpi FC on Sunday at the San Paolo stadium in Naples. Napoli won the match 1-0. — AFP

## ONLY PRIDE ON LINE FOR VALENCIA IN COPA SEMIS

MADRID: Facing the virtually impossible mission of reversing a seven-goal deficit against Barcelona in the second leg of the Copa del Rey semifinals, coach Gary Neville hopes a decent result against the Spanish giant will help start turning things around for Valencia.

In addition to restoring some dignity, a home win against red-hot Barcelona on Wednesday could help steer the team back in the right direction after a dismal run under Neville's command.

A victory at Mestalla Stadium would also put Valencia in the history books as the team that kept Barcelona from breaking its club record of 28 games without a loss. Although no one denies there is little chance of overturning the humiliating 7-0 first-leg loss, the return match means Valencia can regain some confidence and prove it's better than recent results have been showing.

"We obviously put ourselves in a ridiculous position in that match," Neville said. "It was unacceptable. But what I can see is that last Wednesday was a massive accident. That was a freak match." In his first head-coaching job, Neville is under increased pressure because of a series of poor results. The team hasn't won in nine Spanish league games since he took over less than two months ago.

"The reality is, if you don't get the results to go

with improvement in performances, then you lose some strength in your words," the former Manchester United and England defender said. "I see a difference (in the team) in the last three weeks but no difference in results and that is the thing that really is annoying, frustrating and disappointing for everybody at the club." Valencia is 14th in the Spanish league with five victories in 23 games. Here are other things to watch in the Copa del Rey semifinals this week:

## RECORD STREAK

With a spot all but secured in the Copa del Rey final for the third straight season, Barcelona's main goal will be to keep its unbeaten streak alive and break the club's record. Luis Enrique's team can be the first to reach 29 consecutive games without a loss in all competitions. Barcelona on Sunday tied the record of 28 unbeaten match set by Pep Guardiola's squad in 2011, and now it's a draw away from surpassing it. Enrique's team hasn't lost since a 2-1 defeat at Sevilla in the seventh round of the Spanish league in October. It will also be trying to win its 11th game in a row in all competitions.

## HALF-STRENGTH BARCA

Sitting on a 7-0 lead, Barcelona coach Luis

Enrique is expected to rest some of the team's top players in the return match against Valencia.

Lionel Messi is one of the players likely to miss action as he underwent tests this week after a recurrence of kidney problems he had in December. Messi missed the Club World Cup semifinal at the time because of renal colic, an abdominal ailment often related to the presence of kidney stones within renal ducts. Messi scored a hat trick in the first leg against Valencia. Luis Suarez scored the other four goals.

## CELTA-SEVILLA

Sevilla will travel to Vigo to defend its 4-0 lead over Celta in the semifinal on Thursday. Sevilla has thrived in the Copa del Rey with victories in all of its seven matches. The team hasn't conceded a single goal so far, while scoring 20. The teams will be meeting for the third time in a week. In addition to the first leg of the semifinal in Seville, the teams also met in the Spanish league this weekend, when they drew 1-1 at the Balaídos Stadium in Vigo. "We need to respect Celta," Sevilla coach Unai Emery said. "We have to continue what we started last week in the first game." Sevilla is trying to reach the Copa final for the first time since 2010, when it won the title. Celta has never won the Copa del Rey. — AP



LEVERKUSEN: Leverkusen's Karim Bellarabi, left, and Bremen's Santiago Garcia challenge for the ball during the German Soccer Cup quarterfinal match between Bayer Leverkusen and Werder Bremen in Leverkusen, Germany, yesterday. — AP

## EPL UNVEILS NEW LOOK

LONDON: The English Premier League unveiled its new, sponsor-free "visual identity" yesterday, which will take effect from the 2016-17 season onwards.

The money-spinning English top flight is ending its 12-year association with Barclays bank in favour of becoming a 'clean brand' and will from now on be known simply as 'the Premier League'.

The new logo-a crowned lion's head gazing to the right, accompanied by either the words 'Premier League' or 'PL'-will replace the current logo of a lion with its left paw on a football.

"From next season we will move away from title sponsorship and the competition will be known as the Premier League, a decision which provided the opportunity to consider how we wanted to present ourselves as an organisation and competition," said Premier League managing director Richard Masters in a press release.

"We are very pleased with the outcome: a visual identity which is relevant, modern and flexible that will help us celebrate everyone that makes the Premier League.

"We look forward to sharing more details of our new positioning in the coming months." Canadian brewery Carling was the Premier League's first title sponsor between 1993 and 2001.

Barclaycard, an offshoot of British bank Barclays, took over in 2001 before Barclays itself took up the reins three years later. Barclays paid £120 million (\$173.2 million, 154.8 million euros) in 2012 for its most recent three-year contract.

By dropping its title sponsor, the Premier League is bringing itself in line with major American sporting competitions such as the NFL and NBA. The Premier League is the most lucrative football championship in the world, with 17 of its clubs featuring in the top 30 of financial consultants Deloitte's most recent football rich list.

The coming year will see its wealth swell yet further, with a new domestic television rights deal worth £5.14 billion due to kick in at the start of the 2016-17 season. The forthcoming sale of overseas TV rights for the period 2016-2019 is expected to add around a further £3 billion to the pot. — AFP



TEHRAN: Naft Tehran's Reza Aliyari (L) and Qatar's El Jaish player Ricardo Romarinho chase the ball during AFC Champions League 3rd qualifying round play-off football match at the Azadi stadium in Tehran yesterday. — AFP

## FAIRYTALE TITLE BID IS PIECE OF CAKE FOR RELAXED RANIERI

LONDON: As Claudio Ranieri returned to Leicester's Belvoir Drive training base on Monday to start plotting the latest chapter in his club's fairytale challenge for the Premier League title, it was hard to believe that just seven months ago the Italian's arrival at the plush facility was greeted with widespread ridicule.

Ranieri's unfashionable club head to title rivals Arsenal on Sunday sitting five points clear at the top of the table as they chase the most remarkable triumph in the history of English football.

Only last year Leicester were fighting a desperate battle to avoid relegation under Ranieri's predecessor Nigel Pearson. Yet, after Saturday's stunning 3-1 win at Manchester City, Ranieri's men find themselves installed as the bookmakers' favourites for the title. And, in an era where the 'greed is good' mantra of the league's superpowers grows more unpalatable by the year, Leicester are also the choice of neutrals captivated by the unexpected renaissance of the colourful Ranieri. "Claudio Ranieri? Really?" tweeted former Leicester and England striker Gary Lineker before describing the July appointment as an "uninspiring choice". Former Tottenham boss Harry Redknapp questioned how Ranieri could "walk back into the Premier League" after being sacked as Greece coach, while a significant section of Leicester's fanbase were equally scathing. Ranieri had been away from England for 11 years since being sacked by Chelsea, where his constant rotation of the team led him to be unflatteringly labelled "the tinkerman".

The 64-year-old has never won a top-flight league title during an itinerant 30-year managerial career, which featured stops at 12 clubs including Juventus, Roma and Inter Milan, while his last major silverware was the 1999 Copa del Rey with Valencia.

However, Ranieri's critics have long since changed their tune as the Italian's folksy wisdom and relaxed demeanour have proved exactly what Leicester needed after the tempestuous Pearson regime. Ranieri has shrewdly maintained the team's first mentality espoused by Pearson, while employing a far more laid-back approach that allows the



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Chilean manager Manuel Pellegrini (L) and Leicester City's Italian manager Claudio Ranieri watch players from the touchline during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Leicester City. — AFP

likes of Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez the freedom to express themselves on and off the pitch.

"They so need to be relaxed and not harassed. They expect calm and respect in the dressing room, so if you want to be a prima donna, they won't forgive you for it," Ranieri told the Daily Telegraph.

"I told the players that I trusted them and would speak very little of tactics."

Crucially, Ranieri won the support of his players with his deft handling of a potentially disastrous pre-season incident when Vardy abused a fellow gambler in a Casino by repeatedly calling him a "Jap". Coming soon after Leicester's Thai owners had sacked three players for separate racist behaviour, it

was suggested Vardy would have to be sold, especially since the squad included Japanese forward Shinji Okazaki. But Ranieri managed to keep the peace and Vardy has responded with a remarkable haul of 18 goals.

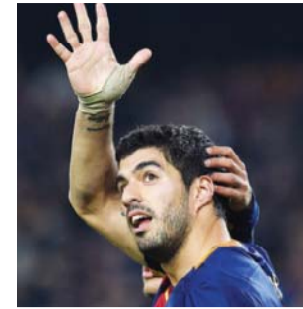
From that moment on, Ranieri has been at his engaging best, one minute likening Leicester to "the Premier League's Forrest Gump" and the next taking his players for pizza and serving them cake as rewards for their success. Learning from his experiences with the often brutal demands of Italian training camps, Ranieri has been giving his players at least two days off a week in a bid to keep them fresh. — AFP

# Sports

James, Irving  
lead Cavaliers  
past Kings



Only pride on line  
for Valencia in  
Copa semis



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GOLFERS SAY ZIKA VIRUS WILL NOT PUT THEM OFF THEIR STROKE Page 15



PUNE: Sri Lanka's captain Dinesh Chandimal (L) reacts as he alongwith others run to greet teammate Dusmantha Chameera (R) after taking the wicket of India's Yuvraj Singh during the first T20 international match between India and Sri Lanka at the MCA International Cricket Stadium in Pune yesterday. — AFP

## S LANKA STUN INDIA BY 5-WKTS IN FIRST T20

**PUNE:** Debutant Kasun Rajitha picked up three crucial wickets to help a depleted Sri Lanka stun the top-ranked Indians by clinching a five-wicket win in the first Twenty20 international in Pune yesterday. Belying their status as underdogs, the inexperienced Sri Lankan pace attack skittled out their hosts for a paltry 101 in 18.5 overs, India's third lowest score in T20 cricket.

After Rajitha took the wickets of India's first three batsman, Dasun Shanaka bagged three other top order scalps on a bouncy wicket in Pune, helped by some poor selection by the hosts. Sri Lanka made hard work at times of meeting their target, losing five wickets during the chase, but the Dinesh Chandimal-led side eventually eased home with two overs to spare. Regular T20 skipper Lasith Malinga, Test captain Angelo Mathews and premier spinner Rangana Herath have all stayed at home as they try to shake off niggles before Sri Lanka begin their defence of the Asia Cup later this month and then return to India for the World T20.

But their stand-ins soon showed they would not be overwhelmed by a capacity crowd at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium after winning the toss and electing to bowl. The 22-year-old Rajitha made his presence felt right away with a double strike in his first over in international cricket. In-form Rohit Sharma was the first to go, caught by Dushmantha Chameera off only the second delivery and Ajinkya Rahane (4) followed soon after.

Rajitha nearly got his third wicket in his next over, only to see Danushka Gunathilaka spill a sitter at third man to give Suresh Raina a life. His disappointment was short-lived as Shikhar Dhawan was caught by Gunathilaka for just nine.

Raina made little use of his reprieve and he was cleaned up by Shanaka in the ninth over for 20 as the wickets tumbled with alarming regularity.

India should have been full of confidence after their recent 3-0 T20 away series win over Australia, which secured their place at the top of the rankings but none of their batsmen showed any kind of form. Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni made just two before being caught behind off Shanaka and the big-hitting left-hander Yuvraj Singh (10) was the next to go when Chameera had him caught and bowled in the tenth over.

A cameo of 31 by spinner Ravichandran Ashwin enabled India to edge past the three-figure mark but it was never likely to be enough. Indian pace spearhead Ashish Nehra gave the fans something to cheer about with the early wickets of openers Gunathilaka and Niroshan Dickwella.

But, showing much more application than their hosts, Chandimal and Chamara Kapugedera then compiled a 39-run third wicket stand that effectively put the outcome beyond doubt. After their partnership was broken, Milinda Siriwardana also weighed in with an unbeaten 21 to give the visitors a dream start to the series. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

**PUNE, India:** Completed scoreboard in the first Twenty20 international between India and Sri Lanka in Pune yesterday:

India		Sri Lanka	
R. Sharma c Chameera b Rajitha	0	Senanayake 3-0-18-1, Chameera 3.5-0-14-2, Shanaka 3-0-16-3, Prasanna 2-0-11-0.	
S. Dhawan c Gunathilaka b Rajitha	9		
A. Rahane c Chandimal b Rajitha	4		
S. Raina b Shanaka	20	N. Diwckwella c Dhawan b Nehra	4
Y. Singh c & b Chameera	10	M. Gunathilaka c Dhawan b Nehra	9
M.S. Dhoni c Dickwella b Shanaka	2	D. Chandimal lbw b Raina	35
H. Pandya lbw b Shanaka	2	C. Kapugedara lbw b Ashwin	25
R. Jadeja lbw b Senanayake	6	M. Siriwardana not out	21
R. Ashwin not out	31	D. Shanaka c Raina b Ashwin	3
A. Nehra c Siriwardana b Chameera	6	S. Prasanna not out	3
J. Bumrah run out	0	Extras (lb 3, w 2)	5
Extras (b 2, lb 1, w 8)	11	Total (5 wickets; 18 overs)	105
Total (all out; 18.5 overs)	101	Fall of wickets: 1-4 (Dickwella), 2-23 (Gunathilaka), 3-62 (Kapugedara), 4-84 (Chandimal), 91-5 (Shanaka)	
Fall of wickets 1-0 (Sharma), 2-5 (Rahane), 3-32 (Dhawan), 4-49 (Raina), 5-51 (Dhoni), 6-53 (Yuvraj), 7-58 (Pandya), 8-72 (Jadeja), 9-100 (Nehra), 10-101 (Bumrah)		Bowling: Nehra 3-0-21-2, Bumrah 4-1-19-0, Jadeja 3-0-18-0, Pandya 3-0-18-0, Ashwin 3-0-13-2, Raina 2-0-13-1.	
Bowling: Rajitha 4-0-29-3, Perera 3-1-10-0,		Result: Sri Lanka won by five wickets.	

### SCOREBOARD

**CENTURION, South Africa:** Final scores in the third one-day international between South Africa and England at SuperSport Park yesterday:

England	
J. Roy run out (Morkel)	20
A. Hales c Morkel b Rabada	65
J. Root run out (Wiese)	125
J. Buttler c Duminy b Rabada	0
E. Morgan c Amla b Wiese	8
B. Stokes c Behardien b Abbott	53
M. Ali c Amla b Morkel	3
C. Jordan c Duminy b Abbott	3
D. Willey not out	13
A. Rashid not out	13
Extras (b4, lb3, w8)	15
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	318
Fall of wickets: 1-36 (Roy), 2-161 (Hales), 3-162 (Buttler), 4-187 (Morgan), 5-269 (Root), 6-284 (Ali), 7-291 (Stokes), 8-291 (Jordan)	
Bowling: Abbott 10-0-50-2 (3w), Rabada 10-0-65-2 (3w), Morkel 10-0-63-1 (1w), Wiese 10-0-64-1, Imran Tahir 8-0-56-0 (1w), Behardien 2-0-13-0.	
Did not bat: R Topley	

South Africa	
Q. de Kock c Root b Rashid	135
H. Amla c Buttler b Jordan	127
D. Wiese b Ali	7
F. du Plessis not out	33
A. de Villiers not out	0
Extras (lb5, nb3, w9)	17
Total (3 wks, 46.2 overs)	319
Fall of wickets: 1-239 (De Kock), 2-249 (Wiese), 3-311 (Amla)	
Bowling: Willey 5-0-40-0, Topley 6-0-46-0 (1w), Stokes 8.2-0-54-0 (1nb, 2w), Jordan 7-0-54-1 (1nb, 4w), Ali 10-0-75-1 (1nb, 1w), Rashid 10-0-45-1 (1w).	
Did not bat: J. Duminy, F. Behardien, K. Rabada, K. Abbott, M. Morkel, Imran Tahir.	
Result: South Africa won by seven wickets.	

## DE KOCK, AMLA CENTURIES HELP SA SINK ENGLAND

**CENTURION:** Centuries by openers Quinton de Kock and Hashim Amla kept South Africa alive in the one-day series against England as the host won the third game by seven wickets yesterday. Chasing England's formidable 318-8, De Kock made 135 and Amla 127 as South Africa reached 319-3 at SuperSport Park, the highest second innings score in one-dayers at the ground.

De Kock made his second century of the series, and Amla nearly batted all the way through the innings to guide South Africa home.

Joe Root earlier made 125 for England, his best ODI score, but South Africa handled the pressure of a must-win game, and chasing 300-plus, to pull the series back to 2-1. The fourth game is on Friday in Johannesburg. Earlier, Joe Root hit an assured century as England went in search of a series-clinching win in the third one-day international against South Africa at SuperSport Park yesterday.

England, leading 2-0 in the five-match series, made 318 for eight after winning the toss. Root made a career-best 125 off 113 balls with ten fours and five sixes, scarcely playing a false stroke. Root shared a second wicket partnership of 125 with Alex Hales, who made 65 off 73 balls and 82 for the fifth wicket with Ben Stokes, who slammed 53 off 37 balls. A mix-up with Stokes caused Root to be run out and South Africa came back into the match by taking another three wickets, including that of Stokes, in quick succession.

But David Willey and Adil Rashid scored 27 runs off the last 15 balls of the innings as England finished strongly. Hales and Root, who put on 97 for the second wicket in England's win in the second match in Port Elizabeth, again played England into a strong position. Hales hooked Kagiso Rabada to Morne Morkel on the fine leg boundary. The in-form and quick-scoring Jos Buttler was promoted to number four but was out first ball, flicking Rabada to JP Duminy at leg gully. The momentum of the innings slowed as England captain Eoin Morgan struggled to find his timing, labouring to eight off 24 balls before he was caught at midwicket off all-rounder David Wiese, who had been selected in place of batsman Rilee Rossouw. But Root continued to bat with controlled skill, reaching his seventh one-day international off 95 balls. — Agencies



PRETORIA: South Africa's batsman Hashim Amla, runs as he watches his shot during the 3rd One Day International cricket match between South Africa and England at the Centurion Park stadium in Pretoria, South Africa, yesterday. — AP

# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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**Clouds over German economy as factory output, exports fall**

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**NISSAN BEGINS PRODUCTION OF PATROL NISMO AT ITS FACTORY PLANT IN JAPAN**

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**WASHINGTON: Copies of President Barack Obama's fiscal 2017 federal budget are staged for display by Eric Euland, Republican staff director for Senate Budget Committee Chairman Senator Mike Enzi on Capitol Hill in Washington yesterday. —AP (See Page 25)**

## IEA TAKES OIL MARKET BULLS TO THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE AGENCY HOLDS OPEC RESPONSIBLE FOR LATEST GLUT, DEAL UNLIKELY

**PARIS:** Oil prices may have rebounded off 12-year lows struck last month, but any hope for a broader recovery in the market would be misplaced, the IEA said yesterday, noting OPEC is responsible for the latest glut of supplies on the market.

The International Energy Agency said in its monthly report that "it is very hard to see how oil prices can rise significantly in the short term ... with the market already awash in oil."

On the contrary, it said "...the short term risk to the downside has increased". Crude prices collapsed from over \$100 per barrel in July 2014 to under \$30 last month on a slowdown in Chinese growth and as the OPEC oil cartel stepped up output in an attempt to force out higher-cost production. While low oil prices are usually good for oil consuming nations and global economic activity, investors have uncharacteristically in recent months begun to take the oil price as a proxy for economic demand, roiling global markets in volatility.

After the price for the main international oil contract struck a low below \$28 last month, it rebounded to above \$35 and now sits around \$33. But the IEA said "before victory over the bearish forces is declared we should look at the

main factors driving the optimism".

It then proceeded to debunk the factors driving the market higher, first among them the prospect of an agreement between OPEC and non-OPEC nations to cut output.

The IEA said "the likelihood of coordinated cuts is very low".

### OPEC glut

Another widely-held view in the market is that increases will slow in OPEC production, except for Iran which is returning to the market after years of international sanctions, said the IEA.

But it pointed out that Iraqi production struck a new record in January and that there are indications Saudi Arabia has stepped up shipments. The Paris-based IEA, which advises oil consuming nations on energy issues, noted that OPEC is currently responsible for the glut of supplies hitting the market the past year.

While non-OPEC production levels are roughly flat from one year ago, at 32.6 mbd in January, OPEC supplies were up by 1.7 million barrels per day (mbd) from a year earlier.

"It is OPEC's business whether or not it makes output cuts either in alone or in concert with oth-

er producers but the likelihood of coordinated cuts is very low," said the IEA. At current levels, OPEC production means oil stocks are likely to increase further, it added. Another driver of the recent bullishness in the crude market has been the view that that low oil prices will boost growth in demand.

But the IEA said it holds on to its "...view that global oil demand growth will ease back considerably in 2016" to 1.2 mbd from a five-year high of 1.6 mbd in 2015. It trimmed by 0.1 mbd its forecast for world oil demand in 2016 to 95.6 mbd.

### Any change likely downward

The International Monetary Fund last month cut its forecast for global growth this year by 0.2 percentage points to 3.4 percent. While this would still be an improvement from 3.1 percent in 2015, the IEA noted the forecast is "heavily caveated with risks to growth in Brazil, Russia and of course slower growth in China," noted the IEA.

"Economic headwinds suggest that any change will likely be downwards," it added. The IEA also expressed doubt that the value of the US dollar, the currency in which oil is traded could be a sustainable factor to boost consumption. While

the value of the dollar has dipped in recent weeks as prospects of a series of interest rate hikes recedes, thus making oil cheaper to buy in other currencies, the IEA noted concerns over the state of the global economy work in favour of the US currency.

"...the dollar is still likely to remain strong as it benefits from its safe haven status with other economies faring relatively worse," it said.

Another factor driving oil prices higher is expected output cuts in non-OPEC production later this year. The IEA, which forecasts a net drop of 0.6 mbd in 2016, noted that drops in production have so far been slower than the market has predicted. "Perhaps resilience still has some way to go," it said.

### Oil prices ease

Oil prices eased yesterday, dragged lower by a broad decline across major financial markets and by a growing expectation that global demand will not grow quickly enough to erase the overhang of crude any time soon. The world will store unwanted oil for most of 2016 as declines in US output take time and OPEC is unlikely to cut a deal with other producers to reduce ballooning

output, the International Energy Agency said.

The agency cut its forecast for 2016 oil demand growth, which now stands at 1.17 million barrels per day (bpd) following a five-year high of 1.6 million in 2015, and reduced its estimate of demand for OPEC crude. Oil traders are even more bearish. The world's largest, Vitol, said it expects global oil demand to grow by around 1 million bpd this year, down from last year's rate 1.6 million bpd.

"I don't think we can rely on low prices driving much incremental demand at this point," Vitol executive member Chris Bake said at an IP Week conference. Brent crude futures were last down 18 cents at \$32.70 a barrel by 1455 GMT, down from Monday's session high of \$34.68. US futures were down 19 cents at \$29.88.

Financial markets have been rattled in the last week by concern about banks given signs of a potential global slowdown, prompting buying of perceived safe-haven assets such as gold, German Bunds and the Swiss franc. Oil, which had gained nearly 30 percent in the two weeks to early February, breaking above \$35, has receded, in line with a retreat in stocks and industrial commodities. —Agencies

## EU MULLS NEW ENERGY TO CURB RELIANCE ON RUSSIA

**BRUSSELS:** The EU will unveil today plans to give it power to examine energy contracts that European states sign with countries outside the bloc, amid concerns about Europe's dependence on Russian gas.

Brussels is aiming to beef up its legal arsenal one year after launching a landmark "energy union" strategy to secure supplies for the 28-nation EU against a backdrop of tensions with Russia over Ukraine. EU energy commissioner Miguel Arias Canete said in a speech late Monday that the aim of the proposals "is simple: to prevent and mitigate possible security of gas supply crises."

The European Union is already investigating whether Russian state energy firm Gazprom has imposed unfair prices which breach the EU's fair trading rules, in a move which further inflamed relations. EU states imported 53 percent of their energy in 2014. A third of gas comes from Russia alone and some newer eastern members are almost entirely reliant on Moscow for energy.

Under the plans to be unveiled Wednesday, the European Commission wants to be able to look at energy contracts between member states and non-EU countries in advance to say whether they comply with the bloc's rules, Canete said.

Currently the Commission, the executive arm and regulator of the EU, can only examine contracts after they have been signed.

### 'Improve transparency'

Brussels also wants access to information on commercial contracts signed between member states and companies in cases where the firm already has 40 percent or more of the market in that country, the source said. Canete said the plans would "improve transparency" and would allow the EU to "assess the security of supply situation" for energy. The plan has widely been viewed as a way of stopping Gazprom from getting too much market share, but the European source said it could also apply to major producers such as Norway or Algeria. "It's not about changing the contract but about obtaining information-not prices but pertinent elements that affect the security of supply," a European source added.

The Commission can't void commercial contracts, but seek to have the European Court of Justice invalidate them if it can prove they breach EU laws.

Gazprom would inevitably be affected, though, with the Commission previously accusing it of hindering competition in central and eastern European gas

markets where the company is by far the dominant supplier. The countries involved in the EU probe are Lithuania, Estonia, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Slovakia and Poland-all former Soviet-era satellites that have cast their future with the European Union, not Moscow.

### Gazprom rejects the accusations Energy 'regions'

Furthermore, Brussels wants to create nine new "energy regions" within the EU, within which member states would help each other out in case of an energy crisis, Canete said.

It will also suggest steps targeting the heating and air conditioning sectors, which are the most energy-guzzling in the EU, accounting for half of all European energy use and just under half of its gas consumption. Overall, the aim remains the same as when the energy package was launched: securing European energy supplies at a time of growing global insecurity and making the continent less vulnerable. Last year's plans for "energy union" include completing the single market, increasing energy security, boosting efficiency, reducing the use of fossil fuels and increased research on new energy sources. —AFP

## KFH-TURKEY ISSUES CAPITAL BOOSTING \$350M SUKUK

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House Turkey (KFH-Turkey) issued Tier 2 capital-boosting sukuk worth \$350 million to support its capital situation. The bank has set the yield at 7.9 percent for 10-year tenure. The sukuk will be listed on the Irish Stock Exchange for trading. The credit rating agency "Fitch" assigned an expected rating of BBB- to this tier 2 Basel III-complaint issue.



**Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq**

its capital adequacy ratio so it can grow and enhance its presence in the international markets, yet obtains the required support and financing from the international markets. This reiterates its robust financial position and healthy expansion plans", said CEO- KFH-Capital, a subsidiary of KFH, Abdulaziz Nasser Al-Marzouq.

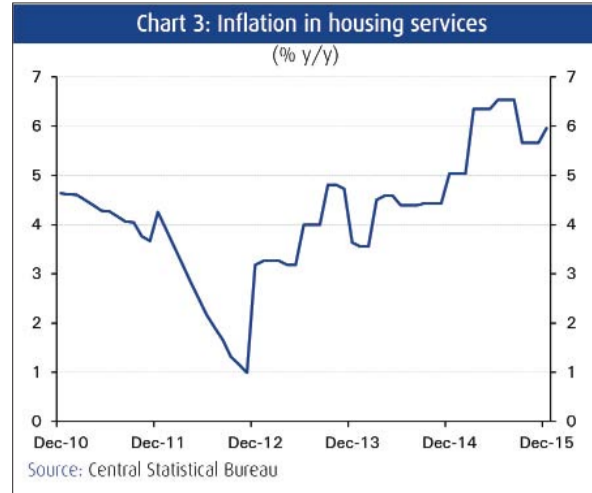
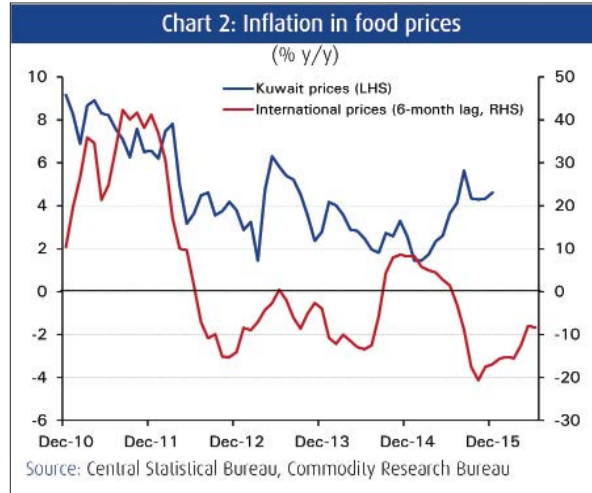
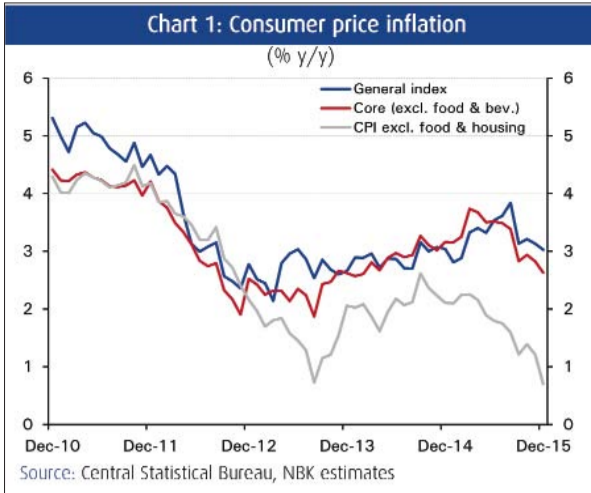
He added that KFH-Turkey mandated KFH-Capital as a global coordinator to arrange the issue, indicating that KFH-Capital played a key role in the issue and contributed in offering solutions in light of the current markets circum-

stances and the interest rate increase. KFH-Capital managed to coordinate with other banks and investors to issue the sukuk with excellent returns for both the investors and the issuer, and to raise the money needed from the international markets in a record time.

KFH-Turkey mandated international banks and financial institutions led by KFH-Capital as a global coordinator, manager and syndicator, in addition to other lead managers and syndicators which are HSBC, Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB), Nour Bank, QInvest Investment Bank, Emirates NBD, and KAMCO Investment Company.

KFH-Turkey paved the way for the sukuk market in Turkey when it issued debut sovereign sukuk for a Turkish institution in 2010 worth \$100 million for a period of 3 years, followed by the 5-year sukuk of \$350 million in 2011. In 2014 KFH-Turkey issued 5-year sukuk worth \$500 million where it attracted huge subscription valued over \$3.25 billion. In 2015, the bank issued 300 million Ringgit with tenure of 5 years as part of a 2 billion Ringgit sukuk program in Malaysia.

Moreover, KFH-Turkey issued a lease certificate (sukuk) of TL160 million. It was the biggest ever lease certificate (sukuk) issuance in Turkish Lira by the private sector in the domestic market. KFH-Turkey surpassed the previous issue size of TL150 million in 2013.



# KUWAIT INFLATION EASES TO 3.0% IN DECEMBER

**KUWAIT:** Inflation in consumer prices eased for the third consecutive month in December as price growth in most major components was steady. Headline inflation slowed to 3.0 percent year-on-year (y/y) from 3.1 percent in November; core inflation (which excludes food items) also eased in December, slowing to 2.6 percent y/y from 2.8 percent y/y in November. Annual inflation averaged at 3.3 percent in 2015, higher than the 2.9 percent reading in 2014, mainly due to stronger gains in housing inflation.

Inflation in local food prices edged up slightly in December even as global food prices continued to fall. Food prices were up by 4.6 percent y/y compared to 4.3 percent y/y in November. Meanwhile, international food prices were down by 8.4 percent y/y in December according to the Commodity Research Bureau's global commodity index. With global food prices poised to continue to decline in the near-to-medium term, gains in local food inflation are expected to be limited.

Inflation in housing services edged up in December after easing in recent months. Housing service prices, which primarily reflect housing rent, grew by 6.0 percent y/y in the final quarter of 2015, up from 5.7 percent in September. Inflation in this segment made some strong gains in 2015, though it has eased from its level in the middle of the year.

## NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

Table 1: Consumer price inflation

	Month-on-month		Year-on-year		Annual average	
	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	2014	2015
Food & beverages	0.5	0.1	4.3	4.6	2.9	3.4
Tobacco & cigarettes	0.3	0.1	1.5	1.5	7.8	6.0
Clothing & footwear	-0.2	0.1	-1.0	-0.6	2.2	-0.9
Housing services*	0.0	2.9	5.7	6.0	4.4	6.0
Furnishings & household	0.1	0.0	2.7	2.4	4.8	3.4
Healthcare	0.2	0.0	1.3	1.3	-0.6	1.7
Transportation	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.6	1.5	0.5
Communication	0.2	0.1	1.0	0.6	-0.8	0.4
Recreation & culture	0.1	0.1	-0.5	-1.1	0.9	-0.2
Education	0.0	1.6	2.7	3.5	4.7	4.4
Restaurants & hotels	-0.1	-0.4	7.0	3.1	3.1	5.7
Other goods & services	-0.2	0.0	0.9	0.3	-0.7	1.9
<b>Core**</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>General index</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>

Source: Central Statistical Bureau, NBK estimates

\* Updated once every quarter

\*\* Excludes food and beverages; estimated by NBK

Inflation in furnishings & household maintained its downward trend in December and clothing & footwear prices continued to fall, but at a lower rate. Inflation in furnishings & household maintenance eased from 2.7 percent y/y in

November to 2.4 percent y/y in December. Clothing & footwear prices continued to decline for the ninth consecutive month. The stronger dinar continues to drag costs lower in this segment.

Inflation in the 'other goods & services' segment also continued to trend lower in December. Inflation in this segment, which largely includes imported items including personal care products and jewelry, has also been led lower by the stronger dinar.

Other segments worth noting: inflation in education rose from 2.7 percent y/y in November to 3.5 percent y/y in December, amid higher tuition costs. Inflation in the restaurants & hotels segment slowed considerably in December to 3.1 percent y/y, from 7.0 percent in November as catering service costs and prices at restaurants and cafes came in lower.

Inflation in wholesale prices eased in the final quarter of 2015, on the back of softer gains in manufacturing, and agriculture, livestock & fishing prices. Wholesale price inflation eased to 2.2 percent y/y. Inflation in wholesale food costs also subsided in the 4Q15, mainly as a stronger dinar weighed down on imported food costs. Average growth in wholesale prices was up in 2015, rising to 3.0 percent from the 2.5 percent reading in 2014. The main source of this rise was the manufacturing sector.

### US dollar declines against Kuwaiti dinar

**KUWAIT:** The US dollar rate dropped against the Kuwaiti dinar yesterday reaching KD 0.299 but the euro climbed to KD 0.335 as compared to Monday's rates, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said. Sterling pound meanwhile fell to KD 0.432, the Swiss franc rose to KD 0.304 while the Japanese yen steadied at KD 0.002. The greenback has reduced its gains against other major currencies, however it remained widely in demand. Meanwhile, international stocks had a hard start in 2016, due to limited American economic growth and record oil prices' decline. Moreover, US economic reports have cast doubts regarding prospecting rise of the interest rate this year.

### OPEC basket down 30 cents to \$29.00 pb

**GENEVA:** OPEC daily basket price stood at \$29.00 a barrel Monday compared with \$29.30 the previous Friday, said OPEC bulletin yesterday. The Yearly average rate (2015) stood at \$49.64 pb. The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Meruy (Venezuela).

### Du expects royalty rates to be unchanged in 2017

**DUBAI:** Royalty rates, or taxes, levied on Dubai-based telecom operator du are likely to remain unchanged in 2017, the company's chairman said yesterday. The United Arab Emirates finance ministry had previously set out a five-year timetable for du's royalty - or tax - rates for 2012 to 2016. This steadily increased du's rates until the company paid the same in percentage terms as former monopoly Etisalat. Both companies will pay 15 percent of their regulated revenue - which excludes the likes of handset sales - and 30 percent of their regulated profit in royalties this year, leaving a question mark as what will happen from 2017 onwards. Du is awaiting further instructions, but doesn't expect royalty rates to change next year, du chairman Ahmad bin Byat told a conference in Dubai.

### Egypt cancels temporary tariff on sugar imports

**CAIRO:** Egypt is cancelling a temporary tariff levied on sugar imports in 2015 after completing an investigation into possible dumping of the commodity, the ministry of trade said yesterday. Egypt said in April it would impose a 20 percent tariff on sugar imports for 200 days following a filing to the World Trade Organization to safeguard domestic producers from a damaging surge in imports. The tariff carried a minimum charge of 700 Egyptian pounds (\$89.40) per ton and was levied while the government investigated whether an influx of sugar imports constituted harmful dumping of the commodity by foreign producers. Temporary "safeguard tariffs" are allowed under WTO rules if there is a sudden, unexpected and damaging surge of imports, and if the country that imposes the tariffs first seeks the views of interested parties. Egypt consumes around 3.2 million tons of sugar annually but produces just over 2 million tons, leaving a gap of slightly over a million tons a year for imports. —Reuters

### UAE MAY RATIFY FEDERAL DEBT LAW THIS YEAR

**DUBAI:** The United Arab Emirates is likely to ratify a law by the end of this year that will allow the federal government to issue bonds, after which the UAE would issue about 80 billion to 100 billion dirhams (\$22 billion to \$27 billion) worth of debt, a senior finance ministry official said.

"I expect the law to be ratified in six to nine months," Younis al-Khouri, under-secretary at the ministry, told Al Arabiya television yesterday. The seven individual emirates in the UAE issue bonds, but the federal government has not done so in the absence of such a law, which has been in preparation for years. However, a plunge in oil prices since mid-2014 has pushed state finances into deficit. Issuing bonds at a federal level would give the UAE another fund-raising option and could reduce pressure on the individual emirates to draw down their assets.

Fitch Ratings expects the largest emirate, Abu Dhabi, to cover part of its deficits in 2016 and 2017 by drawing down assets at its sovereign wealth fund, the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. It predicted ADIA's assets would fall to \$475 billion this year from an estimated \$502 billion at end-2014.

Khouri said yesterday that after the law was ratified by the UAE's national assembly and rulers, the central bank would be responsible for issuing the dirham-denominated bonds. He said the projected issuance of 80 billion to 100 billion dirhams was smaller than initial expectations. He did not say when the debt might be sold. — Reuters



**NEW DELHI:** An auto-rickshaw driver, right, waits for customers in Noida, near New Delhi yesterday. India said its economy grew 7.3 percent in the last three months of 2015, a rate of expansion that puts the South Asian nation ahead of China's 6.8 percent growth during the same period. — AP

### KSE REMAINS UNDER SELLING PRESSURE

**KUWAIT:** Trading at the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) remained unstable for the second week in a row with intermittent transactions on "stagnant stocks" and brisk selling targeting others with records of previous gains.

Since the session first hours, yesterday, individual traders and portfolios targeted selective shares, namely those under the Kuwait-15 index and the National Investment group, thus feeding the bearish trend of the bourse. Activity was recorded on the stagnant stocks, namely City Group and Human Soft, particularly in the last hour, amid decline of the general performance.

Al-Kharafi Group played a noticeable role in stimulating activities due to persisting positive impact caused by Americana's deal. Moreover, the session witnessed focused deals by the portfolios on speculative 50-100 fils chips, in addition to selective trades on blue-chips. Selling pressure had dominated performance since session's start till closing, targeting cheap chips, while the blue-chips firmed. Price index in the first minutes fell below the 5,200-point level due to buzzing rumors about forecast financial disclosures by listed companies for Q4 of 2015. —KUNA

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.628
Indian Rupees	4.419
Pakistani Rupees	2.879
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.089
Nepali Rupees	2.780
Singapore Dollar	214.570
Hongkong Dollar	38.547
Bangladesh Taka	3.822
Philippine Peso	6.297
Thai Baht	8.492

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.149
Qatari Riyal	82.561
Omani Riyal	780.665
Bahraini Dinar	798.190
UAE Dirham	81.831

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	36.625
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	38.429
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.402
Tunisian Dinar	150.730
Jordanian Dinar	423.370
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.000
Syrian Lira	2.142
Morocco Dirham	31.455

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	300.400
Euro	338.250
Sterling Pound	434.530
Canadian dollar	216.430
Turkish lira	101.810
Swiss Franc	307.160
Australian Dollar	212.230
US Dollar Buying	299.200

### GOLD

20 Gram	239.750
10 Gram	122.800
5 Gram	62.240

### UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

#### CURRENCIES

Australian Dollar	204.16
Canadian Dollar	220.30
Swiss Franc	307.24
Euro	338.23
US Dollar	301.25
Sterling Pound	439.64
Japanese Yen	2.60
Bangladesh Taka	3.838
Indian Rupee	4.439
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.092
Nepali Rupee	2.776
Pakistani Rupee	2.888
UAE Dirhams	0.08198
Bahraini Dinar	0.8006
Egyptian Pound	0.03836
Jordanian Dinar	0.4285
Omani Riyal	0.7823
Qatari Riyal	0.08306
Saudi Riyal	0.08030

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

#### Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	300.650
Canadian Dollar	217.500
Sterling Pound	434.245
Euro	338.060
Swiss Franc	297.040
Bahraini Dinar	795.365
UAE Dirhams	82.095
Qatari Riyals	83.305

#### Selling Rate

US Dollar	300.650
Canadian Dollar	217.500
Sterling Pound	434.245
Euro	338.060
Swiss Franc	297.040
Bahraini Dinar	795.365
UAE Dirhams	82.095
Qatari Riyals	83.305

### Saudi Riyals

Jordanian Dinar	80.850
Egyptian Pound	423.520
Sri Lankan Rupees	38.284
Indian Rupees	2.091
Pakistani Rupees	4.406
Bangladesh Taka	2.875
Philippines Peso	3.819
Cyprus pound	6.292
Kenyan Shilling	572.635
Syrian Pound	204.16
Nepalese Rupees	3.620
Malaysian Ringgit	2.365
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	3.750
Thai Bhat	72.520
Turkish Lira	46.110
	9.465
	102.085

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

#### CURRENCY

British Pound	0.425988	0.434988
Czech Korune	0.004412	0.016412
Danish Krone	0.041009	0.046009
Euro	0.330964	0.338964
Norwegian Krone	0.030925	0.036125
Romanian Leu	0.074918	0.074918
Slovakia	0.008914	0.018914
Swedish Krona	0.031506	0.036506
Swiss Franc	0.298418	0.308618
Turkish Lira	0.096487	0.106787

#### Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.202659	0.214159
New Zealand Dollar	0.191382	0.200882

#### America

Canadian Dollar	0.209993	0.218493
US Dollars	0.296300	0.300800

### US Dollars Mint

	0.296800	0.300800
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#### Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003441	0.004041
Chinese Yuan	0.044256	0.047756
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036456	0.039206
Indian Rupee	0.004151	0.004541
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002536	0.002716
Kenyan Shilling	0.002941	0.002941
Korean Won	0.000238	0.000253
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068391	0.074391
Nepalese Rupee	0.002847	0.003017
Pakistan Rupee	0.002602	0.002882
Philippine Peso	0.006199	0.006479
Sierra Leone	0.000070	0.000076
Singapore Dollar	0.210401	0.216401
South African Rand	0.012419	0.020919
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001737	0.002317
Taiwan	0.008858	0.009038
Thai Baht	0.008156	0.008706

#### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.789933	0.797933
Egyptian Pound	0.034217	0.038553
Iranian Riyal	0.000083	0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000197	0.000257
Jordanian Dinar	0.419675	0.427175
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000149	0.000249
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020576	0.044576
Nigerian Naira	0.001234	0.001869
Omani Riyal	0.773840	0.779520
Qatar Riyal	0.081801	0.083014
Saudi Riyal	0.079220	0.080170
Syrian Pound	0.001272	0.001492
Tunisian Dinar	0.146747	0.154747
Turkish Lira	0.096487	0.106787
UAE Dirhams	0.080807	0.081956
Yemeni Riyal	0.001357	0.001437

## KFH LAUNCHES AL-RABEH ACCOUNT

### SALARY ACCOUNT OFFERS VALUABLE PRIZES, UNIQUE ADVANTAGES

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched Al-Rabeh account with unique advantages and valuable prizes stemming from its continuing endeavors to offer outstanding products and services that address clients' requirements and meet their aspirations, yet consolidate Bank's prestigious status and excellence in offering products as per the highest standards of quality.

Al-Rabeh salary account offers clients the opportunity to win two 2016 Range Rover's and 3 KG of Gold every 3 months. Further, Al-Rabeh account is an investment savings account that gives clients annual distributions. KFH invests 100 percent of the sum available in the account according to Mudaraba principle where profits are calculated as per the minimum monthly balance invested. Clients can open this account at any of KFH 64 branches around Kuwait. It is noteworthy that the account is offered for clients wishing to transfer their

salaries and manage their personal accounts with the ability to save and invest. Al-Rabeh account is available for individuals in KD, and it requires salary transfer to enter the draw.

With regards to the prizes terms and conditions, KFH gives away two Range Rover's 2016 HSE for the first two winners and a 3 KG Gold for the third winner in quarterly draws to be held in the months of January, April, July, and October, providing that clients should have deposited 3 salaries in the three months prior to the draw, yet their minimum monthly balance is not less than KD 50 by the end of each month, bearing in mind that every additional KD 50 in the account entitles clients to additional chances in the draw.

KFH is keen on improving its banking products and services in line with clients' requirement in efforts to achieve customer satisfaction and cater more closely for their needs. KFH was established in

Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

KFH's values include cementing lead-



ership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the develop-

ment of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.



FRANKFURT: A general view shows the German stock exchange in Frankfurt yesterday. — AFP

## CLOUDS OVER GERMAN ECONOMY

### AS FACTORY OUTPUT, EXPORTS FALL

#### INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT FELL BY 1.2% IN DECEMBER

**FRANKFURT:** An unexpected drop in German industrial production in December, as well as a decline in exports, cast a shadow over the outlook for Europe's biggest economy, analysts said yesterday. According to regular data compiled by the economy ministry, industrial output fell by 1.2 percent in December, disappointing analysts' expectations for a modest increase.

Factory output—a key yardstick for gauging the health of Europe's biggest economy—had already declined fractionally by 0.1 percent in November. In December, it was weighed down by falling activity in all main sectors, with manufacturing output down by 1.1 percent month-on-month, energy output contracting by 3.0 percent and construction output slipping by just 0.2 percent, the ministry said. Analysts had been penciling in growth of 0.5 percent for the final month of last year. Separately, the federal statistics office Destatis said that both exports and imports declined in December.

In calendar- and seasonally-adjusted terms, exports fell by 1.6

percent to 97.8 billion euros (\$109 billion) in December and imports also declined by 1.6 percent to 78.4 billion euros.

That caused Germany's trade surplus—the balance between exports and imports and a key gauge of an economy's comparative strength—to contract to 19.4 billion euros, Destatis calculated. Nevertheless, taking 2015 as a whole, Germany clocked up its highest-ever trade surplus as both exports and imports powered ahead to new annual records.

#### Economic engine is faltering

However, analysts were more concerned about the December data, and suggested that Germany's economic strength could be faltering. The industrial output data “was the sharpest monthly drop since August 2014,” said ING DiBa economist Carsten Brzeski. While the decline could be partially explained by the timing of the Christmas holidays, taking the fourth quarter of last year, industrial production was down almost one percent, “illustrat-

ing the general weakness of Germany's former growth engine,” Brzeski said.

Coupled with the drop in exports and imports, which showed that German exporters are also beginning to feel the pinch from weaker foreign demand, the data “were a painful reminder that not all is hunky dory in the eurozone's largest economy,” the expert warned.

Capital Economics economist Jonathan Loynes agreed. “Overall, the figures deal a further blow to expectations that growth in the German and eurozone economies will pick up in 2016,” he said.

The European Central Bank would therefore need step up its stimulus, Loynes argued.

“We continue to expect both another interest rate cut and a pick-up in the pace of asset purchases” at the ECB's next policy meeting in March, he concluded.

ECB chief Mario Draghi has already hinted as much, saying last month that the central bank would review and possibly reassess its current monetary policy stance.

Commerzbank economist Ralph Solveen was not quite so pessimistic. While the industrial output data underline that German manufacturing is increasingly suffering from the weakness in emerging markets, “the actually rather positive orders and sales figures give reason to expect a significant recovery of production in January,” Solveen believed.

But BayernLB economist Johannes Mayr said the disappointing December data meant that his forecast for overall economic growth of 0.3 percent in the final quarter of 2015 now seemed “ambitious.”

German gross domestic product expanded by 0.3 percent in the third quarter. “But the outlook for the start of this year have also clouded over,” Mayr said. “The disappointing hard data for the end of last year will fuel concern that the German economy is more exposed to global worries and turbulence on the financial markets,” the economist said, while ruling out a sharp cooling of the economy or even a possible recession. — AFP

## GREEK FARMERS BLOCK MAIN HIGHWAY

**THESSALONIKI, Greece:** Farmers in northern Greece blocked traffic on the country's main highway yesterday, intensifying nationwide protests against austerity measures demanded by bailout lenders.

Protest organizers said a tractor blockade on the highway linking Athens to Greece's second

largest city, Thessaloniki, would be in effect indefinitely unless the government withdrew proposals for tax hikes and an overhaul of the pension system.

Blockades on secondary roads, used by drivers to bypass the highway, were also being stepped up. “They are asking farmers to pay higher taxes

even if they have no income ... It's impossible,” said Yiannis Zacharias, a blockade organizer in northern Greece.

The new austerity measures have prompted broad protests against Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' year-old leftwing government, with strikes from a range of professional groups, from lawyers to ferry workers. Greece is expected to slip back into a mild recession in 2016, while the global sell-off in financial markets saw the value of shares on the Athens Stock Exchange sink Monday to their worst level since 1989. The exchange's main index was down a further 2.7 percent in early afternoon trading yesterday. On Friday, farmers from across Greece are planning to travel to Athens, with plans to stage a three-day protest outside parliament.

Government spokeswoman Olga Gerovasili said Tsipras was willing to meet farming associations but insisted “the negotiations cannot start from zero.”

Farmers launched the tractor blockades on Jan. 20, and have since stepped up their protests along the nation's highways and at border crossings, causing long delays for drivers and trucks.

Police said Tuesday Bulgarian truck drivers used their vehicles to smash a customs boom barrier at the Greek border with Bulgaria. Four trucks crossed into Bulgaria, while a fifth truck was stopped and the driver arrested on public disturbance charges.

The conservative main opposition party called on the government to withdraw the pension overhaul plan to avoid “social upheaval.” — AP



ATHENS: A man sits behind an index board at the reception hall of the Stock Exchange in Athens yesterday. — AP

## IRAN HOPES FOR AGRICULTURAL BOOM POST-SANCTIONS

**DUBAI:** Iran plans to turn itself into a major food exporter, hoping the lifting of sanctions will boost international trade and allow investment in the agricultural sector, an official in Iran's state grain buying agency said. “We are ready for a big leap in the post-sanctions era. We hope by removing the shackles of sanctions from our farmers' hands, we can see an increase in production and even exports,” Amir Hossein Shahmir, head of international trade at the Government Trading Corporation (GTC) told Reuters.

Foreign business delegations have flocked to Tehran since the United States, European Union and United Nations lifted international sanctions last month after reaching a deal to curb and monitor Iran's disputed nuclear program.

“Among the foreign trade delegations there are always businessmen keen to invest in Iran's agriculture, including wheat, sugar cane and fruits. French delegations specifically were interested in investing in Iran's agrifusiness,” Shahmir said.

The government is pushing to cut Iran's dependency on foreign imports paid for with oil revenues, and increase its exports of manufactured goods and agricultural products, President Hassan Rouhani said last week. Abdolreza Abbassian, senior economist with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, said there was more potential in the processed food sector.

“They had done quite a lot in the sanctions period to boost self reliance on domestic produce, from jams to dairy products to tomato paste and even spaghetti and macaroni,” he said.

GTC's Shahmir said a project in the south-western province of Khuzestan

to develop 500,000 hectares of irrigated agricultural land was 80 percent complete, and would boost production of wheat and other strategic products. The government estimated the cost of the project at \$600 million.

#### WATER SHORTAGE

Iran has 6.1 million hectares of land used for farming wheat, the staple grain. Two thirds of that is unirrigated, making it susceptible to drought. Iran is one of the world's driest countries, with an average 250mm of rain a year.

“The country suffers from a huge water shortage. This is a challenge,” FAO's Abbassian said, adding he did not think the country had a comparative advantage to be an exporter of wheat.

The GTC last week banned state imports of wheat for the Iranian year starting on March 20, on the back of 2015's strong harvest and the expected production boost. Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati has said Iran will continue to rely on imports of maize and barley.

Iran had started the year with 5 million tons of wheat carried over from 2015, when the El Nino weather system brought heavy rains and a good harvest, Shahmir said.

Shahmir said sugar production would also increase, but Iran would still need imports to meet an expected increase in demand. Iran currently produces 1.5 million tons of sugar each year, and imports 1 million tons. “Iran's sugar is used in pastry, ice cream, beverages and chocolate whose consumption is highly dependent on people's purchasing power. These are products that people would buy more when they have more money,” he said. — Reuters

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# STOCKS HIT THE ROCKS AFTER ASIAN MARKETS SLUMP

**LONDON:** A drop in bank shares kept European shares under pressure yesterday, after losses in Asian markets sent investors scurrying for safe havens. After a choppy morning, the pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 flattened out, having touched its lowest levels since October 2014 in early trade. It remained near its Monday close, the lowest since 2013.

Bank stocks reversed early gains, leaving the STOXX Europe 600 bank sector down 6 percent so far this week. Shares in several Italian banks were suspended from trading after dropping sharply. Other growth-sensitive sectors, such as basic resources, also came under pressure. In all, world stocks fell 0.4 percent, although

S&P 500 e-mini futures were flat. The search for shelter pushed up the Japanese yen, long considered a safe-haven asset, and drove the yield on Japan's benchmark government bond into negative territory for the first time ever.

Many investors believed that signs of stress in the market for credit default swaps pointed to further declines ahead. "There is a high probability of a further correction in equity prices, led by banking and energy stocks. There could be a wave of defaults in the energy sector and that will damage the balance sheet of the banking sector," said Lorne Baring, managing director of B Capital Wealth Management. Slowing global growth was clouding the out-

look further, he added.

"We are advising our investors to drastically reduce risk and build protection."

However, there were some signs of stabilization. Deutsche Bank rose 1.4 percent after sinking 9.5 percent on Monday. Late Monday, the German bank said it has "sufficient" reserves to make payments due this year on AT1 securities, after concern had mounted about its ability to maintain bond payments.

Strategists at Goldman Sachs said banks had enough liquidity and that recent capital hikes should reduce the risk of a financial crisis re-run.

Yesterday, Asian shares saw the biggest

losses, tracking the declines in European and US shares on Monday. Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso warned the yen's rise was "rough", something of an understatement as the Nikkei nosedived 5.4 percent.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan fell 1.1 percent. Australian shares hit a 2 1/2-year closing low and would have been lower if not for holidays in many centres. All of which raises the stakes for US Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen when she gives her semi-annual testimony before Congress this week.

"She needs to come across as optimistic without being too hawkish and cautious without being negative," said Jo Masters, a senior economist at ANZ. "Hawkishness or dovishness could easily exacerbate the current sell-off, tightening financial conditions further."

US crude oil rose 2.7 percent to \$30.49 and Brent crude rose 1.5 percent. Copper edged higher in quiet trade, with top consumer China on holiday. Gold benefited from the risk-off sentiment and reached a seven-month high, then edged lower as stocks stabilised and looked set to end a seven-day winning run.

pend plans to normalise rates.

That has pulled 10-year Treasury yields to their lowest since early 2015 and weakened the US dollar, which touched a six-week trough against the Swiss franc as the euro hit a two-week low against the franc. Against a basket of currencies, the dollar edged down 0.1 percent to 96.494.

While the euro was flat against the dollar, bets on volatility ahead for euro-dollar exchange rates surged to a two-month high of 11 percent, as traders bet more on the dollar. That flipped most derivatives pricing in favour of a weaker euro over the next few months. By the far the biggest mover was the yen, long considered a safe haven given Japan's position as the world's top creditor nation. The dollar dived as low as 114.22 yen from above 121 a week ago. The euro fell as much as one percent to 128.24 yen.

The yield on Japan's benchmark 10-year government bond touched minus 0.010 percent as the Nikkei stock index tumbled. It was the first time a G7 nation's 10-year government bond yield reached minus numbers, although yields on German bunds have come close.

Southern European bond yields pulled back from multi-month highs yesterday, showing some signs of stabilization a day after concerns about global growth and the health of Europe's banks triggered heavy selling.

Such concerns have also seen one market measure of long-term eurozone inflation expectations fall to a record low. — Reuters

## Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Tuesday 09 February 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▼ -45.48	5,163.80	5,209.28	5,208.94	5,162.25
Weighted Index	▼ -1.99	354.72	356.71	356.06	352.59
KXSX 15	▼ -2.17	840.02	842.19	841.28	831.35

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	114	▼ 0.0
IKARUS	84	81	15,500	1,257	3	▼ 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	320	▼ 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	600	▼ 0.0
ENERGYH	33.0	30.0	1,550	47	2	▼ -0.5
GPI	43.5	42.0	3,015,584	129,653	59	▼ 43.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	116	▼ 0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>3,032,634</b>	<b>130,957</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>▼ 0.75</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	216	▼ 0.0
BPCC	465	455	7,750	3,604	2	▼ -5.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	610	▼ 0.0
ALQURAIN	166	164	66,514	10,958	12	▼ 1.66
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>74,264</b>	<b>14,562</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>▼ 0.20</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
KCEM	365	365	5	2	1	▼ -15.0
REFRI	330	325	2,250	735	2	▼ -15.0
CABLE	355	340	23,910	8,153	9	▼ 3.55
SHIP	142	142	6,337	900	1	▼ 142
PCEM	1,000	1,000	4,220	4,220	1	▼ -20.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	380	▼ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	67	▼ 0.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	275	▼ 0.0
GMCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	475	▼ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	130	▼ 0.0
KPAK	0.0	0.0	0	0	340	▼ 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	250	▼ 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	228	▼ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	53	52	88,385	4,666	10	▼ 53
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	99	▼ 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	102	▼ 0.0
SALBOOKH	68	64	332,148	21,795	48	▼ 4.0
AGLTY	435	425	1,295,832	557,216	39	▼ 435
EDU	210	206	970,070	199,835	5	▼ 206
CLEANING	38.0	36.5	2,683,662	100,260	57	▼ -2.0
CITYGROUP	460	460	500	230	1	▼ 460
KGL	41.0	39.5	47,104	1,880	6	▼ 41.0
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	210	▼ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	980	880	80	75	2	▼ 880
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	130	▼ 0.0
SAFWAN	300	300	5,000	1,500	1	▼ 300
GFC	28.5	28.5	3,000	86	2	▼ 28.5
MAYADEEN	19.0	18.0	1,783,307	32,988	10	▼ 18.5
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	790	▼ 0.0
MTCC	69	69	822,900	56,780	20	▼ 69
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	600	▼ 0.0
ALAFCO	178	178	101,500	18,067	2	▼ 178
MUBARRAD	62	60	1,428,569	85,208	37	▼ 61
LOGISTICS	58	54	2,306,820	128,239	71	▼ 54
SCEM	83	83	245,887	20,409	2	▼ 83
GCEM	79	79	10,000	790	1	▼ 79
QCEM	70	70	98,665	6,907	1	▼ 70
FCEM	74	71	16,010	1,155	3	▼ 74
RKWC	97	95	19,140	1,835	7	▼ 96
SPEC	87	87	100	9	1	▼ 87
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>12,293,401</b>	<b>1,254,938</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>▼ 12,54</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	204	▼ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	62	▼ 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	102	▼ 0.0
CATTL	122	122	4,073	497	1	▼ 122
DANAH	70	70	341,000	23,870	12	▼ 70
POULT	200	200	33,760	6,752	4	▼ 200
FOOD	2,300	2,300	74,499	171,348	8	▼ 2,300
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>453,332</b>	<b>202,467</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>▼ 19,52</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	200	▼ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	920	▼ 0.0
YIACO	138	130	2,963	388	3	▼ 138
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>2,963</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>▼ 936.47</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	980	▼ 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	220	▼ 0.0
SULTAN	63	62	3,900	244	3	▼ 62
CABLETV	25.0	25.0	8,787	220	4	▼ 25.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	385	▼ 0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	186	▼ 0.0
OULAFUEL	112	110	15,549	1,713	15	▼ 110
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	91	▼ 0.0
JAZEERA	840	810	15,108	12,386	9	▼ 820
SOOR	110	110	16,581	1,824	9	▼ 110
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	110	▼ 0.0
ALNAWADI	0.0	0.0	0	0	84	▼ 0.0
ALRAI	138	134	17,023	2,287	10	▼ 138
ZIMAH	100	97	859,248	84,003	72	▼ 97
UFIF	0.0	0.0	0	0	96	▼ 0.0
KOUTFOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	540	▼ 0.0
Mezzan	1,120	1,060	426,411	464,562	25	▼ 1,120
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>1,362,607</b>	<b>567,239</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>▼ 8.72</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
ZAIN	355	345	2,131,104	748,090	99	▼ 355
OOREDOO	1,080	1,080	5,000	5,400	1	▼ 1,080
HITSTELEC	26.5	26.0	691,450	18,225	19	▼ 26.5
VIVA	900	900	77,038	69,334	79	▼ 900
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>2,904,592</b>	<b>841,050</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>▼ 563.65</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
NBK	730	720	1,639,752	1,190,149	82	▼ 730
GBK	208	206	425,000	87,565	20	▼ 206
CBK	500	500	10,000	5,000	1	▼ 500
ABK	360	350	167,000	59,770	8	▼ 360
ALMUTAHED	450	445	20,160	8,972	2	▼ 450
KIB	196	192	342,594	66,368	10	▼ 194
BURG	350	340	159,248	54,842	20	▼ 350
KFIN	485	475	1,443,441	692,214	96	▼ 480
BOUBYAN	390	385	263,441	102,587	23	▼ 390
AUB	200	198	1,593,422	315,541	42	▼ 200
ITHMR	31.0	29.0	4,237,984	126,381	95	▼ 30.0
WARBAZABAK	184	178	2,714,794	493,494	144	▼ 182
<b>Banks</b>			<b>13,016,836</b>	<b>3,201,884</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>▼ 805.49</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	320	▼ 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	750	▼ 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	445	▼ 0.0
WINS	104	104	5,000	520	1	▼ 104
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	200	▼ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	52	▼ 0.0
WETHAQ	30.5	30.5	500	15	1	▼ 30.5
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	355	▼ 0.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>5,500</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>▼ 1055.09</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
SOKOUK	35.0	33.0	870,798	295,360	168	▼ 33.5
KRE	47.5	46.5	278,018	12,977	10	▼ 46.5
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	93	▼ 0.0
NRE	90	88	119,147	10,623	6	▼ 89
SRE	350	330	9,000	3,070	3	▼ 350
TAM	630	580	718,700	416,896	16	▼ 580
AREC	130	130	10,000	1,300	3	▼ 130
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	59	▼ 0.0



# OIL PRICES, MONETARY POLICIES AND EMERGING MARKETS POSE CHALLENGES TO GCC ECONOMIES

## MARKAZ PRESENTATION ON 'TOP GCC RISKS FOR 2016 & BEYOND'

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" has recently held a presentation on "Top GCC Risks for 2016 & Beyond" for its clients and market experts at Chairman's Club. The presentation was delivered by M R Raghu, Head of Research at Markaz and Managing director of Marmore MENA Intelligence, a research subsidiary of Markaz providing services of financial research and analysis of Mena economies, markets, and companies in the MENA region. The general takeaway from the presentation is that in order to deal with times of economic change, a growing urban class seeking better jobs and increasing stresses on the general infrastructure, meaningful and systematic reforms are a clear necessity; not a luxury.

Raghu made a comparison of risks that were anticipated to occur in 2015, and those that had actually come to pass. The former enumerated risks such as Russian sovereign defaults, Grexit, Bleak EU and China growth outlook, ISIS, Risk of social unrest in the EU etc., some of which materialized, while others did not. The fall of the oil price to sub-\$40 per barrel due to OPEC members change of strategy to defend market share than market price, the successful conclusion of the Iran nuclear deal and the drastic fall of the Brazilian Real were surprising to most tracking world markets.

Raghu outlined the risks that could be

most plausibly expected in 2016. With the oil price declining to sub-\$40 per barrel questions are being raised as to how much longer OPEC can continue with its current policy of pumping as much oil as it can in a quest to win more market share and drive out high cost producers. Some of the big producers, such as Venezuela, Nigeria and Algeria that rely on oil exports for their revenue, do not have the luxury of oil surpluses, and are facing widening fiscal and current account deficits. Even for GCC exporters, assuming low oil prices persist, public foreign assets could decline substantially over the next 5 years, while gross public debt could rise to 59% of GDP. In the current scenario, GCC (read OPEC) is being severely tested in terms of their strategy to preserve and enhance market share at the cost of price.

### Credit growth risk

US interest rates were finally hiked by 25bps on 16 Dec 2015, with the Fed raising the range of its benchmark interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point to between 0.25 percent and 0.50 percent, and further rate hikes expected in 2016, with the median projected target at 1.375 percent. With US bonds and interest rates serving as global benchmarks, these expected hikes will increase the cost of money in the US, and change the value of everything around the

world. Stock markets will be affected due to lesser availability of cheap capital and private sector borrowing would also be impacted.

China's borrowing binge post the 2008 global financial crisis has led to burgeoning rise in credit, which stands at 240 percent of GDP at the end of Q3 2015. Rising credit growth in a period of slow economic growth is magnifying the indebtedness. China's bond market is now the third largest in the world, after USA and Japan, at about \$5.6tn, with bond issuance having grown by 56 percent in 2015, prompting warnings of a bubble like situation in the market. Fears of falling industrial production and economic slowdown in China have affected the global markets, with prices of major commodities taking a hammering. After a decade of negative equity/bond correlations, rate shocks in 2016 could result in a less stable relationship, coupled with rising inflation and uncertain global monetary policy. In such a scenario, bonds will no longer be good hedges for underperforming equities.

### Global debt

The total stock of global debt is close to \$60tn, with the increase attributed to non-financial corporate debt, especially in emerging market economies. The challenges faced by debt-laden emerging markets has been referred to as the

"third wave" of the financial crisis, due to rock bottom commodities prices, stalling growth in China and low global inflation.

Capital flows to emerging markets have weakened sharply since 2014, with a marked decline seen in 2015. With foreign inflows seemingly likely to fall below 2008 levels and rising domestic outflows, it is expected that net capital flows to EMs in 2015 will be negative for the first time since 1988. This pullback from EMs has been driven primarily by internal factors: a sustained slowdown in EM growth, amplified by rising uncertainty about China's economy policies, and a hike in the US interest rates.

In August 2015, there was a wave of currency devaluations, led by China's depreciation of Yuan by nearly 2 percent, with several major emerging markets, such as Vietnam, Russia, Brazil etc. following suit. China's decision to allow slow but steady depreciation to encourage exports has added to concerns that its economy may be more fragile than expected.

### Riskiest economy

Studying the above risks leads us to believe that the least riskiest economy for 2016 is the US economy, opined Raghu. Developed economies of Europe falls next in line with Middle East economies (especially GCC) following it. The riskiest economies in 2016 would be

the emerging markets for the reasons articulated above.

Looking at the GCC in particular, growing deficits, instability of Chinese economy and markets, and enduring geopolitical issues are the high risks for this region. With the oil exporters facing deficit situations, many countries have already begun tapping into their reserves and borrowing from the markets to bridge the widening fiscal balance. GCC countries have also started rationalizing subsidies in a bid to curb expenditure. In some cases, tax reforms are also debated to augment non-oil revenues. The slow growth in China, the largest importer of commodities, including crude, affects the GCC economies, which rely on Chinese exports for their revenues. And finally, regional conflicts continue to destabilize the region, and discourage investments. The biggest challenge to GCC in this low oil price environment is to infuse investor confidence through counter-cyclical investments by the government which can spur growth.

While faced with risks and challenges, governments will have to use the momentum that targeted reforms generate to achieve sustainable long-term goals. The public and the private sector will have to undertake strategic alliances together, which means that reforms have to underpin the platform of stable trust.

## ARGENTINA CHARTS TRICKY COURSE TO US DEBT DEAL

**BUENOS AIRES:** Argentina has claimed a breakthrough in efforts to get US hedge funds off its back by paying \$6.5 billion of debt, but faces tricky maneuvers to settle the dispute for good.

The leaders of Latin America's third-biggest economy said Friday they had offered the sum to settle its long debt battle with "holdout" creditors suing it in a US court. Two of six major holdout creditors have accepted the deal, which would impose a 25-percent loss on their investment. But four have not done so yet.

"The proposal is undoubtedly an historic moment for Argentina," wrote Edward Glossop, an analyst at financial research group Capital Economics. "It is the first formal deal that the government has presented to the holdouts, and is a significant step in the government's bid to return to global capital markets." That is the aim of Argentina's new President Mauricio Macri, who took over last month from leftist leader Cristina Kirchner. She had refused to pay the hedge funds, branding them "vultures." Creditors were demanding full repayment of about \$9 billion on bonds the country defaulted on.

"This litigation has gone on for nearly 15 years since the original Argentine default of 2001, and the proposal by Argentina is an historic breakthrough," said mediator Daniel Pollack.

Glossop warned however: "There are still a number of hurdles to overcome in order for the government to return to global capital markets." The holdouts are a minority class of creditors that refused to go along with the restructuring of the country's debt after it defaulted on about \$100 billion.

They were led by two funds: NML Capital, a unit of Elliott Management, and Aurelius Capital Management. The funds which accepted the offer were Montreux Partners and Dart Management, according to the government.

Glossop reckoned some of the holdouts may yet press for better terms. NML Capital was among those yet to respond to Macri's offer.

### Political debt maneuvers

Apart from winning over the other four funds to the deal, Macri must also gain approval in a congress dominated by his opponents. His chances improved last week when a group of rebel lawmakers broke away from Kirchner's party in congress, weakening the opposition bloc.

Macri aims to build support so that he can launch reforms of existing laws governing the debt repayments when congress reconvenes in March.

There were signs of openness among the opposition to work constructively in its relations with him.

"There is a sector that is planning to adopt confrontational policies, and another large majority sector that is planning to be serious and responsible in opposition, to guarantee governability," said Gustavo Bordet, a prominent governor. The United States voiced optimism that Argentina will be able to settle its long battle with the holdouts. US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew expressed "strong hope that all creditors will be able to resolve their differences and reach agreements in principle with Argentina," a spokeswoman for his department said.

The offer came days after Macri's government reached a deal to pay Italian bondholders \$1.35 billion to settle their \$2.5 billion in claims.

Macri has promised to strengthen Argentina's ties with foreign countries and investors after years of combative relations under Kirchner. He has rolled back various protectionist policies of his predecessors, lifting currency and export controls and eliminating electricity subsidies.

Macri says such measures are necessary to make the economy competitive. His critics warn they will hurt poorer Argentines.

Argentina's inflation rate is forecast at up to 25 percent this year and economic growth at no more than 1.0 percent. "Restoring credit is fundamental for returning to growth," said Finance Minister Alfonso Prat-Gay. — AFP



**WASHINGTON:** Members of the media surround copies of the President Barack Obama's fiscal 2017 federal budget as they arrive to the House Budget Committee Room on Capitol Hill in Washington yesterday.—AP

## OBAMA UNVEILS \$4 TRILLION-PLUS ELECTION YEAR BUDGET FOR 2017

**WASHINGTON:** President Barack Obama is unveiling his eighth and final budget, a \$4 trillion-plus proposal that's freighted with liberal policy initiatives and new and familiar tax hikes - all sent to a dismissive Republican-controlled Congress that simply wants to move on from his presidency.

The budget was to be yesterday morning, the same day as the New Hampshire primary when it's likely to get little attention. It comes as the deficit, which had been falling over the duration of Obama's two terms, has begun to creep up, above the half-trillion mark.

The White House is countering the worsening deficit outlook with a proposed \$10-per barrel tax on oil that would finance "clean" transportation projects. It also is sure to propose taxes on the wealthy and corporations.

Long gone are proposals such as slowing the automatic inflation increase for Social Security benefits and other ideas once aimed at drawing congressional Republicans into negotiations on a broader budget deal. Now, Obama has broken out a budget playbook filled with ideas sure to appeal to Democrats: A "moonshot" initiative to cure cancer; increasing Pell Grants for college students from low-income backgrounds; renewed incentives for GOP-governed states to join the expanded Medicaid system established under the health care law, and incentives to boost individual retirement accounts.

The budget also pledges to make Americans safe in an increasingly dangerous world through higher military spending to fight the Islamic State terrorist threat and increased support for cybersecurity in the wake of last summer's hack of government computers that compromised the personal information of 21 million Americans. The administration's budget asks for a \$19 billion increase in spending to upgrade cybersecurity across government agencies, including \$3 billion for an overhaul of federal computer systems.

"These cyber threats are among the most urgent dangers to America's economic and national security," Obama wrote in an opinion piece Tuesday in *The Wall Street Journal*. "With the nation's cyber adversaries getting more sophisticated every day... we have to be even more nimble and resilient and stay ahead of these threats."

The \$10-per-barrel tax hike proposal comes as the price of crude has dropped to the \$30 per barrel range. "We're going to impose a tax on a barrel

of oil - imported, exported - so that some of that revenue can be used for transportation, some of that revenue can be used for the investments in basic research and technology that's going to be needed for the energy sources of the future," Obama said. "Then 10 years from now, 15 years from now, 20 years from now, we're going to be in a much stronger position when oil starts getting tight again, prices start going up again."

Republicans, however, immediately rejected the idea after its release last week and it will meet the fate of prior dead-on-arrival proposals such as increasing capital gains taxes on the wealthy, imposing a fee on big banks, and cutting the value of charitable deductions for upper-income taxpayers. Higher cigarette taxes and a minimum 30 percent rate for wealthier filers have also gone nowhere. Obama's proposed tax increases also mean that he can present relatively reasonable deficit estimates without having to go for painful cuts to benefit programs such as Medicare, health

care subsidies under the Affordable Care Act, food stamps, and Medicaid health care for the poor.

The budget deficit, after hitting a whopping \$1.4 trillion in Obama's first year, dropped to a relatively manageable \$439 billion last year. But a softening economic outlook, combined with a round of tax cuts and increased spending enacted by Congress last year, will make the deficit problem about \$1.5 trillion worse over the coming 10 years, according to the latest Congressional Budget Office estimate.

CBO's "baseline" deficit - what it expects would occur if Congress does nothing - would now total almost \$10 trillion over the coming decade. The White House hasn't revealed what, if anything, Obama will propose to address the worsening deficit picture. In its budget roll-out, the White House has instead focused on new spending initiatives. The plan is also likely to call for a comprehensive overhaul of immigration laws, highly unlikely in an election year.—AP

## PLIGHT OF ROMANIAN GARMENT WORKERS UNDER SCRUTINY

**CALAFAT, Romania:** Outside a clothing factory in Calafat in southern Romania early one morning, hundreds of workers crowd around makeshift stalls to stock up on snacks and drinks for their shift.

The Italian-owned knitwear factory, Maglierie Cristian Impex, is the largest employer in the area and one of the largest clothing factories in Romania, with about 1,000 staff.

It has produced clothes since 1997 for big names such as Kenzo, Escada, Marc O'Polo, Faconnable and Inditex, the Spanish-based giant whose brands include Zara and Massimo Dutti.

But some workers mutter they have not been paid while others say they received wages only once every two or three months last year. "Work, work, work - but no pay," complains one worker, 34-year-old Cristina, who did not want her real name disclosed. Activists have rallied against the plight of garment workers in recent years but their focus has often been on Asia. But even inside the European Union - in Romania and Bulgaria particularly - workers can endure poverty-level wages, long hours and arduous conditions to make clothes for major brands.

Campaigners are demanding that clothing brands take full responsibility for their production chains, with decent pay and conditions for all the workers involved.

Some 345,000 people work in more than 10,000 factories in the clothing, textile and leather industries in Romania and

Bulgaria, according to government statistics. The sector is among the top exporters in both countries.

Factory owners say they face intense pressure from brands to keep costs low. Workers, who are overwhelmingly women, are often hired on the legal minimum wage of less than 200 euros (\$220) a month net and may earn even less, say workers and campaigners such as the Fair Wear Foundation and Clean Clothes Campaign.

From late January to mid-July last year, Cristina says she was paid twice, receiving a total of around 1500 lei (340 euros) from the factory that has received European Union funding to "enhance economical competitiveness".

"Women go and start crying in front of the chief, saying 'please give me my money, because I can't feed my children'," says Cristina, the only person in her family with a full-time job.

### STRIKING STATEMENT

In April 2014, more than 300 employees at the Maglierie Cristian factory staged a wildcat strike over late wages. Cristi Deseanu, 29, a mechanic at the plant, says people were eventually paid but he and other vocal protesters were fired and he lost his job that paid 250 euros a month.

Deseanu provided documents to back up his claim that he was dismissed because he took part in the strike. But, in a telephone conversation, a senior company official said Deseanu quit his job.— Reuters

## BURUNDI'S TAX REVENUE FALLS IN Q4 2015

**NAIROBI:** Burundi's tax revenue fell 17 percent in the last quarter of 2015 compared with the year-ago period, depressed by months of political violence sparked by President Pierre Nkurunziza's disputed decision to run for a third term.

The aid-dependent central African nation, whose economy relies on coffee and tea exports, is embroiled in one of its worst crises since a civil war ended in 2005. Nine months of strife has killed over 400 people. The Burundi Revenue Office (OBR) said it collected 157.84 billion francs (\$102.16 million) in taxes in the October-to-December period, down from 191.32 billion francs for the same period in 2014, and 38.46 billion francs short of its target.

"Due to the crisis Burundi is going through, the fourth quarter's results show an underperformance both in forecasts and results," OBR Commissioner General Domitien

Ndihokubwayo told a news conference. "One of the reasons is the security situation which impacted on the Burundi economy."

Nkurunziza won re-election in July, a vote that was boycotted by most of the Burundian opposition. Opponents said a third term for Nkurunziza violated the constitution. His supporters cited a court ruling that said he could run again.

His return to power raised concerns that there could be another bloody ethnic conflict in a region where memories of neighboring Rwanda's 1994 genocide remain fresh.

In the latest bout of violence, four people including a child were killed on Saturday night when three grenades exploded in the capital Bujumbura. The African Union said last week it had appointed five heads of state to try to convince the Nkurunziza government to accept a peacekeeping force that he has rejected. — Reuters



## NISSAN BEGINS PRODUCTION OF PATROL NISMO AT ITS PLANT IN JAPAN

**DUBAI:** Nissan has officially announced that the Patrol NISMO production has started ahead of its planned availability in the region by March 2016. To commemorate the launch of the assembly line, the auto manufacturer hosted a group of guests from the Middle East at its Kyushu Plant in Japan.

Nissan started producing engines in Kyushu in April 1975. As the oldest vehicle manufacturing plant in Kyushu, Nissan's Kyushu plant has continued to expand its production line-up and increase its output,

passing the '5million unit production' milestone in November 1992 and the '10million unit' milestone in December 2004.

Nissan Patrol NISMO will be available before the end of this fiscal year and will be priced from \$100,470 USD in the UAE. Prices per market will vary from region to region.

Nissan is a global full-line vehicle manufacturer that sells more than 60 models under the Nissan, Infiniti and Datsun brands. In fiscal year 2014, the company sold more than 5.3 million vehicles globally, generat-

ing revenue of 11.3 trillion yen. Nissan engineers, manufactures and markets the world's best-selling all-electric vehicle in history, the Nissan LEAF. Nissan's global headquarters in Yokohama, Japan manages operations in six regions: ASEAN & Oceania; Africa, Middle East & India; China; Europe; Latin America and North America. Nissan has a global workforce of 247,500, and has been partnered with French manufacturer Renault under the Renault-Nissan Alliance since March 1999.



## BRITISH AIRWAYS HELPS SMES FLY

BRITISH AIRWAYS LAUNCHES NEW ON BUSINESS LOYALTY PROGRAM IN KUWAIT



**KUWAIT:** British Airways has launched its revitalized On Business loyalty scheme, which will help Kuwait's small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) make even more of their travel budgets.

The new offering brings together the business loyalty programs of British Airways, Iberia and American Airlines, allowing customers to collect and spend on all three under one scheme.

The improved On Business program, which already saves customers GBP 30 million a year on flights, now rewards points based on spend rather than distance travelled or number of flights.

### Other new benefits to the popular platform include:

- \* Cash discounts on selected flights
- \* Three Tier ranking system to boost earning power

\* Handpicked offers and bonuses for members

\* A new, easy to use online account management tool

The new On Business has also been made more flexible so members who want immediate savings can even choose an upfront discount on flights if that works better for their company than collecting points.

A three Tier system is being introduced, which relates to the amount customers spend on travel each year. As users progress through the Tiers, they save more to spend on reward flights and upgrades.

Entry tier members need to spend as little as GBP 2,200 to earn enough points to redeem a reward flight on UK domestic routes and flights in Europe. In addition, members of BA Executive Club or Iberia Plus are rewarded in both schemes.

As part of the changes, On Business has launched a brand new website, which will make it even easier for members to maximize their earning potential and spend their points effectively. It will also give access to custom reporting, as well as a clear view of who is earning where and when to help make further savings.

Paolo De Renzis, Head of Sales for British Airways across the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia, said: "Our research told us members wanted a program that was simple to understand, helped them manage their travel costs and recognized them for all of their spend with us. The changes we've made do exactly this. A simple way of earning points based on spend, a simple way of delivering immediate savings through discounts and tiers to reward loyalty. Therefore, it will better meet the flying needs of this dynamic and growing sector in Kuwait."



## JOYALUKKAS OPENS MUSHRIF MALL, ABU DHABI SHOWROOM

SPARKLING OFFERS AND A SPECIAL VALENTINE'S COLLECTION

**DUBAI:** Joyalukkas, the world's favourite jeweller, opened the latest addition to its growing number of showrooms across 10 countries on February 4, 2016 at Mushrif Mall, Abu Dhabi. An eclectic harmony of traditional and contemporary jewellery,

ellery showroom in Mushrif Mall, Abu Dhabi and are extremely grateful to the country and it's lovely residents for the warm welcome they have given us. Our team is eager to serve jewellery shoppers here with the best and widest range in jewellery", said John

Dhabi. The Joyalukkas sales team have also been extensively trained by retail specialists to manage the superior expectation of the residents of here.

'JOYALUKKAS' is the only jewellery brand that is spread across 11 countries around the world with 120 showrooms and has a following of over 10 million loyal customers world-wide.

Joyalukkas Mushrif Mall, Abu Dhabi is now open for your shopping pleasure, with tempting inaugural offers such as a free gold coin on jewellery purchase, and the limited edition Be Mine Heart to Heart Collection specially designed for Valentine's.

The Joyalukkas jewellery showroom has been designed in the signature Joyalukkas format with stylish and convenient interiors to offer the widest choice of jewellery under one roof.

Joyalukkas Group is a multi-billion dollar global conglomerate, with varied business interests. The group operates its various business operations across UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore, Malaysia, London and India. The group businesses include jewellery, money exchange, fashion & textiles, luxury air charters, malls and realty. Joyalukkas employs over 7,000 professionals across the world, and is one of the most awarded and recognized jewellery retail chains in the world.

Paul Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group.

Conveniently located in Mushrif Mall, Abu Dhabi, the showroom features wide range and most exquisite collection of jewellery in all precious form i.e. Gold, Diamond, Precious Stone, Pearls and Platinum. Joyalukkas showroom will offer a choice of over One Million designs from around the world to meet all the dreams and expectations of jewellery lovers in Abu

something that Joyalukkas is synonymous with, is showcased beautifully at this grand new location.

The showroom was inaugurated by Yasser Al Yousuf, Managing Director of Etihad Guest in the presence of John Paul Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group, Antony Jos, Director, Joyalukkas Group, Mary Antony, Director, Joyalukkas Group, many local dignitaries and VIPs.

"We are delighted to open our jew-



## GULF INSURANCE, RE-INSURANCE LAUNCH MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Insurance and Re-Insurance, the subsidiary of Gulf Insurance Group the leading insurance service provider in Kuwait and Middle East is Working towards management's vision or creating a highly skilled and competent future management team, Gulf Insurance and Reinsurance Company (GIRI) launched its Management Development Program 4 (MDP4) on Thursday, 4th February 2016 at GIRI headquarters in Kuwait City. After the successful completion of its first three MDP projects in the last ten years, this is GIRI's fourth ambitious MDP project.

GIRI firmly believes there is tremendous potential amongst Kuwaiti youth who possess professional education qualifications and the attributes to become successful future leaders in the insurance industry and primarily in the company. This program came to be due to GIRI's belief in supporting Kuwaiti talent and providing rewarding job opportu-

nities in the local market.

In his welcome address, GIRI CEO Tareq Al-Sahhaf emphasized all support and commitment towards the success of yet another MDP. He added "Our mission is Achieving our vision will that will be through investing in the best qualified people, practices, process and technology in ways that will add value to our clients.

As a Kuwaiti insurance company, we have a responsibility in this dynamic market and we will continue to invest in our people.

On this MDP4 induction occasion, two former MDP graduates and current management members at GIRI shared their experiences with the new team. Ali Al-Hendal, AGM - Life & Medical and Ahmad Husain, Senior Manager - Marine & Aviation spoke about the importance of commitment and ownership towards the program.

MDP Project Consultant and regional insurance expert Husain Al-Ajmi elaborated on the career in insur-

ance and also instructed the young candidates to the technical aspects of the 18 months long program.

Gulf Insurance & Reinsurance Co (GIRI) is the largest insurance company in Kuwait in terms of written and retained premiums, with operations in both life and non-life insurance and its activities are further supported by first class reinsurance security. GIRI has created a competitive edge in its market through the implementation of a comprehensive approach involving use of Information Technology, Product Innovation, Customer Relations Management and prudent underwriting practices.

Gulf Insurance & Reinsurance holds a Financial Strength Rating of A- (Excellent) and issuer credit rating of "a-" with a revised Positive Outlook from A.M. Best Europe Rating Services Limited. Standard & Poor's has also assigned its Financial Strength and counterparty credit ratings of A- with Stable outlook.

## AN ICKY NEW HERO: ROACH-LIKE ROBOTS MAY HELP IN DISASTERS

**WASHINGTON:** When buildings collapse in future disasters, the hero helping rescue trapped people may be a robotic cockroach. Repulsive as they may be, roaches have the remarkable ability to squish their bodies down to one quarter their normal size, yet still scamper at lightning speed. Also, they can withstand 900 times their body weight without being hurt.

The amazing cockroach inspired scientists to create a mini-robot that can mimic those feats of strength and agility. The researchers hope swarms of future roach-like robots could be fitted with cameras, microphones and other sensors and then used in earthquakes and other disasters to help search for victims. The skittering robots could also let rescuers know if the rubble pile is stable.

Cockroaches "seem to be able to go anywhere," said University of California at Berkeley biology professor Robert Full, co-author of a study about the proto-

type cockroach robot. "I think they're really disgusting and really revolting, but they always tell us something new."

The study was published Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The palm-size prototype, called the Compressible Robot with Articulated Mechanisms, or CRAM, looks more like an armadillo and walks sort of like Charlie Chaplin when it's compressed. It's about 20 times the size of the roach that inspired it. And it's simple and cheap.

Co-author Kaushik Jayaram, a Harvard robotics researcher, said the most difficult part was the design, but after that he used off-the-shelf electronics and motors, cardboard, polyester and some knowledge of origami.

All told, the prototype probably cost less than \$100, Jayaram said. He figures if mass-produced, with sensors and other equipment added on, the robots could eventually cost less than \$10 apiece.

In the past, when engineers looked at trying to create robots that could get into tight places, they thought about shape-changing soft animals like worms, slugs or octopuses, Full said. But the cockroach, which already is studied by roboticists for other abilities, has certain advantages, including crush-resistance and speed.

With nothing in its way, the American cockroach can travel 50 body lengths in a second, which would be the equivalent of a human running more than 140 mph (225 kph), Full said. When compressed, the cockroach slows to 20 body lengths per second.

Full and colleagues found roaches used a newly identified type of locomotion to ooze through cracks and crevices based on the ideal amount of belly friction. Still, the robot designers have no love for the bug that inspired them. "I'm still creeped out by them," Jayaram said. "I don't want them in my house." — AP



This photo provided by PolyPEDAL Lab UC Berkeley, shows the compressible robot, CRAM with a real cockroach. — AP



**NEW DELHI:** Seen through a plastic curtain, an Indian man surfs a Facebook page at an internet cafe in New Delhi yesterday. India's telecoms regulator has essentially banned a Facebook program that sought to connect with low-income residents by offering free access to a limited version of the social network and other Internet services, as part of a ruling in favor of net neutrality. — AP

## FACEBOOK'S INDIA BAN COULD EMBOLDEN OTHER REGULATORS

### REGULATORS IN OTHER FREE BASICS MARKETS MAY FOLLOW INDIA

**SINGAPORE/MUMBAI:** India's decision to effectively ban Facebook's pared-back free Internet service is a major blow to the social network's plans, and may prompt other regulators to demand equal online access for their users.

Facebook will have to reconsider its approach in the light of India's new rules preventing Internet service providers from having different pricing policies for accessing different parts of the Web, analysts said. "This is a major setback for Facebook," said Naveen Menon, lead analyst at A.T. Kearney in Singapore. "Not only because India was expected to be such a critical piece of the overall Internet.org success story, but more so because it has potential dangerous knock-on effects for the universal access initiative in other markets."

Internet.org is Facebook's umbrella initiative to bring Internet access to the unconnected. Part of that is the Free Basics program, which Facebook has launched in around three dozen emerging countries. The service has been criticized outside India, too, with Facebook accused of infringing the principle of net neutrality - the concept that all websites and data on the Internet be treated equally.

Critics and Internet activists argue that allowing free access to a select few apps and Web

services disadvantages small content providers and start-ups that don't participate.

Ram Sevak Sharma, chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), told Reuters he hoped its ruling would clarify ambiguity about net neutrality and "that India has set the record straight that will be followed world over."

In Facebook posts after Monday's ruling, founder Mark Zuckerberg said Free Basics was just one part of a larger initiative that includes solar-powered planes, satellites and lasers, and pairing with local entrepreneurs to provide wireless hotspots. Expanding these approaches with or without the operators was one option for Facebook now, as well as legal workarounds where the service is repackaged, said Martin Geddes, a UK-based telecoms consultant.

Facebook could also challenge the ruling in the courts, but a more likely move, said Marc Einstein, Asia-Pacific director at Frost and Sullivan, would be to sit down with the TRAI "to try to come up with a solution that's deemed a little more neutral."

Facebook executives were not immediately available for comment, but India-born Karthik Naralasetty, whose blood donor matching service Socialblood is available in more than 20 countries via Free Basics, said Facebook was already

re-thinking its approach.

"Facebook is re-thinking what it's doing, coming up with better plans," he said by telephone. "Communications will have to improve. They have to get the buy-in of different governments before they go into those countries."

#### FIGHT GOES ON

It won't be easy. For one thing, said Neil Shah, a director of Counterpoint Research in Mumbai, Free Basics made little headway in India before it was suspended in December, gaining 1 million users. Only 252 million of India's 1.3 billion people have Internet access. Opponents of the service said they would continue to fight. "Facebook is not going to take it lying down and they will try and figure out a way for it to happen one way or the other," said Sachin Bhatia, co-founder of Indian dating app TrulyMadly. "Our job is to keep at it non-stop to ensure Internet freedom is not threatened." Regional telecoms operators which partner Facebook, such as Indonesia's PT Indosat, controlled by Qatar's Ooredoo, and Globe Telecom in the Philippines, said the ruling would not lead them to reconsider the partnerships. "The Indian experience is very isolated," said Vicente Froilan Castelo, general counsel of Globe Telecom. — Reuters

## OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PLANS NEW HIGH-LEVEL CYBER OFFICIAL

**WASHINGTON:** The Obama administration is creating a new high-level federal official to coordinate cybersecurity across civilian agencies and to work with military and intelligence counterparts, as part of its 2017 budget proposal announced yesterday.

The \$19-billion increase in cybersecurity funding across all government agencies - up more than from 35 percent from last year - is entitled the "Cybersecurity National Action Plan" and is an effort touted by the White House as the "capstone" of seven years of often faltering attempts to build a cohesive, broad federal cybersecurity response. Measures include more cybersecurity training for the private sector, emphasizing multi-factor authentication on tax data and government benefits and efforts to reduce the use of Social Security numbers as identifiers.

The tasking of a single high-level official with tracking down cyber intruders in federal government networks establishes a position long in place at companies in the private sector. The lack of such a government role has been especially notable after hackers stole the personal information of 21 million Americans, whose information was housed at the Office of Personnel Management. The US believes the hack was a Chinese espionage operation.

"Today our model is every agency, and in fact, in some cases, sub-agency, is building their cyber defenses pretty much on their own," said Tony Scott, the US Chief Information Officer, who would supervise the new cybersecurity official inside the Office of Management and Budget. He said every agency ends up with varying levels of expertise and capabilities, while small agencies with limited resources struggle with the same challenges a larger agency with more resources does. "That's just frankly a bad model of how to defend against these critical adversaries."

The chief information security officer position, which was posted Tuesday, is expected to be filled in 60 to 90 days, Scott said. "The bottom line, it's great to have more senior executive-level attention on the issue but the challenge is whether that person will almost certainly be vested with any actual authorities and so it always kind of boils down to that," said Jacob Olcott, a former congressional legal advisor on cybersecurity. The budget notes that US Cyber Command is building a Cyber Mission

Force of 133 teams assembled from 6,200 military, civilian and contractors from across military and defense agencies. The force will be fully operational in 2018 but has already been used for some cyber operations.

The president also proposed a \$3.1 billion effort to modernize the often antiquated federal technical infrastructure and networks, replacing legacy systems that have frequently served as critical gaps in cybersecurity. While many of the proposals such as the new cybersecurity official can be done through existing appropriations or executive authorities, the modernization effort will require congressional approval, said Michael Daniel, special assistant to the president and cybersecurity coordinator.

The White House expects broad support for what has not been a partisan issue. The budget includes more cybersecurity advisors, a roughly fourfold increase in civilian cyber defense teams at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, charged with security for the .gov domain, to 48. The Department of Homeland Security plans to expand its EINSTEIN system, which was created to detect and block cyberattacks on federal agencies. The program received a scathing review last month by the Government Accountability Office, which said the system can only detect known threats but can't deal with more complex threats such as previously unknown "zero-day exploits" or problematic system behavior that could signify an attack.

The president signed an executive order yesterday creating a permanent Federal Privacy Council, which will bring together privacy officials from across government to help with implementing comprehensive federal privacy guidelines. The president is also establishing a Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity that would involve congressional and private sector leaders who will be tasked with making recommendations in government cybersecurity for the next decade.

Rep. Jim Langevin, a Rhode Island Democrat who is co-chairman of the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus, praised the administration's cybersecurity efforts in the 2017 budget proposal and for "laying the groundwork for his successor to continue to make needed policy reforms to protect federal infrastructure from the serious threats we face in cyberspace." — AP

## ONLINE 'RED ENVELOPES' ROCKET FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR

**BEIJING:** Billions of online money transfers have taken place in China as the ancient Lunar New Year tradition of handing out red envelopes of cash met the Internet age. For centuries parents, relatives and employers have handed out "hong bao" - small gifts of money to children or menial workers to celebrate the dawn of the new year. But in increasingly tech-savvy China, givers are abandoning the red paper envelopes and opting instead to transfer money via their mobile phone.

On Sunday, the eve of the Year of the Monkey, a staggering eight billion hong bao were exchanged, eight times the number gifted last year, Internet giant Tencent said.

The idea of electronic hong bao was introduced in recent years by WeChat, a mobile messaging system with over 650 million users and operated by Tencent, China's largest Internet service portal.

The service took off and competitors soon joined the fray. Now Alipay Wallet, the payment system run by online retail giant Alibaba, and Tencent are going head to head for a share of the online payments. Alipay currently has 70 percent of the overall online payment market-which also includes bill settlement and internet shopping — with Tencent accounting for 20 percent.

It's a high-stakes game in China, where online mobile payments were worth some 2.420 billion yuan (\$368 million) in the third quarter of last year, local media reported, cited market research group iResearch Consulting as saying.

Even China's Communist Party has got in on the action in an attempt to court web users. To win a share of 300,000 yuan-worth of electronic "red envelopes" offered by the party on Alipay, users must first enter phrases coined by President Xi Jinping. — AFP



**TEL AVIV:** An engineer of the Windward company shows on a computer how their technology works at the company's offices yesterday in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv. At a time of deep concern over migrant smuggling, Daniel, a former member of the Israeli navy, says his company Windward has the ability to pick up such suspicious maritime behavior that would otherwise go unnoticed. — AFP

## UK LAWMAKERS: PROPOSED SPY LAW FAILS TO PROTECT PRIVACY

**LONDON:** British government plans to strengthen spies' powers to snoop on the Internet are muddled and don't do enough to protect privacy, lawmakers responsible for scrutinizing the country's intelligence agencies said yesterday.

Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee said the draft Investigatory Powers Bill takes a "piecemeal" approach to protecting privacy. It said in a report that privacy should be "an integral part of the legislation rather than an add-on." In the wake of Edward Snowden's revelations about the powerful snooping capabilities of the US National Security Agency and its British counterpart, GCHQ, the legislators said "it is surprising that the protection of people's privacy ... doesn't feature more prominently" in the legislation.

The bill is intended to replace a patchwork of laws, some dating from the Web's infancy, and set the limits of surveillance in the digital age. But the committee said portions of the draft law were "inconsistent and largely incomprehensible."

Conservative lawmaker Dominic Grieve, who chairs the committee, said it has been evident that even those working on the legislation have not always been clear as to what the provisions are intended to achieve. The committee also said the bill should include more restraints on spy agencies' powers to scoop up bulk data from computer and mobile-phone users.

If approved by Parliament, the bill will let police and spies access Internet connection records - a list of websites, apps and messaging services someone has visited, though not the individual pages they looked at or the messages they sent.

It will require telecommunications companies to keep records of customers' Web histories for up to a year, and to help security services gain access to suspects' electronic devices.

Internet companies including Facebook, Google, Microsoft, Twitter and Yahoo have raised concerns about the plans, saying they could introduce "risks or vulnerabilities into products or services." Civil liberties groups have also expressed alarm at the bill. The government says it will set out final proposals in the spring. — AP

## HONG KONG KICKS OFF YEAR OF MONKEY, BUT PRIMATE RELATIONS SOUR

**HONG KONG:** As the people of Hong Kong usher in the Year of the Monkey, animal experts are working to quell their exploding numbers in a bid to keep the peace between them and their human neighbors. Hong Kong's hillside monkey colonies are a popular draw for tourists and locals, but after reports of them stealing children's lunches, running amok in a school yard and shoplifting bread, some are fed up with the pesky primates.

In 2007, the government introduced a program to control reproduction, via surgery, among the mischievous creatures. "The overarching goal is to minimize conflict between humans and animals," said government veterinarian and monkey expert Paolo Martelli, who works in the contraception program. While numbers are down thanks to the control measures, hikers in Hong Kong's parks are divided over whether the monkey is a bonus or blot on the landscape. "If we don't feed them, they pester us," said Easter Liu, 56, on the Kam Shan trail in the city's north, known as "monkey mountain".

Primates there roam freely in the trees, unafraid of passing walkers. "I think the monkeys are multiplying way too fast, faster than the population of Hong

Kong, I feel a threat," said Liu, an IT sales worker, still upset that a monkey once stole her ice cream. Architect Tony Tsang, 44, was also a bit shaken after being attacked by a monkey for the potato crisps and instant noodles he was carrying. "My first impression was that they were really friendly, but when they heard the sound of the bags they got ferocious and the experience was a bit scary," Tsang said.

### Long history

Others defend the monkeys as part of Hong Kong's history—and experts say humans are to blame for their bad behavior and rising numbers by feeding them. As a result of human contact, the monkeys have become more aggressive and feeding has improved the survival rate of younger macaques, boosting numbers. "As a child I came here to see the monkeys... it's quite special," said Patrick Lau, 40, who works as a museum curator and was visiting Kam Shan with his two young children.

"It's not like viewing animals in a zoo—you can interact with the monkeys quite closely," Lau said. Hong Kong's indigenous rhesus macaques were last seen in the 1950s—the island's current colonies

are descendents of imported monkeys in 1910 and released near a reservoir to eat plants that were poisonous to humans. The government has no record of where they came from. The current monkey troops are mostly made of up of rhesus and long-tailed macaques, and their hybrids. Numbers are now around 2,000 due to the program, down from an estimated 2,400 in 2009. Population figures were not recorded before then.

### 'Human problem'

Veterinarians travel twice a month to Hong Kong's country parks to perform painstaking sterilization surgeries. They lure the monkeys into "feeding cages" before injecting a sedative, performing the operation, and then releasing the animals unharmed within a few hours. Animal rights workers concede this procedure is necessary until humans change their habits. "The reality is this is a human encroachment problem, but if society refuses to fix that problem, sterilizing wildlife that has nowhere to go is a sad compromise," PETA vice-president of international operations Jason Baker said.

A ban on the public feeding of the monkeys was introduced in 1999 in



**DHARMSALA:** Exiled Tibetan Buddhist monks blow conch shells during a special prayer session on the first day of the Tibetan New Year or 'Losar', in Dharmasala, India yesterday. Tibetans in Dharmasala welcomed the Year of the Fire Monkey with prayers and festivities. —AP

another bid to control the growing population. Authorities also planted 200,000 fruit trees in monkey habitats in the early 2000s to increase their dependency on natural food sources. However, walkers

still take to the trails with peanuts and bananas, despite signs telling them not to feed the animals. "This problem would not exist if people were not coming to feed the animals," Martelli said. —AFP



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** City's cleaning workers are seen with the legend 'Out Zika' in Portuguese on their uniforms between the samba schools' during the second night of the carnival parade at Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. —AFP

## IMPACT OF ZIKA VIRUS ON OLYMPIC PREPARATIONS

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Sports authorities across the world are scrambling to find out more about the spread of the mosquito-borne Zika virus in Brazil as they make plans for August's Rio Olympics. Below are the latest announcements:

### AUSTRALIA

Australia's Olympic Committee said no athletes have indicated they intended to withdraw, but it would "totally understand" if they did.

### BRITAIN

British Olympic Association Chairman Lord Sebastian Coe said none of the country's athletes were reluctant to go. But British rower Andrew Triggs Hodge said his wife Eeke would not accompany him because of the "very real and frightening threat" posed by Zika.

### JAPAN

Japan's Olympics Committee Chairman Tsunekazu Takeda said no athletes were

thinking of "boycotting the Olympics".

### KENYA

Kenya threatened to pull its elite runners and other athletes out of the Rio Olympics unless it got assurances they would not be exposed. "Obviously, we are not going to risk taking Kenyans there if this Zika virus reaches epidemic levels," said the head of Kenya's Olympics committee, Kipchoge Keino, himself a Kenyan running great.

### NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand's Olympics Committee issued a warning to its athletes and officials of the risks. Any competitors who decide to opt out would receive the committee's "absolute support", a committee spokeswoman said.

### UNITED STATES

The United States Olympic Committee told sports federations that athletes and staff concerned for their health should consider not going to the Games. —Reuters

## AUSTRALIAN SCIENTISTS OFFER NEW HOPE FOR PARAPLEGICS

**SYDNEY:** Australian researchers have created a "bionic spinal cord" they said yesterday could give paralyzed people hope of walking again through the power of thought, without resorting to open brain surgery. The system would use a device the size of a paperclip implanted in a blood vessel next to the brain. The stent-based electrode would record the brain activity needed for movement and this would be translated into commands to control wheelchairs, exoskeletons, prosthetic limbs or computers.

"We have been able to create the world's only minimally invasive device that is implanted into a blood vessel in the brain via a simple day procedure, avoiding the need for high risk open brain surgery," researcher Thomas Oxley said. Oxley, a neurologist at The Royal Melbourne Hospital and research fellow at The Florey Institute of Neurosciences and the University of Melbourne, described the device, or stentrode, as revolutionary.

"Our vision, through this device, is to return function and mobility to patients with complete paralysis by recording brain activity and converting the acquired signals into electrical commands, which in turn would lead to movement of the limbs through a mobility assist device like an exoskeleton," he said in a statement. "In essence this is a bionic spinal cord." The research, which will see the first in-human trial at The Royal Melbourne Hospital in 2017, was published yesterday in Nature Biotechnology. It shows the device could

record high-quality signals emitted from the brain's motor cortex, without the need for open brain surgery, based on research using sheep.

Brain-machine interface is one of the main areas of research in paralysis treatment. In 2014, scientists in the United States said they had demonstrated how a monkey could use only its thoughts, transferred by electrodes via a computer, to manipulate the arm of a fully-sedated fellow primate. Two years earlier, a collaboration between researchers in the United States and the German Aerospace Centre enabled a paralyzed woman to lift a drink to her lips with a thought-controlled robotic arm. Speaking to AFP, Oxley said that all the other brain-machine interface technologies had involved inserting an electrode directly into the brain.

He said the aim was for the new device to work much like a cardiac pacemaker, which is typically inserted without open-heart surgery. "The cardiac pacemaker is essentially the classic bionic device—it goes inside a vein, it sits next to the heart and it works for a lifetime," Oxley said. "And we are essentially trying to do the exact same thing for the brain. Go up a vein, leave it there, and have a lifetime of recordings coming out of it." It is hoped that the research, which involved 39 scientists from the Royal Melbourne Hospital, the University of Melbourne and the Florey Institute of Neurosciences and Mental Health, could also be used to treat epilepsy, depression and Parkinsons. —AFP

## CUBA ORGANIC HONEY EXPORTS CREATE BUZZ

### BEES DIE OFF ELSEWHERE

**SAN ANTONIO DE LOS BANOS:** Long known for its cigars and rum, Cuba has added organic honey to its list of key agricultural exports, creating a buzz among farmers as pesticide use has been linked to declining bee populations elsewhere. Organic honey has become Cuba's fourth most valuable agricultural export behind fish products, tobacco and drinks, but ahead of the Caribbean island's more famous sugar and coffee, said Theodor Friedrich, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) representative for Cuba.

"All of (Cuba's) honey can be certified as organic," Friedrich told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Its honey has a very specific, typical taste; in monetary value, it's a high ranking product." After the collapse in 1991 of the Soviet Union, Cuba's main trading partner, the island was unable to afford pesticides due to a lack of foreign currency, coupled with the US trade embargo. By necessity, the government embraced organic agriculture, and the policies have largely stuck.

Now that the United States is easing its embargo following the restoration of diplomatic ties last year, Cuba's organic honey exporters could see significant growth if the government supports the industry, bee keepers said. Cuba produced more than 7,200 tons of organic honey in 2014, worth about \$23.3 million, according to government statistics cited by the FAO. The

country's industry is still tiny compared with honey heavyweights such as China, Turkey and Argentina. But with a commodity worth more per liter than oil, Cuban honey producers believe they could be on the cusp of a lucrative era.

### Big dreams, little cash

With 80 boxes swarming with bees, each producing 45 kg (100 lb) of honey per year, farm manager Javier Alfonso believes Cuba's exports could grow markedly in the coming years. His apiary, down a dirt track in San Antonio de los Banos, a farming town an hour's drive from the capital Havana, was built from scratch by employees, Alfonso said. "There is just a bit of production now, but it can get bigger," he said, looking at the rows of colorful wooden boxes.

Like other Cuban bee farmers, he sells honey exclusively to the government, which pays him according to the world market price and then takes responsibility for marketing the product overseas. Most of Cuba's honey exports go to Europe, he said. He would like to be able to borrow money to expand production, but getting credit is difficult, he said, so for now his team of farmers build their own infrastructure for the bees. "It's a very natural environment here," said Raul Vasquez, a farm employee. "The government is not allowed to sell us chemicals - this could be the reason why the bees aren't dying here" as they have been in other places.

### Organic advantage

While Cuba's small, organic honey industry aims to reap the rewards of increased trade with the United States, honey producers in other regions are under threat, industry officials said. Bee keepers in the United States, Canada and other regions have long complained that pesticides are responsible for killing their bees and hurting the honey industry more broadly. The US Environmental Protection Agency released a study in January indicating that a widely-used insecticide used on cotton plants and citrus groves can harm bee populations. "I don't think there are any doubts that populations of honey bees (in the United States and Europe) have declined... since the Second World War," Norman Carreck, science director of the UK-based International Bee Research Association told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Climate change, fewer places for wild bees to nest, shifts in land use, diseases and pesticides are blamed for the decline, he said. Because it is pesticide free, Cuba's organic bee industry could act as protection from the problems hitting other honey exporters, said the FAO's Friedrich, and could be a growing income stream for the island's farmers. "The overall use of pesticides is fairly controlled, he said. "Cuba has been immune to the bee die-offs (hitting other regions)." —Reuters

## BRAZIL STUDIES AIM TO UNRAVEL ZIKA'S LINK TO BIRTH DEFECTS

**CHICAGO:** At Roberto Santos General Hospital in Salvador, Brazil, Dr Antonio Almeida and a team of specialists are closely following two groups of women: Those who deliver babies with abnormally small heads and those who deliver apparently normal babies. The hospital is one of three in this city on Brazil's eastern coast where investigators are studying the most urgent question of the Zika outbreak: Is the virus causing a spike in birth defects, and, if so, how great is the risk?

The answer will help shape the response to the rapid spread of Zika throughout the Americas. Concerns over the potential link to microcephaly have prompted a US alert advising pregnant women against travel to 31 countries and territories with outbreaks. Officials in El Salvador, Colombia, Ecuador and Jamaica have urged women to delay pregnancies. The many unknowns about Zika's effects and transmission have cast a shadow over plans for the Olympic Games in Rio, set to begin in early August.

The evidence so far is compelling enough that the World Health Organization declared an international health emergency Feb 1. But it is mostly circumstantial: Suspected cases of microcephaly - a rare birth defect characterized by small head size

and an underdeveloped brain - spiked 30-fold in late 2015, months after Zika's arrival in Brazil. There is harder evidence as well. Brazilian researchers have isolated the virus in brain tissue and amniotic fluid of 17 babies and stillborn fetuses with microcephaly whose mothers had symptoms of Zika infection during pregnancy.

The finding provides scientific plausibility that Zika could cause microcephaly, a condition that can result in developmental delays as well as seizures, hearing loss, vision problems and trouble swallowing. They can range from mild to severe. "We know the virus can cross the placenta," said Dr Albert Ko, a tropical disease specialist at Yale University and the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, a government research institute in Salvador. "It can infect the baby, and it's likely the reason why these fetuses were stillborn or had congenital malformations. That is what we know up to this point."

The study in the Salvador hospitals is one of several aimed at proving or debunking the suspicion that Zika causes microcephaly. In the northeastern city of Recife, Dr Ernesto Marques, a researcher from the University of Pittsburgh and FioCruz Pernambuco, the state arm of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, is finalizing plans for a similar

study in 12 hospitals. Separately, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is planning a retrospective study looking at microcephaly cases already reported and comparing them to healthy births.

### Achieving consensus

The virus was discovered in 1947 in Uganda's Zika Forest. For decades, Zika had been associated only with mild symptoms, making it less of a concern than similar mosquito-transmitted viruses, such as dengue and yellow fever. Brazil is investigating more than 4,000 suspected cases of microcephaly reported since October and, so far, has confirmed more than 400. That is a significant increase from about 150 cases in a typical year.

Experts believe it will take six to nine months to begin to understand whether Zika can cause microcephaly. But it may take longer to reach scientific consensus. To establish proof that a microbe causes a disease, researchers often follow Koch's postulates, a method developed in the 19th century and used to show the HIV virus was responsible for AIDS in 1984, three years after the first cases emerged in the US.

The method requires researchers to establish that the suspected pathogen is strongly associated with disease and that it can be passed from one infected host to an uninfected host and cause disease. The pathogen also must be isolated and grown outside the host, a step that Marques said had been accomplished with Zika. The epidemiological studies are case-controlled - following and comparing pregnancies that result in healthy babies to those that result in cases of microcephaly. They are looking for evidence that the Zika virus is passed from infected mothers onto fetuses who develop microcephaly.

### The research

The study in Salvador hospitals is funded by Brazil's Ministry of Health and the US National Institutes of Health. It aims to rule out Zika as a suspect in cases where other causes of microcephaly - including genetic disorders, cytomegalovirus and rubella infections, or exposure to drugs or alcohol during pregnancy - are found. In apparently normal babies, Ko and his colleagues will look for problems other than microcephaly that could be related to fetal Zika infection, such as vision and hearing impairment, intellectual disability, bone and growth problems, and liver and spleen damage. Such problems can also occur with exposure to other viruses, such as rubella, that cause microcephaly. —Reuters



**ACAPULCO:** Residents help clean the city to prevent Aedes aegypti mosquitos and the spread of Zika, Chikungunya and Dengue in Acapulco, Guerrero State, Mexico. — AFP

## US RESEARCHERS FIND NEW BACTERIA THAT CAUSES LYME DISEASE

**ATLANTA:** Researchers have discovered a new bacteria that causes Lyme disease in humans, a US health agency said Monday. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, working with the Mayo Clinic and health officials from Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota, discovered the new bacteria, called *Borrelia mayonii*, the CDC said in a statement. Previously, only one bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, was believed to cause human Lyme disease, which is transmitted through bites

from by the blacklegged "deer" tick, the CDC statement said.

The new bacteria has so far only been detected in the upper Midwest region of the United States, the CDC said. Researchers discovered *Borrelia mayonii* after studying blood samples of patients in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota who were suspected of having Lyme disease from 2012-2014, the CDC said. Samples from six out of 9,000 patients showed "unusual results" and

prompted further study, the health agency said.

The newly discovered bacteria is similar to *Borrelia burgdorferi* in that it initially causes fever, headache, rash, and neck pain and later arthritis associated with Lyme disease, according to the CDC. But *Borrelia mayonii* adds nausea, vomiting and widespread rash, and causes a higher concentration of bacteria in the blood, the CDC said. There are an estimated 300,000 cases of Lyme disease in the US

annually, according to the CDC. The disease is rarely fatal, and most patients recover after a few weeks of oral antibiotics, the agency said.

The patients infected with the new bacteria were treated successfully with the same antibiotics used for those with *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the CDC said. It is too early to say whether the newly discovered bacteria will be more or less dangerous than *Borrelia burgdorferi*, said Jeannine Petersen, a CDC microbiologist.

"We have fairly limited information in that our study described six patients," she told Reuters. "We need more patients in order to capture the full spectrum of those who might have less severe symptoms and those who might have more severe ones." It is likely that the bacteria is a "recently emerged" organism since it did not appear in previous, extensive testing of blood samples of patients suspected of having Lyme disease, Peterson added.— Reuters

## A RECORD NUMBER OF SHARK ATTACKS

**ORLANDO:** Sharks attacked people 98 times in 2015, a spike in unprovoked attacks that set a new record as human and shark populations rise, researchers found in an annual global tally released on Monday. Six people were killed by sharks, including a snorkeler in Hawaii. Two deaths were recorded off the Indian Ocean island of Reunion, and shark attack victims also died in Australia, Egypt and New Caledonia, according to data submitted by scientists worldwide.

While last year saw twice as many fatal attacks as 2014, the number of deadly encounters was roughly on par with the past decade's average, said George Burgess, director of the International Shark Attack File. Maintained at the University of Florida, the database was established in 1958. The 98 unprovoked attacks surpassed by 10 the previous high recorded in 2000, he said. The rise reflects growing populations of both people and sharks, he said. Shark attacks are occurring

further north in the United States as warmer ocean temperatures extend the marine mammal's range, Burgess noted. In a rare incident, a New Yorker was attacked while boogie boarding off Long Island, he said.

"We're going to be seeing more bites north of Virginia in the east and California in the west in the years ahead as long as this warming trend continues," Burgess said. Unseasonable warm water off the coasts of North and South Carolina likely contributed to 16 attacks there last year, including rare attacks in which two children were bitten in separate incidents less than an hour apart, he said. Florida saw 30 shark attacks in 2015, roughly half of the 59 recorded in the United States, as is typical, Burgess said. Hawaii saw seven attacks, and the rest occurred in California, Texas, Mississippi and New York. After the United States, Australia and South Africa recorded the next highest number of attacks, at 18 and 8 respectively.—Reuters



**WEST BANK:** Palestinian cardiovascular surgeon Saleem Haj-Yahia (left) performs open-heart surgery at An-Najah University hospital in the West Bank city of Nablus. — AP

## PALESTINIAN DOCTOR AIMING TO BOOST MEDICAL SERVICES

Haj-Yahia performed first-ever heart transplant in West Bank

**NABLUS:** After Dr Saleem Haj-Yahia performed the first-ever successful artificial heart transplant in the West Bank last month he was greeted with flowers, balloons and cheering crowds and publicly praised by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. The British-educated cardiologist has become a media darling in his native land and now speaks of ambitious plans to raise the level of the entire Palestinian medical infrastructure. "I've done enough in the UK and now it's time to do something in my country for my people," said Haj-Yahia, 47.

"In the UK you cannot have a bigger impact, because the system is working well while here any significant efforts can make a difference." Haj-Yahia's goal involves far more than mere national pride. He seeks to increase Palestinian medical self-sufficiency, and make the Palestinian medical system less dependent on its Israeli counterpart. For years, any complicated operations or sophisticated treatments have had to be carried out in Israeli hospitals, creating both a dependency and a major expenditure for the already cash-strapped Palestinian government.

"Most of the Palestinian patient transfers to Israel were heart and cancer cases and we managed to reduce them largely," said Haj-Yahia, seated in his office at An-Najah University in the West

Bank city of Nablus. "Some Palestinian doctors from New York, experts in transplanting marrow, will join in the near future and we will be in the first line in the world in this field." Since returning home in 2014 to become dean of the medical school at the An-Najah teaching hospital, Haj-Yahia has focused on improving the hospital's capabilities in the fields of cancer treatment and organ transplants. Local health officials say that his efforts have already yielded tangible results.

Dr Amera Hindi, head of the Medical Transfer Unit in the Palestinian Health Ministry, said the money spent on transferring Palestinian patients to Israeli hospitals has dropped by 30 percent in the last year. She credited the "development of the medical services in the Palestinian hospitals." The Palestinian see increasing the self-reliance of their medical system as a harbinger of autonomy on other fronts and a form of preparation for the overall independence they seek as a future state. "If we succeed in building the system, the medicine will see huge developments" Haj-Yahia said. "It's our duty to build the system with the new generation of doctors who are joining our universities."

Haj-Yahia was born in an Arab village in Israel and earned his first medical degree at the prestigious Technion in the northern city of Haifa

before pursuing higher education in Britain. He trained in the Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospital in London, where he served as a transplant fellow from 2002-2009 and was involved in the development of the artificial heart program and lung transplant program. After spending four years running a cardiac transplant program in Glasgow, Scotland, he decided to accept An-Najah's offer to return home - saying it offered him a rare opportunity to really influence change. In January, he transplanted an artificial heart into an 18-year-old boy who was suffering from severe heart failure. "He was on the verge of death and would have died in two months if this operation wasn't done," Haj-Yahia said.

The patient, Ahmad Sabareh, now says he is making plans to attend university soon. "I lifted weights today. I'm doing well," he said while watching TV in his hospital room. "It's a new life ... I have lots of plans for the future." Haj-Yahia's work has resonated widely in Palestinian society, where medical education is relatively new, particularly among the students at An-Najah, 4,000 of whom study medicine, pharmacy and nursing. "Professor Haj-Yahia inspires every one of us. He made us much more confident of our education and ourselves," said second-year student Dalia Yaesh.—AP

## CALIFORNIAN 'SHAKEN BABY' CASE IN A VANGUARD OF NEW LEGAL CHALLENGES

**LOS ANGELES:** After 17 years in prison for an infant's death at her San Diego daycare center, Suzanne Johnson is in the forefront of legal challenges to "shaken baby syndrome" as courts catch up with medical advances in understanding the mechanisms of childhood brain trauma. A judge last month agreed Johnson deserved to be considered for a new trial in a case that hinged on the syndrome, a 1970s-era forensic diagnosis long accepted as sufficient to convict caretakers accused of harming and even killing babies. Appeals such as Johnson's are occurring with greater frequency at both the federal and state level, said Deborah Tuerkheimer, a Northwestern University law professor who wrote a book on the subject. But legal bids to reverse guilty verdicts are long and grueling, the outcome far from guaranteed, Tuerkheimer said.

### 'Abusive head trauma'

"Criminal convictions are final, and science moves on," she said. "Abusive head trauma" - a newer, broader term - is the leading cause of fatal child abuse in the United States, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and conviction rates are higher than for other violent crimes. Of 1,800 resolved cases since 2001, roughly 1,600 resulted in convictions, the Washington Post reported in 2015 after a year-long investigation. Because the accused are typically trusted caregivers or parents, the consequences of a wrongful conviction are especially devastating, not only for defendants but for their children and spouse. "We are shredding families," said Seattle-based lawyer Heather Kirkwood, who has filed appeals on behalf of several people con-

victed in such cases. For decades, pathologists, pediatricians and courts recognized a distinct set of internal head injuries - brain swelling, bleeding on the surface of the brain and behind the eyes - as proof of death by deliberate shaking, even in the absence of other overt signs of violence. But medical consensus has shifted in recent years and research now shows such injuries can be caused by accidental falls from a short height, or even medical conditions such as blood-clotting disorders and latent trauma from a difficult birth, which can manifest weeks later.

### New medical expert opinion

Johnson, now 71, remains in prison while her bid for exoneration is pending. Defense lawyer Alissa Bjerkhoel said she is hopeful prosecutors will ultimately concede the case. The San Diego County District Attorney declined to comment while the case is under appeal. Sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for causing injuries that killed 6-month-old Jasmine Miller in June 1997, Johnson insisted the baby suddenly collapsed hours after an accidental fall from a high chair.

Jurors, however, accepted prosecutors' explanation, backed by several medical experts, that the child died from violent shaking and a blow to the head deliberately inflicted by Johnson in a fit of rage over the baby's crying. In their petition to overturn the conviction, however, Johnson's lawyers presented new medical expert opinion that the baby was probably badly hurt by slipping out of her high chair, damage likely compounded by latent head injuries the infant presumably had suffered in a previous accidental fall from her parents' bed weeks before she died.—Reuters

# CLINIC PAGE



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## ANTI-ALCOHOLISM MOVEMENT CONDUCTS FREE MEDICAL CAMP

**A**nti-Alcoholism Movement, a Spiritual Organization of St Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church (Maha Edavaka), Kuwait, successfully conducted its seventh Free Medical Camp in association with the Indian Doctor's Forum (IDF), Indian Dentists' Alliance, Kuwait Heart Foundation and Kuwait Medical Association on Friday 5th Feb, 2016 from 8 am to 2 pm at Integrated Indian School, Abbassiya. The Medical Camp was inaugurated by Dr Vinod Grover,

President of Indian Doctor's Forum. He emphasized on the need of the hour to support the needy people from the community. He promised the IDF's commitment to support AAM in its future ventures. Rev. Fr Raju Thomas (Vicar, St Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church, Kuwait) congratulated all the Doctors, Nurses and all the volunteers of AAM for making this event a grand success in his key note address. In addition to Dr Grover's inaugural speech, Dr Sunil Yadev

(Secretary, Community Services-IDF), Dr Prathap Unnithan (Chairman-Community Welfare Committee, IDAK), Abu Kamal (Kuwait Heart Foundation), assured their support and co-operation for the event. Mathai T Varghese (Vice President, Anti Alcoholism Movement) welcomed all the Doctors and Nurses for the Medical Camp., Shaji Abraham (Malankara Sabha Managing Committee Member) and Samuel Kattoor Kaleeckal (Ex Officio, AAM) delivered felicita-

tion speeches during the inaugural function. Ebey Samuel (Secretary, Anti Alcoholism Movement) thanked IDF, IDAK, Kuwait Heart Foundation and all the Doctors, Nurses and all those worked hard behind this great event. More than 50 doctors from various specialties like General Medicine, Neurology, Pediatric, Gynecology, Oncology, Dental, Skin, Cardiology, Ortho, ENT, Ophthalmology, Gastrology, more than 40 Nurses and 35 volunteers from AAM joined hands together to

make this camp a grand success. Various medical diagnosis like Blood Sugar, Cholesterol, Blood Pressure, ECG, Ultra Sound Scan, Dental checkup and Eye testing were provided free of cost in the camp. More than 500 people from various nationalities attended the Medical Camp. The success of Medical Camp 2016 has reiterated AAM's commitment to social responsibility, to help and support the most deserving fellow beings of the expatriate community.



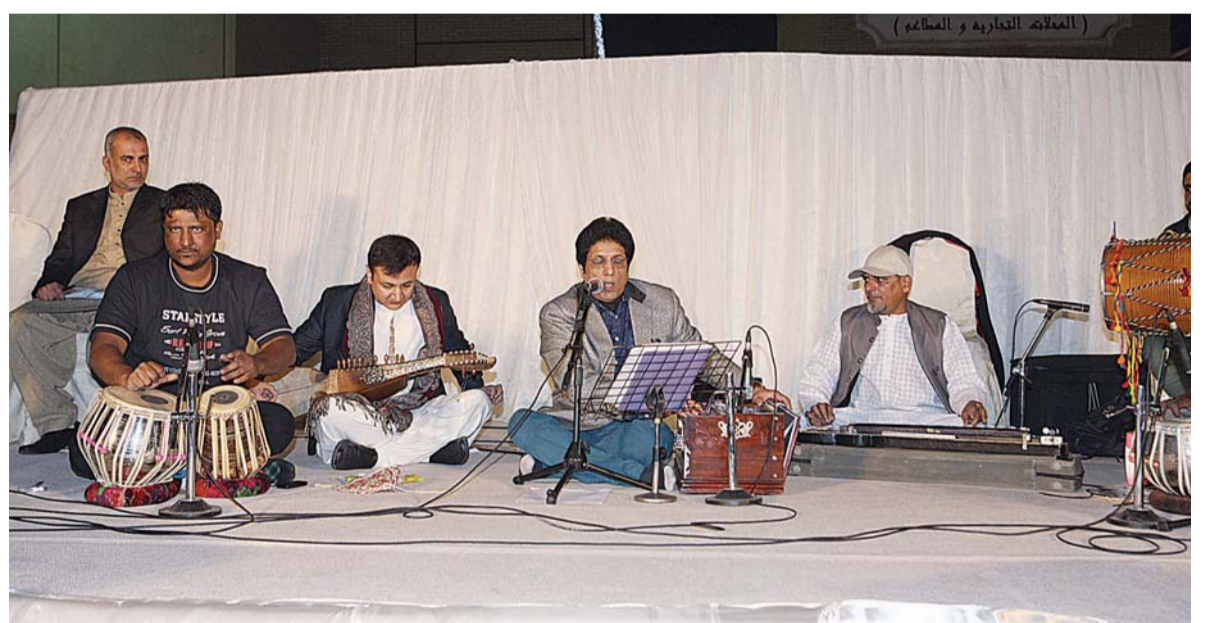
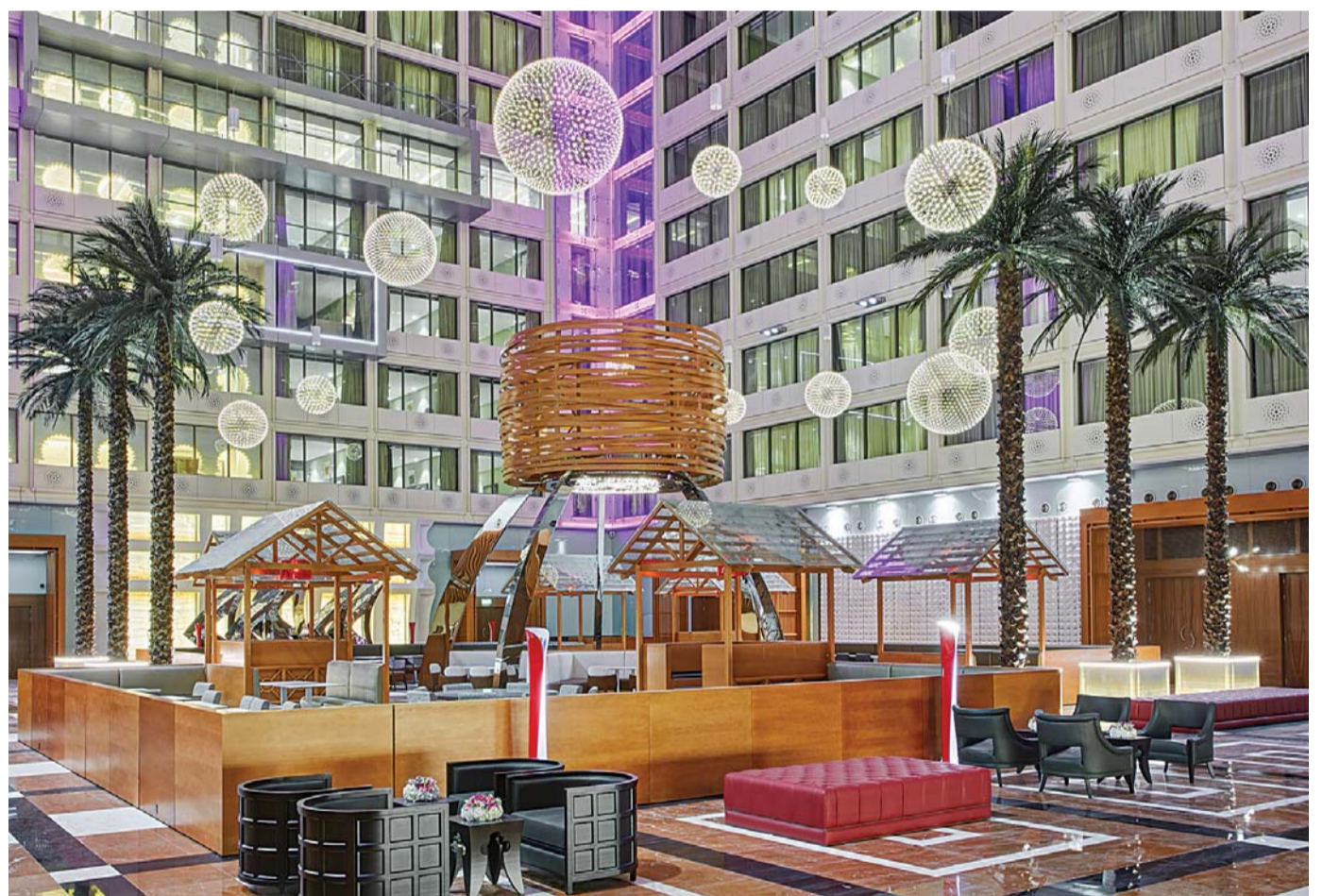
Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa: Spice up the month with the Indian Nights at Garden Café Restaurant every Tuesday through-out the month of February from 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm. For reservations and more information, please call 2226 9666 or e-mail [jumeirahrestaurant@jumeirah.com](mailto:jumeirahrestaurant@jumeirah.com)

### VELVET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THESE AT AL-THURAYA CITY

**T**o set the scene for Valentine's Day, Crowne Plaza Kuwait Al-Thuraya City and Silk Restaurant are pleased to announce an exclusive evening for 14th February 2016. The surrounding contemporary decor enhanced by ambient lighting and a 315 square meter large skylight ceiling will provide the perfect setting for an unforgettable Valentine's dinner.

Commenting on the special occasion, Thierry Foehrenbach, F&B Director, said: "We have crafted a romantic soiree having in mind couples looking for a unique dining experience in a tranquil and enchanting atmosphere."

The evening will start at 7 pm and will be accompanied by live violin music from 8 to 10 pm. Guests will enjoy international specialties prepared by Silk's skilled chefs, a glass of Fauchon sparkling juice, and a romantic table setup.



**KUWAIT:** A 10-day-long 'Made in Pakistan Festival' kicked off on February 7th and lasts until February 17th. The event was inaugurated at Al-Zahra Cooperative Society under the patronage of the society's chairman Saad Al-Otaibi. The festival is open for the public to witness quality Pakistani products. —Photo by Joseph Shagra



## HATAY SOFRASI INVITES MEDIA TO EXPERIENCE UNIQUE DISHES OF ANTIOCH

**H**atay Sofrasi restaurant invited the media to view loaded inheritance historic province spirit of Hatay and the capital Antakya and to taste finest traditional and authentic Turkish dishes. The restaurant was recently opened by Mohamed Nasser Al-Hajri and Sons Group, the leading food company in managing restaurants and cafes in Kuwait. The guests tasted many Antioch tradition dishes prepared with the highest standards of hospitality services in a sophisticated atmosphere and warm reception by officials of the Group Mohammad Nasser Al-Hajeri and marketing team to experience and taste unique dining experience of various types of main dishes and salads, appetizers and sweet.

## THE BISTRO MAIS TO PROVIDE CUSTOMERS WITH RICH SELECTION OF SLIDER BURGERS FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

**T**he Bistro Mais has recently announced a new menu featuring a delectable selection of slider burgers for its customers, available through its Mangaf Branch, which is located in Miral Mall, as part of its latest offerings for the New Year and for a limited time only.

The Slider Burger menu features four different burger options of the highest quality, which are prepared using only the freshest ingredients, to suit every pallet. First of these is the beef burger, made from the best quality

Angus, packed with our signature grilled onions and tomatoes, and sauces that complement and served with French fries. The second is the chicken burger, char broiled to perfection and served with fried onion rings and chilly garlic. Then there is the Hashi Meat Burger with lollo rosso lettuce, grilled tomatoes and onions and a special tomato sauce. Last but not least and in order to cater to our vegetarian clients, we present the Quinoa Veggie Burger, featuring a new and delightful veggie burger recipe, lollo rosso lettuce,

Rocca leaves and guacamole sauce, served with fried onion rings. All burgers are served with our delicious coleslaw salad.

The Bistro Mais is keen on providing burger-lovers with a unique and memorable experience, as well as catering to Shisha enthusiasts; while providing all patrons with a breathtaking view overlooking the Arabian Gulf, making family time that much more special and enjoyable. For more information, please call 2205420 or visit [www.bistromais.com](http://www.bistromais.com)



## LULU FURTHER EXPANDS IN OMAN; OPENS 122ND HYPERMARKET

**M**iddle East retail major Lulu Group has further expanded its presence in the Sultanate of Oman by opening its latest Hypermarket in Suwaiq, a coastal town in the north east of the Country. The 16th Lulu hypermarket in Oman was officially inaugurated by Shaikh Muhna Bin Saif Bin Salim Al-Lamki, Governor of North Al-Batinah in the presence of several high-ranking officials from various government departments and representatives from local business communities.

The new 100,000-sq-ft Lulu hypermarket will serve the residents of Suwaiq and its surrounding areas with a wide range of products from all over the world. The hypermarket has separate sections for fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and poultry, dairy products, ready-to-eat products and a state-of-the-art live bakery and Hot Foods kitchen and a huge area dedicated to department store which includes garment, electronics, IT products, home appliances etc. The product mix in Lulu Suwaiq encompasses a wide selection of premium UK and US goods, including special products air-flown for freshness. The new hypermarket will have lots of inaugural offers and deals in almost all categories.

Speaking after the inauguration, Yusuffali MA, Chairman of Lulu, said "Oman has always been a preferred destination for us because of its stable political environment and promising market. We thank His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said and the people of this country for encouraging us in all our

expansion strategies and efforts in Oman. The Group will open 7 more hypermarkets in various regions of the Country in the next two years" added Yusuff Ali.

On providing training and employment opportunity to the educated Omani youth, Yusuffali said "it is also our endeavor to nurture the local talent and a proof of this is our strong Omani work force of 2000 strong that form the nucleus of our operations here in Oman. Our aim in the wake of the aggressive expansion plans is to provide employment to more Omani nationals by the end of 2017" said Yusuffali. Currently Lulu provides best quality training to absorb them in various managerial and specialized sections to Omanis," he added.

Regardless of the challenges arising from the volatile oil prices, Yusuffali expressed optimism on the economic outlook of the country. "We're very optimistic based on the circumstances in general. The impact of fluctuating oil prices is not going to distract us from the long-term goals of our business in Oman.

"Despite the signs of fiscal caution, there is no need for residents to press the panic button. The government has initiated comprehensive measures and substantial strategies to tide over the crisis and create a positive impact on the lives of citizens. This is definitely a clear sign that the economy is on track to overcome the challenges and achieve its objectives successfully," he added.



**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

- 00:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
- 01:45 Swamp Brothers
- 02:15 Swamp Brothers
- 02:40 Wild Capture School
- 03:10 Wild Capture School
- 03:35 Tanked
- 04:25 Roaring With Pride
- 05:15 Gator Boys
- 06:02 Treehouse Masters
- 06:49 Wild Capture School
- 07:13 Wild Capture School
- 07:36 Swamp Brothers
- 08:00 Swamp Brothers
- 08:25 Bad Dog
- 09:15 Wild Capture School
- 09:45 Wild Capture School
- 10:10 Treehouse Masters
- 11:05 Tanked
- 12:00 Bad Dog
- 12:55 Bondi Vet
- 13:50 Wild Capture School
- 14:20 Wild Capture School
- 14:45 Gator Boys
- 15:40 Treehouse Masters
- 16:35 Tanked
- 17:30 Roaring With Pride
- 18:25 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
- 19:20 Dog Rescuers
- 20:15 Tanked
- 21:10 Roaring With Pride
- 22:05 Treehouse Masters
- 23:00 Dog Rescuers
- 23:55 Gator Boys

**DISCOVERY CHANNEL HD**

- 00:20 Fast N' Loud
- 01:10 The Island With Bear Grylls
- 02:00 Sean Conway - Running Britain

- 02:50 River Monsters
- 03:40 Storage Hunters
- 04:05 The Liquidator
- 04:30 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition

- 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 05:30 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Flying Wild Alaska
- 06:50 Cuban Chrome
- 07:40 Fast N' Loud
- 08:30 Storage Hunters
- 08:55 The Liquidator
- 09:20 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition

- 09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 10:10 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 The Island With Bear Grylls
- 11:25 Sean Conway - Running Britain
- 12:15 River Monsters
- 13:05 Storage Hunters
- 13:30 The Liquidator
- 13:55 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition

- 14:20 Flying Wild Alaska
- 15:10 Highway To Sell
- 16:00 Fast N' Loud
- 16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 17:15 How Do They Do It?
- 17:40 Mythbusters
- 18:30 You Have Been Warned
- 19:20 The Pop Illusionist
- 20:10 The Liquidator
- 20:35 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition

- 21:00 Mythbusters
- 21:50 You Have Been Warned
- 22:40 You Have Been Warned
- 23:30 Highway To Sell

**DISCOVERY SCIENCE**

- 00:35 Weird Or What?
- 01:20 How It's Made
- 02:08 Food Factory
- 02:55 Space Pioneer
- 03:42 Mythbusters
- 04:29 Weird Or What?
- 05:16 Food Factory
- 06:03 Space Pioneer
- 06:50 Prototype This
- 07:37 How Do They Do It?
- 08:23 Weird Or What?
- 09:08 Mythbusters
- 09:53 Prototype This
- 10:38 How It's Made
- 11:23 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 12:08 Space Pioneer
- 12:53 Prototype This
- 13:38 Weird Or What?
- 14:23 How It's Made
- 15:10 Mythbusters
- 15:57 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 16:44 Space Pioneer
- 17:31 Prototype This
- 18:18 Mythbusters
- 19:05 Weird Or What?
- 19:50 Invent It Rich
- 20:40 Space Pioneer
- 21:25 How It's Made
- 22:15 Mythbusters

**ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY**

- 00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 01:30 The Haunted
- 02:20 Ghost Lab
- 03:10 Deadly Sins
- 04:00 Deadly Women
- 04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 05:30 The Haunted
- 06:20 Fatal Encounters
- 07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 08:00 Dr. G. Medical Examiner
- 08:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 09:40 Fatal Encounters
- 10:30 Murder Shift
- 11:20 Deadly Affairs
- 12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 13:00 The Will
- 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 14:40 California Investigator
- 15:05 Dr. G. Medical Examiner
- 15:55 Fatal Encounters
- 16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 17:35 Murder Shift
- 18:25 I Almost Got Away With It
- 19:15 The Will
- 20:05 Deadly Affairs
- 20:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 21:45 California Investigator
- 22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 23:00 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion
- 23:50 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall

**DISNEY CHANNEL**

- 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
- 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 Lolirock
- 06:25 Sofia The First
- 06:50 That's So Raven
- 07:15 Gravity Falls
- 07:40 Jessie
- 08:05 Shake It Up
- 08:30 Shake It Up
- 08:55 That's So Raven
- 09:45 Austin & Ally
- 10:10 Austin & Ally
- 10:35 A.N.T. Farm
- 11:25 Jessie
- 11:50 Jessie
- 12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
- 12:45 Fish Hooks
- 13:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 13:35 I Didn't Do It
- 14:00 Dog With A Blog
- 14:30 H2O: Just Add Water
- 14:55 Girl Meets World
- 15:20 Jessie
- 15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
- 16:10 Violetta
- 17:00 The Next Step
- 17:25 Liv And Maddie
- 17:50 Jessie
- 18:15 Austin & Ally
- 18:40 I Didn't Do It
- 19:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
- 19:30 Violetta
- 20:20 The Next Step
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 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

**EHD**

- 00:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons
- 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
- 01:25 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
- 02:20 Giuliana & Bill
- 03:15 Christina Milian Turned Up
- 04:10 Beyond Candid With Giuliana
- 05:05 E! Entertainment Special
- 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 07:50 Style Star
- 08:20 New Money
- 08:45 New Money
- 09:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 12:05 The Grace Helbig Show
- 13:05 Fashion Bloggers
- 14:05 Dash Dolls
- 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 17:00 Christina Milian Turned Up
- 18:00 E! News
- 19:00 Dash Dolls
- 20:00 WAGs
- 21:00 Botched
- 22:00 E! News
- 23:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

**FOOD NETWORK**

- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 02:00 Man v Food
- 02:30 Man v Food
- 03:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Iron Chef America
- 06:00 Chopped
- 07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Grandma's Secret Cookbook
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 11:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 12:00 Chopped
- 13:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 13:30 Guy's Big Bite
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Man Fire Food
- 15:30 Man Fire Food
- 16:00 Chopped
- 17:00 The Kitchen
- 18:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 18:30 Grandma's Secret Cookbook
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Iron Chef America
- 21:00 Chopped
- 22:00 All Star Academy
- 23:00 Kitchen Casino

- itv CHOICE**
- 00:10 The Chase
  - 01:05 Emmerdale
  - 01:30 Tales From Northumberland
  - 02:00 Coronation Street
  - 02:30 Murdoch Mysteries
  - 03:25 Shetland
  - 04:20 Chasing Shadows
  - 05:15 Pick Me!
  - 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
  - 07:05 Tales From Northumberland
  - 07:30 Shetland
  - 08:25 Chasing Shadows
  - 09:20 Murdoch Mysteries
  - 10:15 The Chase
  - 11:10 Tales From Northumberland
  - 11:35 Pick Me!
  - 12:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?
  - 13:25 Emmerdale
  - 13:50 Tales From Northumberland
  - 14:20 Coronation Street
  - 14:45 Murdoch Mysteries
  - 15:35 Pick Me!
  - 16:30 Cilla
  - 17:25 Blue Go Mad In Ibiza
  - 18:20 Who's Doing The Dishes?
  - 19:10 Coronation Street
  - 19:35 Pick Me!
  - 20:30 Cilla
  - 21:25 Blue Go Mad In Ibiza

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD**

- 00:10 Cold Water Gold
- 01:00 Big Fish, Texas
- 02:00 Lockdown: Scam City
- 02:55 The Border
- 03:50 Cold Water Gold
- 04:45 Geologic Journey
- 05:40 Science Of Stupid
- 06:35 Innovation Nation
- 07:30 Brave New World
- 08:25 Swamp Men
- 09:20 Geologic Journey
- 10:15 Explorer
- 11:10 How To Win At Everything
- 12:05 Car SOS
- 13:00 Swamp Men
- 14:00 100% Planes
- 15:00 Beyond Magic
- 16:00 Inside Turkish Airlines
- 17:00 How To Win At Everything
- 18:00 Drain The Titanic
- 19:00 Survive The Tribe
- 20:00 Inside Turkish Airlines
- 20:50 How To Win At Everything
- 21:40 Drain The Titanic
- 22:30 Survive The Tribe
- 23:20 Science Of Stupid

**OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**

- 01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 06:00 Tii Death
- 08:30 Community
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:30 Cristela
- 10:30 Community
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 Tii Death
- 13:00 Cristela
- 13:30 Community
- 16:30 Tii Death
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 New Girl
- 18:30 Playing House
- 19:00 The Last Man On Earth
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
- 22:30 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

**OSN FIRST HD**

- 00:00 Chicago Fire
- 01:00 Complications
- 02:00 Supergirl
- 03:00 The X-Files
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 Complications
- 07:00 Backstrom
- 08:00 The Player
- 09:00 The Night Shift
- 11:00 Backstrom
- 12:00 Coronation Street
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Supergirl
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 The Player
- 19:00 The Fosters
- 20:00 Once Upon A Time
- 21:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
- 22:00 The Flash
- 23:00 American Horror Story: Hotel

**OSN MOVIES ACTION**

- 00:00 300: Rise Of An Empire
- 02:00 Beneath
- 04:00 Forget And Forgive
- 06:00 Stranded
- 08:00 Need For Speed
- 10:15 Jaws III
- 12:00 X-Men: Days Of Future Past
- 14:15 Justice League vs. Bizarro League
- 15:30 Need For Speed
- 18:00 The Outsider
- 19:45 X-Men: Days Of Future Past
- 22:00 Automata

**OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**

- 00:00 Beneath-PG15
- 02:00 Forget And Forgive-PG15
- 04:00 Stranded-PG15
- 06:00 Need For Speed-PG15
- 08:15 Jaws III-PG15
- 10:00 X-Men: Days Of Future Past
- 12:15 Justice League vs. Bizarro League-PG15
- 13:30 Need For Speed-PG15
- 16:00 The Outsider-PG15
- 17:45 X-Men: Days Of Future Past
- 20:00 Automata-PG15
- 22:00 Kiss The Girls-PG15

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

- 00:00 Revenge For Jolly!
- 02:00 When In Rome
- 04:00 Mr. Wonderful
- 06:00 Good Deeds
- 08:00 The Devil Wears Prada
- 10:00 Mr. Wonderful
- 12:00 When In Rome
- 14:00 Garfield's Pet Force
- 16:00 The Devil Wears Prada
- 18:00 Happy Gilmore
- 20:00 I Give It A Year
- 22:00 No Way Jose

**OSN MOVIES DRAMA**

- 01:00 At Middleton-PG15
- 03:00 71-PG15
- 05:00 1911-PG15
- 07:00 Breathe In-PG15
- 09:00 Yellow Rock-PG15
- 11:00 1911-PG15
- 13:00 Second Coming-PG15
- 15:00 Middle Of Nowhere-PG15
- 17:00 Yellow Rock-PG15
- 19:00 Every Day-PG15
- 21:00 The Trials Of Cate McCall
- 23:00 Only God Forgives-18

**OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL**

- 02:45 We Are Family
- 04:30 Rent
- 06:45 Julie And Julia
- 09:00 Belle
- 11:00 We Are Family
- 13:00 Half Of A Yellow Sun
- 15:00 The Invisible Woman
- 17:00 Belle
- 19:00 At Any Price
- 21:00 Disconnect
- 23:00 Das Boot: Director's Cut

**OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE**

- 00:00 Rudderless-PG15
- 02:00 Philomena-PG15
- 04:00 Sleepless In Seattle-PG
- 06:00 Edge Of Tomorrow-PG15
- 08:00 The Package-PG15
- 10:00 Oogy & The Cockroaches: The Movie-PG
- 12:00 Sleepless In Seattle-PG
- 14:00 The Intruders-PG15
- 16:00 The Package-PG15
- 18:00 Lucy-PG15
- 20:00 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes-PG15
- 22:15 The Departed-18

**OSN MOVIES HD KIDS**

- 01:00 Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic
- 02:45 Worms
- 04:30 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
- 06:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 08:00 Blue Elephant 2
- 10:00 Saving Santa
- 11:30 The Heart Of The Oak
- 13:00 Worms
- 14:30 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 16:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
- 18:00 Saving Santa



X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 20:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 22:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 23:30 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure

- 09:45 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 10:10 Little People, Big World
- 10:35 My Five Wives
- 11:25 Cake Boss
- 11:50 Born Without Limbs
- 12:40 Catwalk 30+
- 13:30 Dare To Wear
- 14:20 The Autistic Gardener
- 15:10 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 15:35 Little People, Big World
- 16:00 Hoarding: Buried Alive
- 16:50 My Five Wives
- 17:40 Cake Boss
- 18:05 Say Yes To The Dress
- 18:30 Driving Me Crazy
- 19:20 Belief
- 20:10 Catwalk 30+
- 21:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners...
- 21:50 My Naked Secret
- 22:15 My Naked Secret
- 22:40 Long Island Medium
- 23:05 90 Days To Wed
- 23:55 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners...

**ci**

- 00:00 They Took Our Child, We Got Her Back
- 01:00 Martina Cole's Lady Killers
- 02:00 Fatal Vows
- 03:00 They Took Our Child, We Got Her Back
- 04:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 05:00 Martina Cole's Lady Killers
- 06:00 Fatal Vows
- 07:00 The FBI Files
- 08:00 The FBI Files
- 09:00 Private Crimes
- 10:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 11:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 12:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 13:00 Fatal Vows
- 14:00 Crime Stories
- 15:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 16:00 Private Crimes
- 16:30 Frenemies
- 17:00 The FBI Files
- 18:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 19:00 Crime Stories
- 20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 21:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 22:00 Private Crimes
- 22:30 Frenemies

**TLC HD**

- 00:45 The Day I Almost Died
- 01:35 Long Island Medium
- 02:00 90 Days To Wed
- 02:50 My Five Wives
- 03:40 Secret Eaters
- 04:30 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 05:00 Little People, Big World
- 05:30 Cake Boss
- 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
- 06:25 Catwalk 30+
- 07:15 Hoarding: Buried Alive
- 08:05 Belief
- 08:55 Oprah's Lifeclass

**amc**

- 00:40 The Myth Of Fingerprints
- 02:15 The Limey
- 03:45 A Rage In Harlem
- 05:30 Apache
- 07:00 The Magnificent Seven
- 08:05 A Guy Thing
- 10:50 Groundhog Day
- 12:35 Fuzz
- 14:05 Mannequin
- 15:35 A Star For Two
- 17:10 The Bridge In The Jungle
- 18:35 Bound For Glory
- 21:00 Peggy Sue Got Married
- 22:45 The Myth Of Fingerprints

**Disney Junior**

- 00:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:20 Calimero
- 00:35 Zou
- 00:50 Loopedidoo
- 01:05 Art Attack
- 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster

- 01:45 Calimero
- 02:00 Zou
- 02:15 Loopedidoo
- 02:30 Art Attack
- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:05 Calimero
- 03:20 Zou
- 03:30 Loopedidoo
- 03:45 Art Attack
- 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:20 Calimero
- 04:35 Zou
- 04:45 Loopedidoo
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:35 Calimero
- 05:50 Zou
- 06:00 Loopedidoo
- 06:15 Art Attack
- 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:50 Calimero
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:20 Loopedidoo
- 07:35 Art Attack
- 08:00 Calimero
- 08:10 Zou
- 08:25 Loopedidoo
- 08:40 Miles From Tomorrow
- 09:05 Sofia The First
- 09:30 Doc McStuffins
- 09:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 10:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 10:35 Doc McStuffins
- 11:00 Sofia The First
- 11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 12:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 12:25 Special Agent Oso
- 12:40 The Hive
- 12:50 Handy Manny
- 13:15 Jungle Junction
- 13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 14:00 Sofia The First
- 14:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 14:50 Doc McStuffins
- 15:15 Zou
- 15:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:55 Loopedidoo
- 16:10 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 17:00 Sofia The First
- 17:25 Jungle Cubs
- 17:50 Aladdin
- 18:15 Gummi Bears
- 18:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 19:05 Miles From Tomorrow
- 19:30 Sofia The First
- 19:55 Doc McStuffins
- 20:10 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 20:35 Miles From Tomorrow
- 21:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 21:30 Sofia The First
- 22:00 Jungle Cubs
- 22:25 Aladdin
- 22:50 Gummi Bears
- 23:20 Lilo And Stitch
- 23:45 Cars Toons



METALLICA- THROUGH THE NEVER ON OSN MOVIES HD

**XD**

- 00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am KSA
- 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 07:25 K. C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Annedroids
- 08:40 Lab Rats
- 09:10 Kirby Buckets
- 09:35 Wander Over Yonder
- 10:00 Rocket Monkeys
- 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 10:50 Boyster
- 11:20 Boyster
- 11:45 Pair Of Kings
- 12:10 Pair Of Kings
- 12:35 Lab Rats
- 13:00 Lab Rats
- 13:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 13:55 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:20 Kickin' It
- 14:45 Kickin' It
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Rocket Monkeys
- 15:40 Wander Over Yonder



# CLASSIFIEDS



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (04/02/2016 TO 10/02/2016)

Programme	Time
<b>SHARQIA-1</b>	
FLIPPED	11:45 AM
FLIPPED	2:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	2:00 PM
FRI-SAT	
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	4:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	6:00 PM
AMERICAN HERO	8:00 PM
FLIPPED	10:15 PM
FLIPPED	12:15 AM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>	
THE FINEST HOURS	12:00 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	2:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	5:00 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	7:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	10:00 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	12:30 AM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b>	
JANE GOT A GUN	12:45 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	2:45 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	4:45 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	6:45 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	8:45 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	10:45 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	12:45 AM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b>	
JANE GOT A GUN	11:45 AM
JANE GOT A GUN	1:45 PM
NO FRI-SAT	
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	1:45 PM
FRI-SAT	
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	3:45 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	5:45 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	7:45 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	9:45 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	11:45 PM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b>	
FLIPPED	1:00 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	3:00 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	5:00 PM
FLIPPED	7:00 PM
FLIPPED	9:00 PM
FLIPPED	11:00 PM
FLIPPED	1:00 AM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b>	
THE FINEST HOURS	11:30 AM
THE FINEST HOURS	2:00 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	4:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	7:00 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	9:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	12:05 AM
<b>FANAR-1</b>	
AMERICAN HERO	1:00 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	2:45 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	4:45 PM
AMERICAN HERO	6:45 PM
AMERICAN HERO	8:45 PM
AMERICAN HERO	10:30 PM
AMERICAN HERO	12:15 AM
<b>FANAR-2</b>	
FLIPPED	11:30 AM

FLIPPED	1:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	1:30 PM
FLIPPED	3:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	5:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	9:45 PM
FLIPPED	11:45 PM
<b>FANAR-3</b>	
STANDOFF	1:00 PM
STANDOFF	3:00 PM
STANDOFF	5:00 PM
EVERYTHING ABOUT HER - Filipino	7:00 PM
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	9:30 PM
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	12:30 AM
<b>MARINA-1</b>	
FLIPPED	1:00 PM
FLIPPED	3:00 PM
NO FRI-SAT	
CAPTURE THE FLAG	3:00 PM
FRI-SAT	
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	5:00 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	7:00 PM
FLIPPED	9:00 PM
FLIPPED	11:00 PM
FLIPPED	1:00 AM
<b>MARINA-2</b>	
THE FINEST HOURS	11:45 AM
THE FINEST HOURS	2:15 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	4:45 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	7:15 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	9:45 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	12:15 AM
<b>MARINA-3</b>	
JANE GOT A GUN	12:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	2:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	2:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	4:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	6:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	8:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	10:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	12:05 AM
<b>AVENUES-1</b>	
CAPTURE THE FLAG	1:00 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	3:15 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	5:30 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	7:45 PM
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	10:00 PM
STANDOFF	1:00 AM
<b>AVENUES-2</b>	
AMERICAN HERO	12:15 PM
STANDOFF	2:15 PM
AMERICAN HERO	4:15 PM
AMERICAN HERO	6:15 PM
STANDOFF	8:15 PM
AMERICAN HERO	10:15 PM
AMERICAN HERO	12:15 AM
<b>AVENUES-3</b>	
FLIPPED	12:45 PM
FLIPPED	3:00 PM
FLIPPED	5:15 PM

FLIPPED	7:30 PM
FLIPPED	9:45 PM
FLIPPED	12:05 AM
<b>360°-1</b>	
JANE GOT A GUN	11:30 AM
JANE GOT A GUN	1:30 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	3:45 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	6:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	8:15 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	10:30 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	12:45 AM
<b>360°-2</b>	
AMERICAN HERO	1:15 PM
AMERICAN HERO	3:15 PM
AMERICAN HERO	5:15 PM
STANDOFF	7:15 PM
AMERICAN HERO	9:15 PM
AMERICAN HERO	11:15 PM
AMERICAN HERO	1:15 AM
<b>360°-3</b>	
CAPTURE THE FLAG	11:45 AM
CAPTURE THE FLAG -3D	2:00 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	4:15 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG -3D	6:30 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	8:45 PM
STANDOFF	11:00 PM
STANDOFF	1:00 AM
<b>AL-KOUT.1</b>	
THE FINEST HOURS	11:45 AM
THE FINEST HOURS	2:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	5:00 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	7:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	10:00 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	12:30 AM
<b>AL-KOUT.2</b>	
JANE GOT A GUN	12:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	2:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	4:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	6:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	8:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	10:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	12:05 AM
<b>AL-KOUT.3</b>	
CAPTURE THE FLAG	11:30 AM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	1:45 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	3:45 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	5:45 PM
AMERICAN HERO	7:45 PM
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	9:45 PM
AMERICAN HERO	12:45 AM
<b>AL-KOUT.4</b>	
FLIPPED	1:00 PM
FLIPPED	3:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	5:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	7:00 PM
FLIPPED	9:00 PM
FLIPPED	11:00 PM
FLIPPED	1:00 AM

## BUILDING FOR RENT

Excellent location - Fitting for any activity

Al-Ghazali street

Has a basement a ground floor and mezanen

Land area 2000m

Building area 4600m

also has a parking

**Mobile : 66486455**

### ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation available in a C-AC flat for decent couple or working ladies at Jabriya, area 10, near Jabriya Indian school from 1st March 2016. Please contact: 99300513.

(C 5130)  
7-2-2016

Farida Shabuddin Mukaddam, holder of Indian Passport No. Z3082289, D.O.B 25/08/1963, residing at A/103 Twin Star apartments Rupa Nagar compound near Kapadia Nagar, C.S.T. Road Kurla west Mumbai 400070, India, change my name as Farida Shahabuddin Mukaddam.

(C 5126)

### CHANGE OF NAME

I Amir Karim Makandar holder of Indian Passport No. F7734039, A/P - 173 Aggani Tal-khed Dist. Ratnagiri, hereby changed my name to Amir Karim Nevarekar. (C 5129)

6-2-2019

I, Kerodawala Rajani holder of Indian Passport No. M6422448, resident at D.No. 7-79 (B) Kadali village, Razole Mandal, hereby changed my name to Kerodawala Zainab. (C 5125)

### Prayer timings



**Fajr: 05:11**  
**Shorook 06:32**  
**Duhr: 12:02**  
**Asr: 15:10**  
**Maghrib: 17:33**  
**Isha: 18:51**

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

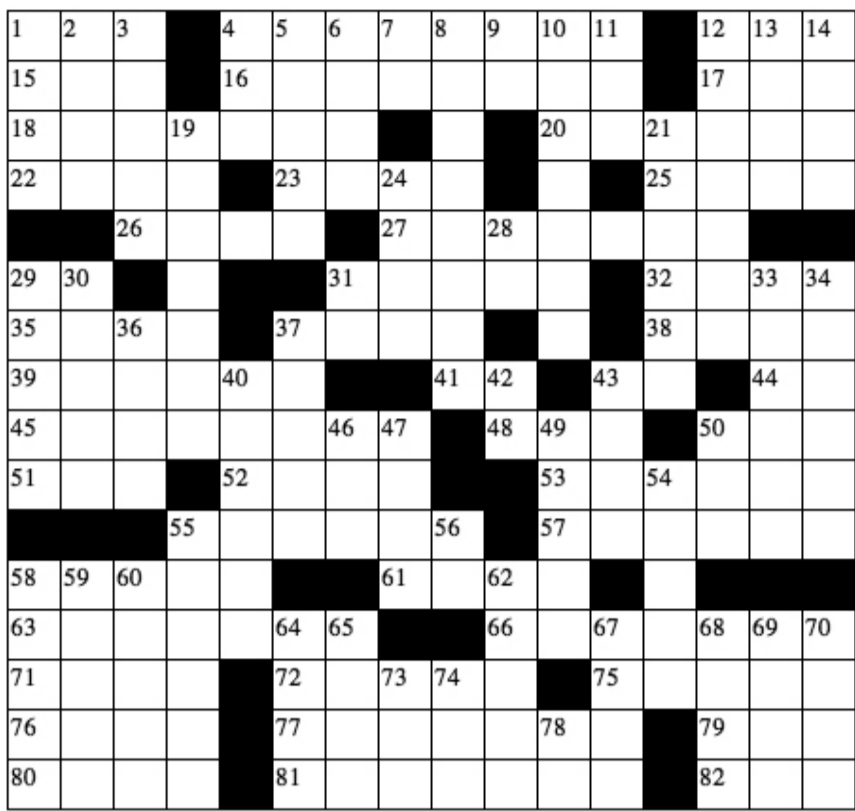
**In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats**



## Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 10/2/2016				Departure Flights on Wednesday 10/2/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
SYR	343	Damascus/KAC	00:10	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSC	404	Asyut	00:55
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	MSC	416	Sohag	01:00
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	SYR	344	Damascus	01:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
CLX	784	Luxembourg	01:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	CLX	784	GVD	03:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	KAC	381	Delhi	03:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
KKK	6507	Istanbul	02:50	KKK	6508	Istanbul	03:50
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
RJA	644	Amman	03:05	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15
CEB	7694	Manila	03:15	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	THY	765	Istanbul	05:15
CLX	852	Luxembourg	04:20	CEB	7695	Manila	05:20
AGY	680	Alexandria	04:30	AGY	685	Sohag	05:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	JZR	560	Sohag	06:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
BAW	157	London	06:40	RJA	645	Amman	07:05
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	THY	771	Istanbul	07:05
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	CLX	868	NBO	07:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	545	Alexandria	07:40
OMA	641	Muscat	07:55	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	08:30	QTR	1087	Doha	08:40
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30	BAW	156	London	08:45
KAC	344	Chennai	08:30	OMA	642	Muscat	08:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	JZR	534	Cairo	09:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25
KAC	362	Colombo	08:50	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	117	New York	09:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10	KAC	541	Cairo	09:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	561	Amman	10:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JZR	482	Istanbul	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	671	Dubai	10:05
IRA	665	Shiraz	10:40	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:50	KAC	175	Frankfurt/Geneva	10:30
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	KAC	501	Beirut	10:30
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:15	JZR	356	Mashhad	10:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
AGY	684	Sohag	11:35	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:40
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	QTR	1071	Doha	11:00
SAW	701	Damascus	12:20	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	IRA	664	Shiraz	11:40
IRM	1188	Mashhad	12:25	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:50
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:15
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	KAC	103	London	12:25
IRC	6511	ABD	13:00	UAE	874	Dubai	12:30
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	AGY	681	Asyut	12:35
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
KAC	382	Delhi	13:50	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
IRC	526	Mashhad	13:55	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	13:55	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	IRI	1189	Mashhad	13:40
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10	JZR			

CROSSWORD 1164



ACROSS

1. A prominent rock or pile of rocks on a hill.
4. A language spoken by the Atakapa people of the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
12. One of the most common of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
15. The residue that remains when something is burned.
16. Large hawk of the northern hemisphere that feeds chiefly on small rodents and is beneficial to farmers.
17. A periodic paperback publication.
18. Long pinkish sour leafstalks usually eaten cooked and sweetened.
20. A small contrasting part of something.
22. A language unit by which a person or thing is known.
23. Joint consisting of a line formed by joining two pieces.
25. Having been read.
26. Related to or located at the back.
27. Sounding as if the nose were pinched.
29. A soft silver-white or yellowish metallic element of the alkali metal group.
32. An elaborate party (often outdoors).
35. The basic unit of money in Ghana.
38. The sixth month of the civil year.
39. A landlocked republic in eastern Africa.
41. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
44. Being one more than one hundred.
45. A small house with a single story.
48. Injured by bites or stings.
51. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
52. A state in the western United States.
53. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,391 feet high).
57. A port city in southwestern Iran.
58. Thin and fit.
61. A river that rises in western New Mexico and flows westward through southern Arizona to become a tributary of the Colorado River.
63. A department of Greece in the central Peloponnese.
66. (zoology) Lacking a tail or taillike appendage.
71. An aggressive remark directed at a person like a missile and intended to have a telling effect.
72. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
75. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
76. The basic unit of money in Cambodia.
77. (British) A light midafternoon meal of tea and sandwiches or cakes.
79. A guided missile fired from shipboard against an airborne target.
80. Freedom from difficulty or hardship or effort.
81. The state of being behind in payments.
82. Someone who engages in arbitrage (who purchases securities in one market for immediate resale in another in the hope of profiting from the price differential).

DOWN

3. A line on a sphere that cuts all meridians at the same angle.
4. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
5. Large edible marine fish of northern coastal waters.
6. Conduit consisting of a long hollow object (usually cylindrical) used to hold and conduct liquids or gases.
7. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
8. Relating to or used in chemistry.
9. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
10. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
11. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
12. Made difficult or slow.
13. Offering fun and gaiety.
14. Advanced in years.
19. Ornamentation with beads.
21. Manufactured in standard sizes to be shipped and assembled elsewhere.
24. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
28. A state in southeastern United States.
30. A rich black loam of India.
31. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
33. A city in west central Washington on an arm of Puget Sound south of Seattle.
34. Capital of Armenia.
36. A native or inhabitant of Denmark.
37. A republic on the island of Malta in the Mediterranean.
40. Smeared thickly.
42. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
43. A thrusting blow with a knife.
46. An association of countries in the western hemisphere.
47. Urged social reform in 19th century England.
49. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
50. A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
54. Tree of the West Indies and northern South America bearing succulent edible orange-sized fruit.
55. (of farmland) Capable of being farmed productively.
56. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
59. The capital of Cape Verde on Sao Tiago Island.
60. Extensive landed property (especially in the country) retained by the owner for his own use.
62. (folklore) A corpse that rises at night to drink the blood of the living.
64. A tiny or scarcely detectable amount.
65. Type genus of the Aceraceae.
67. (Greek mythology) Greek god of war.
68. Any orchid of the genus Disa.
69. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
70. Young sheep.
73. 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
74. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
78. A form of address for a man.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a great day to get things accomplished. Powerful energies spill into your life, in unpredictable ways. The decisions and actions that you take now will have long-lasting effects. State your agenda logically and even those who may disagree will respect you. It is best to keep this interest in check and avoid entering into any business transaction or relationship heedlessly. There is time for imagination and creativity when it comes to ideas and thinking. Strong-minded people are attracted to you and you to them. You enjoy the opportunity to stretch your thinking abilities. You may want to break that routine and try something new or different this evening. Weather permitting, get outside for a while this afternoon.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your communicative abilities are accented at this time. You don't have to think long to find the convincing words that will gain you the support you need. It is good that you can understand people and problem situations and see positive results. Your enthusiasm is high and your kind ways are ready to be applied to any help you are asked to give. If you give your best effort now, considerable success may follow. You feel vital; you feel good; you feel in harmony with yourself, the entire world and everybody in it. Others can feel this, so they in turn are drawn to you, making this a successful day for any kind of group endeavor. Companionship with others is most rewarding. Best of all, relations with the opposite sex are at a peak.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Head down, hands in motion, mind focused and you are able to get many things accomplished. Your creativity is inspired as well as inspiring. If you have not decided what area you want to become involved with when it comes to volunteer work-think about that now. You have a lot of wisdom and a helpful attitude. Travel and other contacts with faraway people and places will play a bigger role for you. Travel may not be because you have decided to travel but because of work or your choice in volunteer work. Such things bring love and gain in one way or another. Doing just about anything with friends or family this evening will bring you much joy. If you are unattached, you could be viewing someone very special with renewed interest.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Imagination soars! Awareness and insight into others' minds is especially acute. Teaching, working with animals or people, and coaching are all wonderful ways to express your talents. This is a most energetic time, filling you with a great desire to excel. Working with partners in an open, honest environment can only bring good fortune to you. This is a time when you, your friends and your loved ones will experience tremendous, yet positive, life changes. This time of year may be your favorite time and you are helpful to others because of your insight and wisdom. Financial transactions or investments are favored now. Escape the rigors of the daily grind with a good fantasy or romance novel later today.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

It is a favorable aspect for financial dealings all day long. Your mind is clear and alert and anyone should understand just what you mean. Professional matters take your full concentration all morning-in the afternoon, you may feel a bit tired of all the work issues. You tend to enjoy friendly conversations with co-workers during the working hours... Try to save conversations for break times. After work you can enjoy the appreciation you have of art, nature and music-perhaps through a shopping mall. Life may seem richer, more satisfying and more fun-you feel a special bond with your friends and loved ones. Go out on a date with your special someone or invite friends over for the evening. You will make them all feel good!



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have the motivation to tackle any problem or project that you want to work on now. However, being told to do something just now, may not sit very well with you. You may have some serious or contemplative moments; however, you will tackle most any situation quite well-just take a deep breath and move forward. You find yourself in a very practical mood and working with, instead of against, yourself this afternoon. You have good discipline and you are pleased with the results of your efforts. Any excuse for a get-together with friends later today will be welcome. You feel especially close to your loved ones and your desire to nurture and protect them is strong. Tonight, you may enjoy reminiscing over a few old family pictures.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Business dealings may be particularly fruitful, especially if you give much effort. If there is something that you want or some problem that you want to solve-the time is right for detective work. This is not a time to act too quickly-you could misconstrue a quote, a word, a vision. Think long and hard before making any life-changing decisions. There are new friends in your life now that are beginning to take the front row seat. You may find that you have moved in a different direction from your old friends and this may be the time to enlarge your group of friends. You are well disposed to others and will find it easy to influence others. There are plenty of chores this afternoon-watch your stress level-find ways to express yourself creatively.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may feel there is something missing from your professional life these days-regardless of how well you have been progressing. It may be time to reassess the balance between your professional and personal goals and the progress you are making with each one. This must be the balance that is right for you-there are no correct answers-but neither side should monopolize your life at the expense of the other. Be attentive to your own work-there is a tendency to gloss over anything that needs special attention. This may include your own personal business dealings or purchases that may cause you to go in debt. You should work hard to make time for your family today. You will particularly enjoy the interactions with loved ones this evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Teaching, public speaking and writing can be enjoyed throughout the rest of this month. Communication comes easily. You make all details clear. No one should misunderstand anything you say. There may also be an opportunity to catch up on paying bills, cleaning up paperwork, writing letters and perhaps, making phone calls. Your phone will probably be ringing anyway. There is an air of seriousness to all your dealings with partners. Also, you are concerned about the future of business and romantic associates. You may experience many situations when a new relationship begins, particularly one of a physical, loving nature. Additionally, this is a time when your powers of creativity are great.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Whatever feelings underscore your life will be felt strongly now. If you are going through a particularly trying time, this period could produce low energy levels. If this is the case, take it easy for a while-otherwise, you should have a burst of energy that will keep you going all month! Technologies that change the way people live-not just one person, but many-are soon to be a major new focus in your life. This could involve testing new inventions or putting the final change on some new communication systems. Finding better ways to be creative without creating any negative results is a plus as far as you are concerned. Today you may discover ways to help others see some of the nonsensical destructions we humans do to the environment.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is a lot to be done today but you have the expertise and the zeal to pitch in and accomplish things quickly. You are polite as you turn down the invitations to communicate about personal or lesser work issues. Focused, you set your mind to completing the task before you. Getting your own business affairs in order later today can go a long way toward becoming better organized and financially secure. Financial security won't happen in one day but one day at a time you will see that you are on the right path. You will soon be able to find a good accountant in whom you can put your trust. It may be a good time to think seriously about your career. There will also be opportunities to grow all through this year.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Self-discipline and a sense of self-worth become important issues. A fear of asserting yourself can hold you back-as can coming on too strong. The trick is learning to make the most of your personal talents and abilities, working within your limitations instead of feeling hemmed in by them. This should be a very successful day. You feel good about your friends, your love relationship or about finding a new love relationship. The only things you do not feel good about are perhaps the work and self-discipline you must maintain. If you channel your energy well, you may decide that work and self-discipline have a place in your life. Only complain three times and then... No more. Tonight is a great time to get to know someone better.

WORD SEARCH

Mystery Christmas Carol

The words listed below are from a familiar Christmas Carol. What is it? Find and circle all of the words hidden in the grid.

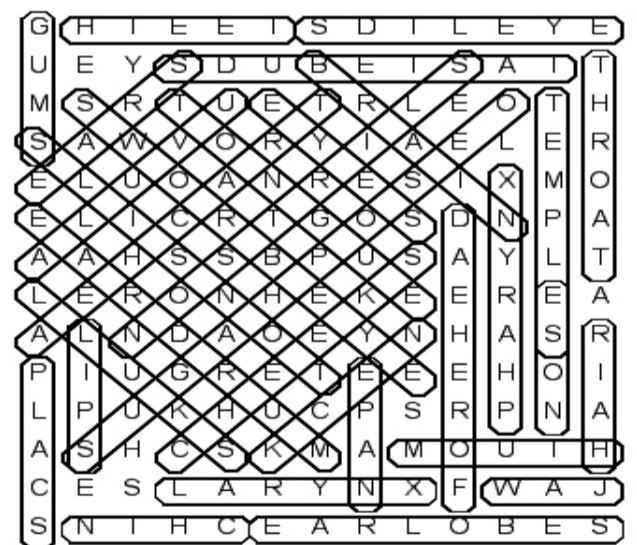
The remaining letters spell the name of the Christmas Carol.

H Y E P Y L L O H L M W C G N  
T L R R D T L W S E L E A A O  
I L O A T I E E H C K A R Y W  
W O F H A O S L M I T T O R Y  
J J E H E S G E L P L H L E Y  
Y O B H A E A E A E E E A E S  
U T Y L S D S D T R R R N H H  
L N N O U T S L U H R A G O T  
E E S R U E R S E W E U P R D  
W I E E S S A I A S O R O P L  
W C A D N E L T K B S L L O A  
I N S I R Y A W A E L I L S D  
N A O T G N I Z A L B D N O S  
D J N T S A F S U R O H C G F

- |         |          |         |          |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| ALL     | FOLLOW   | MEASURE | TIDE     |
| ANCIENT | GAY      | MERRY   | TIS      |
| APPAREL | HAIL     | NEW     | TOGETHER |
| AWAY    | HARP     | NOW     | TREASURE |
| BEFORE  | HEEDLESS | OLD     | TROLL    |
| BLAZING | HOLLY    | OUR     | WEATHER  |
| BOUGHS  | JOIN     | PASSES  | WHILE    |
| CAROL   | JOLLY    | SEASON  | WIND     |
| CHORUS  | JOYOUS   | SING    | WITH     |
| DON     | LADS     | STRIKE  | YEAR     |
| FAST    | LASSES   | TELL    | YULE     |

Yesterday Solution

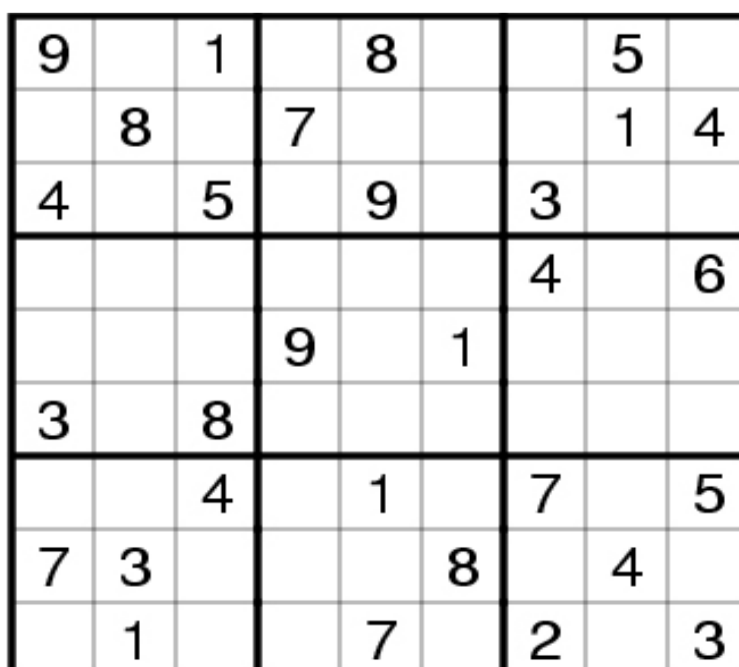
Head & Neck



- |           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| BRAIN     | HAIR       | SCALP      |
| CHEEKS    | JAW        | SKULL      |
| CHIN      | LARYNX     | TASTE BUDS |
| EAR LOBES | LIPS       | TEETH      |
| EARDRUM   | MOUTH      | TEMPLES    |
| EARS      | NAPE       | THROAT     |
| EYEBROWS  | NECK       | TONGUE     |
| EYELIDS   | NOSE       | TONSILS    |
| EYES      | NOSTRILS   | TRACHEA    |
| FOREHEAD  | OESOPHAGUS | UVULA      |
| GUMS      | PHARYNX    |            |

The hidden word is: EYELASHES

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



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

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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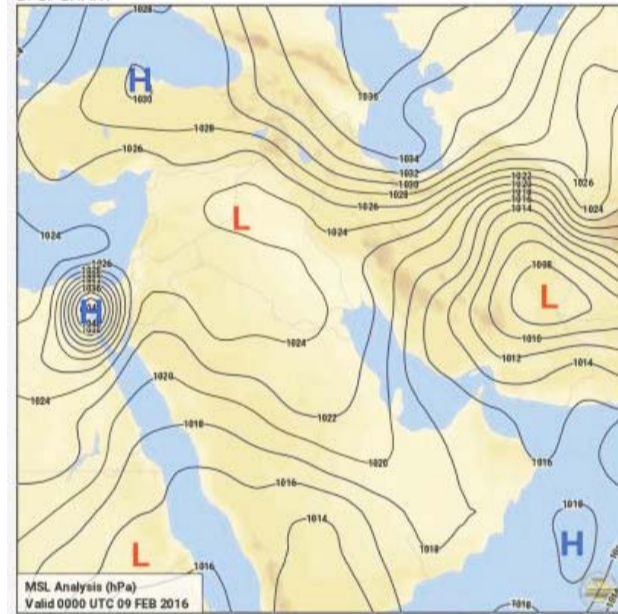
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 09/02/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 20 °C

By Day : Sunny with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h  
By Night : Cold with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather				
Min Temp °C	06	09	07	07
Max Temp °C	21	19	20	21
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 28	15 - 38	20 - 45	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	12		22	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	06		20	
ABDaly	06		21	
BUBYAN	08		21	
JAHRA	09		22	
FAILAKA ISLAND	10		21	
SALMIYAH	12		20	
AHMADI	13		21	
JAL ALIYAH	07		21	
QAROH ISLAND	15		18	
UMM AL-MARADEM	14		19	
NUWAISIB	10		22	
WAFRA	08		23	
MANAGISH	07		20	
SALMY	05		19	
MUTRIBA	06		21	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	22
Min Temp (°C)	07
Max Rel Hum (%)	86
Min Rel Hum (%)	22
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	39 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

	Sunrise	06:32
	Sunset	17:33

Prayer Times

Fajr	05:11
Sunrise	06:32
Zuhr	12:02
Asr	15:10
Sunset	17:33
Isha	18:51

Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antigua	001268	Malaysia	0060
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	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	Sao 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	Toga	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
Lithuania	00370		



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	
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Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rfae	25333501
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Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

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Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
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Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
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Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
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Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
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Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
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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	Noor Clinic 23845955	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677
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Syrian artist Yara Issa paints at her place.



Syrian artist Yara Issa looks at drawings at her place.



Syrian artist Yara Issa paints at her place.

## War-scarred ruins of Syria's Homs inspire artists

Devastated by 20 months of combat between regime forces and rebel fighters, the haunting ruins of the Old City of Homs now serve as inspiration for some Syrian artists. In summer 2014, director Joud Said decided to set his film "It's Raining in Homs" in the ruins, just three months after the last rebels left the area under a truce deal following a lengthy siege. "We were preparing a film about three people in the siege, and we planned to film it on a set," he told AFP. "But when the agreement (with the rebels) happened, we moved everything to Homs, with the real backdrop and real tragedy," said the 35-year-old director.

Homs in central Syria was nicknamed the "capital of the revolution" by opponents of President Bashar al-Assad, and saw massive demonstrations against his rule after the uprising began in March 2011. When the uprising transformed into a war after a government crackdown, the army seized virtually all of Homs except its Old City, which remained a rebel bastion from December 2012 until May 2014.

to search for their brother. "The ruins are one of the characters in the film because they show what human beings are capable of in terms of material destruction and massacres, not only against other human beings but also our culture, our heritage," said the filmmaker.

### 'Presence of the disappeared'

Said—who won the best Arab film award at the 2015 edition of the Cairo International Film Festival—spent 100 days with his crew filming in the ruins, with only soldiers for company. "These ruins tell the story of people's memories. The presence of those who disappeared can still be felt on the balconies, through the windows and even through the curtains," he said. "We don't know what they have become, refugees, perhaps dead."

Syria's army has been accused of most of the destruction of Homs, in a bid to root out the rebels who were entrenched inside. But Said is not interested in apportioning blame. "We, the Syrians, are all guilty, all responsible for our own misfortunes," he said. "It doesn't matter who did



Syrian artist Yara Issa poses with a drawing at her place.

their work, including painter Yara Issa, 26, a Homs native. Originally from Bab Sebaa, a district of the Old City, Issa was forced to move to Damascus after her house was destroyed. "All my paintings are inspired by the war," she told AFP. "People killed, explosions, shelling... I use cold colors that suggest sadness," she said of her abstract works. "Syrian artists paint so that people won't forget the consequences of the war, so they remember the past," she added. Photographer Jaafar Merhi chose destroyed buildings and rubble as a backdrop for wedding pictures, that show young couples standing in deserted, bombed-out streets.

"The first time I suggested photographing a couple here they were taken back. When I explain to them that I want to show love exists despite the ruins, some accept, and others don't," he said. A fierce supporter of the Syrian government, the 22-year-old blames "terrorists" for the devastation and says the army did its duty in retaking the area by force. Merhi has photographed three weddings in the ruins, most recently that of 18-year-old bride Nada and her 27-year-old groom Hassan Youssef, a soldier.

In one of the shots the couple—Nada in a white dress and Youssef in military fatigues—are seen locked in an embrace on the upper floor of a pockmarked building shorn of its facade and windows. "I agreed to have my photos taken in this devastated area because one day I will show them to my children to explain that despite all this sadness, life goes on," said Nada.—AFP



A handout picture obtained from the production department of Syrian movie "It's Raining in Homs", shows actors playing a scene in the ruins of the Old City of Homs.



A handout picture obtained from the production department of Syrian movie "It's Raining in Homs", shows actors playing a scene in the ruins of the Old City of Homs on September 11, 2014.—AFP photos



Syrian film director Joud Said (center) and his team work on a set.

During that period, the government imposed a siege on the area, and fighting wrought massive destruction, grinding buildings into scarred concrete shells and wiping away signs of life. Said's film is set in the last three months of the siege.

It tells the story of a woman and her sister who enter the Old City during an evacuation of civilians, and stay there with the help of a priest

what, where and how. It's up to us to find the ways to heal both the wounds on our souls and our stones." More than 260,000 people have been killed in Syria's conflict, which has also displaced more than half the country's population.

### 'Life goes on'

Other artists too have turned to the ruins for

## Japanese chefs hone skills in cradle of French cuisine



A Japanese student learning French gastronomy at a Tsuji gastronomy school in Liergues, eastern France.—AFP photos



Japanese students learning French at a Tsuji gastronomy school.



A Japanese chef (left) teaching Japanese students French gastronomy.

Now blankets a vineyard deep in France's Beaujolais region, where a select group of future top chefs from Japan are busy learning the secrets of French cuisine in the kitchens of an elegant chateau. Shouts of "Oui, chef!" punctuate the morning as the Tsuji school's lead teacher Aime Nallet instructs his students in the fine points of smoking Charolais steaks with vine shoots or stewing cluster tomatoes to garnish red mullet pies. Their challenge goes beyond learning the techniques to training their palates, Nallet says.

"Salt is an unknown for them. At home, it's soy sauce." On the other hand, they are innately meticulous, and the importance of presentation is an imperative straight from Japanese culture, says the school's director, Pierre Beal. Patrick Henrioux, a chef whose La Pyramide restaurant in southeastern Vienne has two Michelin stars, likened the students to disciples, with a "desire to learn by following the way of the master". Bent over the bright red coals of a meat smoker, student chef Soul Sato jumps at every order from Nallet. He says his father gave him the taste for French cuisine, adding that he wants to work in France one day. "But first I want to go home to Japan and look for work. I don't want to come back here until I've had some practice."

The school is the brainchild of Japanese food writer Shizuo Tsuji, an aficionado of French cuisine who opened a hotel school in 1960 in Osaka which is today one of the most famous in Japan. A good friend of French culinary giant Paul Bocuse, he decided to set up business in France in 1979. Through the years, the Tsuji school in Liergues in east-central France just north of Lyon has become a mainstay of French gastronomy, with a long waiting list made up not of mere wannabes but of already accomplished chefs mostly from Japan but also from South Korea.

The top-flight, high-speed training—the courses last five months—comes at a price: between 20,000 and 25,000 euros (\$22,000–28,000), depending on the euro-yen exchange rate, in lodgings that are fit for the wealthiest noble family. And thanks to the location, the student chefs have access to the finest products of the Lyon region, arguably the cradle of French gastronomy. Staying in France guarantees that they will be able to work with the best authentic ingredients at reasonable prices—while in Japan they are sky high. The downside is that they have to compete with the high priests of

French cuisine on their own territory.

### 'Always in the kitchen'

After kitchen practice in the morning, the afternoon is given over to demonstrations by star chefs, and on this day Henrioux is showing the students how he makes scallops with gingerbread soufflé. Compared with other high-end cooking schools with Japanese students such as the Ferrandi School of Culinary Arts in Paris and the Institut Paul Bocuse in Lyon, the Tsuji school is the most hands-on, Nallet says. "At the Ferrandi School they have lots of kitchen training, but also a lot of theory. At the Bocuse school they train managers for the most part. Here, it is only practical work, they are always in the kitchen."

Many Japanese products of the Tsuji school go on to enjoy meteoric careers, even in France, where French cuisine revisited by Japanese chefs is more and more sought after. Graduates with Michelin stars include Yusuke Takada and Hajime Yoneda in Osaka, Japan, Takeo Yamazaki at the Robuchon Yoshi restaurant of Monaco's Metropole hotel, and Raphael-Fumio Kudaka at La Table Breizh Cafe in the Brittany town of Cancale. Kyoko Fujiyama, pastry chef at the Ourson Qui Boit in Lyon—which has no stars but a "Bib Gourmand", awarded to Michelin-worthy restaurants offering three-course meals for no more than 32 euros (36 in Paris)—excites the most demanding taste buds in the French culinary capital.

"Our specialty is cakes with ingredients that are unheard of in baking here, like green tea, sesame and miso," she said. Her creations such as red bean pie, almond cream with black sesame, crumble with soy powder and vanilla-miso cake are such a hit that the restaurant has opened a little adjoining pastry shop. Other Tsuji graduates go on to join the most celebrated kitchens such as that of Thierry Marx, at the two-starred Sur Mesure in Paris, where Tsuji graduate Atsuko Koizumi is sous-chef. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Joel Robuchon is set to pay the Tsuji school the ultimate compliment.

Robuchon, who operates a dozen restaurants around the world boasting a total of 25 Michelin stars among them and was dubbed "chef of the century" by French restaurant guide Gault Millau in 1989, will soon open an international cuisine school in France's central-western Vienne region—financed by Chinese investors.—AFP



A French chef (right) teaching Japanese students French gastronomy.



Japanese students learning French gastronomy.

## Hendrix's restored flat a glimpse into swinging London life

"It's like travelling in a time capsule," enthused Jimi Hendrix's former girlfriend, marveling at their old London flat which has been painstakingly recreated to look exactly the way he left it in the swinging Sixties. The apartment where Hendrix and Kathy Etchingham lived between 1968 and 1969, which opens to the public on Wednesday, reveals the ordered domestic life behind the extraordinary US rock star's mind-blowing music. Using photographs, Etchingham's crystal-clear recollections and original items, their bedroom has been restored precisely as it was. The music he listened to is stacked up by the record player, while the acoustic guitar on which he sketched out the riffs that shattered

the boundaries of rock guitar stands close by. By chance, the third floor flat is next door to the townhouse of 18th-century baroque composer George Handel, a musical ground-breaker in his own era. Following the £2.4 million (\$3.5 million, 3.1 million euro) restoration project, funded National Lottery money and private donations, visitors can now visit both homes, separately or on a single ticket.

"It's pretty much as it was," Etchingham, then London's first female disc jockey, said as she returned to the 23 Brook Street flat in central London's plush Mayfair district. In 1966 Hendrix's career took off in Britain, where top musicians were awestruck by his dazzling ability on the guitar. Apart from being shocked

at the lack of restaurants, Seattle-born Hendrix adapted well to life in Britain. He avidly watched the popular soap opera "Coronation Street" and thought it was "hysterical," said Etchingham. "He never had tea before he came here, but here he had no choice," the Englishwoman added. "Milk and two sugars."

### Tidy perfectionist

After taking up residence on July 4, 1968 — paying £30 (\$43, 39 euros) a month in rent—Hendrix and his girlfriend set about furnishing their flat, choosing red carpets and turquoise curtains. "Jimi was very neat and tidy. He was in the army and used to making his bed. He was a perfectionist," Etchingham said.

The couple had a cat called Pussy, which brought back rats and pigeons. An ambiguously-placed plaque on the outside wall meant people—Hendrix included—thought Handel had lived at number 23 rather than 25. Oblivious to who Hendrix was, "music students used to knock on the door. Jimi showed them around. Then they would sit and chat about Handel. Jimi thought he'd better listen to this guy's music," Etchingham said. The bluesman bought Handel's "Messiah" masterpiece, which was composed on the other side of the wall 227 years earlier.

Formerly the Handel museum's office, Hendrix's bedroom—the only proper living space in the flat—has been recreated in exact detail. The room has Persian rugs, a tea set, two telephones and television on the floor; a guitar on the bed; a Bob

Dylan LP on the turntable; the board game Monopoly on one of the big speakers, and feather plumes on the mantlepiece. The mirror and coffee table are original. On the bedside table are a handwritten page and a portable tape recorder.

### Guitar behind the blues

Hendrix would typically work out riffs and scribble down lyrics in the room. "I used to pick up the pieces of paper and shove them in the cupboard under the stairs," Etchingham told AFP. "He would go through them every now and again and pick out one and finish it or add some more to it. A lot of it was thrown away when I had a big tidy-up." The exhibition on Hendrix's London life, in what was Handel's servants' attic, contains his left-handed strung sunburst Epiphone FT79 acoustic. "It's probably his best surviving guitar. He often destroyed his guitars on stage," said Martin Wyatt, deputy director of the museum.

"This is really the guitar he wrote his songs on, very much his behind-the-scenes working guitar." Hendrix moved out by October 1969 and died on September 18, 1970 aged 27 following a sleeping tablets overdose. Given the flat's size, only 20 people per hour can visit, on timed £7.50 (9.7 euros, \$10.8) tickets. A ticket for the joint Handel and Hendrix visit costs £10.00. Michelle Aland, chief executive of Handel and Hendrix in London, said: "We hope fans will find new things, and we'll find new fans too."—AFP



Record covers of albums US musician Jimi Hendrix owned or made are displayed in exhibition space at his former central London flat, at 23 Brook Street.—AP photos



Kathy Etchingham, the former girlfriend of US musician Jimi Hendrix, poses for photographs in his former bedroom.



An Epiphone acoustic guitar, formally owned by US musician Jimi Hendrix, is pictured inside the "Handel and Hendrix in London" exhibition, at the Handel House museum in central London.



Beyonce performs during Super Bowl 50 between the Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.—AFP

## Beyonce takes US by storm with new activist role

With slogans against police brutality and celebrations of African beauty in her new song, Beyonce has suddenly transformed from crowd-pleasing entertainer to outspoken spokeswoman for the burgeoning Black Lives Matter movement. The 34-year-old superstar, who had been relatively quiet in 2015, returned in spectacular fashion Saturday with a surprise new song, "Formation," marked by a video rich in political imagery and a raw bounce beat in the style of Southern hip-hop.

One day later, Beyonce took the message to the largest possible audience as she performed the song during the half-time show of the Super Bowl, the most watched US television broadcast of the year which drew more than 111 million viewers. Trading her soaring vocal range for a rap delivery, Beyonce—who is estimated with her husband, rap mogul Jay Z, to be worth a combined \$1 billion—takes on much of the attitude of hip-hop and boasts of her success.

But in Beyonce's version, the bragging also turns political as she insists that she remains true to her African American heritage. She describes herself as a "black Bill Gates in the making"—referring to the Microsoft billionaire turned philanthropist. "Earned all this money but they never take the country out of me / I got hot sauce in my bag, swag," sings Beyonce, who was born in Houston to parents from Louisiana and Alabama.

### 'Stop shooting us'

The video brings together fleeting but poignant scenes of African American struggles, especially the string of killings of black men by police in the past two years that have triggered the Black Lives Matter protest movement. In the most striking image, a boy in a hoodie dances before a phalanx of police in riot gear. Later, the police raise their hands up like people under arrest as graffiti on the wall reads, "Stop shooting us." Setting the video in New Orleans, Beyonce sings from the roof of a police car that is sinking in water—an implicit reference to criticism that authorities botched relief efforts when Hurricane Katrina ravaged the city in 2005 and killed nearly 2,000 people, disproportionately African American. In a more subtle touch in the video, which was directed by Melina Matsoukas, a newspaper appears that features the picture of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. "More than a dream—

er," reads the newspaper's headline, a message that King was about more than his classic "I Have a Dream" speech during the 1963 March on Washington. Beyonce extolls natural African hair just as the camera turns to her smiling four-year-old daughter, Blue Ivy. And she makes clear her ideal of beauty: "I like my Negro nose with Jackson Five nostrils."

### Quick backlash

"Formation"—which comes at the start of Black History Month in the US—marks the most political turn yet for Beyonce, who rarely generated controversy with smash hits such as "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" and love songs with Jay Z. Beyonce quickly came under fire over the performance at the Super Bowl, whose programmers are usually careful to pick non-controversial acts—such as Beyonce herself, who won acclaim for her 2013 half-time show with former band Destiny's Child. At one point Sunday, Beyonce and her troupe of dancers in short leather jumpsuits raised their fists—a gesture interpreted by some as the salute of the nationalist Black Panthers.

Members of the National Sheriffs' Association, who were attending a convention at a Washington hotel, lowered the volume on the television and turned their backs to Beyonce, the group said on Facebook. Former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, a Republican known for his tough-on-crime politics, said that Beyonce should have instead tried to build respect for police officers within the African American community. "This is football, not Hollywood, and I thought it was really outrageous that she used it as a platform to attack police officers who are the people who protect her and protect us, and keep us alive," Giuliani told Fox News.

Beyonce's performance, however, heartened many Internet users. Opal Tometi, a co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement, voiced appreciation for Beyonce on Twitter and noted that the Super Bowl fell on the birthday of Sandra Bland, an African American woman who was found hanging in a Texas jail in disputed circumstances after she was pulled over for a traffic violation. The political leanings of Beyonce and Jay Z are no secret. They have supported President Barack Obama, throwing a fund-raiser for his 2012 re-election campaign.—AFP

## Michael Douglas among film stars honored by AARP

Michael Douglas was initially confused when he was told that he was being honored with a career achievement honor by the AARP Movies for Grownups Awards. The star of such films as "Wall Street" and "Fatal Attraction" told the crowd at Monday's glitzy ceremony that his assistant mistakenly informed him that he was receiving an award for his work in adult films. "I remember all my films," joked Douglas after receiving a standing ovation. "I don't remember any adult films."

The newspaper drama "Spotlight" was selected as best picture at the 15th annual ceremony presented by the advocacy group AARP to stars over the age of 50 and the films that speak to that demographic. "I think when we set out to make this movie, we weren't thinking about whether it was for kids or for grownups," said "Spotlight" filmmaker Tom McCarthy. "Collectively, we understood that it was a story we had to tell. It was that important. We hoped it would reach everybody who needed to hear it." Mark Rylance was chosen as best supporting actor for "Bridge of Spies," while Bryan Cranston won the best actor trophy for "Trumbo."

"I'm delighted to be here tonight - and not just because my AARP card gives me a deep discount on the parking," said Cranston. Lily Tomlin was honored as best actress for "Grandma," while Diane Ladd was awarded the best supporting actress for "Joy." In her acceptance speech, Ladd took issue with the competitive race for supporting actress at this year's Academy Awards, which she is not among. "I'm a little ticked off that the studios with greed put stars in films in the best supporting Oscar category," said Ladd. "That's not right. Rooney Mara won the best actress category at Cannes (for "Carol"). Why is she in my supporting category?"

At the beginning of night, show host Kathy Griffin joked that #OscarsSoYoung should be trending on Twitter and that she felt comfortable mocking youngsters at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel ceremony. "As a comic, there's only so many groups I can make fun of anymore because everyone is so sensitive, but in this room, I can really talk (expletive) about millennials," said Griffin. Other winners Monday included "The Intern" as best comedy, "Love & Mercy" as best time capsule, "The Last Man on the Moon" as best documentary, "Learning to Drive" as best buddy picture, "5 Flights Up" as best grownup love story, "Rams" as best foreign film, "Inside Out" for best movie for grownups who refuse to grow up and "Creed" as best intergenerational film.

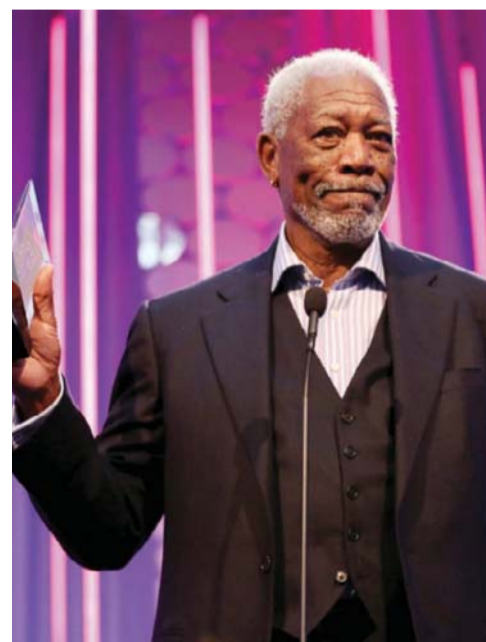
"I'm one of those weird millennials," said "Creed" director Ryan Coogler during his acceptance speech, which he joking left Sylvester Stallone out of in a nod to the "Rocky" star not thanking him at the Golden Globes. Other



Michael Douglas accepts the Career Achievement Award at AARP's 15th Annual Movies for Grownups Awards at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.



Bryan Cranston accepts the Best Actor award.—AP photos



Morgan Freeman accepts the Best Grownup Love Story award.



Bette Midler presents Michael Douglas with the Career Achievement Award.

Ruffalo and Dick Van Dyke. "I expected to see a lot of old people here," joked Van Dyke. "I'm 90. I'm probably like the oldest person in this room!"—AP

## Berlin's three main orchestras stage free concert for refugees

Three of the world's top conductors, Simon Rattle, Daniel Barenboim and Ivan Fischer are teaming up for a free concert by Berlin's three main orchestras next month which will be free for refugees, they announced yesterday. The three maestros will each conduct their own orchestra—Rattle the Berlin Philharmonic, Barenboim the Staatskapelle Berlin and Fischer the Konzerthaus Orchestra—in a special concert on March 1 in the German capital's Philharmonic Hall, they said in a joint statement.

The concert, which will include performances of a Mozart piano concerto and symphonies by Prokofiev and Beethoven, will be free to all refugees and aid volunteers, the statement said. "With this concert, the three orchestras and their chief conductors want to

extend a welcome to people who have fled their home countries, as well thank the many helpers for their hard work and commitment," the orchestras said. "Music is an international language which can reach and touch people everywhere," Rattle, Barenboim and Fischer were quoted as saying.

"As musicians, we feel welcome all over the world. We hope that this can also be true for people who have been forced to leave their homes by war, hunger and persecution. "With our joint concert, we want to show a sign of welcome to the families who have fled and a sign of thanks and recognition to the volunteers." The 73-year-old Israeli-Argentinian conductor and pianist, Barenboim, will both conduct the Staatskapelle and perform as soloist in Mozart's D-minor piano concerto KV 466.

The 65-year-old Hungarian conductor Fischer and the Konzerthaus Orchestra will perform Prokofiev's First or "Classical" Symphony. And 61-year-old British-born Rattle will conduct the Berlin Philharmonic with the second and fourth movements of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. Around 1.1 million asylum-seekers arrived in Germany in 2015, seeking safety from war and oppression in countries such as Syria. While the overwhelming majority of Germans initially welcomed them, a growing number now appear to be increasingly concerned about the social and economic consequences of the massive influx, with far-right and xenophobic parties seeking to exploit those fears.—AFP

Japan: A great nation PART - 4

# Takaoka plant stands witness to the inspiring success story of Toyota



A group photo shows Mohammed Bassam Al-Husseini, Kayesuki Sito, Yushitomo Kanihara and guide Natsuku Moramatso

By Mohammed Bassam Al-Husseini

When the name Toyota is mentioned, we think of sleek and high-quality cars that are spread in world markets and have gained admiration for having the most advanced technologies. Toyota tops the list of major carmakers around the

world. These distinguished cars are the product of an integrated world that forms an inspiring story of success. History stands witness to the Toyota group. Our visit to Japan gave us the opportunity to visit Toyota city in Aichi Prefecture, which took its name from the company. There are around 400,000 people living in the city, and around 70,000 work

in the Toyota group, half of them living in the city. Among the buildings is the main premises of the group, and a center for field work in which 8,000 engineers work on developing the most modern technologies.

Besides 12 factories in Japan, Toyota has 54 plants in 28 countries and regions in the world. The famous Takaoka plant in Toyota city manufactures 1,400 Harrier, iQ, and Yaris cars, and operates five days a week according to shifts, as there are 4,400 workers besides the maintenance workers who work round-the-clock with robots, that play a large part in the four stages of manufacturing cars - formation, welding, painting and assembly.

Plant visitors get the opportunity to see the manufacturing of cars in various stages

all the way to testing it to make sure it meets the standards and readiness for delivery, in a scene that is a true joy, and an example of management effectiveness at the production line level and caring for the environment and economy in consuming energy, besides the two general rules Toyota presented to the management science: Jidoka, which means machines will automatically stop when a defect is detected to prevent any faults; and Just-in-Time, which aims at producing what meets needs in time of need. This besides its famous motto: "The customer is first", and adopting kaizen or the continued development of human resources "We create high goals for ourselves, then push ourselves towards achieving them" is what is written on a banner at Toyota.

Stages of a car production process go through four major steps:

**Formation**

Metal sheets are cut to form the car body parts, and this is done to the highest accuracy level and productivity due to the use of the best metal formation systems and high-speed robots.

**Welding**

A robot welds nearly 400 parts of the body to form the car, as state-of-the-art welding lines deal with different models in each production line, so complete car frames are produced with high accuracy.

**Painting**

After washing the car's body, a foundation layer of paint is applied, then a middle layer, before the final coat to become of high quality. This process has become environment-friendly due to the use of most modern painting with water techniques.

**Assembly**

Engines are installed and fixed on the assembling line, designed to match workers' situation. Other parts are also installed here, followed by tests, then making sure about the guarantees during the final inspection process before approving the shipment of manufactured cars.

**More than nine million cars in 2014**

Toyota plants in Japan produced 3,266,805 vehicles in Japan during 2014, and 5,738,020 in the rest of the world, so it supplied the market with 9,004,825 vehicles.

**Thanks**

We thank the assistant director at the strategic planning department at Toyota Kayesuki Sito and his colleague, the deputy group director at the sales and marketing department Yushitomo Kanihara for coming to Toyota city to receive us and joining us during our tour of the plant.

## Clarification

In the first part it was reported that in the meeting with the Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Takako Ito she indicated that president Putin would attend the Group of Seven conference in Ise Shima next May. In fact she did not mention the participation of the Russian president in the summit and spoke about the relations with Russia separately from her comments on the Group meeting.

## Memorial Museum in Nagoya displays the glorious history of Toyota

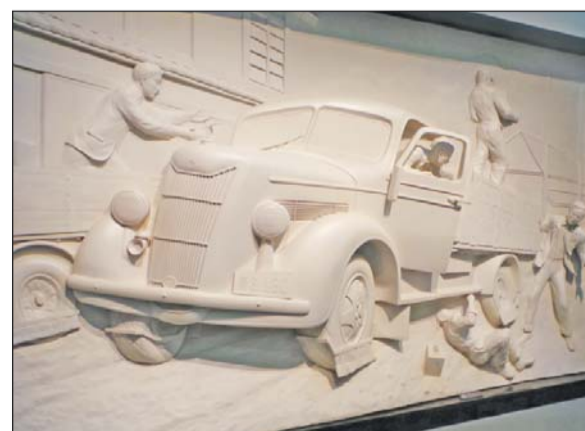


Part of the Toyota's museum that shows some of Toyota's most outstanding vintage vehicles.

Nagoya has a museum that has more than 4,000 pieces, and a large part of them are original, through which the visitor learns about Toyota's history. The start was with the textile industry, as Sakichi Toyoda (the father of Toyota Motors' founder), invented the first manual fabric knitting machine in 1890 after being inspired by his mother's work and wanted to give her rest as she got older. He then developed it in stages. He visited the United States, where he liked the manufacturing of cars and wished to take it to Japan, so his son took on the mission after graduating from university in 1920 to join the company's technicians. Visitors of the exhibition will see some of the most magnificent cars that shone in the history of Toyota, including the AA model, which was the first car produced by the company in April 1936, and had great success in the following decades around the world, and presented itself among the car industry giants.



Photo shows robots that are considered to be one of Toyota's specialties. (Inset) A robot plays music before the audience.



Mural showing how vehicles used to be assembled.



An AA sedan car, first vehicles produced by Toyota in 1936.



Kids briefed by their parents about how automobiles are manufactured during a museum visit.



A weaving machine developed by Sakichi Toyoda.

**Japan: A great nation PART - 4**

# Toyota Kaikan Museum: An eye on the present, and another on the future



Kayesuki Sito and his colleague Yushitomo Kanihara in front of the Toyota logo.



Photo shows the automobile manufacturing in four stages.



The Lexus section



Following the tour of Takaoka plant, we went to the Toyota Kaikan museum, which has seven halls:

- 1- A hall introducing Toyota's various means to produce an environmentally ideal car.
- 2- Safety and movement flexibility hall explains the group's efforts towards producing safe cars of the highest level.
- 3- A hall explaining how Toyota manufactures quality cars under the slogan "good thinking...good products".
- 4- "Toyota in Society" hall sheds light on the history of the group's social responsibility activities.
- 5- Sports car hall that achieved success, happiness, dreams and victories.
- 6- A hall that displays the most modern models of Toyota and Lexus.

7- Children's hall that educates them on car manufacturing.

The museum has a shopping center to buy souvenirs that have the Toyota trademark. The most enjoyable hall in the museum is one which simulates the future by finding car designs that may be needed in the market, even if not approved for production yet. Among the models are the Road-1 car and "partner robots" that can make people's lives easier in societies where the need for electric cars is on the increase, and move freely in smart cities where energy efficiency is managed carefully.

In order for a comfortable life, Toyota is working on developing clean and safe cars. In addition to its main concentration on hybrid cars, Toyota is working on increasing the efficiency of gasoline and diesel vehicles, and is promoting fuel cell cars that run on hydrogen, which does not emit any carbon dioxide.



A special zone to show kids how cars are manufactured.



A miniature of the Toyota factory.



A prototype of Road-1 car

## Landmarks in the history of Toyota

- 1867: Sakichi Toyoda generator.
- 1924: Toyoda invents the G model.
- 1929: Selling the automatic loom to a British company.
- 1930: Kiichiro Toyoda starts research on a small engine that operates on gasoline.
- 1933: Establishing the car division at Toyota Automatic Loom Ltd.
- 1936: Completion of the AA sedan car.
- 1937: Establishing Toyota Motor Co Ltd.
- 1938: Production starts at Honsha plant.
- 1955: Launching Toyota Crown as the first complete passenger car.
- 1957: Exporting the first models of Crown to the United States.
- 1959: Production starts at Motomachi plant (the first passenger car plant in Japan).
- 1966: Launching Corolla, and Takaoka plant starts production.
- 1975: The start of prefab residences.
- 1988: Start of production at Toyota Car Manufacturing Co in Kentucky.
- 1989: Launching the trademark for Lexus cars in the United States.
- 1992: Production starts at the Toyota Car Manufacturing Co in the United Kingdom.
- 1997: Launch of Prius, the first mass-produced hybrid car in the world.
- 1999: The total national production exceeds 100 million cars; Toyota Kirloskar Pvt Co begins production in India.
- 2000: Sichuan Faw Toyota Motor Co begins production in China.
- 2001: Toyota Car Manufacturing Co begins production in France.
- 2002: Tianjin Faw Toyota Car Co begins production in China.
- 2006: JAC Toyota Car Co Ltd starts production in China.
- 2012: Total world production exceeds 200 million cars.
- 2014: Launch of Mirai, the first car to operate with fuel cells and marketed to the public.

# Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016

Hendrix's restored flat a glimpse into swinging London life

37



Revelers of Mangueira samba school perform during the second night of the carnival parade at Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil yesterday. — AP/AFP photos

## Behind the fun, Rio Carnival relies on discipline



Revelers of Mangueira samba school perform.



Revelers of Mangueira samba school perform.



A performer from Imperatriz Leopoldinense samba school parades.

Surrounded by jaw-dropping costumes, barely there gold bikinis, and thousands of hip-shaking dancers, the one thing you don't expect at Rio's Carnival is a man with a T-shirt emblazoned: "Discipline." But out of the limelight, the dazzle, the sumptuous floats and eroticized dance routines, the likes of Paulo Roberto are the reason why Carnival has all the efficiency and precision that so much else in this vast, troubled country seems to lack. In his unglamorous shirt, Roberto, 50, is part of a team in the elite Salgueiro samba school that simply makes sure performers show up on time, and know where to go when they do.

"We're here so everyone stays in the right place," he said as the school prepared for the samba championship finals Monday night in Rio's Sambadrome stadium. The discipline team members are there during the complex stage of setting up, they hustle along with the performers as they parade down the Sambadrome runway, and they're there at the end to help performers find their way out. "We're like guides," Roberto said. With the Salgueiro's 3,500-strong cast-many of them in comically ungainly costumes-six floats depicting everything from the hanging gardens of Babylon to a palace, and a crowd of 70,000 spectators, Roberto had his work cut out.



Revelers of Vila Isabel samba school perform.

In fact, the entire samba school production is a miracle of organization that molds thousands of amateurs with self-made costumes into a spectacle that would be the equivalent of many major theaters and operas.

Unlike much else in Brazil, the parades start on time and are paced to last exactly the regulation one hour and 20 minutes. Work, though, starts at least six months before, with



Revelers of Mangueira samba school perform.

rehearsals, fundraising, set design, music composition and the sewing, sticking and building of the famous costumes. The small, vital details that need attending to are countless.

For example, just hours before her turn to parade with the Salgueiro, Olga Braga, 53, was still stitching her enormous red and black skirt. "Just to reinforce it," she said. Nearby, teenage girls swept the floors of the floats, while men



Children from the Portela samba school dance.

in red shirts stood guard over neat stacks of drums to be used by the ensemble's 300 drummers.

### Planned spontaneity

Once the parade starts, performers run a gantlet of judges who, like everything in the samba world, are highly regulated, with scoring broken down into no fewer than 10 cate-

gories. Under such scrutiny, merely allowing too big a gap between sections would be a disaster. Having the drummers lose the beat would be even worse. And there have been years when, because of miscalculations, a float turned out to be too big to fit in the Sambadrome. But the trickiest time is in pre-parade assembly, said Paulo Lapa, a 47-year-old coordinator with the Vila Isabel ensemble, which was also among the finalists Monday.

"That's when things can go wrong most easily," he said in a crowd of performers changing into costumes on the street. "Once we start into the Sambadrome, it's almost automatic, because we've rehearsed so much." Leonardo Sardou, one of the float directors for Vila Isabel, said that intense preparation-usually at least once a week for a period of anything between six months and a year-is the key. "We have almost 5,000 people involved and the main thing is that everyone has the same goal and no one does anything just for themselves," he said.

"The parade is spontaneous, but not totally-it can't be." Asked what the secret is to Brazilians' prowess at Carnival time, Lapa said it was simply in their blood. "Brazil's a country of so many problems that it might seem hard to believe we can do this," he said. "But it's our deep tradition." — AFP



Revelers of Portela samba school perform.



Revelers of Portela samba school perform.