

Kuwait's privatization efforts advance

5



Lockdown in north India state as caste violence flares

11



African leaders push for investments at Egypt summit

23



Suarez, Neymar open up nine-point Barca lead

20



## NEWCOMER ALI AL-KHAMEES WINS PARLIAMENTARY SEAT

AMIR CONGRATULATES CITIZENS ON SUCCESS OF BY-ELECTIONS



150 FILS NO: 16793 40 PAGES



Min 12°  
Max 28°  
High Tide 12:10 & 23:05  
Low Tide 05:50 & 17:29

### BORDER ALERT OVER FEARS OF 'DIRTY BOMB'

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) announced tightening inspection measures at all border centers after warnings that deadly radioactive material went missing in Basra province in southern Iraq. A radiography device using iridium-192 was reportedly stolen from an oil service company in November.

The material could be combined with traditional explosives to produce a dirty bomb, KGAC Director-General Khaled Al-Saif told reporters on Friday. "The state of Kuwait and other neighbors of Iraq have been notified of the ongoing investigations into the whereabouts of the material in order to take the necessary precautions," Saif pointed out.

"Therefore, customs centers at all border crossings, particularly Abdaly crossing between Kuwait and Iraq, have been put on alert. Six portable devices for detecting radioactive materials have been mounted to monitor vehicles and individuals crossing into Kuwait," he revealed. The KGAC emergency plan is being implemented in collaboration with the ministries of interior and health and the National Guard, Saif added. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Ali Al-Khamees celebrates at his election headquarters after he won the third constituency by-elections yesterday. (Inset) Khamees is congratulated by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** Independent newcomer Ali Abdullah Al-Khamees yesterday became a member of parliament after winning the only seat in the by-election that became vacant with the death of late MP Nabil Al-Fadhli. Khamees won 7,281 votes, beating his nearest rival Abdullah Ahmad Al-Kandari, who received 4,836 votes. Osama Al-Tahus, who was a member of parliament before the constitutional court annulled the result and declared Fadhli as winner, was in third place with 3,647 votes.

Hisham Al-Baghli, who was a member of the 2012 National Assembly which was dissolved by court, came in fourth place with 2,686 votes. Ahmad Al-Fadhli, a son of the late MP Fadhli, came in fifth place with 1,314 votes. Thirty-four candidates,

#### FULL COVERAGE ON PAGE 2

including two women, contested the election for the single seat. The two women came in the 26th and 27th places, receiving around 20 votes each. Khamees, the brother of well-known journalist Madhi Al-Khamees, will take the oath as the 50th member of parliament when the Assembly holds its next session on March 1. Turnout was reported to be at around 30 percent after more than 24,000 of the 81,000 eligible voters cast their votes.

Late yesterday, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated citizens on the success of the by-elections in the third constituency, lauding the great role of judiciary, interior ministry and ministry of information in this regard. The Amir also lauded the great cooperation shown by voters, which contributed to championing the electoral process in a manner that reflected the homeland's civil and democratic image.

## GOVT SUBMITS SUBSIDY STUDY TO MPs OVERSEAS TREATMENT CUT DECISION 'FROZEN'

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The government yesterday submitted to the National Assembly a study on economic reforms including proposals to cut subsidies on petrol, electricity and water, but no decision was taken as more meetings have been set for further details. Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh said yesterday's meeting between MPs and ministers was comprehensive and focused on measures that would reform the path of the national economy.

The government's paper consists of six main issues and the study prepared by foreign consultants on subsidies, especially on electricity, the minister said. Saleh said that it was agreed to hold another meeting on Tuesday with a team from the ministry of

electricity and water to provide answers to queries by lawmakers. Another meeting will be held on Feb 28 in which the government will submit its comprehensive short-term measures for economic reforms, the minister said. Saleh said that he sensed understanding on part of MPs for the need to forge ahead with economic reforms, adding that reforms have a cost and if they are delayed, the cost will be much higher.

MP Abdullah Al-Tameemi however said that the government's presentation yesterday was very confusing, adding there can be no reforms amid rife corruption and weak government administration. He also said that there were some mistakes in statistics provided by the government on electricity consumption.

Continued on Page 13



**BRUSSELS:** British Prime Minister David Cameron addresses a press conference at end of an European Union (EU) summit late Friday. — AFP

## UK SETS JUNE DATE FOR EU REFERENDUM

**LONDON:** Britain will vote on its membership of the European Union on June 23, Prime Minister David Cameron said yesterday as he began the daunting challenge of persuading the country to stay. He announced the date for the referendum after a two-hour cabinet meeting where he briefed ministers on the deal he struck in Brussels on Friday, that he said will give Britain "special status" in the EU. "We are approaching one of the biggest decisions this country will face in our lifetimes," Cameron said, addressing the nation outside his 10 Downing Street residence.

"The choice goes to the kind of country we want to be," he said, warning that proponents of leaving were offering "a risk at a time of uncertainty, a leap in the dark". Britain would be "safer, stronger and better off" in the 28-member bloc, he said, calling the concessions negotiated with other EU leaders "the best of both worlds". The referendum campaign will be bitterly contested in a country with a long tradition of euroscepticism and a hostile rightwing press, with opinion polls showing Britons are almost evenly divided.

Continued on Page 13

## LITERARY GIANT UMBERTO ECO DIES AGED 84

**ROME:** Italy was in mourning yesterday following the death of Umberto Eco, the literary and intellectual phenomenon who wrote "The Name of the Rose" and was cherished as one of his country's favorite sons. Eco, who had been suffering from cancer, passed away at his Milan home late on Friday, his family told Italian media. He was 84. Italian Prime Minister Matteo led tributes to the philosopher and semiotics lecturer who once famously described writing best-selling, heavyweight novels as "something I do at the weekends".

"He was an extraordinary example of European intellectualism, uniting a unique intelligence of the past with an inexhaustible capacity to anticipate the future," Renzi was quoted as saying by the Italian news agency Ansa.



Umberto Eco

Friends remembered a gentle man who enjoyed whisky and wordplay in equal measure and had a nice line in self-deprecating humor: In recent years he had taken to joking after receiving prizes: "From now on, it's the Nobel or nothing." The Nobel never came but Eco was revered around the world, largely thanks to "The Name of the Rose", the blockbuster novel that became a hit film starring Sean Connery in the then-unlikely role of a medieval monk with the detective brilliance of Sherlock Holmes.

Flags flew at half-mast in Alessandria, the town in the northern region of Piedmont where Eco was born on Jan 5, 1932. He leaves a wife, Renate Ramage Eco, a German art teacher whom he married in 1962 and with whom he had a son and a daughter.

The young Umberto had a Roman Catholic upbringing, and was educated at one of the Salesian institution's schools. His father was keen for him to read law, but instead he took up medieval philosophy and literature at the University of Turin. After taking his doctorate in 1954, Eco started working for the recently established national broadcasting network RAI preparing cultural programs and gaining a lasting interest in mass communication.

In the late 1950s, he started to develop ideas on semiotics - the study of signs, communicated either as spoken, written, scientific or artistic language. He was appointed professor of semiotics at Bologna University in the 1970s and was to spend 40 years teaching at the ancient academic institution. His move from academia to international fame came in 1980 with the success of "The Name of the Rose", which has since been translated into 43 languages and sold more than ten million copies. — Agencies (See Page 38)



**BERLIN:** Italian director Gianfranco Rosi reacts after receiving the Golden Bear for Best Film for 'Fuocoammare' (Fire at Sea) during the awards ceremony of the 66th Berlinale yesterday. — AFP

## REFUGEE DOCU 'FIRE AT SEA' WINS BERLIN FEST TOP PRIZE

**BERLIN:** "Fire at Sea", a harrowing documentary about Europe's refugee crisis, clinched the Berlin film festival's Golden Bear top prize yesterday from a jury led by Meryl Streep. Italian director Gianfranco Rosi's picture offers an unflinching look at life on the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, where thousands of migrants have arrived trying to reach the European Union over the last two decades and thousands more have died trying. The Eritrean-born Rosi dedicated the prize to the people of Lampedusa "who open their hearts to other peoples".

"I hope to bring awareness," he said as

he accepted the golden trophy from Streep. "It is not acceptable that people die crossing the sea trying to escape from tragedies." France's Mia Hansen-Love won the Silver Bear for best director for her drama "Things to Come" starring Isabelle Huppert. Huppert wowed audiences with her dignified, soulful turn in "Things to Come" as a philosophy teacher whose marriage falls apart just as her elderly mother dies.

Tunisia's Majd Mastoura won the Silver Bear for best actor for his role in "Hedi", a love story set in the aftermath of the Arab Spring, which also won best debut feature.

Continued on Page 13

## IRAN SEEKS \$45BN IN FOREIGN INVESTMENT

**TEHRAN:** Iran's economy minister said his country is seeking \$45 billion in foreign investment following the implementation of a landmark nuclear deal with world powers last month. Ali Tayebnia told reporters yesterday that Iran expects \$15 billion in direct foreign investment alone in the next Iranian calendar year, which begins March 20. The historic agreement brought about the lifting of international sanctions last month after the UN certified that Iran has met all its commitments to curb its nuclear activities under last summer's accord. Iran expects an economic breakthrough after the lifting of



Ali Tayebnia

sanctions, which has allowed it to access overseas assets and sell crude oil more freely.

Iran already has access to more than \$100 billion worth of frozen overseas assets and Iranian banks earlier this month were reconnected to SWIFT, a Belgian-based cooperative that handles wire transfers between financial institutions.

Tayebnia said Iran's strategic location, political stability and population of 80 million has made the energy-rich Persian state into an attractive place for foreign investment. "All these factors have led to a capacity to attract more than \$45 billion in foreign financial

Continued on Page 13





KUWAIT: Kuwaitis cast their votes during by-elections held in the third constituency yesterday at ballot centers in areas including Adailiya, Khaldiya, Yarmouk and Khaitan.— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Fouad Al-Shaikh

# MODEST TURNOUT IN EARLY VOTING HOURS

By Faten Omar and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Polling stations in the third constituency opened doors yesterday at 8:00 am for voting in by-elections for a seat that fell vacant with the death of MP Nabeel Al-Fadhli last December. Twenty polling stations were set up in public schools in the electoral district. Few voters showed up in the morning at Mohammed Abdullah Al-Wahibi intermediate school in Jabriya, reserved for female voters. "We saw 16 voters out of 798, and expect to see more by the end of the day," said Deputy Attorney Shabeeb Al-Taflan of the main election committee.

T-shirts, pamphlets, water and juice were distributed by the candidates' supporters outside the school. Um Abdullah and Um Mohammad and their families were supporting Ahmed Nabeel Al-Fadhli to take up his father's seat at the National Assembly. "Like father, like son. We have hopes for Ahmed to make the right decisions like his father," Um Abdullah told Kuwait Times. Kazmia Al-Mo'men voted for Hisham Al-Baghli. "Baghli is an active young man who was elected several times and lost because he was short of two or three votes. He is also a board member of the municipal council," she said.

Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd toured the polling station to check on the progress of the electoral process and praised the efforts.

### Larger turnout

The Khalil bin Ahmed intermediate school in Kaifan saw a larger turnout of male voters. "People will show up in the evening. Until now we only saw 25 voters out of 3,932. But because it is a by-election, turnout will be a maximum of 30 percent,"

said Khaled Abdulaziz Al-Khalid of the main election committee. Mefreh Al-Shammari voted for Osama Al-Tahous, whose election to the Assembly was nullified by the court. He told Kuwait Times that Tahous would be a great MP as he knows what is best for Kuwait. "My expectations is that turnout will be 25 percent. Abdullah Al-Kandari, Ali Al-Khamis, Osama Al-Tahous and Ahmed Nabeel Al-Fadhli seem to be the leading contenders," he said.

Thirty-four candidates including two women are contesting the sole seat in the third constituency, which has over 81,000 voters. Eligible voters must elect one candidate to fill the Assembly's vacant seat. Among the candidates are a number of those who contested the election earlier or were members of the dissolved Assembly.

### Moderate numbers

The by-elections started with very moderate numbers of voters showing up to ballot centers, as only less than ten percent showed up by midday. However, organizers said that the numbers were expected to rise to 20-25 percent by the time of ballots closed at 8:00 pm. It was noted that most senior citizens came in the early morning hours as policemen were seen assisting those who arrived on wheelchairs.

Chancellor Khaled Al-Khaled, Head of committee number one in Al-Khalil Ahmed School in Kaifan, said that very few voters showed up and that only 80 out of the total number of 773 voters had casted their votes by noon.

Meanwhile, Chancellor Hani Al-Mai, head of committee number 2, said that 93 out of 1,059 voters showed up by noon, while it was reported that 102 out of 1,045 showed up by noon in committee number three.



# INTERIOR MINISTER INSPECTS BALLOT STATIONS



KUWAIT: Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah tours ballot stations in Kaifan district during by-elections held in the third constituency yesterday.— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior's (Mol) various apparatuses have put all available resources at disposal of securing facilities for the by-elections held in the third constituency yesterday, affirmed the Interior Minister.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, also the Deputy Premier, in a statement as he toured ballot stations in Kaifan district, expressed satisfaction at orderly balloting at the electoral centers. He also lauded the security personnel for demonstrating a high sense of responsibility in enforcing the law at the centers and facilitating traffic on nearby roads.

The minister during the tour held brief and cordial conversations with a number of voters at the schools that have been converted into ballot centers. Meanwhile, the Mol's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad re-affirmed the Ministry's readiness to provide all needs and overcome any obstacles that may face the polling.

The Undersecretary, while touring the ballot centers accompanied by other senior officers of the Mol, lauded the noticeable cooperation between the security personnel and staff of other departments for ensuring trouble-free elections. He also heaped praise upon the participating young volunteers and the media personnel for "making a very impressive atmosphere at sites of this democratic ceremony." He inspected details of the field procedures and implementation of regulations at the centers, as well as voters' easy entry and exit at the premises.

### Cooperation

Meanwhile, Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah inspected a number of ballot stations in Khaitan district and hailed the noticeable cooperation among all the apparatuses' personnel involved in organizing the by-elections.

In a statement during the visit, the Governor urged eligible voters to practice their right of voting, for such polling is not of less significance than the regular elections. "It is a national duty and complementary to the Kuwaiti democratic march," he said.

In the meantime, the Minister of Justice affirmed that the by-elections held in the third constituency proceeded easily with voters casting their ballots at the polling centers since the day's early hours in orderly fashion.

Yaqoub Al-Sane, also the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, said after inspecting a polling center in Kaifan that a substantial number of citizens showed up at the stations for practicing their political franchise during the morning hours.

A total of 34 candidates competed in yesterday's third constituency by-elections, including two females, to win one seat which was declared vacant following death of MP Nabil Al-Fadhli last December. Voting was held in 20 schools in a constituency featuring 81,218 eligible male and female voters. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem had announced on January 21 late MP Fadhli's seat vacant, and informed the Prime Minister to hold by-elections within 60 days of the announcement. — KUNA



Interior Ministry officials led by Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad arrive at a ballot station.



Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary Major General Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah (center) arrives at a ballot center.



Policemen stand outside the Mohammed Abdullah Al-Wahibi intermediate school in Jabriya.

## INFO MINISTER COMMENDS SMOOTH VOTING

KUWAIT: Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah commended yesterday the smooth voting process in the third constituency by-elections, held among 34 candidates including two females. Sheikh Salman, also Minister of State for Youth Affairs, said that lawmakers have a great role to play hand-in-hand with the executive authority to carrying out development of Kuwait in line with the directions of His Highness the Amir. He said the ministry of information mobilized its staff for the coverage of the day-long voting. Sheikh Salman praised the state authorities for making the by-elections success. — KUNA



## ZAIN RECOGNIZES TALENTED STARS OF ITS NATIONAL TVC

CHILDREN WELCOMED AT COMPANY'S MAIN HQ

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, honored the stars of its latest televised commercial 'Ya Bilady', including the talented children and Kuwaiti star Nabeel Shuaib, during the special honoring ceremony held at the company's main headquarters in Shuwaikh. The event witnessed the attendance of Zain Group Vice Chairman Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi and Zain Kuwait Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan.

Zain welcomed the talented children (150 boys and girls) and their parents in a family-like atmosphere, and recognized their wonderful participation in its highly-acclaimed National Production. The TVC was released in line with Kuwait's National Day celebrations in February, and was dedicated to the people of Kuwait and to HH the Amir on the occasion of his 10-year ascendancy to power.

Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan expressed her admiration of the youngsters' efforts: "we are proud of the tremendous efforts exerted by the talented children, who showed dedication and enthusiasm throughout the preparations period."

Roudhan continued: "Zain did not miss the opportunity to recognize the wonderful contributions by the children to create such a lovely production; especially that it is dedicated to HH the Amir on the occasion of his 10-year ascendancy to power and dedicated to the people of Kuwait."

Roudhan went on to express her gratitude to Kuwaiti star Nabeel Shuaib for his wonderful performance, as well as Yousef Al Shatti for the beautiful lyrics, and Bashar Al Shatti for composing the music. "The biggest thank you is dedicated to the children's families, who showed devotion and commitment throughout the three months of preparation and shooting," Roudhan added.

Roudhan concluded: "the overwhelming feedback our latest TVC received was not possible without the tremendous efforts

exerted by many individuals, including the talented children, their families, the Ministry of Defense, Al Shaheed Park, Souk Al Mubarakia, Kuwait's National Football team players, and Zain's team."

The National Day Production entitled 'Ya Bilady' - translates to 'My Country' - was prepared throughout a period of three months, and witnessed the participation of the talented Kuwaiti children who were selected from various public and private schools and were trained for many weeks before shooting.

The production received overwhelming feedback as soon as it was first released on January 29th, as it reached over 1.3 million views on its official YouTube channel during the first week of its official launch. The shooting of the TVC took place in various locations in Kuwait, including the newly-opened Shaheed Park and the Mubarakia Traditional Souk. These locations were specifically handpicked to reflect the TVC's nationalistic spirit and provide a patriotic scene. Additionally, throughout the clip at various moments there were snippets of HH the Amir and other recognizable Kuwaiti identities.

The lyrics for the song were written by Yousef Al-Shatti who carefully chose the rich Arabic wordings, with the music composed by singer, songwriter and actor Bashar Al Shatti and were beautifully performed on screen by Kuwaiti star Nabeel Shuaib and the children.

Zain introduced this production in two versions, the first as a regular musical video, and the second for the first time in Kuwait, Zain utilized a video using the 360 camera technology, which allowed viewers to enjoy virtual maneuvering while watching the video, as if the viewer is actually living the moment.

With the wide success of this National Day celebration production, Zain offers all customers a free ringtone of "Ya Bilady" by simply sending 55 to 99000. To view the TVC, please visit [zain.to/yabilady](http://zain.to/yabilady)



## ZAIN CELEBRATES NATIONAL HOLIDAYS WITH SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, organized a special themed event to celebrate National holidays with social media influencers. The event witnessed wide attendance of bloggers, social media identities, and public figures who were welcomed by Zain's executive management with the presence of the company's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan.

The event was held in a patriotic and family-like atmosphere, reaffirming Zain's pride in Kuwait's national identity. The company shed light on the important role social media plays in influencing people's lives nowadays. Zain also highlighted the various young influencers and bloggers who have played a big role in today's Kuwaiti social media engagement. The overall event theme and atmosphere has driven creativity and innovation within the crowd, which resulted in admirable feedback by the bloggers and social media figures who attended.

There were several highlights of the many national-themed activities and programs undertaken during the celebrations, including a traditional live performance by a Kuwaiti band and redecorating the company's building with the National flag's

colors. The celebration provided an excellent opportunity for Zain to further affirm its relationship with social media influencers, as they are considered an integral part of the local community with big responsibilities towards enriching the national identity. Zain has endorsed its leading position and successfully played a big role, as the

first telecom company to launch social media channels in Kuwait. It is worth noting that Zain is amongst the first companies in Kuwait to adopt social media tools to better communicate and engage with its customers. Zain has over 482,500 followers and subscribers on various social media channels in Kuwait.



## MINISTRY KEEN ON PROVIDING SOPHISTICATED MEDICAL CARE

**KUWAIT:** The Health Ministry asserted on its keenness to provide health care services and safety to patients, using the latest in technology to early detect diseases. The ministry also expressed eagerness to offer the necessary medicine and training cadets, including finding specialized technical support based on international standards.

The remarks were made by Jamal Al-Harbi, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry for Medical Services and Support, made those statements yesterday in a speech at the opening of a conference on anemia, and the latest on Thalassemia, held under the sponsorship of the Health Ministry and Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization.

Harbi added the two-day conference will also highlight the ministry's keenness to implement awareness programs based on scientific evidence, early diagnosed protocols and guidelines prior to marriage. Harbi noted that Minister Ali Al-Obaidi agreed to prepare a nationwide centralized data for Thalassemia and Sickle cell anemia



**KUWAIT:** Health Ministry's Undersecretary Jamal Al-Harbi speaks during the conference. — KUNA photos

patients in cooperation with Kuwaiti Thalassemia and Sickle cell anemia organization. Thalassemia is a blood disorder passed down through families (inherited) in which the body makes an abnormal form of hemoglobin. Hemoglobin is the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen. The disorder results in large numbers of red blood cells being destroyed, which leads to anemia. — KUNA



Enjoy Zain twice as much!

Connect more with **double eeZee Internet**

On the occasion of Kuwait's national celebrations, you can now enjoy double the GBs, when you subscribe to our **prepaid** plans.

For more information, please visit [zain.to/feb](http://zain.to/feb)

Limited time offer.

Monthly	KD 5	Monthly	KD 8	Monthly	KD 11
	<del>5 GB</del>		<del>30 GB</del>		<del>100 GB</del>
	10 GB		60 GB		200 GB
	4G LTE Internet		4G LTE Internet		4G LTE Internet
	Unlimited Internet		Unlimited Internet		Unlimited Internet
	On weekends		On weekends		On weekends
	To subscribe		To subscribe		To subscribe
	Send M2 to 999		Send M1 to 999		Send M11 to 999



[www.kw.zain.com](http://www.kw.zain.com)

A Wonderful World



letters to **Badrya**

**Madam,**

Thank you for your lovely article about expats. I grew up in Kuwait, went to school there and was in grade 10 when the invasion happened in 1990. I had to leave with my parents and sister and never went back. Although I am Indian, I have always thought of Kuwait (and the Middle East) as my home, my people.

What you said in your short piece is very humane. You're absolutely right. If expats aren't needed, they can be given notice and sent home. After all, we all will retire and return to our homeland someday, sooner or later. But mistreating someone is not a very nice thing. Your other point is also poignant, about training one's own next generation for the roles and responsibilities that are needed to be taken on for their own nation.

Kudos to you!  
**Jennifer Pinto**



**Madam,**

I read your article. It was excellent. I am an expat in Kuwait from India. I truly agree with your viewpoint and acumen. I really love being in Kuwait and feel happy if I could initiate something that leads to the country's prosperity.

But in the past days, the government seems very aggressive in dealing with expat matters. No doubt, illegal residents and other activities must be stopped with a strong hand. But at the same time, many decent expats are really working hard for the country's prosperity.

A recent decision by the government was to stop visit visas for those above 50. What is this? Prior to this, visit visas were reduced to one-month stay, and now this age factor. This is a strong human rights violation issue. Day by day, expats are treated very badly.

Let's hope for the best.  
**Satya**



**Madam,**

We thank you from the bottom our hearts for what you have written. We always wondered why expats are targeted as we follow the rules. In the past months, there have been articles and pictures showing expats being taken away from their beds at 3 am in the morning after the raids were conducted. They were handcuffed and taken away like criminals.

One has to notice that every expat that has been caught is a loss in one way or the other. For example, every expat pays the following to the country:

1. House rent: Goes directly to Kuwaiti owners.
2. Mobile connection: Subscription fees go directly to the government and mobile companies.
3. Vehicle fees: Money goes directly to the government.
4. Health insurance: Paid directly to the government.
5. Visa fees: Paid directly to the government.
6. Essential food: Purchased from co-ops - revenue goes to Kuwaiti owners.

All expats are paying out of their salaries to live here. Where do they go wrong? If the salary is good and an individual can afford a single bedroom apartment, he will definitely live in one. The only reason many expats of low income live in sharing accommodation is because they cannot afford a single apartment, since salaries are defined by companies and rents are high.

Every expat living here spends money in the country to live that directly or indirectly goes back to the Kuwaiti people. The government must train people who are looking for jobs in various sectors and train them to the level that they can carry out all the jobs and systematically reduce the expat population.

Expats are a source of revenue for the country. We really applaud you voicing our pain. God bless you.

**Jerome Michael**



**Madam,**

I am from India and I daily read Kuwaiti newspapers. I agree 100% with your opinion in the article 'At Least with Decency'. Yesterday, I came across an article that the government has imposed a restriction on visit visas for those above 50, because medical expenses are huge for these visitors. Last year, the government also imposed restrictions on parent visas on the same medical expenses ground. Due to these restrictions, I am not entitled to get a Kuwait visa. I am writing both to the Indian government and the Kuwait government to get the visa on genuine grounds. If the Kuwait government has a problem with medical expenses for visit/dependent visa holders, the respected government should insert a clause banning such visitors to get treatment from public medical facilities. But it is unfair to not issue them visit/dependent visa. I suggest you to raise this issue through your column in Kuwait Times.

**Vinod Mago**



**Madam,**

Is this serious? A citizen publicly stating something that will most probably offend the nation! If it's true, then you're very brave and two thumbs up to you. Kuwait is my second home and I probably love it more than my real home. Despite all the negativity, there are still a lot of good things, like the initiatives in sports where I'm currently a participant and all the other citizens who are exerting full efforts to give back to Kuwait.

With everything you said, I hope that you have some initiatives that will bring change to Kuwait for the betterment of everyone, and if an extra hand is required, please let me know. I would love to be a part of this.

Gracias/Salamat. From the three stars and a sun - Philippines!

**Teresa Biniola**

## STATE DEPARTMENTS ASKED TO LAY OFF 'UNNECESSARY' EXPATS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet has recently instructed different governmental bodies to stop recruiting expatriates with the exception of doctors and teachers in fields the state needed, well-informed governmental sources said. The instructions also included laying off extraneous expats, the sources said, noting that this would be considerably done in the coming fiscal year. "Government bodies will have to do so before the end of this year and each laid-off expat will be given a three-month notice," the sources said.

### Payroll law

MP Ahmed Lari stressed that it was high time for the government to pass the payroll strategic alternative law because it would help cut the cost of salaries in the state budget.

### Senior officials

Informed sources said that the government would approve a law on appointing senior officials that is due to be discussed by the parliament's human resources committee tomorrow.

### Younger generation

MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran hailed Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah's decision on referring investigators who had concluded their legal tenures to retirement, noting that this step was the result of the reforms carried out by Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled to make way for younger generations.

### Stateless residents

A total of 17 lawmakers recently signed a request asking to allocate two hours of the March 1 and March 15 sessions to discuss the government's policy in dealing with stateless residents.

### Municipality law

Well-informed sources said that the government had rejected any amendments to its new municipality law, adding that it insisted on increasing the number of Municipal Council members in order to foil current attempts to delay government projects and plans.



Minister Hind Al-Subaih

## NEW LAW WON'T CURB NGOS' FREEDOMS: SUBAIH

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** A proposed law for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will not restrict freedoms or obstruct NGOs' work, a senior government official said yesterday. Social Affairs and Labor Minister Hind Al-Subaih stressed that the ministry will continue receiving suggestions and recommendations from various NGOs over a new law the ministry is currently preparing. Speaking on receiving a delegation from Kuwait Public Relations Society, Subaih said that the new law's draft has been distributed to various NGOs and that feedback from over 30 of them had already been received.

### Domestic labor

Inspection teams from the domestic labor department yesterday inspected more places in various governorates after the interior minister's decision to double the teams' members. The tours resulted in detecting several citations, arresting domestic laborers present in offices and summoning some owners for further investigations.

### Unlicensed camp

Kuwait Municipality stressed that various unlicensed camps, electoral headquarters and ads were removed on the morning of election day.

### Water back

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) announced that maintenance works were completed and water supplies were reconnected to 12 areas ahead of the schedule it had previously announced. MEW explained that maintenance operations started by 8:00 pm Friday and were concluded ahead of schedule.

## KFSD WARNS OF 'DANGEROUS' CLEANING SUBSTANCES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Fire Services Directorate warned housewives, domestic workers and people working in the cleaning business of mixing certain cleaning substances out of fear of chemical reactions that might produce hazardous effects.

Some chemical cleaning substances with concentrated formulas have been found in local markets, said Colonel Khalil Al-Amir, Public Relations and Media Department Director at KFSD. He warned that those substances, which he did not name, would create 'highly dangerous' reactions when mixed with others. "When mixed," Amir explained, "those substances lead to some dangerous chemical reactions that cause suffocation by some toxic gases and vapors in addition to severe burns."

## INDIAN EMBASSY CALLS ON COMMUNITY TO HELP CONTACT DECEASED'S FAMILY

**KUWAIT:** The Indian Embassy in Kuwait released the following statements concerning difficulties faced in transporting the body of Indian national who passed away in Kuwait back to her home country:

It has come to our notice that the body of the Late Kumadam Lalita Kumari (Passport No. F-1051441), an Indian National of Andhra Pradesh, is lying at a local mortuary since early January 2016. For transportation of the body to her relatives in India, the Embassy has written to the District authorities (thrice) in the district of Kaddappa (AP) asking them to inform the relatives of the deceased for their confirmation with regard to receiving the body on arrival at Hyderabad airport. No response has been received so far from the relatives.

The Embassy seeks urgent help from the members of Indian community in locating near and dear ones of Late Kumadam Lalita Kumari so that

her mortal remains are sent to India at the earliest. A K Srivastava, Second Secretary (Community Welfare) may please be contacted in this matter on Mobile-97229914.

During 2014, a total of 559 Indians died in Kuwait, while mortal remains of 434 nationals were sent to India. The facility of local burial was permitted after taking consent from the respective family members in 125 cases. Free transportation of mortal remains was provided in 29 destitute cases and the Embassy incurred KD-4,013 on airfreight and coffin box etc from ICWF. Similarly during the year 2015, there were 611 deaths of our nationals, while mortal remains of 504 persons were sent to India. Local burial was permitted in 107 cases by their family members. Free transportation of mortal remains was provided in 35 destitute cases by the Embassy incurring KD-4,456 on the expenses of airfreight and coffin box out of the ICWF.

## CRIMES DROP BY 9% IN 2015: MINISTRY

**KUWAIT:** Crime rates have dropped by nine percent in 2015 compared to 2014; a good indicator of the efforts exerted by the Interior Ministry to fight and limit different types of crimes, the ministry's Relations and Security Media Department said in a press statement yesterday.

A statistical report issued by the ministry shows that drug-related crimes have dropped by 17 percent, while suspects arrested in relation to drugs dropped by 15 percent. Meanwhile, crimes

with unidentified culprits dropped by 28 percent, whereas cybercrimes increased by 20 percent, the statistics show.

The report also showed that financial crimes dropped by 22 percent, crimes of reputation have dropped by 18 percent while homicide, attempted murder and severe injury crimes dropped by 11 percent. The total number of cases filed in 2015 was 24,453 with a 9 percent drop compared to 2014 when 26,894 cases were filed, the report showed.

Local **Spotlight**

## ENDING SERVICES OF EXPATRIATES



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

**T**he government's step to correct the labor market composition and its demographics is indeed a required one, but it must be well-organized and implemented in a humane manner, taking into account the culprits in this mess and not the expats. The government's decision to end of services of expats who reached the age of 50 by March was not well received by many expats. This was bad news, especially for those who have worked here for many years.

Kuwaiti employees number 264,155 in the public sector workforce, while non-Kuwaitis number 83,371. So I do not see expats in this sector as a major problem because their percentage is moderate. On the other hand, Kuwaitis in the private sector number 65,604, with 1,335,684 non-Kuwaitis. This is where the issue becomes complicated. The Civil Service Commission revealed in its report of 2015 that expats in the government sector make up only 25 percent of the total number of employees. So we must consider the jobs being occupied in the private sector that are maybe causing the problem.

I know those who look at these figures find a big difference and clear imbalance in the population structure, but the solution is not to issue hasty and inhumane decisions. After all, we allowed this person to come to Kuwait and settle down with his family, so sudden moves like these are improper. Let us bear in mind that this is our mess and we have to fix it, but not at the expense of expats. Decisions must have certain requirements so as not to do injustice to expat workers.

The private sector comprises of large companies to small grocery shops and also companies who have contracts with the governments to do various jobs like cleaning services. I know that we will always need these services, but do we need such a large number of workers? According to studies, 56 percent of expatriate workers in Kuwait are working in jobs that are difficult for Kuwaitis to perform or replace, such as couriers, farmers, servants, drivers and other low-income jobs.

The total population of Kuwait is 4,262,125 people, with Kuwaitis making up 1,311,403 people and non-Kuwaitis 2,950,722. The state's needs for employees, whether local or foreign, must rely on studies and information from the public and private sectors, so that estimated requirement figures will be set by the number of real projects, volume of work and the number and type of required labor in order to determine the actual necessity of the requested number compared to the work.

But unfortunately, we in Kuwait we see workers sitting in the streets waiting to be assigned work, a phenomenon that existed years ago and continues to exist without a radical solution. Given the actual labor market, we find that labor assessment is not done in accordance to accurate figures and studies. It should be prepared by human resource advisors and in the form of a scientific study.

The correction of the labor market composition and its demographics is important and essential to maintain the security of society, but it must have criteria to be fair for all. This issue has different and possibly negative consequences, therefore it must be dealt with cautiously.



## KUWAITI DIVERS REMOVE TON OF DUMPED PLASTIC PIPES FROM SEA

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Dive Team removed plastic pipes weighing a ton from the seabed off Al-Sharq shores clearing the way for boats cruising to and fro across the territorial waters. The operation was part of ongoing efforts to clear the coastal regions

of waste and abandoned objects, harmful to the wildlife and sea-goers, team leader Walid Al-Shatti said.

The divers had to cut the 40-m-long pipes before lifting them up to the surface. They have been pulled out during

low tide, when the waters turn shallow, thus such a task become much easier to accomplish. The cleanup was done in coordination with Kuwait Municipality and Equate Petrochemical Company, in addition to others. — KUNA



## MUNICIPALITY DENIES CORRUPTION REPORTS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality strongly denied newspaper reports which accused it of wasting public funds, saying that claims about alleged corruption in contracts signed with cleaning companies on November 25, 2012 are 'untrue'. Commenting on a report published by an Arabic newspaper yesterday, the municipality stressed in a statement that all legal procedures were taken when the cleaning contracts were signed in all six governorates, adding that all needed documents were submitted to auditing bodies including the State Audit Bureau.



# Kuwait's privatization efforts advance: Oxford Business Group



**KUWAIT:** Last month Kuwait announced plans to create a new fund to manage its domestic assets, signaling a key step forward in the country's push to privatize state-owned companies.

While Kuwait has experimented with privatization in the past, the climate of significantly reduced oil prices, which have reached a 12-year low, has added a greater sense of urgency.

**Fund facts**

The new fund is expected to manage up to \$100bn in local assets, which are set to be sold to private investors over the next five to seven years, according to media reports.

The sell-offs also form a key part of the government's plans to encourage the private sector to play a greater role in Kuwait's long-term economic development.

Stakes in local companies, power and water projects will reportedly be included in the fund, as well as other assets currently under the management of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), which also oversees a sizeable international portfolio.

Kuwait's drive to create a new sovereign wealth fund comes nearly a decade after the government first began

preparing the groundwork for the sale of state-owned Kuwait Airways.

**Long time coming**

In May 2010 parliament approved a privatization bill that would pave the way for the sale of Kuwait's state-owned entities, including certain downstream energy assets. While the bill maintained a ban on the privatization of oil and gas production and refineries, as well as entities in the health or education sectors, it offered an avenue for the government to reduce its stake in other major assets to 20 percent or less.



The legislation would have given Kuwaiti nationals the opportunity to buy 40 percent of shares of privatized firms through an initial public offering (IPO), with at least

35 percent to be offered to local, listed shareholding companies via public auction.

Under the regulations, the Supreme Privatization Council, led by the prime minister, could also approve other companies to participate in public auctions. Earnings from the privatization process were to be added to the government's budget revenues, with a minimum of 50 percent allocated to the Future Generation Fund, which is controlled by the KIA.

However, the state's privatization agenda has largely stalled since 2010, with the sale of major assets, including Kuwait Airways and the Kuwait Stock Exchange, delayed on multiple occasions as the government debated how best to approach the privatization process.

While earlier proposals had suggested the government would retain a 20-40 percent stake in the Kuwait Airways, in mid-June a new structure was approved, which included 75 percent state ownership. According to the new plan, 20 percent of shares will be offered to Kuwaiti citizens, with another 5 percent to be sold to current and retired airline employees.

**Oil impetus**

Kuwait's latest plans for privatization are advancing at

a time when the country, like many of its GCC peers, is facing significant budget constraints as a result of weaker energy receipts, despite having the lowest breakeven price in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), at around \$50 per barrel, according to IMF estimates.

Hydrocarbons account for roughly 60 percent of Kuwait's GDP and close to 95 percent of export revenues, according to OPEC.

With the Ministry of Financing projecting a record deficit of KD11.5bn (\$38.6 billion) forecast for FY 2016/17, equivalent to nearly 30 percent of GDP, accelerating its privatization plans could represent a welcome turning point for Kuwait. Other Gulf countries have also turned to privatization as a means of bolstering flagging state revenues.

Saudi Arabia surprised analysts when it announced in early January that it was considering listing shares of state-owned Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil producer and most valuable company. Meanwhile, in the UAE, officials at state-owned health care operator Abu Dhabi Health Services have announced similar plans to privatize as-yet-unnamed health care assets.

— Oxford Business Group

## "BEST HOSPITAL" SERVICE HERO AWARD FOR THE 6<sup>th</sup> CONSECUTIVE YEAR

“ We will continue to work hard to meet and surpass your expectations. Thank you for believing in us and we promise to deliver the best medical care to serve you better.. Celebrating life's significant moments together ”







Al-Anbaa

## STORY OF 50 VOLCANIC YEARS

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

Things are not regionally alright around us, yet when have they ever been calm?! This geographic spot we inhabit has never rested in over 50 years.

There have been consecutive coups in Iraq ever since the fall of the monarchy until the 1970s, a period that included periodic threats to occupy Kuwait by Abdul Kareem Qassim following Kuwait's independence in 1961, the setback in 1967, then the war of attrition, then the victory in the 1973 war. As the 1970s were ending, the Iranian Revolution erupted and a few months later, the 8-year Iran-Iraq war started and almost continued throughout the 1980s, subjecting us (in Kuwait) to several threats like blasts targeting innocent people including an attempt to assassinate the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed.

A year had barely passed since a ceasefire was signed between both countries when Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait and occupied it for seven months before an international coalition managed to oust them and liberate Kuwait in 1991. The region was also restless during the 1990s when no-fly zones were imposed over Iraq as directed by UN resolutions, the Desert Fox operation in 1998, then a war to topple Saddam Hussein in 2003 with all the political consequences in its aftermath, including the birth of terrorist organizations, then the Arab Spring quakes and the radical dramatic political changes afterwards.

This region has never remained calm for two consecutive years without witnessing a political or military quake. It is as if we are living in the vicinity of a restless active political volcano that keeps erupting all the time.

This has been the situation for over 50 years and it is not new to us and this summary is but an attempt to respond to those trying to intimidate people with regards to the impact of regional developments on us and claim that we are getting closer to the end of the world, forgetting that it is our destiny in this political hotspot of the world that has never rested, to go through such developments. Well, I would like to assure those people that our beloved country has remained safe over the past five decades, thanks to the wisdom of our leadership.

Attempts to view current regional developments as the worst and that we have to expect far worse to come ignore some historical facts that had already happened. There is nothing worse than indirectly facing war during the Iran-Iraq war. There is also nothing worse than having our home country occupied. I am not trying to undermine regional developments or take them lightly, but it is our destiny to live near a restless volcano that keeps erupting every one or two years. Things have been the same for over 50 years!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



## OFFICIAL SAYS MINISTRY FOLLOWS ORDERS IN ALLOWANCE PAYMENT

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Education does not specify rent allowances paid to their teachers and only follows orders in that regard, Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari said. The official was responding to reports suggesting that female Kuwaiti teachers plan to carry out a sit in outside the ministry's building to demand a rent allowance similar to that paid to female expatriate teachers. "Determining rent allowances is not the job of the ministry," Al-Qabas reported yesterday quoting Athari. "Everything pertaining

with teachers' financial allocations is issued according to a law. The ministry is only an executive authority."

A government decision last week to pay female expat teachers a similar rent allowance to their male counterparts in accordance with a constitutional court ruling issued on that regard has caused an uproar amid governmental calls to cut spending in state departments. Several MPs criticized the move especially at a time in which the government has taken simultaneous steps to cut allocations

for Kuwaitis sent for treatment abroad.

The ministry pays female teachers recruited to work in public schools a KD 60 rent allowance compared to KD 150 to male teachers. A court order was issued last year requiring an equal payment for all teachers, and thus ordered the government to pay nearly 14,000 female teachers retroactively since 2011. On that regard, Athari explained that the ministry would pay the teachers "when ever a sufficient budget becomes available." — Al-Qabas

## ENJOY THE LATEST MOVIES WITH GULF BANK'S RED PROGRAM DURING NATIONAL AND LIBERATION DAYS

**KUWAIT:** As part of the National and Liberation day celebrations, Gulf Bank is announcing exclusive discounts for its red(tm) customers to watch the latest films at Kuwait National Cinema Company (KNCC) cinemas between February 18-27, 2016.

Gulf Bank's red(tm) customers will be able to see the latest movies for only KD 1 instead of the usual KD 3.5 by using their red(tm) ATM cards to purchase cinema tickets from ticket kiosks in all KNCC cinema theatres. During the period of the promotion, Gulf Bank will also have a corporate booth present at the KNCC cinema in Avenues Mall to showcase its prod-

ucts and services and to answer any questions from potential and existing customers. In addition customers who open a new red(tm) account will receive a complimentary cinema ticket.

Gulf Bank continuously looks for new and interesting initiatives to reward its loyal customer base. Given the celebratory atmosphere of February and with the National and Liberation Day celebrations just around the corner, Gulf Bank is committed to providing its red(tm) customers with the right promotions that are tailored to meet their specific needs and to better enjoy their holi-

days. Gulf Bank is pleased to celebrate this patriotic occasion with the people of Kuwait.

Gulf Bank's red(tm) program is for high school, university and college students aged 15 to 25 years old. There is no deposit required to open the account or minimum balance charge.

To join Gulf Bank's red(tm) program or to find out more of its benefits, visit one of the Bank's 56 branches, contact the Customer Contact Centre on 1805805 for assistance and guidance or log on to [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com), Gulf Bank's website bilingual website.

## Crime

Report

### Teen arrested for reckless driving

**KUWAIT:** A teenager was recently arrested for driving without a driver's license and trying to escape arrest along Abdaly highway, said security sources. The boy also violated traffic regulations by driving a vehicle with windows tinted over the allowed percentage. Meanwhile, the source noted that search is on for five unknown persons who damaged a patrol vehicle and assaulted policemen to help the teenager escape. Case papers indicate that patrol officers had pulled the boy's car over and found out that his vehicle lacked safety conditions. They also discovered that he did not have a license. Moments later, the boy drove his vehicle, hitting the patrol in an attempt to drive into the desert, but he was stopped. Police also found a woman inside the car, and she was identified as the driver's sister. They asked him to call a family member to come and pick her up, which he did. Soon afterwards, five persons arrived in a sports-utility-vehicle (SUV), carrying knives and sticks which they used against the officers in an attempt to free the boy from their custody. Their attempt failed and they escaped afterwards. A case was filed and a search is on for the assailants.

### Ex-con arrested

An ex-convict was recently arrested in Mubarak Al-Kabeer in relation to six car robberies, said security sources. The suspect, Kuwaiti, was charged with breaking open his neighbors' vehicles and stealing their contents.

### Ex-husband charged

A female citizen accused her ex-husband of attempted murder, said security sources. The woman filed a case at Sabah Al-Salem police station accusing her ex-husband of strangling her in an attempt to kill her when he unlawfully showed up to pick up his children, the sources noted. The woman provided a medical report showing injuries around her neck. A case was filed and the suspect is being summoned for questioning. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

## DISCOUNTS ON ENTERTAINMENT CITY ENTRANCE TICKETS

**KUWAIT:** The Entertainment City offers discounts on its entrance tickets in the period of February 21-28 to become KD 2.5 instead of KD 3.5, announced Sager Al-Bader, Acting Manager of Public Relations and Marketing at the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC). Bader said that the city would receive visitors from 3:00-11:00 pm on February 21-24 in addition to February 28, and from 11:00 am till 11:00 pm on the national days; February 25-27. He also reminded that Mondays would be allocated for women while Sunday, February 28 would be the last day for the discount.



Sager Al-Bader

## HCA NHS Ventures

### Committed to collaboration

**HCA NHS Ventures** is a subsidiary of HCA International which was set up in 2006, the HCA NHS Ventures division leads on private partnerships with NHS Trusts across the country

**Harley Street at UCH** is a joint partnership with top teaching hospital University College London Hospital, formed in 2006. Based on level 15 in the tower at UCLH, the 18 bed acute facility is a specialist cancer centre for complex and rare conditions. Patient rooms are private and en-suite offering panoramic views across London. We offer medical and surgical care including day case chemotherapy and a comprehensive JAGT accredited bone marrow and stem cell transplant service; one of only a few in the UK. The centre offers the pioneering cord blood transplant; this technical significantly widens the opportunity to fund a suitable unrelated donor particularly beneficial for international patients.

**The Young Person's Unit at Harley Street at UCH** is the only private teenage cancer unit in Europe, treating any form of cancer in 13-19 year olds and further establishes the relationship with UCLH. The 6 bedded Unit treats all kinds of cancers and provides high quality care. All rooms are private and en suite with views across central London. There are facilities in each room for a parent or guardian to stay with patients throughout their treatment and international entertainment packages, including internet access to keep in touch with friends and family abroad. Patients also have access to educational facilities and an entertainment lounge. 5\* catering is provided with specially adapted menus to suit international patient requirements.

State-of-the-art technology includes the revolutionary TrueBeam STxIM, the latest radiotherapy and radiosurgical equipment which is the most advanced linear accelerator in the world and is the first of its kind to be installed in the UK.

**Harley Street at Queen's** is a joint partnership with Barking, Taverham and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust, based at Queen's Hospital Romford, offering advanced cancer, neurosurgical and general surgery treatment. It is the only centre of its kind in Essex and includes a dedicated High Dependency Unit, Chemotherapy Day Care Unit and advanced radiotherapy through a dedicated linear accelerator including

[www.harleystreetatuch.co.uk](http://www.harleystreetatuch.co.uk)

HCA - London's No.1 private hospital group



DMRT and RapidArc™ technology Harley Street at Queen's offers advanced state-of-the-art treatment in the most comfortable of surroundings

**The Christie Clinic** is the latest HCA NHS Venture and a partnership with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester. The £35million development houses a state-of-the-art cancer clinic with 31 specialist rooms, 10 chemotherapy clinics, advanced radiotherapy, sophisticated operating theatres and private patient pharmacy. This impressive facility takes the HCA standard of care outside of London to Manchester and the North of England. Located in the heart of Manchester The Christie Clinic offers light and airy private en-suite rooms, with international entertainment packages and is in close proximity to the city centre.



## COMPANY OWNERS CAN TRANSFER TO 'SMALL BUSINESSES'

**KUWAIT:** Owners of commercial licenses can transfer their files with the relevant manpower authorities to the 'small businesses' categories according to the conditions applied to open small enterprises, a local daily reported yesterday quoting a source at the Public Authority for Manpower. However, his business should not be in fields banned from the small businesses' categories, which include contracting, consulting, tobacco, elevators, taxis, car rental, cargo, exhibitors, among others. A small business owner is allowed to recruit a maximum of five workers for every five square meters in his facility with a minimum of 10 workers, the source said, adding that each license is granted a maximum of 100 workers, while each employer can have a maximum of five licenses and 500 workers registered under his or her sponsorship. A small business owner can recruit workers from outside Kuwait, while a worker in that case can transfer to another small business three years after his original recruitment. — Al-Anbaa

## SMOKING BAN IN MALLS APPLIED THIS WEEK

**KUWAIT:** A smoking ban inside malls will be implemented this week, a source at the Environment Public Authority (EPA) said, reminding that smokers indoors would have to pay a fine ranging between KD 50 and KD 100.

The penalty would also apply on those who smoke electronic cigarettes inside restaurants or cafes, the source said. Meanwhile, an owner of a restaurant or cafe that allows smoking inside his or her facility risks paying up to KD 5,000, the source added.

An office for environmental police has been allocated in malls around Kuwait to monitor and make sure that the anti-smoking law is applied, the source said, adding that the officers would intervene instantly should customers refuse to cooperate. Mall administrations were allowed to set up special cabins for smokers. — Al-Anbaa

## KFH LAUNCHES NEW ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL, LIBERATION DAYS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched a distinct advertising campaign in tandem with the occasion of National and Liberation Days anniversary that confer the joy of freedom and loyalty atmospheres on Kuwait. The campaign includes an Ad to incorporate children's innocence and spontaneity in spreading joy and renewing loyalty to Kuwait, emphasizing the cohesion of the Kuwaiti national fabric, and fostering the national integration. This campaign emanates from KFH's firm belief in the importance of its social and national role, and in support of reinforcing loyalty to the beloved homeland.

The lyrics of the advertisement are adorned with love and loyalty meanings. In the Ad, children celebrate in an authentic way and feel the enormous happiness of the occasion of the 55th National Day and 25th Liberation Day. No rehearsal or staged scenes were used as children express themselves naturally with great simplicity, spontaneity and admiration where the lyrics narrate "This is our beloved Kuwait ... See it through our eyes ... Our home, the most precious of all homes". This



reflects the national values and principles which are kindness, generosity, security, tranquility, love and peace.

The campaign embodies people's loyalty and love to Kuwait through the simplicity and innocence of children to draw a smile and spread joy amongst all.

It is noteworthy that this National and Liberation Days communication campaign conveys a joyful message of happiness in the key public loca-

tions, blended with little moments of smiley faces and Kuwait's flags hoisting to mark this anniversary.

KFH is keen on embracing its social responsibility, while participating in every event of importance to the society, primarily the national events. This affirms KFH's prestigious status and underlines its unremitting efforts in pushing other private sector institutions to follow suit in shouldering the social responsibility in all its fields.





**Museveni wins, oppn cries foul**

**US STRIKE IN LIBYA KILLS TWO ABDUCTED SERBIANS**



**LAS VEGAS: Actress Eva Longoria (left), Chelsea Clinton (second left), democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton (center), actress America Ferrera (second right) and former US president Bill Clinton (right) arrive for a campaign event ahead of the Nevada caucus on Friday. —AFP**

**WHITE HOUSE HOPEFULS FACE LATEST BATTLE**  
 REPS FACE OFF IN SOUTH CAROLINA; DEMS BATTLE IN NEVADA

**CHARLESTON:** The race to the White House entered its third round yesterday, with Republicans voting in their first southern primary in South Carolina and Democrats choosing between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders in Nevada. Voters streamed to the polls in South Carolina after they opened at 7:00 am, in what is likely to be an important test of strength for frontrunner Donald Trump. Pre-vote surveys showed the billionaire businessman with a big lead over five Republican rivals in the Palmetto State.

Tim Nielson, 56, emerged from a voting place in Mouth Pleasant, South Carolina wearing a red, white and blue "I voted" sticker. He said he had switched from Democrat to Republican to vote for Trump. If Trump wins the White House, said Nielson, "maybe he'll change some ways." Trump is banking on a big symbolic win ahead of "Super Tuesday" - March 1, when about a dozen states will go to the polls to choose candi-

according to an NBC-Wall Street Journal poll. The ultraconservative Cruz followed with 23 percent. Trailing were Senator Marco Rubio at 15 percent and former Florida governor Jeb Bush at 13 percent.

Rubio and Bush are under intense pressure to fare well yesterday, as is Ohio Governor John Kasich and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, whose campaign has struggled to gain ground. Bush, who has enlisted his famous family to help his flagging cause, visited a voting station in Greenville, South Carolina with his 90-year-old mother Barbara. Carson, for his part, appealed to voters in a Fox News interview not to let the election become a choice between "the lesser of two evils."

"You don't understand South Carolina politics. It's horrible," said Edwin Pearlstine, a retired beer distributor and brewery owner who voted for Kasich even while conceding the Ohio governor has little chance of win-

but was crushed by Sanders in New Hampshire, is counting on a major Hispanic voter turnout, especially among Las Vegas hotel and casino employees.

Nevada has some three million residents, and the population is overwhelmingly concentrated in two large urban centers, Las Vegas and Reno. Since Wednesday, the former secretary of state has visited staff at casinos in Las Vegas, where workers can "caucus" right on the famous Strip. Clinton says she is the natural Latino ally on immigration, and if elected she promises a quick path to citizenship for those in the country illegally.

The former first lady, 68, has relentlessly attacked Sanders for voting against immigration reform in 2007. Sanders, however, said the measure gave little protection for foreign "guest workers," and that he voted for a 2013 immigration reform bill that died due to Republican opposition. "As president, I will



**NORTH CHARLESTON, South Carolina: Donald Trump speaks to South Carolina voters on the eve of the state's primary on Friday. —AFP**

dates for the Nov 8 presidential election, with a quarter of the nominating delegates up for grabs.

"It's crunch time, folks," Trump, 69, told voters at a North Charleston rally, his final pitch Friday before the primary. He finished second to Texas Senator Ted Cruz in Iowa on Feb 1, but secured a commanding win in New Hampshire one week later. The one-time reality TV star, who has upended the political landscape with his brash style and controversial comments, has his eye on a particular date: March 15.

After that day, many of the Republican primaries will be winner-takes-all in terms of delegates. If his five rivals are still in the race at that point, they will be splitting the anti-Trump vote - and increasing his chances of winning the nomination. On the eve of the primary, Trump led with about 28 percent of likely Republicans voters backing him,

ning. If Trump wins the Republican nomination, he said, "I got a pretty place right on the beach in the Bahamas. I'll just go stay there."

In the past week Trump repeatedly called Cruz a liar, and his attorneys even sent the senator a cease-and-desist letter over a TV ad that uses a 1999 interview in which Trump said he was "very pro-choice" on abortion rights. Trump has since changed his stance on the sensitive issue.

**Clinton Bets on Immigration**

To the west, in the desert state of Nevada, Democrats will caucus - group themselves together by candidate to voice their support - starting at 11 am (1900 GMT). Both Clinton and Sanders have been working hard to reach out to the African-Americans, Hispanics and Asian-Americans that make up roughly half of the state's population. Clinton, who won by a hair in Iowa

do everything that I can to pass immigration reform and a path toward citizenship for those who today are undocumented," Sanders, 74, said Thursday on MSNBC. Clinton claims that Sanders is offering impractical, pie-in-the-sky ideas.

**Sanders's 1963 Arrest**

But Sanders's camp is convinced that young minority voters will back him. Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, is hoping that his own civil rights activist background will attract young voters. The Chicago Tribune on Friday unearthed a 1963 photo of a 21-year-old Sanders being hauled away by police during a protest against Chicago school segregation. "Bernie identified it himself," campaign adviser Tad Devine told the Tribune. At the time Sanders was charged with resisting arrest, found guilty and fined \$25. —AFP

HCA

International Hospitals

---

THE HARLEY STREET CLINIC

THE LISTER HOSPITAL  
CHESHIRE

London Bridge Hospital

The Portland Hospital  
for Women and Children

THE PRINCESS GRACE HOSPITAL

The Wellington Hospital

HCA NHS ventures

LOC

Leaders in Oncology Care

SCRI

Sarah Cannon Research Institute  
United Kingdom

HCA is an  
American  
company  
providing  
world-class  
private  
hospital care  
in London

---

Tel: +44 (0)20 7034 8564  
 Internationalreferrals@hcahealthcare.co.uk  
 www.hcainternational.com

**HCA Hospitals**

World-Class Healthcare



## ALEPPO'S REBEL ZONES PREPARE FOR TOTAL SIEGE

**GAZIANTEP, Turkey:** A single road, like a fragile umbilical cord, connects rebel areas of Syria's second city Aleppo with international relief from Turkey. Those who remain are stockpiling arms and supplies - bracing for their redoubt to be completely blockaded by the Syrian regime. In the Turkish city of Gaziantep, charities are preparing to send aid south of the border to a Syrian city where 250,000 to 300,000 people are still living despite the relentless violence, too poor to escape or too invested in the fighting's outcome to run away.

"The siege by regime forces is not yet a done deal," said Assad Al-Ashi, head of the NGO Baytna Syria, adding that one road to Aleppo's west remains open. "But it is under fire from all sides so it is still dangerous. It can be cut off at any moment," he said. "Preparations are in full swing to get ready for a full siege," Ashi added. "Syrian humanitarian organizations - there are around a hundred on the ground - are stockpiling everything they can inside the city. The local council in Aleppo has formed an emergency body to prepare for the siege. In the event of a total siege, Aleppo could last for a year, probably

more," he estimated.

President Bashar Al-Assad's army began large-scale offensives against the Aleppo rebels in February, backed by an intense campaign of Russian air strikes. Bombardment by bombardment, strike by strike, fears that the city faces complete encirclement have taken hold, with thousands of civilians displaced by the fighting. Insurgent groups can still reach the other rebel stronghold of Idlib in the northwest. From there, the Aleppo fighters have stockpiled hundreds - perhaps even thousands - of tonnes of weapons and provisions like flour, oil, sugar and medical supplies.

### 'Not Watertight'

The siege of the southern city of Homs - where the rebels held out for three years before finally surrendering - provides a grim example of what Aleppo could face. "But Aleppo won't be like that," said Manhal Bareesh of the Syrian opposition. "The rebel zones are much larger and better defended. They are building trenches and tunnels so they can continue to move around. The siege will never be completely

watertight." Many hospitals and clinics, often targeted by air strikes to demoralize civilians and fighters, have been moved to basements, as have some schools. "Doctors who had to leave, left. Those who stayed know what's coming and are willing. It's their choice," he said.

One city keeps popping up in conversations: Grozny, the capital of Chechnya. The city was completely destroyed by Moscow in the 1990s during the Chechen wars. "Right now, everything depends on Moscow," Ashi said of Assad's key international ally. "Bashar is ready to destroy everything if necessary to secure a victory in Aleppo. But he doesn't have the means, nor the soldiers to do it. You'd have to obliterate it, like Grozny. Will the Russians agree to that?" Ashi said he expects the front to remain open for "20, or 30 years", adding that the rebels are ready to do whatever is necessary to keep it open, and that the Turks are ready to help.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Friday that it was "deeply alarmed" by the situation in Aleppo. And after a massive exodus of refugees now stuck at the Turkish border, Amnesty



**ALEPPO:** This photo taken on Feb 16, 2016 shows new recruits taking part in a shooting training session at a camp in a rebel-held area of this northern city before fighting along with opposition fighters. — AFP

International criticised Turkey for refusing entry to some injured Syrian civilians fleeing the fighting, describing its policy as "appalling". Bareesh said he believes Russia

will continue its strikes, even to the point of Grozny-level destruction. "If the UN, the US and the rest of the world look away, there is no hope," he added. — AFP

## US AIR STRIKE ON LIBYA KILLED ABDUCTED SERBS

### BELGRADE TO SEND PROTEST NOTE TO WASHINGTON

**BELGRADE:** A US air strike believed to have killed an Islamic State group operative behind the mass murder of tourists on a Tunisian beach also killed two kidnapped Serbian embassy employees, Belgrade said yesterday. The attack on Friday targeted a jihadist training camp near the Libyan coastal city of Sabratha, killing dozens of people. But Belgrade said the victims of the strike also included two employees from its embassy in Libya, who were taken hostage on November 8 in Sabratha from a convoy of cars heading to the Tunisian border.

US officials said the raid likely killed Nouredine Chouchane, also known as "Sabir", who along with other jihadists had been planning attacks against American and other Western interests. Chouchane is suspected of being behind both the beach attack in July 2015 near the Tunisian city of Sousse that killed 38 tourists, including 30 Britons and an attack on the National Bardo Museum in Tunis that killed 21 tourists and a policeman in March 2015. Both attacks were claimed by the Islamic State group.

"It has just been officially confirmed that two Serbian citizens who were foreign ministry employees, Sladjana Stankovic and Jovica Stepic, were killed," Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic told reporters. "They were killed by explosions, obviously we are talking about American bombs," he said, expressing "deepest condolences" to the families. "This is the first big hostage crisis that our state has been faced with. Our people would have been released had they not been killed," insisted Vucic.

Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic said Serbian authorities had been negotiating the release of the two staff and "the kidnappers had a financial interest". But he said the demands had been "impossible" to meet by either the families or the government. He said Serbia would send a protest note to Washington not for informing Serbian authorities of the raid.

A Pentagon spokeswoman said they were still assessing the results of the strike and would "make further statements if and when appropriate". "We are aware of the reports, but, at this time, have no indications that confirm this reporting," she said, referring to Belgrade's announcement. Vucic said the bodies of Stankovic, the embassy's communications chief, and her driver Stepic were expected to be repatriated tomorrow. Sabratha, which lies 70 km west of Tripoli, is considered a stronghold of extremism in lawless



**BELGRADE:** Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic addresses a press conference yesterday after a US strike on an Islamic State jihadist camp in Libya killed two Serbian embassy employees, who were kidnapped in the area in November. — AFP

Libya, where militants are trained in jihadist camps before launching deadly attacks in other countries.

The country spiralled into chaos after longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi was ousted and killed in Oct 2011, with two governments vying for power and armed groups battling to control vast energy resources. Belgrade maintains an embassy in Tripoli, and Serbian citizens - mostly doctors, other medical staff and construction workers - have been working in Libya for decades due to close bilateral relations during Gaddafi's regime.

### IS Training in Libya

The Pentagon estimates that around 5,000 IS fighters are in Libya, and Friday's strike was the second US air raid in the past three months targeting the fast-expanding group in the North African country. A statement from the Tripoli-based general prosecutor

said that one of those wounded in the US strike had confirmed that he and the others killed in the raid were IS members. The wounded man said they "came to Libya to train and then carry out terrorist attacks in Tunis", the prosecutor's statement said.

The Sabratha Municipal Council confirmed the deaths of the Serbian hostages and called on Tunisian and Libyan authorities to "take responsibility and help in fighting these terrorist organizations". Vucic said Washington was probably unaware that the Serbian hostages were held at the bombed location, "but it will remain unknown". He said relations with the United States were "historically not easy", referring to the 11-week bombing campaign by NATO against Serbia in 1999 during the Kosovo war. "I am not ready... to strain and worsen relations with the United States because we need them as a friend and partner, not as an enemy," he added. — AFP

## IRAQI TRIBES BATTLE IS INSIDE FALLUJAH

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi tribesmen battled Islamic State group militants inside their Fallujah stronghold for a second day yesterday, a significant challenge to longstanding jihadist control that may be undermined by a lack of supplies. Fallujah is one of two Iraqi cities still controlled by IS, and residents said to number in the tens of thousands - vastly outnumber the estimated 300 to 400 jihadists inside it. But IS has had plenty of time to assert its control over the civilian population through arrests and public executions - its usual means of discouraging dissent.

"Armed confrontations between the sons of the Fallujah tribes and the Daesh organization are continuing," an army brigadier general said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. The clashes are taking place in Al-Jolan in northwest Fallujah and Nazal in the centre, the officer said, adding that the army was shelling IS positions on the city's outskirts. There have been casualties among both the tribesmen and the jihadists, the officer said. Tribal leader Sheikh Majeed Al-Juraisi said that fighting was continuing in both the centre and north of Fallujah. The tribesmen "are beginning to run out of supplies and need the support of the government," Juraisi said.

### Fear of 'Massacre'

There is "fear that they will completely run out and afterwards the Daesh organisation will arrest and massacre them." In 2014 and 2015, IS executed dozens of members of the Albu Nimr tribe, which opposed the jihadists as they overran swathes of Anbar province, where Fallujah is located. Saadun Obaid al-Shaalani, who was elected by a local council to administer the Fallujah area, confirmed that fighting was continuing, saying that tribesmen had posted snipers on rooftops in the Al-Askari area of east Fallujah. He said that the tribesmen needed assistance and "we are trying to obtain that support" from the

government.

Officials said the clashes began on Friday as a fight between tribesmen and Al-Hisba, IS members charged with enforcing religious strictures in the city. Members of the Al-Juraisat, Al-Mahamda and Al-Halabsa tribes have taken part in the fighting, officials said. Fallujah, which lies about 50 km west of Baghdad, is the only Iraqi city apart from IS's main northern hub Mosul still under jihadist control. But IS also controls some large towns, including Tal Afar and Hawijah.

### Dire Humanitarian Situation

Anti-government fighters took control of Fallujah in early 2014 during unrest that broke out after security forces demolished a protest camp farther west, and it later became an IS stronghold. The tens of thousands of civilians in Fallujah are facing increasingly dire living conditions, and officials say IS is preventing civilians from leaving the city, which has largely been cut off by security forces.

Anbar Governor Sohaib Al-Rawi has said that the situation in Fallujah "has reached a state of famine". Lise Grande, the UN's humanitarian coordinator for Iraq, said: "We are receiving reports of hunger and shortages of medicines and essential supplies. 'We know that people are trying to leave the city but are prevented from doing so. We fear that the situation is becoming desperate.'" IS launched a sweeping offensive that overran swathes of Iraq in June 2014, but security forces and allied fighters have pushed the jihadists back with support from US-led air strikes. Tribesmen have played a key role in holding the jihadists back in several areas, including Haditha in Anbar, Amerli in Salaheddin province and Dhuluiyah in Diyala. Sunni Arab tribesmen from Anbar helped drive back IS's predecessor organization Al-Qaeda in Iraq after joining forces with US troops from 2006. — AFP

## OBAMA SHARES SYRIA CONCERNS WITH ERDOGAN, AFFIRMS SUPPORT

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey's presidency said US President Barack Obama had shared his concerns over the Syrian conflict and promised his support on Friday, hours after a tense exchange between the two NATO allies over the role of Kurdish militants. In a phone conversation that lasted one hour and 20 minutes, Ankara said Obama had told his counterpart President Tayyip Erdogan that Turkey had a right to self-defence, and expressed worries over advances by Syrian Kurdish militias near Turkey's border.

Obama stressed to Erdogan that Syrian Kurdish YPG forces should not seek to exploit recent gains by the Syrian government to seize additional territory, the White House said in a statement. He also called for Turkey to "show reciprocal restraint" by stopping artillery strikes in the area, the statement said. Earlier on Friday, Erdogan had said US-supplied weapons had been used against civilians by a Syrian Kurdish militia group that Ankara blames for the deadly suicide bombing this week. The State Department, which sees the Syrian Kurdish YPG fighters as useful allies against Islamic State, said the United States had "not provided any weapons of any kind" to the group.

The issue risks driving a wedge between the NATO allies at a critical point in Syria's civil war, as the United States pursues intensive talks with Syria's ally Russia to bring about a "cessation of hostilities." Turkey has blamed the YPG for the suicide car bomb attack on Wednesday that killed 28 people, most of them soldiers. But a Turkey-based Kurdish splinter group has claimed responsibility for the bombing and threatened more attacks.

Obama expressed his condolences to Erdogan over the bombing in the Turkish capital, the White House said. Before the call with Obama, Erdogan said he was saddened by the West's refusal to call the Syrian Kurdish

militia terrorists, and would explain to the US president how weapons provided by the United States had aided them. "I will tell him, 'Look at how and where those weapons you provided were fired,'" Erdogan told reporters in Istanbul.

"Months ago in my meeting with him I told him the US was supplying weapons. Three plane loads arrived, half of them ended up in the hands of Daesh (Islamic State), and half of them in the hands of the PYD," he said. "Against whom were these weapons used? They were used against civilians there and caused their deaths." The White House statement did not say whether Erdogan brought up the subject of US weapons with Obama.

### Air Drop

Erdogan appeared to be referring to a US air drop of 28 bundles of military supplies in late 2014 meant for Iraqi Kurdish fighters near the Syrian city of Kobane. Pentagon officials said at the time one had fallen into the hands of Islamic State. The Pentagon later said it had targeted the missing bundle in an air strike and destroyed it. The United States has said it does not consider the YPG a terrorist group. A spokesman for the State Department said on Thursday that Washington was not in a position to confirm or deny Turkey's charge that the YPG was behind the Ankara bombing.

The spokesman also called on Turkey to stop its recent shelling of the YPG. The YPG's political arm has denied the group was behind the Ankara attack and said Turkey was using it to justify an escalation in fighting in northern Syria. The Turkish government has said the Ankara attack, in which a car laden with explosives was detonated next to military buses as they waited at traffic lights, was carried out by a YPG member from northern Syria working with Kurdish militants inside Turkey. — Reuters

## POLICE GUNS AND CAMERAS AT JERUSALEM DAMASCUS GATE

**JERUSALEM:** The sniper barrel juts out of the ancient wall above Jerusalem's Damascus Gate, pointing down towards a young Palestinian being searched by Israeli policemen. A key tourist site and one of the entrances to the Old City, the massive white stone gate has become a backdrop for the violence between Israel and Palestinians that erupted almost five months ago. Israeli policemen line the courtyard beneath the gate, which is flanked by two towers and was built in the 16th century by Suleiman the Magnificent.

Snipers have positioned themselves on nearby roofs and new surveillance cameras have been set

beside dozens of others already installed. Trees that once cast shade over green areas nearby have been cut back or even uprooted to give the cameras a clear view. Damascus Gate, one of seven historic gates in the city, leads into Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem. A web of alleyways where Palestinians, Israelis and tourists cross path lie beyond the gate, which also leads toward Al-Aqsa mosque compound, the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. But the gate's history has been overshadowed by deadly violence in recent months. On Friday, a 20-year-old Palestinian stabbed and wounded two policemen outside Damascus Gate

before they shot him dead. And on Feb 3, three young Palestinians from the nearby occupied West Bank killed an 19-year-old Israeli policewoman before they were shot dead. Since Oct 1, Palestinian knife, gun and car-rammings attacks have taken the lives of 27 Israelis, an American and an Eritrean, according to an AFP count.

### 'No Security Justification'

Most of the assailants have been teenagers or young men and women, and recent security checks have focused on that age group. Near Damascus Gate, three policemen conduct a body search on a young man, who stands legs and arms apart against the wall. One policeman points his gun to his head while his two colleagues keep an eye on their surroundings. The young man is patted down thoroughly from head to toe and asked to remove his shoes. His backpack is emptied of all its items, one by one. His identity papers are checked. Only then is he allowed on his way.

"I live in the Old City so I have to go through this every single day," says the young man who asked to remain anonymous. "It's really annoying," he adds, his face visibly tense. A little further on, Bassem Zidan, 29, says: "Sometimes they check us ten times every two metres (yards)." "Sometimes, the searches have no security justification. It's just provocation. It depends on the soldiers' mood. Before, I used to refuse that they search me in public and they'd take me aside to a police station," he adds. But "now I don't dare anymore, I'm too scared they'll kill me in cold blood, now they have a readymade accusation to kill us."

Around him, women and school students open up their handbags and school bags to have them checked with the security forces' guns pointed at them. Earlier this month, the Israeli parliament passed a law authorizing the police to stop and search "any person appearing to be reasonably suspicious" as long as they agree to the search. But at Damascus Gate, journalists did not hear policemen ask for the consent of the young people they were searching. — AFP



**JERUSALEM:** Israeli forces check a Palestinian boy after Friday prayers at the entrance of Damascus Gate outside Jerusalem's Old City on Friday. — AFP





WASHINGTON: The casket of US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia is carried into the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for his funeral mass yesterday.—AFP

## MOURNERS GATHER FOR SCALIA FUNERAL MASS

WASHINGTON: In a hallowed place where popes have prayed and pilgrims have flocked, mourners gathered yesterday at the nation's largest Catholic church to pay their final respects to Justice Antonin Scalia. Scalia's sons and sons-in-law served as pallbearers to carry his flag-draped casket into the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for a funeral Mass honoring the late jurist who died unexpectedly last weekend.

Dignitaries including Vice President Joe Biden, former Vice President Dick Cheney, members of Congress and all eight sitting justices of the Supreme Court were among those attending. Scalia's casket arrived at the basilica after he lay in repose at the Supreme Court on Friday, where thousands of visitors came to honor one of the country's most influential conservatives. One of Scalia's nine children, the Rev Paul Scalia, was to lead the Mass and deliver the homily.

Several federal judges who are considered possible replacements for Scalia also were at the funeral Mass, including Judges Sri Srinivasan and Patricia Millett and Chief Judge Merrick Garland, all of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. President Barack Obama will not attend, despite criticism from some Republicans. He and first lady Michelle Obama were among the more than 6,000 people who paid tribute to Scalia at the

Supreme Court on Friday. Scalia's flag-draped casket rested on a funeral bier that first held President Abraham Lincoln's casket after his assassination.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest pointed to Biden's personal relationship with Scalia's family and said Obama's decision about the Mass was a "respectful arrangement" that took into account his large security detail. Scalia, 79, died last weekend at a remote Texas ranch after spending nearly three decades on the high court. Burial plans have not been announced.

GOP presidential hopeful Ted Cruz planned to interrupt his campaign ahead of yesterday's South Carolina primary to attend the Mass. The Texas senator has been among those urging the Senate not to consider replacing Scalia until after the November election. Obama has insisted that he will nominate a successor. Scheduled to give opening remarks at the Mass was Washington Archbishop Donald Cardinal Wuerl.

Leonard Leo, executive director of the Federalist Society, a conservative legal group, was to read a passage from the Old Testament, while Justice Clarence Thomas planned to read from the New Testament. Three popes have visited the basilica: Pope John Paul II in 1979, Pope Benedict XVI in 2008 and Pope Francis last year. — AP

# BUSH'S TALE OF UNFORCED ERRORS, MISCALCULATIONS

## JEB MISJUDGES MOOD OF REPUBLICAN BASE

CHARLESTON, South Carolina: Before Donald Trump's putdowns and the stumbles in presidential debates, and before the profound frustration of voters became so unmistakably apparent, Jeb Bush appeared to be best positioned to win back the White House for Republicans in 2016. He amassed a \$150 million war chest in 2015, surrounded himself with some of the best minds in the party, had a famous last name and attracted the support of the party establishment.

Now with his polling in single digits, strategists say his presidential ambitions may rest in large measure on the outcome of yesterday's South Carolina Republican primary. He needs to do well to show he can perform strongly in the Super Tuesday primaries on March 1, when a collection of mostly southern states will vote. The Bush campaign dismisses what they see as a rush to write him off, saying he plans to go to Nevada for campaigning today and will participate in a debate in Houston on Thursday.

To be sure, Bush has shown signs of momentum in recent weeks, with stronger performances in debates where he struggled earlier in the campaign and a better finish than Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, his fiercest rival for the Republican establishment vote, in the New Hampshire primary. How Bush found his campaign hanging in the balance heading into just the third nominating contest of 2016 is a cautionary tale of political miscalculation and strategic errors, according to interviews with a dozen Republican operatives, many with close ties to the Bush campaign and others who worked for the last two Republican presidential nominees.

From the start, they said, Bush appeared to misjudge the mood of the Republican base. In Dec 2014, for instance, Bush gathered his senior aides and a small group of national political operatives for a meeting in Miami to talk about his coming candidacy. A survey to gauge the national mood of the party was dismissed by Bush and his aides as unnecessary. Such polling, a participant said, would have made clear to Bush the rebellious sentiment of the conservative base of the party. "They missed the boat," the participant said.

The polling may have also helped the campaign spot the threat of Trump, a billionaire and political outsider who tapped into that anti-establishment anger and stormed to the top of the polls. The Bush campaign disputed the charge as inaccurate. "He has shared the frustration of voters from the outset and he has not strayed from that," said spokeswoman Kristy Campbell. "He has presented a hopeful, optimistic message that is based on the belief that he has the leadership skills to get the job done."



GREENVILLE, South Carolina: Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush addresses the crowd at a campaign rally on Friday.—AFP

### 'Low Energy'

Viewing Trump as a summer fad who would fade given his outrageous comments, the campaign was slow to respond to the billionaire when he first blasted Bush last August as "low-energy". Bush maintained his above-the-fray strategy and focused on his policy proposals instead of mixing it up with Trump. Trump relentlessly and bluntly attacked Bush in speeches and on Twitter, portraying him as tired, weak and out of touch with the party. Trump has mentioned Bush on Twitter hundreds of times, far more than any other Republican candidate.

"There was a decision made that he was not a serious person and would fade away," said one Republican strategist close to the Bush camp, who asked to remain anonymous. "You don't want to dignify somebody who wasn't a serious candidate. It wasn't just Jeb. Nobody thought he was." When the "low energy" attacks on Bush started to take hold and his poll numbers began dropping, he went out of his way to insist he had plenty of energy to be president, talking of working 16-hour days, putting in feistier appearances on the stump and hitting back at Trump hard.

Behind the scenes, though, donors said they fretted that too much time had gone by before he took the problem seriously. Some confidants of the former Florida governor seethed for weeks at

Trump's taunts and urged the campaign to shift to a more aggressive posture. "They made a horrendous miscalculation in not understanding the intent of the low-energy attack, which was designed to emasculate Bush, to make him look weak," said Steve Schmidt, who was campaign manager to 2008 Republican nominee John McCain. "Defining him as weak denied him the ability to make the argument that by resume, competence and experience he was the most fit to command," said Schmidt.

When Bush launched his campaign in June, he was the clear frontrunner among Republicans, polling at nearly 18 percent in a crowded field. Roughly six weeks later Trump had taken a commanding lead with 26 percent and Bush had dropped to around 12 percent, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling. Today Bush is at 8 percent nationally. Trump stands at 38 percent. But Trump has hardly been Bush's only obstacle.

### IRAQ WAR MISSTEPS

Perhaps his biggest misstep was one of his own making, when he spent days trying to explain whether he would have launched the Iraq war begun by his brother, former President George W Bush. Even George W Bush has admitted mistakes were made in the 2003 conflict. But for a week last May, Jeb Bush was flummoxed by the question.—Reuters

# US CANDIDATES FACING NEW MORAL QUESTIONS

NEW YORK: When politicians were confronted in recent years about how their policies fit their faith, the issue at hand was usually abortion and the targets were mostly Democrats. Last week, Pope Francis managed to put the Republicans on the defensive by rebuking Donald Trump and doing so over a different issue: immigration. The censure roared through the entire field of GOP presidential candidates, who were all pressed about the morality of their approach to immigrants in the country illegally, during a primary dominated by increasingly tough rhetoric that has emphasized border security.

Analysts say the pope's remarks should serve as a wake-up call for Republicans about how public discussion of religion and policy is broadening under this popular pope who, through his gestures and speeches, has put a greater emphasis on helping the vulnerable than on divisive social issues. "The Democrats aren't off the hook. It's just the Republicans are on it, too, and this might be a new experience for them," said Cathleen Kaveny, a Boston College theologian and author of "Prophecy Without Contempt: Religious Discourse in the Public Square."

Francis' comments came hours after he ended a visit to Mexico, where he prayed at the border for people who died trying to reach the US. While speaking to reporters on the papal plane Wednesday, he was asked about Trump's campaign pledge to build a wall along the entire length of the border and expel millions of people in the US illegally. "A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian. This is not in the Gospel," he said. While Francis said he would "give the benefit of the doubt" because he had not heard Trump's border plans independently, he added, "I say only that this man is not a Christian if he has said things like that."

On Friday, the Rev Federico Lombardi, a Vatican

spokesman, said the pope's remarks were "in no way a personal attack or an indication on how to vote." And during the same news conference, in response to a different question, Francis also made some of his toughest public comments to date against abortion, comparing the procedure to a Mafia hit and repeatedly calling abortion evil. "It is a crime, an absolute evil," Francis said.

### Immigrants

But the pope had made clear since his first trip as pontiff outside the Vatican - praying at the Italian island of Lampedusa for migrants who died trying to cross the sea to reach Italy - that generosity toward immigrants was one of his top concerns. "I think we're looking at the impact of the Francis era, where there are different points of contact and different aspects of the Catholic tradition are emphasized," said Mathew Schmalz, a religious studies professor at the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts. "Many prominent Catholic intellectuals have been swayed toward the Republicans in the last few decades. This is a jolt."

Francis' immediate predecessors, Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, also emphasized care for the poor and immigrants. But they prioritized greater adherence to doctrine, including on abortion, and appointed bishops who would do the same. Recent presidential elections have seen intensifying confrontations between church leaders and candidates. In 2004, Cardinal Raymond Burke, then the St. Louis archbishop, caused an uproar when said he would deny Communion to Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry, a Catholic who supports abortion rights.

Some bishops followed suit by telling Catholic politicians who support abortion rights not to present themselves for the sacrament. In 2007, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a new version of their presidential-year guidance for Catholic voters that highlighted a range of issues, but said opposition to abortion should be Catholics' greatest concern. The bishops re-issued the guide for 2016 with only limited revisions, but several bishops individually have also been highlighting issues such as climate change, immigration and poverty.

### Discussion

No one expects the pope's remarks on Trump to persuade voters to change candidates. But he can help shape public discussion of the issues, said Francis Rooney, who was US ambassador to the Vatican under President George W Bush, and now backs former Florida Gov Jeb Bush. "The pope's a soft-power player. His impact around the world comes from moral suasion and influence," Rooney said. "I think the pope has got such a strong moral voice that when he weighs in on immigration, I think it makes more people think about it."

Bush, one of the few GOP candidates proposing a path to legal status for people already in the US illegally, said Thursday he supports "walls and fencing where it's appropriate." He said he seeks guidance from the pope on being Catholic, but not on policy. Marco Rubio, another Catholic candidate for the GOP nomination, said he has "tremendous respect and admiration" for the pope, but he added, "There's no nation on Earth that's more compassionate on immigration than we are." John Carr, who served for more than two decades as the social justice director for the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and for years helped write the bishops' election-year guide, said the pope is having some impact on American political life.—AP



CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico: In this Feb 17, 2016 photo, Pope Francis blesses hundreds of people gathered a few yards away from the US side as he stands near the US-Mexico border fence along the Rio Grande.—AP

## ULTIMATE PRIVACY AND COMFORT

In Kuwait Airways First Class and Business Class with exclusive prices just for you.



kuwaitairways.com

Please Call or contact your travel agent **171**



First Class	Business Class	
Fares are for round trips all inclusive:	Fares are for round trips all inclusive:	
Middle East	Middle East	Arabian Gulf
KWD 226,250	KWD 167,250	KWD 120,700
New York	New York	Far East
KWD 941,600	KWD 602,600	KWD 393,250
Europe	Europe	Indian Subcontinent
KWD 886,000	KWD 428,000	KWD 146,450
		South Asia Subcontinent
		KWD 176,700

• Sales period from now till 29th February, 2016.  
 • Travel period from now till 31st May, 2016.  
 • Fares include all taxes and surcharges.  
 • Subject to seat availability.  
 • Terms and conditions apply.





**KAMPALA:** Uganda's long-time President Yoweri Museveni waves to supporters from the sunroof of his vehicle as he arrives for an election rally at Kololo Airstrip in Kampala, Uganda. — AP file photo

## UGANDA'S MUSEVENI WINS ELECTION, OPPN CRIES FOUL

### EU, COMMONWEALTH OBSERVERS SLAM HANDLING OF POLL

**KAMPALA:** Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni extended his 30-year rule yesterday, winning an election that international observers said lacked transparency and his main opponent, who was placed under house arrest, denounced as a sham.

One of Africa's longest serving leaders, Museveni won 60.8 percent of the vote, while main opposition candidate Kizza Besigye secured 35.4 percent, according to the electoral commission.

"We have just witnessed what must be the most fraudulent electoral process in Uganda," Besigye said in a statement, calling for an independent audit of the results. Besigye said he had been placed under house arrest. A Reuters reporter saw his house encircled by police in riot gear and media were barred from going near it.

Museveni, 71, has presided over strong economic growth but faces mounting accusations at home and abroad of cracking down on dissent and failing to tackle rampant corruption in the nation of 37 million people. Museveni's ruling National Resistance Movement party said the veteran leader's victory showed "opponents failed to offer any alternative apart from empty promises".

Earlier, European and Commonwealth observers criticized the handling of the election. The EU observer mission said Thursday's election was conducted in an intimidating atmosphere, while Commonwealth observers said the poll

"fell short of meeting some key democratic benchmarks".

Eduard Kukan, chief observer for the EU mission, told reporters in Kampala that the poll was undermined by a "lack of transparency and independence" at the Ugandan electoral commission.

"State actors created an intimidating atmosphere for both voters and candidates," he added.

Museveni brought calm and stability to Uganda after decades of chaos at the hands of leaders Idi Amin and Milton Obote, but many opposition voters accuse the former guerrilla fighter of becoming increasingly autocratic and wanting to rule for life. The opposition had tried to tap into mounting anger among young voters, especially in urban areas, where unemployment is high and many are frustrated by the poor state of schools and hospitals.

"We are disappointed, the election has been rigged," said 23-year-old Brenda in Kampala, who refused to give her second name due to fears for her security. "I have never seen another president and it seems it will be like that until he dies."

#### 'Intimidating atmosphere'

"To my fellow Ugandans... remain vigilant and steadfast. The struggle is long and hard but, in the end, we shall win if we continue in our patient and steadfast resolve," Besigye said in a statement.

"The regime cannot survive without our co-operation. Let us denounce this electoral theft by withdrawing our recognition of the regime and ceasing to co-operate with it."

The election on Thursday was disrupted in Kampala by the late arrival of ballot boxes and papers and angry demonstrations by voters that the police quelled using tear gas.

At nearly 28,000 other polling centres voting passed off smoothly, but the ballot was extended for a second day in 36 places after delays that Commonwealth election observers called "inexcusable" and that "seriously detracted from the fairness and credibility of the result."

European Union election observers on Saturday said that "voting was conducted in a calm and peaceful environment in the vast majority of the country". But the observers also voiced criticism over the "lack of transparency and independence" of the electoral commission. Besigye, who was arrested during campaigning on Monday and again on Thursday evening, was taken into custody for a third time on Friday. Police had stormed Besigye's Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) headquarters on Friday to arrest him, saying they wanted to prevent him from unilaterally proclaiming his vote score. "This action severely violates freedom of expression," the EU mission said, accusing Museveni's NRM party and government bodies of "creating an intimidating atmosphere." — Agencies

## PEOPLE DETAINED BY MILITARY VANISH IN NIGERIA'S NORTHEAST

**YOLA, Nigeria:** First come the whispers, then accusations loud enough to raise alarms throughout Nigeria's northeastern villages ravaged by extremist violence. Next, people accused of being Boko Haram are rounded up, sometimes by the military, sometimes by a civilian self-defense force. Many are never seen again.

The murmurs exploded into a rare open-throated protest recently when a teacher and two middle-aged farmers were taken away in Duhu village. Women who knew the men insisted they did not belong to the Islamic extremist group, and marched to a nearby military base to demand their release. Instead, the men were shot to death and their bodies were dumped outside town.

Nigeria's military denied ever detaining elementary school teacher Habu Bello and farmers Idrisa Dele and Umaru Hammankadi last month. But several villagers told The Associated Press that they watched as the men were led away by uniformed soldiers who accused them of being Boko Haram fighters. Threats to civilians come from all sides and extrajudicial killings have not abated despite the president's declaration of victory over Boko Haram. The insurgents have shown no mercy, but many people are equally afraid of the soldiers and the self-defense Vigilante Group of Nigeria.

Now, they are learning to fear their own neighbors as well. As refugees return home and try to rebuild lives from nothing - houses have been razed, wells poisoned, crops and livestock looted - some are capitalizing on the fear and insecurity to settle old scores, erase debts, win land disputes or otherwise get rid of enemies, human rights lawyer Sunday Joshua Wugira explained. "If you have a problem with someone, you can influence the military to pick them up and then you will never hear about them again," he told AP from his offices in the northeastern city of Yola, where police are investigating the January killings of three brothers from the Fulani tribe. Police have detained members of the civilian self-defense group, who said they took the suspected insurgents to the military barracks for detention, but were turned away and then a separate group of soldiers seized and killed the brothers, Deputy Superintendent Othman Abubakar said.

#### Unborn children not spared

Even unborn children are not free from allegations of terrorism. A teenager said she was captured last year by Boko Haram fighters who attacked her village and killed her father. Soldiers arrived to hunt down extremists, but interrogated her three brothers instead. Vigilantes then seized and killed them, she said.

Kidnapped by Boko Haram at 16 and raped in captivity, she was freed in November when soldiers attacked the extremist camp where she was being held. She tried to return to her home village, but had to flee again because vigilantes threatened to kill her unborn child, calling it a "terrorist baby," she said. The AP does not identify victims of sexual assault.

Duhu district leader Mustapha Sanusi said he has no official record of detainees being killed or disappeared, but has notified the military and legislators about complaints. "I don't have any figures, but I can confirm to you that there have been a series of complaints about extrajudicial killings," he told the AP. He called for a federal investigation and said "the military should always operate within the confines of the law."

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari promised to end military abuses last year, pledging an investigation into Amnesty International's allegations that since 2011, the military has been responsible for the deaths of some 8,000 detainees who were shot, starved or tortured. That's more than a third of the estimated 20,000 people killed during the 6-year-old insurgency. Human rights groups also accuse the self-defense fighters of extrajudicial killings but no one has collated figures.

Buhari's spokesman, Garba Shehu, referred requests for comment for this AP report to the military, but army spokesman Col. Sani Kukasheka Usman did not respond. However, the army on Thursday announced the establishment of a special office to "investigate all cases of human rights complaints brought before it." And it said it has established a special court martial to try "all cases of indiscipline and related acts of misconduct, including human rights abuse." Buhari told a delegation from the United States Institute of Peace this week that "mechanisms" have been put in place to ensure human rights are respected in the fight against terrorism. — AP



**Soldiers guard people fleeing from Boko Haram's carnage and about to be searched to ensure there are no insurgents infiltrating a refugee camp. People detained by the military and a civilian self-defense force are disappearing in northeast Nigeria, some wrongly accused of fighting for Boko Haram by neighbors settling old scores.** — AP

## I'LL DO ANYTHING TO KILL TIME: REFUGEE IN GERMANY

**BERLIN:** In the Berlin gym that now serves as his home, Afghan student Yaza sweeps the floor over and over again, just to keep himself from "going crazy with boredom". The 24-year-old, who spent months on the road after fleeing the Taliban, told AFP: "I'll do anything to not go mad."

That includes helping to distribute meals or building bunk beds. In between time, he rolls cigarettes with others in the same boat as him, exchanging stories about their road into exile, the countless borders they crossed and the exorbitant sums they paid to human traffickers. Tens of thousands from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere are waiting impatiently for German authorities to process their asylum requests.

Many long to return to work or college, but before they obtain residency, they have to find ways to kill time. "I studied economics in Kabul but I can't work here before I obtain a long-term residence visa," said Yaza, who arrived in Germany three months ago.

At the back of the gym, a group of young Iraqis and Syrians sporting track pants and slippers are sitting under a basketball net, listening to Arab pop music blaring from a mobile phone.

Idriez, 22, from the western Syrian port city of Latakia, was trying to work out the complexities of German grammar. "Der, die, das," he recited, glancing at a whiteboard where volunteers had written the masculine, femi-

nine and neutral forms of the article 'the'.

"I want to go back to school here but I need to be able to speak German first," he said, before losing himself in his book "German for Beginners".

#### Repetitive days

The days at the shelter, also home to 168 other people, are monotonous, punctuated only by breakfast, lunch and dinner. Morning and midday meals are usually comprised of cheese, bread, olives and a hard-boiled egg. In the evening, a warm meal is served.

Although children usually get sent to school fairly quickly, young men and women often have to wait months before they can start German classes.

In a nearby church, volunteers give classes every Monday and Wednesday to arm the newcomers with some basic German as they battle their way through complex bureaucracy. The rest of the time, however, the refugees live in a parallel world, with little or no contact with German society.

Economists have been calling on authorities to speed up the integration process by offering training more swiftly. "The process of integration like language classes should begin as soon as possible, because that's what determines whether integration would be successful in the long term," said Thomas Liebig, an economist specialising on migration issues at the OECD. — AFP

## UKRAINE AND REBELS SWAP NINE PRISONERS

**MARINKA, Ukraine:** Ukraine and pro-Russian rebels yesterday exchanged nine prisoners captured in the country's war-torn east in the first such swap this year, an AFP journalist witnessed.

The swap between the Kiev army and the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) took place at mid-day on a road through fields close to the town of Marinka, some 20 kilometres (12

miles) southwest of the rebels' de facto capital Donetsk. The pro-Russian eastern militia handed over three Ukrainian soldiers and the Ukrainian forces gave up five rebels captured in the course of fighting,

according to officials from both sides.

The Ukrainian side also handed over a senior Orthodox monk from Donetsk. He was detained at a checkpoint in August for allegedly collaborating with the separatists.

"Negotiations for the exchange were difficult," the DPR human rights ombudswoman Daria Morozova told reporters. Morozova underlined that it is impossible for the sides to exchange all their prisoners, although this is one of the measures required by the Ukraine peace agreement reached in Minsk last year.

Kiev is still seeking the release of 134 people in captivity, said lawmaker Iryna Gerashchenko, one of Ukraine's envoys in Minsk. "Today after an almost four-month pause, the process of liberating hostages finally started," she wrote on Facebook.

More than 9,000 people have been killed and 20,000 injured since the revolt against Ukraine's new pro-Western leadership erupted in April 2014, according to the United Nations. Kiev and the West accuse Russia of supporting the insurgents and sending regular troops across the border, claims that Moscow denies. — AFP



**KIEV:** People pay their respects in honor of the "Heavenly Hundred" on Independence Square in Kiev, Ukraine, yesterday. The "Heavenly Hundred" is what Ukrainians in Kiev call those who died during months of anti-government protests in 2013-14. — AP

## AUSTRIA REJECTS EU FLAK OVER MIGRANTS CAP

**VIENNA:** Austria's combative interior minister rejected yesterday EU criticism of its cap of 80 asylum claims per day, saying a letter of complaint from the bloc's migration commissioner was "sent to the wrong address". "It should be generally known that Austria does not have an external EU border and is therefore not the first safe country that these people (migrants) set foot in," Johanna Mikl-Leitner told the Austria Press Agency (APA).

"If everybody stuck to the content of the letter (from migration commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos), then Austria would not have a problem with it. But the letter was clearly sent to the wrong address," Mikl-Leitner said. Instead, the complaints should be sent to safe countries that the migrants pass through on

their way to Austria, she added, in a reference in particular to Greece, the main entry point in the European Union for migrants.

In 2015, more than a million migrants reached Europe-nearly half fleeing the five-year-old Syrian civil war, and many risking their lives crossing to Greece and Italy in overloaded boats. The huge influx has caused a major political headache, fuelling the rise of populist parties on the back of concerns about jobs and security, and driving a wedge between members of the 28-nation EU.

Thousands more migrants have made the journey this year too, travelling up from Greece through countries in the western Balkans towards Austria and beyond.

Austria last year took in 90,000 asylum

seekers, making it one of the highest recipients in the EU on a per-capita basis, while almost 10 times that number passed through, mostly to Germany and Sweden. Faced with a resurgent far-right opposition topping opinion polls, Chancellor Werner Faymann's centrist government this week imposed the new cap and said only 3,200 migrants could transit per day. Austria-one of several members of the passport-free Schengen Zone to reimpose some border controls-is also tightening these checks and will only take in 37,500 asylum seekers this year.

On Thursday, amid widespread criticism of Austria, Avramopoulos sent a letter to Mikl-Leitner calling the cap "plainly incompatible with Austria's obligations under European

and international law." The measures have also raised fears that when migrant numbers rise as expected again in the coming months as spring arrives, there will be a dangerous backlog of people along the Balkans route from Greece northwards.

#### New asylum claims

On Friday, when the new restrictions came into effect, no single migrant entered Austria, due to bad weather. Yesterday 396 people, many of them families and including some elderly people, entered at the main Spiefeld border crossing point with Slovenia in southern Austria, police said.

But of these only 12 applied for asylum, the others saying they wished to travel

onwards to Germany and transported in army buses to migrant centres, police spokesman Wolfgang Braunsar said. Vienna says its unilateral moves are necessary because a German-backed EU plan agreed in November for Turkey to stem the flow of migrants leaving its shores for Greece is not yet working.

The EU and Turkey are due to hold a summit on March 6 to seek to firm up their agreement, which would see migrants flown directly from Turkey and shared in theory around certain members of the bloc. In return for sealing its borders, Turkey would receive several billion euros (dollars) in aid and other sweeteners including reinvigorating its drive for EU membership and easing visa restrictions. — AFP



## AFGHAN TROOPS PULL OUT OF STRATEGIC HELMAND DISTRICT

**LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan:** Afghan forces have pulled out of bases in Musa Qala, a strategic district of the southern province of Helmand, after months of heavy fighting with Taliban insurgents, officials said yesterday.

Helmand, a traditional heartland of the Taliban and one of the world's biggest centres of opium production, has been threatened for months and the United States recently sent hundreds of soldiers to the province to bolster its defense. The commander of the Afghan army's 215th corps, Mohammad Moeen Faqir, said troops had been ordered to pull back from Roshan Tower, their main

base in Musa Qala, as well as other checkpoints to reinforce Gereshek, straddling the main Highway One which links Kabul with the south and west.

"Their presence in the area did not mean anything," he said. "We will use them in battle with enemies in other parts of Helmand province."

Fierce fighting has raged in Musa Qala and other parts of Helmand for months and the Taliban overran the district in August last year before they were driven back by Afghan forces backed by US airstrikes. Musa Qala itself is a dry and sparsely inhabited district that British and American troops fought hard to

control between 2006 and 2008 but its loss could bring further losses elsewhere, including Sangin where government forces have been clinging on.

"Now that the government has withdrawn its forces from this district, we will see Kajaki, Gereshek and Sangin collapsing very soon," said deputy provincial council member Abdul Majid Akhundzada. The Taliban said in a statement it had captured armored personnel carriers, bulldozers and other equipment abandoned in Roshan Tower and nine other checkpoints. The withdrawal prompted speculation among local officials that the government had reached

an arrangement with the Taliban but Abdul Jabar Qahraman, presidential envoy for security affairs in Helmand, denied any such pact. "There wasn't any deal," he said. "We learnt that there was no need to continue the fight in that area." No comment was immediately available from the ministry of defense in Kabul. The outgoing commander of international forces, Gen. John Campbell, recently sent hundreds of American troops to Helmand, where they assist and train Afghan forces but do not fight. A spokesman for NATO's Resolute Support mission in Kabul said its aim remained to train, advise and

assist and referred questions on Afghan troop movements to the defense ministry. US officials estimate the Taliban dominates or threatens almost a third of the country and has full control over at least four districts. Although it briefly took the northern city of Kunduz last year, it does not control any provincial capitals.

Although Helmand has been one of the provinces most at risk, the Taliban have been pushing forward across the country, putting severe strain on government troops, fighting alone since international forces ended most combat operations in 2014. — Reuters

## PAKISTAN TROOPS KILL FIVE MILITANTS

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistani security forces yesterday killed at least five militants in a gunfight in a restive northwestern tribal district bordering Afghanistan, the military said. Troops encountered the militants near Ghalanai, the main town of Mohmand, one of the seven tribal border districts which have been home to Al-Qaeda and Taliban-led militants.

"Five terrorists were killed by security forces in Mohmand early morning today," a military statement said. Troops engaged the militants as they were planning a "terrorist activity", it said without elaborating, adding that the bodies were handed over to the local administration. The clash comes after Taliban militants killed at least nine policemen in two almost simultaneous attacks in Mohmand on Wednesday. They killed seven police in an ambush on a checkpoint in Pandiyali area of Mohmand and shot dead two more who were guarding a solar-powered tube well in Michni area. Pakistan's army stepped up its offensive in the region after the Taliban's massacre of 153 people, mostly children, in Peshawar in December 2014, and killed or pushed hundreds of militants to Afghanistan.

Overall, levels of militant-linked violence have dropped dramatically, with 2015 seeing the fewest deaths among civilians and security forces since 2007 — the year the Pakistani Taliban umbrella group was formed. But the threat posed by the Taliban remains, particularly in the northwest.

Last month Taliban gunmen stormed a university in the northwestern town of Charsadda, killing 21 people in a chilling reminder of their ongoing ability to carry out occasional high-profile and

brazen attacks. Pakistan's Islamist insurgency began after the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, which led to a spillover of militants across the border and a surge in recruitment for Pakistani extremist groups.

### School blown up

Militants blew up part of a newly-constructed government school in Pakistan's South Waziristan region late Friday night, a spokesman for a wing of the Pakistani Taliban said yesterday, the latest in a string of attacks on educational institutions. No one was hurt in the blast in Pakistan's restive tribal belt, but 18 labourers working on the site were abducted, said Azam Tariq, a spokesman for an arm of the Pakistani Taliban known as the "Sajna" group, which claimed responsibility for the attack. He said the workers were released a short time later. "We have blown up the school because it was a government installation," said Tariq, warning the group would continue to attack government targets.

Twenty people were killed and dozens wounded last month when militants launched an attack on Bacha Khan University in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a little more than a year after Taliban gunmen massacred 134 students at a military school in nearby Peshawar. The Peshawar school attack was seen as having hardened Pakistan's resolve to fight militants along its border with Afghanistan. Officials in South Waziristan said the girls' wing of the school in the Tehsil Tiarza area was damaged in Friday's blast, as well as some heavy machinery being used for ongoing construction at the site. — Agencies



ROHTAK: Indian Army and security personnel patrol following fatal caste protests in Rohtak yesterday. — AFP

## LOCKDOWN IN NORTH INDIA STATE AS VIOLENCE FLARES

### AT LEAST ONE KILLED IN CASTE PROTESTS IN HARYANA

**NEW DELHI:** Indian authorities issued shoot-on-sight orders and deployed thousands of troops in a northern state neighboring New Delhi yesterday, after escalating caste protests left at least one dead, officials said.

Television images showed mobs wielding sticks rampaging through the streets in northern Haryana state, setting fire to a local government minister's house and railway stations, damaging train tracks and blocking two key highways. A week-long protest by the state's dominant Jat caste, who are demanding quotas for government jobs and in education, turned violent Friday as police fired on protesters with local reports saying four had died.

Jats, a comparatively affluent caste group, want the same special allowances that are afforded to lower castes facing societal discrimination, but other groups oppose the call.

Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar appealed for calm yesterday afternoon and urged people not to damage public property. "I appeal to the people especially the youth to stop the protests. Nothing will be gained by destroying property," Khattar said in a televised interview.

In Rohtak district, the centre of the protests, a mob defied the security clampdown and set fire

to a police station, a petrol pump, a community hall and shops, police told AFP.

"It was a 3,000-strong mob with axes, iron rods and sticks. We had to run for safety," Rajender Singh, a local police official told AFP. With protests spreading across the state, more than 5,000 army and paramilitary troops patrolled the streets to impose a round-the-clock curfew in eight districts.

The army was forced to use helicopters to reach parts of the state after protesters blocked two highways connecting four northern states with the capital.

"One person is confirmed dead and five are critical. Eighty-eight others are injured," Yash Pal Singal, Haryana police chief told reporters. Rakesh Gupta, director of the main government hospital in Rohtak, also told AFP he was aware of only one death from the violence.

### Jat leaders defiant

Protesters damaged railway tracks and started fires at stations leading 600 trains to be cancelled since Friday, a spokesman for Indian Railways said. "Three rail stations were burnt down and several kilometres of track have been damaged," Neeraj Sharma said, adding that services would remain suspended until the situation

was brought under control. Indian home minister Rajnath Singh Friday held meetings with security officials before dispatching additional troops to the state and appealed to protesters for peace.

But Jat leaders threatened to continue their protests after talks with Haryana's right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state government remained inconclusive. "The protest will only end when government accepts our demands. We won't get carried away by false assurances now," Yashpal Malik, the president of a national Jat organization that is leading the protest, told AFP.

The protests echo caste violence that swept the western state of Gujarat in August last year, leaving several dead.

That state saw weeks of protests by the privileged Patidar or Patel caste, who demanded special treatment to put them on an equal footing with lower castes. India sets aside a proportion of jobs and places to people from so-called lower and backward castes under measures intended to bring victims of the worst discrimination into the mainstream.

But the policy of "reservation" causes resentment among other communities who say it freezes them out. — AFP

## BANGLADESH'S 'TREE MAN' UNDERGOES SURGERY

**DHAKA:** A Bangladeshi father dubbed "Tree Man" for massive bark-like warts on his hands and feet yesterday underwent a successful operation to remove some of the growths, a hospital said.

A nine-doctor team took three and a half hours to remove the giant warts from Abul Bajandar's right hand at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, facility director Samanta Lal Sen said.

The 26-year-old was admitted last month for an operation to remove the growths weighing at least five kilograms (11 pounds) that first began appearing 10 years ago. "It was a successful operation. We removed warts from all five fingers of his right hand. He's now happy and was laughing," Sen said.

"We'll now review his condition for the next three weeks before deciding whether to conduct more operations. It's a big challenge," Bajandar, from the southern district of Khulna, was diagnosed with epidermodysplasia verruciformis, an extremely rare genetic condition dubbed "tree-man disease" that causes the skin growths.

He became a celebrity with people travelling to Khulna over the years to see the "Tree Man" and hundreds visiting him in hospital. He was given the all-clear for surgery after tests confirmed the warts were not cancerous. The Bangladesh government agreed to bear the costs of his treatment and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was given an update on his condition, Sen said.

Bajandar's wife Halima Khatun saw her husband after the operation and said he looked "relaxed and happy".

Hospital director Sen said there were only three known cases of epidermodysplasia verruciformis in the world and Bajandar's was the only one in Bangladesh. Bajandar told AFP last month that he initially thought that the warts were harmless but slowly as the growths covered his hands and feet, he was forced to quit working as a bicycle rickshaw puller.

An Indonesian villager with massive warts all over his body underwent a string of operations in 2008 to remove them. — AFP



DHAKA: Bangladeshi patient Abul Bajandar (L), 26, dubbed "Tree Man" for the massive bark-like warts on his hands and feet, sits at Dhaka Medical College Hospital in Dhaka. — AFP

## OFFICIAL: KABUL POWER TO BE RESTORED SOON

**KABUL:** Afghanistan's capital will soon have electricity fully restored, weeks after insurgents destroyed cables from Uzbekistan providing power to the capital, officials said yesterday. The military had cleared Taliban-linked fighters from the area of northern Baghlan province where the cables were destroyed by Taliban-linked fighters, said Wahidullah Tawhidi, spokesman for the Afghanistan electricity directorate. Engineers had reconnected some cables and the work should be completed within five days, he said.

Kabul, a city of almost 5 million, has been without secure power since late January, when militants sabotaged the cables during a military operation to clear them from the region. As a result, residents have shivered through the last stages of a mild winter, many relying on wood-burning stoves or buying generators run on diesel.

The city relies on power transmitted via cables that stretch hundreds of kilometers (miles) across the country. The destruction of the cables during battles between government forces and the militants exposed the vulnerability of the capital to the war largely being fought elsewhere, as well as the country's reliance on power from outside its own borders. Afghanistan also buys electricity from Tajikistan. The governor of Baghlan, Abul Satar Barez, said the military had cleared insurgents from the Dand-e-Shahabuddin district, where the cables were cut by anti-government fighters.

"We hope that power will soon be reconnected to Kabul," he said. The military operation also aimed to ensure that Dand-e-Shahabuddin remained secure, to prevent further disruption. The Taliban have been fighting the government for 15 years. Following the drawdown of the international combat mission in 2014, the insurgents spread across the northern provinces bordering Central Asia. The insurgents are currently fighting on three fronts, engaging Afghan forces in the northern province of Badakhshan, bordering Tajikistan, in Kunduz - where they took control of the provincial capital for a short period in September - and in Helmand, a major drug-producing province in the south. — AP



NEW DELHI: Nepalese Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli, left, prepares to shake hands with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi before their meeting in New Delhi yesterday. — AP

## INDIA PLEDGES \$250M TO REBUILD QUAKE-HIT NEPAL

**NEW DELHI:** India yesterday pledged \$250 million for post-earthquake reconstruction in Nepal as the two countries try to heal strained ties following protests in Nepal over the country's new constitution. The assistance, covering housing, health, education and cultural heritage in Nepal's earthquake-hit areas, is part of an accord signed by the countries' foreign ministers during Nepalese Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli's visit to India.

Nearly 9,000 people were killed in a 2015 earthquake and aftershocks in Nepal. Nearly a million houses and buildings were damaged.

Oli and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also inaugurated on Saturday a transmission line for the supply of Indian elec-

tricity to Nepal under an Indian credit line of \$13.5 million.

Nepal will use \$100 million of the Indian assistance for the construction of 50,000 houses in the 14 districts most severely affected by the quake. Under the accord, \$50 million each would be utilized in the health, education and cultural heritage sectors in 31 earthquake-hit districts of Nepal.

Oli said the main purpose of his visit "is to clear the misunderstanding that surfaced in the last few months." Political protests in Nepal disrupted the supply of petroleum and other products from India, creating a rift in bilateral relations. Nepal blamed India and its support of ethnic Madhesi protesters for the disruption in supplies, a charge denied by India.—AP



## FIJI HIT BY 'STRONGEST EVER' CYCLONE, BRACED FOR EVACUATIONS

**SUVA, Fiji:** Fiji was yesterday struck by its most powerful ever cyclone, according to reports, as the island nation batted down the hatches with a blanket curfew and mass evacuations. The category five super-storm hit the main island of Viti Levu overnight, according to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center, with flights cancelled and evacuation centres activated earlier in the day.

"As a nation, we are facing an ordeal of the most grievous kind," Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said in a national address. "We must stick together as a people and look after each other. Be alert and be prepared." Severe tropical cyclone Winston, with average winds of 220 kilometres (136 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 315 kilometres per hour, was the first ever category five storm to hit the nation, the Fiji Times reported.

"This mega storm has the potential to cause catastrophic damage across Fiji, an island nation frequented by hundreds of thousands of holiday-goers

every year," said Iris Low-McKenzie, CEO of Save the Children Fiji.

"It looks as though the storm could pass over the international airport in Nadi, which, if significant damage is caused, will make the humanitarian response all the more difficult," she added.

National Disaster Management director Akapusi Tuifagalele told the Fijilive website that 758 evacuation centres had been set up in the nation of about 900,000. Winston brushed by the more northerly island of Vanua Levu yesterday afternoon, with unconfirmed reports of trees felled and roofs blown off houses.

"I've never seen such a strong cyclone as this one in 60 years," resident Zelim Hussein told AFP by phone. "This is a monster cyclone, without doubt the strongest we've ever experienced. We're all very scared and hope it goes away quickly."

Fiji Airways, Virgin Australia and Jetstar all cancelled flights to the holi-

day hotspot, which is a popular destination for Australians and New Zealanders. The government imposed a nation-wide curfew on Saturday night, with the prime minister warning residents not to go outdoors.

"The threat of being hit by flying debris is extremely high," he said. Winston has been moving around the South Pacific for a week, skirting around Vanuatu and Tonga and has previously taken aim at Fiji before veering away. Cyclones are common in the South Pacific and their impact is notoriously difficult to predict, with major storms capable of causing major devastation but sometimes blowing themselves out with relatively little damage. The UN humanitarian agency (OCHA) said it was ready to support the disaster management office if required. Winston had the potential to bring "destructive winds, heavy rains, dangerous storm surge and a high risk of both flash and river flooding", OCHA said in a statement. — AFP



**LABASA:** People are splashed by a wave whipped up by the encroaching cyclone Winston in Labasa yesterday. The Pacific island nation of Fiji is hunkering down as a formidable cyclone with winds of 300 kilometres (186 miles) per hour approaches. — AP



**INCHEON:** People arrive from Baengnyeong island, at Incheon port, South Korea, yesterday. — AP

## N KOREA CONDUCTED ARTILLERY DRILL NEAR SEA BORDER: SEOUL ISLAND RESIDENTS PREPARE FOR EVACUATION

**SEOUL:** Sounds of explosions caused South Korean residents of a front-line island to prepare to evacuate early yesterday, but it was later determined that the noise came from a North Korean artillery drill across the rivals' disputed maritime border, officials said.

The false alarm was indicative of the high anxiety between the Koreans in the wake of the North's recent long-range rocket launch and nuclear test.

Hours later, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency hurled insults at South Korean President Park Geun-hye, calling her a "tailless, old, insane bitch" as it condemned her hard-line response to the North's recent actions. The government of Park, who has been a frequent target of sexist comments from the North, shut down a factory park in North Korea that had been jointly run by the rivals. Seoul also has started preparatory talks with Washington on deploying a sophisticated missile defense system in South Korea in attempts to tighten the screws on Pyongyang.

North Korea also labeled as "laughable" Washington's new sanctions against Pyongyang, which were signed into law by President Barack Obama on Thursday and are aimed at denying the North the money to develop miniaturized warheads and the long-range missiles required to deliver them.

Despite the US sanctions, the North will continue to "raise high" its official policy of simultaneously developing nuclear weapons and its economy, an unnamed Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a separate KCNA dispatch.

South Korea's front-line soldiers near the northwest island of Baengnyeong heard several explosions and also saw flashes from what the military believes were shells fired from North Korean coastal guns at around 7:20 a.m., said an official from Seoul's Defense Ministry, who didn't want to be named, citing office rules. No North Korean projectile flew south of the maritime border, he said.

An official from the county that governs

the island said that residents didn't evacuate, but that fishing boats returned to their ports. She said that passenger vessels from the island and the mainland port of Incheon were operating normally.

Meanwhile, Seoul's Defense Ministry said the military completed its search operations for debris from the North Korean long-range rocket that was launched into orbit Feb. 7.

The military said it was unlikely that there were any more crucial parts left to be found in South Korean seas. The ministry said that the navy recovered two pieces of debris presumed to be from the launch at an island off the country's western coast on Thursday and Friday.

South Korean officials believe the North deliberately blew up the rocket's first stage after burnout to prevent South Korea from retrieving debris. North Korea said it launched an Earth observation satellite, but South Korea, the US and the UN said it violated a ban on Pyongyang's missile technology. — AP

## JUNTA-RULED THAILAND FLIRTS WITH RUSSIA AS US TIES COOL

**BANGKOK:** Thailand is pursuing closer ties and possible arms deals - with Russia, with relations between Thailand and its traditional partner, the United States, cooling in the wake of a May 2014 coup. Two Thai deputy prime ministers will travel to Russia, just weeks after a visit to Bangkok by the powerful head of Russia's security council, Nikolai Patrushev. On the table, officials from both countries say, are wide-ranging talks on trade and security cooperation, as Russia seeks to develop its position as an Asian power.

Most attention has been focused on Thailand's warming ties with China, including talks on a massive rail project and the possible purchase of \$1 billion worth of Chinese-made submarines.

But Russia appears keen to compete for Thailand's attention. In the last 18 months, Thai junta leader General Prayuth Chan-ocha has met three times with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, who visited Thailand in April 2015, the Russian ambassador to Thailand, Kirill Barsky, told Reuters. Prayuth will travel to Russia in May for a meeting between Russia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

### "THE US WON'T SELL"

The big prize of talks - and of most strategic concern to the United States - is in defence. Thailand served as a staging ground for American forces during the Vietnam War, and the Pentagon values its strategic access to the Southeast Asian nation's airfields and ports. But for a second straight year, the United States scaled back regional military exercises, known as "Cobra Gold", which Thailand hosted earlier this month. Thai media have reported that Thailand is seeking to buy dozens of Russian T-90 tanks to

replace part of its ageing US-made fleet.

In an interview, Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan told Reuters no decision had been made on the tanks. But US restrictions on the sale of arms to the military-ruled country means Thailand needs to shop elsewhere for the roughly 50 tanks it needs, he said. "The US won't sell weaponry to us, and as of late we've been on a tight budget and can't afford them," Prawit said. A 2011 deal to buy 49 tanks from Ukraine fell through after only 10 were delivered, he noted.

Thailand is on course to sign an agreement with Russia covering counter-terrorism and is looking to buy Russian hardware, such as helicopters, for disaster response, he said.

"It's not that we've decided to be on good terms with China and Russia and not with the US. We're equally good to all of them."

### "THIS IS OUR DESTINY"

Russia has made it clear that its approach to Thailand is part of a broader push for Asian influence. But this will not necessarily be at the expense of China or the United States, Barsky, ambassador Barsky said.

"Russia does not need to prove to anybody that Russia is an Asian power, an Asia-Pacific power, a Euro-Pacific power. This is our destiny as a country which stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific coast," he said. Next week's visit will include talks on 25 separate draft agreements, including on trade, culture, technology and security, he said. Prawit will meet Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin and Trade Minister Denis Manturov for talks on military and technical cooperation, Barsky said. — Reuters

## THAI TOP COP CHARGED OVER SCANDAL-MIRED ROYAL CYCLING EVENT

**BANGKOK:** A well-known high-ranking Thai police officer who disappeared from the public sphere four months ago has been charged with malfeasance, police said yesterday, the latest twist in a shadowy purge of planners behind a birthday parade for the queen.

Former police spokesman Prawut Thavornsiri was a familiar face who appeared on daily television broadcasts with updates on high profile criminal cases, including the bombing in Bangkok last year that killed 20 people. He suddenly vacated his post in late October during a probe into another policeman and two others accused of exploiting their connections to the monarchy to profit off "Bike for Mom" - a massive cycling event that celebrated Queen Sirikit's birthday in August.

Those men were charged with defaming the royal family, a broadly interpreted crime that carries a 15 year jail sentence in a country where palace intrigue is shrouded in secrecy and rumour.

Two of those jailed over the event were later found dead in their prison cells within weeks of each other in November, according to police, a string of events that shocked the public.

On Saturday deputy police chief Sriwarah Rangsitpramkul said Prawut, who has not been seen in public since the purge, had also been charged for his involvement in the cycling event, which was led by the 63-year-old crown prince. The former spokesman will be prosecuted for installing antennas on a Bangkok building that were used in connection with the event, he said, without elaborating on what the radio transmitters were used for.

He also confirmed that Prawut had not returned to Thailand. "General Prawut Thavornsiri, former national police spokesman, is currently not in the kingdom but it will not affect our summoning him to hear the charges of malfeasance," said Sriwarah. — AFP



**MALANG:** Indonesian police officers stand guard outside the house of a suspected militant following a raid in Malang yesterday. — AP

## INDONESIAN POLICE ARREST 41 ISLAMIST MILITANTS

**JAKARTA:** Indonesian police have arrested dozens of suspected Islamic militants on the main island of Java as authorities get set to tighten anti-terrorism laws following last month's deadly attack in Jakarta. Central Java police spokesman Col. Liliék Darmanto says police early yesterday arrested 36 men who were attending military-style training at an alleged jihadi camp on the remote slopes of Mount Sumbing. Police are investigating the men's possi-

ble links to Islamic radicalism. Officers seized air rifles, knives, jihadi books and flags in the raid. Separately, police say five suspected militants were captured late Friday in Malang, a hilly city in East Java province.

Indonesia's government has submitted to parliament a new anti-terrorism law that would enable authorities to hold suspects involved in radicalism and extremism for up to six months. — AP

## THOUSANDS MARRY IN MASS CEREMONY IN SOUTH KOREA

**GAPYEONG, South Korea:** About 3,000 couples from 62 countries tied the knot in South Korea yesterday, in a mass wedding ceremony conducted by the Unification Church founded by the late Reverend Sun Myung Moon. A further 12,000 couples worldwide participated in the ceremony via the Internet, said Ryu Kyeong-seuk, president of the South Korean headquarters of the church.

Moon, who died in 2012 at the age of 92, had presided over mass weddings since the early 1960s.

His widow, Hak Ja Han Moon, officiated at yesterday's ceremony, which was witnessed by about 22,000 church followers and guests gathered at the church's CheongShim Peace World Center in Gapyeong, about 75 km (50 miles) northeast of Seoul. The couples included 1,000 who were newlywed and about 2,000 who were already married and seeking to re-dedicate their marriages and families to God as they had married before joining the church.

"We've been engaged for over one year now, mostly been separated, so of course it's extremely good to be together again," said Hyo-joo

Song, from Britain, who married his Japanese wife yesterday.

"And yes, we're happy to be married and also share that experience with many other people." Moon was

a lightning rod for controversy and was once jailed in the United States for tax evasion. He also declared in 1992 that he and his wife were messiahs. Critics over the years have

called the organization a cult, questioning its finances and how it indoctrinates followers, who are sometimes derogatorily known as "Moonies." — Reuters



**GAPYEONG:** Couples from around the world celebrate in a mass wedding ceremony at the Cheong Shim Peace World Center in Gapyeong yesterday. — AP





Spectators watch as a car lands on its nose during a car jumping display at Stunt Fest at the Santa Pod Raceway near Wellingborough, central England, yesterday. The annual Stunt Fest event of automotive displays features monster trucks, car jumping, stunt driving and car football. — AFP

GOVT SUBMITS SUBSIDY STUDY TO MPS

Continued from Page 1

MP Abdulhameed Dashti said that during the meeting, the government told MPs that the decision to cut the cost of medical treatment for Kuwaitis abroad has been frozen until it is discussed with the Assembly as part of the reforms and spending cut measures. MP Askar Al-Enezi said that during the meeting, MPs asked the government to suspend the implementation of the medical treatment decision and the government agreed. He said he is confident that the prime minister will take every care not to undermine the rights of citizens for medical care and that the decision to cut allocations will be carefully assessed. Head of the economic consultative committee at the planning council Nasser Al-Roudhan, who attended the meeting, said the committee stressed that

tackling the economic situation should come through privatizing public services with strong government monitoring through the so-called golden share rule. National Assembly speaker Marzouk Al-Ghanem said the Assembly and the government will not shy away from tackling the economic issue and the treatment is aimed at achieving a bright future for the country. He stressed the need to design a national project for tackling economic imbalances and if there is a need to issue legislation, the Assembly has no objection.

Ghanem also urged the government to review its decision on the reduction of allocations for medical treatment abroad in a way that should not affect patients. Ghanem told reporters that he agrees on reducing spending in different sectors, including overseas medical treatment, through sound rules that should not affect those who deserve it.

IRAN SEEKS \$45BN IN FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Continued from Page 1

resources for next year, with about \$15 billion in direct foreign investment," he told a press conference. Tayebnia said Iran signed an agreement with Japan earlier this month for \$10 billion in investments and is seeking similar deals with other nations. Iran is now seeking to reduce reliance on oil revenues and move towards an economy

that depends on taxation, tourism, agriculture and other sources of revenue. Attracting foreign investment is seen as a necessary must-do step towards that goal. Tayebnia, however, said Iran welcomes foreign investment only if it leads to strengthening Iran's economy. "We won't welcome any proposal that doesn't lead to transfer of technology and capital (to Iran) or doesn't boost production and exports," he said. — AP

REFUGEE DOCU 'FIRE AT SEA' WINS...

Continued from Page 1

"I give this gift to the Tunisian people, all the martyrs of the revolution, all of those who contributed to the revolution," he said. "I hope we will continue on being free, being happy, producing good art." The Silver Bear for best actress went to Denmark's Trine Dyrholm for her role as a wronged wife in Thomas Vinterberg's "The Commune", a semi-autobiographical movie about his 1970s childhood. Oscar-winning Bosnian director Danis Tanovic accept-

ed the runner-up Grand Jury Prize for "Death in Sarajevo" about the corrosive legacy of the Balkans wars. A more than eight-hour-long historical epic by Filipino director Lav Diaz, "A Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery", claimed the Alfred Bauer Prize for a feature film that opens new perspectives in cinema. Best screenplay went to Polish filmmaker Tomasz Wasilewski for his portrait of the pivotal 1989-90 period in his country as told through four women, played by some of Poland's best-known theatre actresses, at crossroads in their lives. — AFP

UK SETS JUNE DATE FOR EU REFERENDUM

Continued from Page 1

"The starting gun has been fired," the UK Independence Party (UKIP) said in a statement. "The 23rd is our golden opportunity, let battle be joined," Nigel Farage, the party's leader, said, branding the EU deal "pathetic." "We must look forward to work with everybody who cares about our future, a future where the people of Britain controls her own borders, where we can make our own trade deals and make our own laws. "We want our country back," he said.

Cameron's Conservative party in particular is split over Europe, and no sooner had yesterday's cabinet meeting ended than five of its 22 ministers announced they would be campaigning to leave. Among them are justice minister Michael Gove, who said "this chance may never come again in our lifetimes". The biggest prize for the eurosceptic camp, which has so far been plagued by infighting and has no clear leader, would be Boris Johnson, the popular Conservative mayor of London. Johnson, who has ambitions to succeed Cameron as leader of the Conservative party, has yet to declare his position. Media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, an influential figure in Britain through his ownership of a clutch of UK newspapers, congratulated Gove. "Congratulations Michael Gove," Murdoch said on Twitter. "Friends always knew his principles would overcome his personal friendships." The message from the 84-year-old executive chairman of News Corp and 21st Century Fox Inc raises the prospect of some of the media tycoon's British newspapers possibly campaigning for an EU exit.

Cameron announced his intention to hold a referendum three years ago, under pressure from Conservative eurosceptics and the rise of UKIP. He said he would only campaign to stay in if he could secure reforms to address key concerns about EU migration, loss of sovereignty, economic competitiveness and the protection of non-eurozone Britain's financial sector. Declaring success in his negotiations on Friday, with what German Chancellor Angela Merkel was a "fair compromise", Cameron said he would campaign "with all my heart and soul" to stay.

But critics say the deal, which contained restrictions on welfare payments for EU migrants and an opt-out for Britain from the EU's goal towards ever closer union, falls far short of what

was originally promised. "Call that a Deal, Dave?" headlined the mass-market Daily Mail, while The Daily Telegraph said Cameron had made "puny gains" and The Times called it "Thin Gruel".

Analysts say the nitty-gritty of the EU deal will likely be only a small part of the referendum campaign, which is already focused on the big issues of immigration, security, prosperity and Britain's place in the world. "Voters are not going to decide by this deal," said John Springford, senior research fellow at the Centre for European Reform. Opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn dismissed Cameron's deal as a "sideshow" but said he would be campaign to stay because the EU "brings investment, jobs and protection for British workers and consumers".

Anand Menon, professor of European politics at King's College London, said he expected both sides to emphasise the risks of either leaving or sticking with the status quo. "This is going to be a depressingly negative campaign," he told AFP. The date for the referendum, which clashes with the Glastonbury music festival, an EU summit in Brussels and comes in the middle of the Euro 2016 football tournament, has to be approved in parliament and Cameron will address the House of Commons tomorrow.

It will be Britain's second referendum on European membership in just over 40 years. In June 1975, voters backed membership of the then European Economic Community (EEC) by just over 67 percent. The question on June 23 will be: "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?"

Pro-Europeans, including former prime ministers Tony Blair and John Major, have warned that an exit could also trigger the break-up of the United Kingdom by prompting another Scottish independence vote if England pulled Scotland out of the EU. Companies such as BP and GlaxoSmithKline have cautioned that Britain's \$2.9 trillion economy would face years of uncertain negotiations if voters chose to divorce, while Goldman Sachs said sterling could fall by as much as a fifth.

Members of Britain's split 'Out' campaign say such warnings are overblown and that Britain would prosper if it broke free from what they say is a doomed German-dominated bloc that punches way below its weight beside rivals such as Russian President Vladimir Putin. — Agencies

Kuwait Times Premier Brands To see your ad here, call: +965 248 35 616 / 617 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net ads@kuwaittimes.net Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Offers FEBRUARY BEST PRICES

SHARP LC-40LE265M 40" FULL HD 1080P 89 KD (Value of 99.950 KD) 2xHDMI USB 200...

SHARP LC-50LE458X 50" NEW ARRIVAL FULL HD 1080P 159 KD (Price of 195 KD) DVB-S2 HDMI CI+ DOLBY DIGITAL PLUS PC INPUT USB...

SHARP LC-50LE570X 50" SMART TV AQUOS FULL HD 1080P 199 KD (Price of 295 KD) androidtv QUAD CORE USB WIFI HDMI

best AL-YOUSIFI • Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 ( Bin Khalidon str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya ( Behind police Station) • Fahahel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra ( Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall) Credit: Start from SKD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery 1809 809



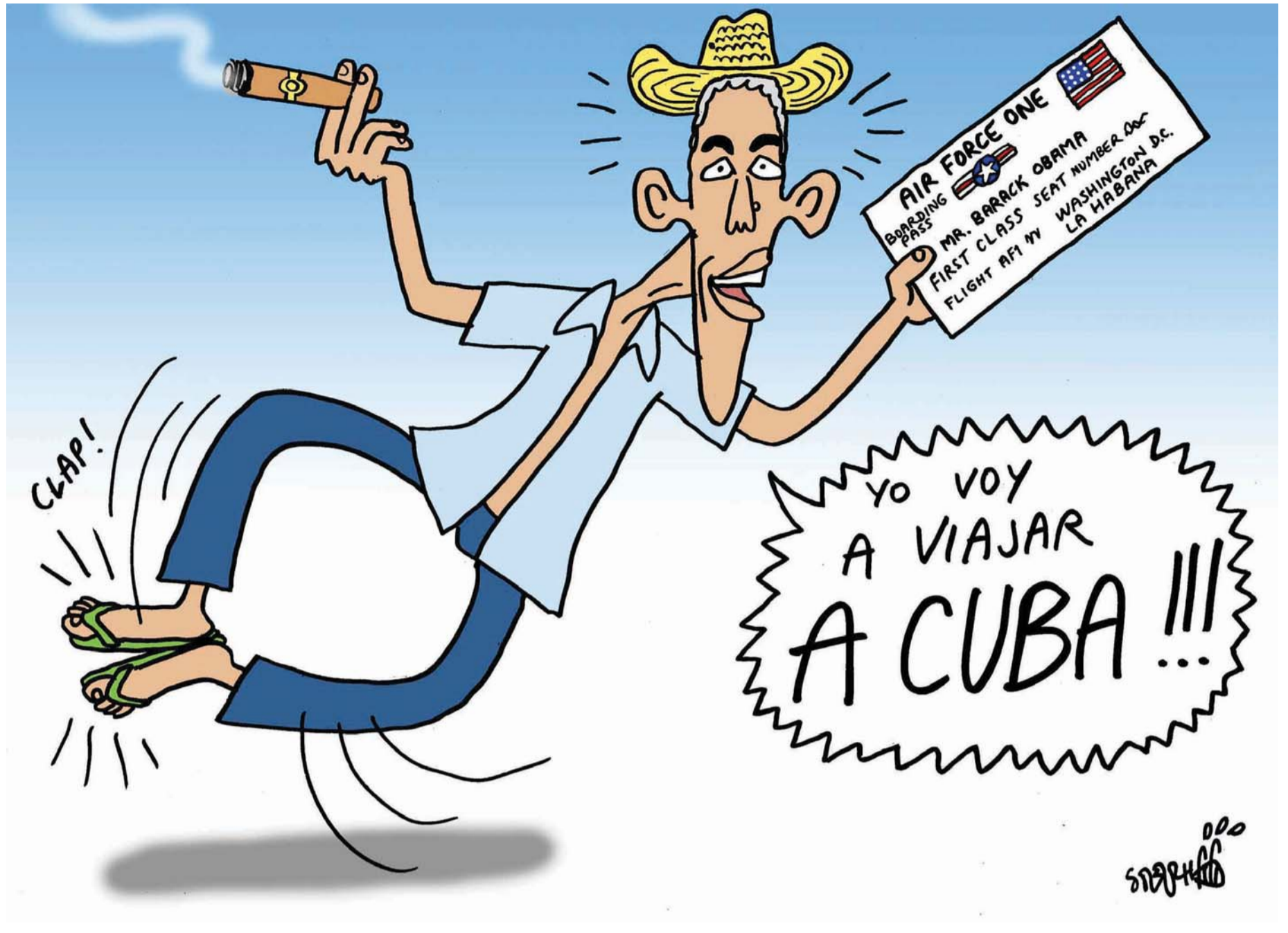
**Kuwait Times**  
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT  
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF  
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher  
**YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN**

Editor-in-Chief  
**ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN**

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
ACCOUNTS : 24835619  
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.  
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net



## Focus

BRITAIN'S FUTURE,  
MIGRANT SPLIT  
REVEAL EU DIVIDE

By Lorne Cook

Britain is thinking of leaving. Greece feels isolated. Austria and Denmark are pushing controversial measures for coping with asylum-seekers despite what their neighbors think. Tensions between European Union leaders at this week's summit in Brussels have highlighted a gnawing lack of confidence that the bloc of 28 nations can provide timely answers to Europe's challenges.

Rarely has the EU seemed as fragmented and impotent as on Friday, when leaders grappled with a possible British exit and tried to find a united response to the refugee emergency. "The fact that every policy being discussed is strongly contested is fueling doubts as to whether the EU and its members will be able to match their rhetoric with concrete actions by cooperating more closely," Janis Emmanouilidis at the European Policy Centre think-tank wrote in an analysis.

Still barely recovering from an economic crisis that rivaled the Great Depression, Europe is now struggling with its biggest refugee crisis in well over half a century. The arrival of more than 1 million people fleeing conflict or poverty for better lives in a far wealthier Europe has overwhelmed border authorities and reception capacities. It has stoked unfounded fears of a threat to Europe's cultural identity and even religion, the arrival of extremism or the theft of jobs.

As tens of thousands of people have packed into trains or hiked Europe's highways north from Greece toward their dream of having a home in Germany or Sweden, nations have erected fences or tightened border controls unilaterally, putting pressure on their EU partners. The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia are working together, pushing for a clamp-down on borders along the main migrant transit route through the Balkans. And even nations like Austria and Denmark are out of step with other EU nations.

Austria has surprised its partners by putting a cap on the number of asylum-seekers it will let in, a move the EU's Executive Commission maintains breaks European and international law. Denmark, meanwhile, has moved to take away some assets from asylum-seekers to help pay for their accommodations and food. "The problem is that everyone sees the situation from their individual standpoint and waits for the other to move first in implementing those necessary solutions," European Parliament President Martin Schulz told leaders in Brussels. "Lamentably, this crisis is exposing serious fault-lines within our union."

## Values

The crisis is also hurting Europe on a psychological level, with the refugee response increasingly unworthy of Europe's proclaimed values and possibilities as a powerful, relatively prosperous world trading bloc. Professor Hendrik Vos of Belgium's University of Ghent, says EU migration policy is hardening along the lines of Hungary's populist leader, Viktor Orban, who has erected anti-migrant razor-wire fences. "The language may be a bit less aggressive, and there are humanitarian concerns, but the policy is really going in the direction of: How do we keep the refugees out?" he said.

The fear of EU migrant workers taking advantage of Britain's welfare system is partly driving Prime Minister David Cameron's push for a referendum this summer on whether his country should leave. On Friday, he won a hard-fought deal for a less intrusive EU after 31 hours of tense talks with EU partners. The summit was sent into overtime as Cameron pushed his partners for reforms that include limiting benefits to those migrant workers, ensuring that nations like Britain that are outside the euro currency union don't have to pay for euro needs, as well as simplifying EU bureaucracy. In exchange, he pledged to campaign for Britain to stay in the bloc.

## Woes

But it doesn't stop with Britain's future or the refugee emergency. Italy's economic woes have seen Prime Minister Matteo Renzi aggressively take German Chancellor Angela Merkel to task in recent months on the economy, migration and energy policy. While ostensibly Europe's driving force, Merkel has also become synonymous with the austerity measures imposed on countries like Greece to meet fiscal targets and budget plans. Through it all the future of Greece, with a communist government elected a year ago, remaining in the euro single currency has been called into question. —AP

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: [opinion@kuwaittimes.net](mailto:opinion@kuwaittimes.net) or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary.

## Washington Watch

## 'META-ISSUES' BEHIND SANDERS-CLINTON CONTEST

By Dr James Zogby

The Democratic presidential primary race is shaping up to be a fascinating contest between the voters' views of two distinct political personalities. Some find this state of affairs confounding, believing that the election should have been a "slam-dunk" for Hillary Clinton—the former First Lady, twice elected Senator from New York, and former Secretary of State. That a 74-year-old socialist Senator from Vermont is giving her, quite literally, a "run for the money," is stunning.

Polls show the once cavernous gap that separated the two is closing. They tied in Iowa and Sanders defeated Clinton soundly in New Hampshire. He also raised more money than Clinton in January, all from small individual donors, putting an exclamation point on his fundraising ability with a stunning two day intake of eight million dollars following the New Hampshire victory—all from online contributors.

In an effort to understand the Sanders' phenomenon I have identified several factors that appear to be defining this contest. Some are issue related, while others are driven more by, for lack of a better term, "meta-issues".

On one level, Clinton is running on a rather traditional liberal/moderate platform. She emphasizes her experience and her record of "getting things done". Her speeches include a litany of programs she proposes to implement and causes she will champion. She will fight for women and children, working families, immigrants, health care, civil rights, etc - offering to make incremental but real change. At the same time, she insists that she will be fiscally responsible. And she will support a muscular foreign policy that will defend American interests and allies.

Sanders' stump speech, on the other hand, drives home a single theme - the fact that the American economy and politics are dominated by a handful of billionaires who have "rigged" the system to support their interests at the expense of the majority. With this foundation laid, Sanders calls for a political "revolution" that will mobilize voters to demand a leveling of the playing field, offering such expansive programs as universal health care and free college education. He proposes paying for these by imposing taxes

on the very wealthy and on excessive Wall Street behavior. And he emphasizes a more restrained foreign policy that avoids irresponsible, costly, unwinnable wars.

## Clarity

Sanders' edge is that he offers "bumper sticker" clarity. Because his programs and proposals all flow from a coherent economic and political philosophy, his message more easily resonates with many voters. This clarity is something that Republicans have long owned and Democrats have missed. While Republicans could speak of "small government and individual freedom", Democrats could only respond with a bewildering array of causes and programs that lacked a central over-arching theme. With Sanders, Democrats can respond with theme like "a government that cares" and "we all matter".

Clinton criticizes Sanders' program as unachievable "pie in the sky", countering that her approach is incrementalist and real. But Democrats and independents who may not agree with Sanders' philosophy or even believe that his far-reaching proposals will be implemented, share his anger at the corrosive effects of inequality and have been captivated by his campaign.

More significant still is the important fact that voters, whether or not they agree with Sanders program, appear to trust him more, believe that he means what he says, and feel that he really does care about their concerns. This comes through quite clearly from my discussions with a wide range of voters I've met in several states and from letters I've received from others who have expressed their views on the two candidates. Their reactions and the attitudes that come through in national polls need to be understood.

In this regard, the entrance/exit polls from Iowa and New Hampshire are instructive in that they help delineate the attitudes of the constituencies supporting each of the candidates. Clinton wins easily in two areas - "the right experience to be president" and "can win in November". On the other hand, Sanders overwhelmingly dominates in two other areas - "is honest and trustworthy" and "cares about the needs of people like me". These are the "meta-issues" that have worked to Sanders advantage.

## Young Voters

The Sanders support base overlaps, to some degree, with what was called the "Obama coalition" in that it includes young voters. In his insightful book, "The Way We'll Be: The Transformation of the American Dream", my brother John Zogby, defines the value orientation and world-view of the distinct age groupings that make up the American electorate. The youngest of these, he calls the "First Globals". They are the first generation of Americans who are global in their worldview and accepting of all forms of diversity. They are willing to learn from others and see themselves as citizens of the world. They are open to other religions and define "spirituality" not in terms of an organized church, but values that connect them to others and to the planet.

And, most importantly, they are attracted to qualities like openness, authenticity, and integrity. These are the "meta-issues" that have attracted young voters to Sanders and may not be transferable to Clinton should she emerge victorious in the primaries. The exit polls, for example, show Sanders beating Clinton by a margin of six to one among young voters.

There is an intriguing subtext to John's study that is also worth considering. While, in the past, younger generations looked to older generations for guidance, today, that process has been reversed. Increasingly, older generations are learning values from their children. As was the case in the Obama campaign in 2008, many older folks I've met this year tell me that they have been inspired to support Sanders because of the enthusiasm he has created among their children or younger voters, in general.

And so, as this drama plays out, it will be important to see how this generational and values driven struggle plays out. Will voters opt for experience and the perceived "ability to win" or will they gravitate toward a candidate they trust who they perceive cares for them? From what we have seen so far, it is these "meta-issues", more than anything else, that may decide the outcome.

NOTE: Dr James Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

## WALESA SPY DRAMA REVIVES CONSPIRACY THEORY

By Michel Viatteau, and Stanislaw Waszak

Poland's new rightwing leaders are using fresh allegations about Solidarity hero Lech Walesa to revive conspiracy theories that the communist-era regime staged its own demise in 1989 to hold onto power behind the scenes. In claims that Polish EU leader Donald Tusk lamented as "unfortunate" for the country's image abroad, newly-released police files allege that Nobel Peace prize winner Walesa was in fact a paid communist spy. Walesa is renowned worldwide for negotiating a bloodless end to communism in Poland in 1989. The move triggered the country's first democratic elections since World War II, ushering Walesa into the presidency a year later. But rightwing politicians like Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the powerful leader of the governing Law and Justice (PiS) party, have long argued that Walesa was a regime spy and puppet whom communists used as a political fig-leaf while they held on to key military and economic sectors.

Centrists and liberals have repeatedly ridiculed the idea, arguing that Kaczynski - who was also a communist-era dissident - is being vengeful after falling out with Walesa during his presidency. Kaczynski also insists his late twin president Lech Kaczynski is the true hero of Poland's historic transition from communism to democracy. "In light of Walesa's complete disgrace, Lech Kaczynski will become the symbolic patron of the Solidarity movement," Kaczynski is quoted as having said in 2010, after his brother died in a jet crash in Russia.

## Walesa a 'Paid Communist Spy'

Poland's Institute of National Remembrance, which is responsible for prosecuting communist-era crimes, on Thursday revealed a newfound 1970s secret police file showing Walesa was a paid collaborator codenamed "Bolek". Walesa

admitted Friday he had "made a mistake", but flatly denied he was ever a regime agent. He was cleared of suspicion by a special vetting court in 2000. The 72-year-old did not elaborate on what his mistake was, but pointed to a mystery person who "should reveal the truth" about the past.

Poland's new Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski says he is not convinced. Walesa was a regime "puppet" and the newfound secret police files can prove that "the project to free Poland was orchestrated by the regime," Waszczykowski told Poland's commercial TVN 24 news channel on Friday. "We must try to find out... whether decisions made at the time were independent and in line with national interests or whether they were concocted by foreign or

domestic secret services. "It can show us that we were wrong in thinking we made the revolution and that our decisions were independent," he added.

## 'Polish Hell'

Poland's TVP public broadcaster, which recently saw the PiS install loyalists in top management, aired interviews with several historians Friday who said the newfound files confirm their convictions that Walesa was indeed a regime collaborator. During the interviews, TVP also showed communist-era pictures of Solidarity leader Walesa engaging in friendly meetings with regime top brass. Walesa supporters have hailed his historic role in Poland's transition to democra-

cy, but admit he could have caved in to secret police pressure while still a young electrician at the Gdansk Shipyard, later the cradle of the Solidarity trade union.

Communist-era dissident Henryk Wujec insists Walesa "never betrayed" fellow anti-regime activists to the secret police. Grzegorz Schetyna, a former dissident and leader of the liberal Civic Platform (PO) official opposition, said the controversy surrounding Walesa was rooted in political "vengeance" and dubbed it a "real Polish hell." "It's a classic example of how Poles are able to bring out the worst in each other," he added.

## 'Unfortunate for Poland's Image

EU president Tusk, a communist-era dissident and former Polish premier, insisted that Walesa never hid the fact that he was questioned by the regime's secret police. "It's all very unfortunate for Poland's image, for its great traditions and the legend of Solidarity and Lech Walesa," he told Polish media on Friday in Brussels. Poland's image abroad has already suffered in recent months because of controversial reforms introduced by the right-wing government that critics say undermine the independence of state media and the constitutional court. In the Gazeta Wyborcza newspaper, editor-in-chief Jaroslaw Kurski traces the history of ill will between Kaczynski and Walesa, which goes back to 1991 after earlier friendlier ties. "To reduce Lech Walesa, victor over communism, our greatest contemporary historic symbol, to the level of secret agent? No one in the world will understand," Kurski wrote. "What are the Poles doing to their own history?" Walesa himself, on a trip to Venezuela and the United States, defended himself, saying: "On the path I chose, I had to hold all kinds of discussions. And in the end, those discussions led to victory. "If I had chosen another path, we would have ended up like Ukraine, or even worse," he told reporters in Caracas, Venezuela, on Thursday. —AFP

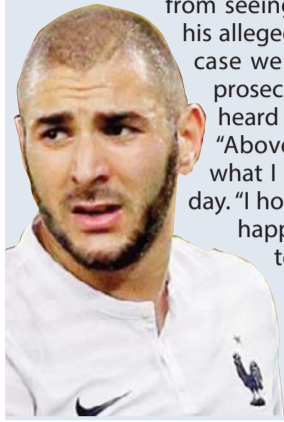


CARACAS: Former Poland President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Lech Walesa talks at the Venezuelan National Assembly during a special session in Caracas on Feb 18, 2017. —AFP



## HOPE OF BENZEMA RETURN GOOD FOR FRANCE: ZIDANE

**MADRID:** Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane described the partial lifting legal restrictions on Real striker Karim Benzema as "a good thing" for the French team as hopes have been raised Benzema could now feature in the European Championships later this year. Restrictions prevented Benzema from seeing international teammate Mathieu Valbuena due to his alleged involvement in blackmailing Valbuena in a sextape case were lifted by a French judge on Thursday. However, prosecutors have appealed the decision with the case to be heard before a court in Versailles, outside Paris on March 4. "Above all it is a good thing for the French team. That is what I have always said and I repeat it," Zidane said yesterday. "I hope that this matter is fixed quickly and that is what is happening. I am happy above all for the French national team." The French Football Federation (FFF) suspended Benzema from the national team after he was placed under formal investigation in November for alleged complicity in a blackmail attempt targeting Valbuena.—AFP



## KENYA APPOINTS STANLEY OKUMBI AS NEW COACH

**NAIROBI:** Kenya yesterday replaced Bobby Williamson with a former youth football coach Stanley Okumbi for the next round of African Cup of Nations qualifiers. New Football Kenya Federation (FKF) chairman Nick Mwendwa said Okumbi, who coached Kenyan premiership side, Mathare United last season, will take interim charge of the Harambee Stars when they play Guinea Bissau away in Bissau next month. Williamson, who had been the Kenyan national coach since August, 2014, was believed to be owed about 30 million shillings (30,000 dollars) in salary arrears by the former FKF administration of Sammy Nyamweya which was voted out office earlier this month. "The appointment of Okumbi is geared towards building local capacity," said Mwendwa. "We have picked our own whom I believe have the capacity to do the job. Personally I love the passing game and believe in our own style. Former international Musa Otieno, who acted as Williamson's deputy has been retained. Under Williamson Kenya struggled in their two opening round 2017 Nations Cup matches, drawing 1-1 draw away to Congo and losing 2-1 at home to Zambia.—AFP

## CAR PICTURE PUTS BENDTNER OFFSIDE

**BERLIN:** Danish bad-boy Nicklas Bendtner has fallen offside at VW-sponsored Wolfsburg, and will cop a fine, after breaking club rules by posting a picture of him climbing into a luxury Mercedes. The picture, posted on social media site Instagram, shows Bendtner climbing into the vehicle with the text: "On my way to another session". But with Volkswagen being the Bundesliga club's main backer, Wolfsburg bosses have taken a dim view of the Danish forward's decision to use a picture featuring a rival manufacturer's car. "We have our rules, one of those being that you must pay attention to how you are photographed in public," said Wolfsburg's director of sport Klaus Allofs. "The rules are not new. It's misconduct and it's careless, which at the end of the day will cost (Bendtner) money." The 28-year-old ex-Arsenal forward has completely fallen out of favour with Wolfsburg's head coach Dieter Hecking and plays second fiddle to Dutch striker Bas Dost and Germany's Max Kruse.—AFP



# 10 QUALIFIED FOR RED BULL KING OF THE ROCK'S FINAL

**KUWAIT:** Red Bull King of the Rock's qualifiers kicked off through exciting qualifier tournaments that took place in GUST Basketball Courts followed by AIS - Meidan Hawally and KU Khaldiya out of which 10 champions qualified to the final tournament. The names of the applicants who qualified are listed as follows: Al Fadhli, Abdullah Al Salem, Ziad Houry, Talal Al Marri, Ali Ayed, Mohammed Hersi, James Cocheran, Bader Al Yaqout and Abdullah Bashir.

For those who were not lucky enough to qualify for the final or to participate in the playoffs that passed, they can participate in the final qualifier. It is worth mentioning that Friday March 4th will witness the final of the competition in which the Red Bull King Of The Rock is culminated at the Radisson Blu Hotel. The final winner will qualify to represent Kuwait at the World Final in Turkey on September 18th.



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Lee Soo-min of South Korea putts on the first green during the third round of the Maybank Championship golf tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday.—AP

## LEE'S PUTTER ROLLS HIM INTO LEAD IN MALAYSIA

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Lee Soo-Min of South Korea surprised even himself with a dazzling putting display yesterday to snatch a three-stroke edge heading into the final round of the inaugural Maybank Championship Malaysia.

Lee shot a seven-under-par 64 to leapfrog 36-hole leader Nathan Holman of Australia and pre-tournament favourite Danny Willett of England. Lee, 22, is now at 15-under par, three shots ahead of Marcus Fraser of Australia, who finished the day with a five-under 66 at the par-71 Royal Selangor Golf Club.

Playing in just his second European Tour event, Lee rolled in nine birdies, including four straight on the back nine when he insists he was merely trying to get it close, only to watch the putts drop.

"After making birdie, I gained more confidence and continued to make more birdies," he said. If Lee can hold on Sunday to win the \$3 million tournament, which is co-sanctioned by the European and Asian Tours, it would be his maiden triumph outside of South Korea.

While Lee thrived, the stifling 33-degree (91 Fahrenheit) heat seemed to sap other key contenders. Holman, the recent Australian PGA champion, had established himself as the man to beat in Malaysia with an impressive tee-to-green game the first two days.

But the 24-year-old long-hitter strug-

gled yesterday, dropping four shots by the 11th. A late surge brought Holman to within a stroke of Lee, but he stumbled into the clubhouse with a triple-bogey on 18 after sailing a fairway bunker shot into a pond.

### HOLMAN STILL HOPEFUL

He finished with a third-round 73 and goes into the final day four strokes behind Lee. "I fell back but it's still a good position so I'm looking forward to tomorrow. Four shots today is not too many," Holman said.

Masahiro Kawamura of Japan, Miguel Tabuena of the Philippines, and Spain's Jorge Campillo were locked in a tie for fourth at 10-under. Willett had entered as the field's highest-ranked player at world number 13, and was favoured following a victory two weeks ago in the Dubai Desert Classic and other strong recent finishes.

His fine play lately has catapulted him up golf's world rankings in recent months and a win in Malaysia would push him past Sweden's Henrik Stenson to first in the Race to Dubai rankings, according to the European Tour.

That may have to wait after he posted a disappointing two-over 73 on Saturday, leaving him nine shots off Lee's pace.

The tournament, which offers \$500,000 to the winner, is the successor to the long-time Malaysian Open, which has been discontinued due to a sponsorship realignment.—AFP

# SPIETH EXITS, MCILROY IN THE HUNT AT RIVIERA

**PACIFIC PALISADES:** World number one Jordan Spieth crashed out of the Northern Trust Open Friday with fellow American Jason Kokrak leading by a single shot and Rory McIlroy firmly in the mix after the second round.

Reigning US Open and Masters champion Spieth bounced back from the worst opening round of his career with a three-under par 68 — 11 shots better than Thursday-but still missed the cut. Spieth said that sloppy iron play and not enough practice time on the driving range was his downfall but he vowed not to brood over his disappointment at the Riviera Country Club.

"I will be ready to go in the next tournament. I am not going to let this one get to me very much," said Spieth. "We rebounded in perfect form last year on just about every missed cut.

### We'll be fine."

It was just the third missed cut in the 22-year-old Texan's past 20 worldwide starts and the first time he has missed one since last year's Deutsche Bank Championship in Boston.

Long-hitting Kokrak surged up the leaderboard with a seven-under 64 to finish at 10-under 132 after 36 holes in the \$6.8 million US PGA Tour event. Chez Reavie fired a 67 and is alone in second at nine-under 133. American Dustin Johnson, who finished second to Bubba Watson at Riviera in 2014 and lost a sudden-death playoff to James Hahn last year, shot a 66 and was tied for third with Watson (68) and Troy Merritt (66) in the event, which concludes the tour's west coast swing.

World number three McIlroy had another solid round with a two-under 69, leaving him tied for seventh at six-under 136, four adrift of Kokrak. Spieth was hoping to use the event as a stepping stone ahead of defending the Masters title at Augusta National. But a disappointing eight-over 79 in the first round put him 12 shots back of McIlroy.

"I guess Rory is considering this as the start to his run at the Masters," Spieth said of the first major of the season that begins April 7. "This was not my start to the run at the Masters. Mine will start the next time." McIlroy would complete a career Grand Slam with a victory at the Masters, where he had a four-shot lead heading into the final round in 2011 before a spectacular collapse.

Spieth plans to take next week off and then compete at the World Golf Championships Cadillac Championship at Donald Trump's Doral course in Florida.

### McIlroy sizzles

McIlroy started quickly with birdies on two of his first three holes on what is considered a shot-makers course.

And McIlroy certainly had that part of his game on display Friday, especially on the par-five 17 where his aggressive approach saw him reach the green in just two while his playing partners Hideki Matsuyama and Matt Kucher both laid up. His eagle putt stopped two feet short for an easy birdie. "I just need to get off to a fast start tomorrow, get myself close to the leaders and play a good, solid round and see where that puts me going into today," McIlroy said.

Kokrak, ranked ninth on the tour in driving distance, is seeking his first win on the PGA Tour. His best finish was a second at the Frys.com Open four years ago. "This is one of the best fields on the Tour," said Kokrak. "So there are plenty of guys out there. I just have to stick to my game plan and try to hit good shots." —AFP



**PACIFIC PALISADES:** Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland takes his shot from the bunker on the second hole during round two of the Northern Trust Open at Riviera Country Club on Friday in Pacific Palisades, California.—AFP

## SHIN, NOMURA, KANG SHARE LEAD IN AUSTRALIAN OPEN

**ADELAIDE:** South Korea's Jenny Shin, Japan's Haru Nomura and American Danielle Kang shared the lead yesterday heading into the final round of the LPGA-sanctioned Australian Open at The Grange in Adelaide.

The trio are on nine-under 207 just ahead of world No.1 Lydia Ko and Australia's five-time winner Karrie Webb after 54 holes.

Shin, the American-based Korean seeking her first-ever LPGA Tour win, bogeyed the last hole with a three-putt or she would have been the outright leader. Shin carded a two-under 70, along with Nomura, while Kang fired a five-under 67.

Nomura, 23, birdied the last hole to get herself into today's final group. Poised for the final charge assault are Ko and Webb, just one shot off the pace. Webb teetered on the edge of disaster when she over-hit a chip at the 18th hole only to roll the putt in to save par and post eight-under par overall.

Webb said it was a "huge momentum putt going into tomorrow." "I'm not sure my name

means the same on a leaderboard as perhaps it did a little while ago but I think most people respect the fact that I know how to win, and that if I'm up there with a few holes to go I probably might have a good crack at it," Webb said.

Ko, the relentless Kiwi, birdied the first four holes and threatened to take over the tournament and finished with a 68. She was pleased to find a score in the 60s for the first time at The Grange.

"It's going to be fun tomorrow, obviously in the final groups there might be a bit more tension, but I'm going to try and enjoy it," she said. The field condensed yesterday as the overnight leaders-Scotland's Catriona Matthew and England's Holly Clyburn-both gave back shots to par. Veteran Matthew struggled to a 73 but was consoled by the fact she had "not played myself out of it". Clyburn imploded with a 78 and is out of contention. There are 18 players within four shots on a packed leaderboard.—AFP



## FOR DECATHLETE CHAMP EATON, JUST 2 EVENTS AT MILLROSE GAMES

**NEW YORK:** The "world's greatest athlete" could be the fourth-best hurdler at Saturday's Millrose Games. And Ashton Eaton's OK with that. Eaton is the Olympic gold medalist and world-record holder in the decathlon for the US, while his wife, Brienne Theisen-Eaton, won silver at the last two world championships in the heptathlon for Canada. Other track and field stars will compete in their specialties multiple times before this summer's Rio Games, but for the decathlon and heptathlon, that's not realistic. Eaton, 28, and Theisen-Eaton, 27, each plan to complete the exhausting full event just once before going for matching gold medals in Brazil.

Yesterday in the 109th edition of the indoor meet in New York City, Eaton took part in simply the 60-meter hurdles and the long jump, and Theisen-Eaton raced only the hurdles. "You learn by training; you get in shape by training," said their longtime coach, Harry Marra.

"But you get sharp by running against the guy next to you competing." The process of deciding which meets to enter - and which events to do at each one - can take weeks, Theisen-Eaton explained Thursday. They'll meet with their manager for hours, going over all

the different options.

Marra wants them to compete in the long jump, which requires such precise timing, at least a couple of times during the season. They also need experience in their weaker events - Theisen-Eaton is particularly committed to working on the javelin.

For the throws, they sometimes need to request a special invitation from a meet director to make the field because their personal bests wouldn't get them in otherwise. Or they may choose to go to smaller meets. Competing in the long jump and throws is especially important because decathletes and heptathletes get only three attempts in them.

Marra also would like to make sure Eaton races the 100 meters (which opens the decathlon) and Theisen-Eaton the 100 hurdles (which starts the heptathlon) as a "dress rehearsal" for how their full events will begin.

### 'OUR WORK YEAR'

At last year's Millrose Games, Eaton competed in the hurdles and long jump - and the high jump, if you count his leap over the 8-foot padded wall that stops the hurdlers' momentum beyond the finish line. Eaton had just set a personal

best in the 60 hurdles and matched the time of Jason Richardson, the 2012 Olympic silver medalist in the 110 hurdles.

"It's a sense that I rise above myself in order to just compete with them," Eaton said Thursday. "It's highly motivating - I'm very much a competitor at heart. It's extremely helpful to have somebody that I know is that much better. For some reason, I believe I can compete with them, (and) I always end up doing well."

After Eaton won gold in London, coaching great Tom Tellez reminded Marra that unfortunately American fans remember only Olympic medals, not world championships. With the focus on Rio, Eaton didn't compete in a full decathlon for more than 24 months before the 2015 worlds during what Marra called "our work year."

Eaton then went out and broke his own world record in Beijing last August.

He'll need to complete a full decathlon during the U.S. Olympic trials in early July, with about six weeks of rest before the competition in Rio. Theisen-Eaton won't need to qualify for Canada, so she'll do her one pre-Olympic heptathlon at a meet in Austria in late May.

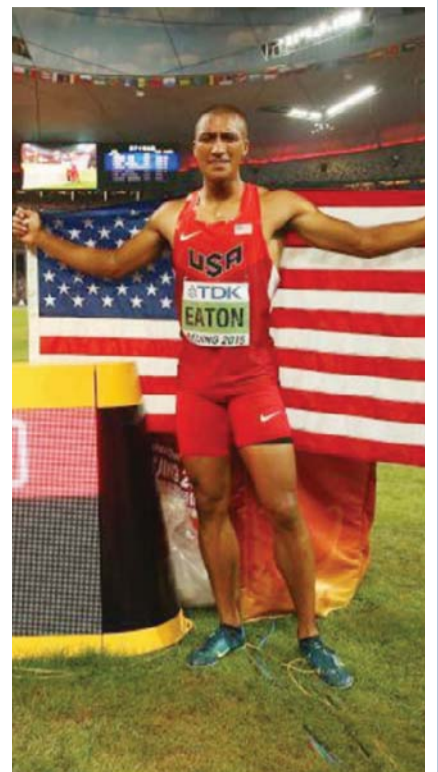
Eaton plans to compete in the heptathlon and Theisen-Eaton in the pentathlon at the world indoor championships next month in Portland, Oregon, in Eaton's home state. They train a couple of hours away in Eugene, where both attended the University of Oregon.

Theisen-Eaton figures that one hurdle race is the equivalent of three hurdles practices. "It makes everything crisp," she said. "It gets you excited. It changes your mindset." The hurdles aren't her strongest event, so racing against the specialists Saturday will help her hone her mental strategy for the starting blocks at the Olympics.

"I know there's going to be people in the hurdle race in Rio that are going to be better," she said. "How do I deal with that? How do I focus on my cues but also try to compete with them?"

For Allyson Felix, the Olympic gold medalist in the 200, Millrose also offers a chance to work on part of her own multi-event challenge. Felix will try for the 200-400 double in Rio, but she'll race the 60 and work on her start.

In Millrose's signature event, the Wanamaker Mile, American Matthew Centrowitz seeks his second straight title and third overall. —AP



Ashton Eaton

## GREEN PICKS TYSON ROSS ON OPENING DAY FOR PADRES

**PEORIA:** San Diego Padres right-hander Tyson Ross has more than a month to prepare for his opening-day start against the defending NL West champion Los Angeles Dodgers April 4 at Petco Park.

New manager Andy Green announced the decision Friday morning before pitchers and catchers went through their first workout. "Tyson is ready and eager to take that ball on Day One, and we're excited to have him as our ace," Green said. "It's definitely an affirmation of who Tyson is and a belief in him and where he's headed. I think it's just the right choice as an organization."

Ross was 10-12 with a 3.26 ERA and 212 strikeouts and 84 walks in 196 innings last year.

He's entering his fourth season with the Padres. Former manager Bud Black would usually wait until toward the end of spring training to announce his opening-day starter.

"I think in some regards, people look at the camp we're running here and think, 'Hey, everything's open for grabs,'" said Green, who inherits a team that underwhelmed after a dramatic makeover the previous offseason. "When there's decisions to be made we're not afraid to go out and make them, and we'll make those decisions at the time we think is most appropriate. In setting our rotation going into camp, we've got three guys at the top of the rotation we feel very good about."

Green said James Shields will be the No. 2 starter and Andrew Cashner No. 3, with the final two spots to be determined.

Shields was last year's opening day starter after signing a \$75 million, four-year contract as a free agent, and Ross was No. 2. Shields went 13-7 with a 3.91 ERA last year.

Ross said it caught him off-guard when pitching coach Darren Balsley told him the news. "It's a true honor to be named opening day starter. I'm looking forward to not only taking it on the first day, but getting the ball rolling for the whole team," Ross

said. "We've got a new coaching staff and it's kind of a new culture we're trying to create here and I'm looking forward to taking that first step."

Ross said being picked for the honor more than a month out doesn't change anything.

"I come out here every day and put in the work. It's all about the process and just one day at a time," he said. "I may start the first game, but the second day, that's the most important person out there. Once we get into the rotation, whoever we send out there, it's going to be their day to shine. We've got some talented pitchers on this team. It's going to be a lot of fun."

Catcher Derek Norris said Ross showed impressive command during his session off the mound Friday.

"I would have taken what he did today, in three weeks," Norris said. "He was tremendous today. His location with all his pitches, not spinning any breaking balls yet, but he's got a little better feel for his change, which he didn't use a lot last year. His command with his fastball today was incredible. I literally walked up to him and said, 'Look, I've got nothing to say. That was excellent. As much as you love to hear me talk and communicate, I've got nothing for you.' He was great."

"I know it's something he wanted to make emphasis on this offseason and it already shows in freaking Day One," Norris said. "You look for that in week two and three. For him to come out and have that kind of command was incredible. It was a great first day."

Ross was a second-round pick of his hometown Oakland Athletics out of California in the 2008 draft. He went 6-18 with a 5.33 ERA in parts of three seasons with the A's before being traded to San Diego on Nov. 16, 2012. He's gone 26-34 with a 3.07 ERA in three seasons with San Diego. He was an All-Star in 2014, when he finished 13-14 with a 2.81 ERA. Overall, he's 32-52 with a 3.57 ERA. —AP



**NEWARK:** John Moore #2 of the New Jersey Devils plays the puck in the first period against Matt Martin #17 of the New York Islanders at the Prudential Center on Friday in Newark, New Jersey. — AFP

## ISLANDERS START TRIP ON A HIGH WITH WIN OVER DEVILS

**NEWARK:** Casey Cizikas scored a lucky early goal, Jaroslav Halak had 27 saves and the New York Islanders opened a season-long, seven-game trip with a 1-0 win over the New Jersey Devils on Friday. Halak was outstanding and had a little help from the post while getting his third shutout. Reid Boucher's 1-on-1 chance in the first period hit iron, but Halak also made great saves in close against Sergey Kalinin, Kyle Palmieri and Lee Stempniak, the last one a pad save early in the third period when the Devils' forward had a seemingly open net. The Islanders are in third place in the Metropolitan Division, four points ahead of the fifth-place Devils with two games in hand. Cory Schneider made 23 saves and the Devils lost their second straight.

### HURRICANES 5, SHARKS 2

Jeff Skinner scored twice in the third period and Carolina beat San Jose. Chris Terry and Joakim Nordstrom also scored, and Jordan Staal added an empty-netter for Carolina. The Hurricanes bounced back from a 4-2 loss at Ottawa on Thursday night and haven't lost consecutive games in regulation in more than two months. Brent Burns and Tomas Hertl scored for San Jose, which has the league's second-best road record. The Sharks had won three straight and were 4-0-1 in their last five games. Cam Ward was back in the lineup after missing two games with a lower-body injury and made 22 saves for the Hurricanes. Martin Jones stopped 32 shots for the Sharks.

### CANADIENS 3, FLYERS 2, SO

Paul Byron scored in the fifth round of a shootout and Montreal beat Philadelphia to end a three-game losing streak. Dale Weise and Max Pacioretty scored in regulation for Montreal, and PK Subban had two assists. Mike Condon made 35 saves. The Flyers had goals from Nick Cousins and Michael Raffl, and Michal Neuvirth stopped 29 shots. The Flyers' Shayne Gostisbehere had an assist to extend his point streak to 14 games, an NHL record for a rookie defenseman. It's the league's longest active streak, and the Margate, Florida native is the first defenseman since Brian Leetch from Oct. 30 to Dec. 1, 1996 with points in 14 straight games.

### SABRES 4, BLUE JACKETS 0

Jamie McGinn scored twice and Robin Lehner stopped 38 shots for his third career shutout to lead Buffalo over Columbus. Sam Reinhart and David Legwand also scored to help Buffalo win for the third time in four games (3-0-1). Reinhart slipped a shot inside the post at 9:53 of the third for his 18th goal of the season to make it 4-0. Columbus goalie Joonas Korpi also gave up all four goals on 31 shots and was pulled with 8 1/2 minutes to go. Curtis McElhinney finished up and stopped all four shots he faced.

### FLAMES 5, CANUCKS 2

TJ Brodie stayed hot with three assists and

Calgary beat Vancouver to snap a three-game losing streak. Two of Brodie's assists came in the second period while Calgary scored three straight goals to take a 4-2 lead. The 25-year-old defenseman has 11 points in his last eight games, all assists. Joe Colborne, Mikael Backlund and Michael Frolik each had a goal and an assist

for Calgary. Mark Giordano and Josh Jooris also scored, and the Flames kept their faint playoff hopes alive. Jonas Hiller made 26 saves. Adam Cracknell and Jake Virtanen scored for Vancouver, and Jacob Markstrom made 28 saves. The Canucks have lost four in a row, each by a score of 5-2. — AP

### NHL results/standings

Montreal 3, Philadelphia 2 (SO); Calgary 5, Vancouver 2; New Jersey 0, NY Islanders 1; Carolina 5, San Jose 2; Columbus 0, Buffalo 4.

Eastern Conference							Western Conference				
Atlantic Division							Pacific Division				
	W	L	OT	GF	GA	PTS					
Florida	33	18	7	161	136	73	Chicago	38	18	5	175
Boston	31	21	6	174	160	68	Dallas	37	16	6	191
Detroit	29	20	9	149	153	67	St. Louis	34	17	9	147
Tampa Bay	31	22	4	155	144	66	Nashville	27	21	10	153
Montreal	28	27	4	162	163	60	Colorado	30	26	4	161
Ottawa	27	26	6	169	184	60	Minnesota	26	22	10	150
Buffalo	24	28	7	141	162	55	Winnipeg	25	28	4	148
Toronto	20	27	9	136	167	49	Central Division				
Washington	42	10	4	187	128	88	Los Angeles	33	20	4	155
NY Rangers	33	19	6	170	150	72	Anaheim	30	19	8	141
NY Islanders	31	19	7	164	144	69	San Jose	31	21	5	168
Pittsburgh	29	19	8	148	144	66	Arizona	27	24	6	157
New Jersey	29	23	7	130	137	65	Vancouver	22	24	12	137
Carolina	27	22	10	146	156	64	Calgary	26	28	3	158
Philadelphia	25	21	11	139	154	61	Edmonton	22	31	6	148
Columbus	23	29	7	149	184	53	Note: Overtime losses (OT) worth 1 pt and not included in loss column (L).				



Tyson Ross

## ERRANI WINS DUBAI TITLE

**DUBAI:** Sara Errani of Italy trounced Barbora Strycova of the Czech Republic 6-0, 6-2 to win her ninth career title at the Dubai Tennis Championships yesterday. Errani was a runner-up in Dubai before, losing the 2013 final to Petra Kvitova. Strycova was trailing 6-0, 2-0 when the crowd

cheered her as she came out to serve the third game. After Strycova finally won that game with a backhand volley, she raised her hands in a victory gesture.

Errani became the first Italian to win the Dubai title on her fifth match point when Strycova netted the final shot. —AP



**DUBAI:** Italian tennis player Sara Errani kisses the winner's trophy after beating Czech player Barbora Strycova in the WTA tennis match of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships, yesterday. Sara Errani (ITA) beat Barbora Strycova (CZE) 6-0, 6-2. — AFP

## NADAL INTO RIO S-FINALS WITHOUT HITTING A SHOT

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Rafael Nadal advanced to the semifinals of the Rio Open on Friday without hitting a shot. The top seed moved on after his quarterfinal opponent Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine withdrew before the clay-court match with a shoulder injury.

Tournament organizers said Dolgoplov hurt his shoulder in a doubles match on Thursday. Nadal's semifinal opponent will be Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay, who defeated Federico Delbonis of Argentina 6-4, 7-6 (4). The match was delayed for 2-1/2 hours with Delbonis leading 4-2 in the second set.

No. 5 Dominic Thiem upset No. 2 David Ferrer 6-3, 6-2. The 22-year-old Austrian won the Buenos Aires title last week - beating Nadal in the semifinals - and is the youngest player in the ATP's top 20 rankings. Thiem will face Guido Pella of Argentina in the semis. He defeated Daniel Gimeno-Traver of Spain 5-7, 6-1, 7-5, but Thiem will be a strong favorite to reach the final.

On the women's side of the ATP-WTA event,

Petra Martic of Croatia defeated No. 6 Lara Arruabarrena 6-4, 5-7, 7-5 to reach the semifinals. In another upset, Sorana Cirstea of Romania defeated No. 3 Danka Kovinic 6-1, 6-2 to eliminate the last seeded player from the tournament. In Marseille, top-seeded Stan Wawrinka lost to eighth-seeded Benoit Paire of France 6-4, 1-6, 7-5 in the quarterfinals of the Open 13 on Friday. Paire had 12 aces against the 2014 Australian Open champion, and next meets fourth-seeded Marin Cilic, who reached his first semifinal of the season by beating Russian Andrey Kuznetsov 6-3, 6-4.

Second-seeded Tomas Berdych also reached the last four, beating No. 6 David Goffin of Belgium 6-3, 6-4. The Czech player faces unseeded Nick Kyrgios in the last four after the Australian swept aside No. 3 Richard Gasquet of France 6-0, 6-4.

The big-serving Kyrgios had 17 aces and did not concede a single break-point chance on his serve, hitting three aces in his final service game. —Agencies



## PATTINSON HAS TEAM SUPPORT IN NO-BALL STRUGGLE: LYON

**CHRISTCHURCH:** James Pattinson has the full support of the Australian team in his battle against over-stepping and they expect him to come out and "blow the game apart" in New Zealand's second innings, according to off-spinner Nathan Lyon.

The 25-year-old Pattinson, recalled for the second test at Hagley Oval after missing most of January due to shin soreness, had figures of two for 81 from 15 overs in New Zealand's first innings but he could have had a much better

day for his side. Pattinson had New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum brilliantly caught by Mitchell Marsh in the gully for 39, only to discover that he had bowled a no ball.

McCullum made the most of the reprieve to smash the fastest test century and combine in a 179-run partnership with Corey Anderson to set up New Zealand's first innings of 370.

Lyon, however, said the team had not let yesterday's error affect them even though McCullum and Anderson took

away all of their early momentum. "I think a lot of momentum swung their way and credit to Corey and Brendon they ran with it. They played a lot of shots. They rode their luck," Lyon said.

"We are all going to be right behind James and I have confidence that he will come out and blow the game apart in the second innings. "He is a talented bowler and his adrenaline got up too high and it overstepped the mark, but that's part of the game. I have all the faith in James that he will come out and

perform in the second innings."

It is the second time this summer that Pattinson has had wickets recalled for over-stepping the mark. He bowled West Indies batsman Carlos Brathwaite on 13 off a no ball, then had him caught at fine leg on 50 off another no ball at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in December.

Brathwaite then scored 59 in a 90-run partnership with Darren Bravo and it cost Pattinson a five-wicket haul on his home ground, and coach Darren Lehmann has reportedly spoken to the

fast bowler about the problem.

New Zealand captain McCullum said his side had worked hard to eliminate no balls from their game, particularly at training. "He has obviously had a few wickets this summer where he has overstepped the line and that's something we have worked on with our bowlers," McCullum said.

"It's one thing to do at training and get away with it, but it can have major consequences in the game so we worked quite hard on it." — Reuters

## MORRIS HEROICS WIN IT FOR SOUTH AFRICA

**CAPE TOWN:** For the second week in a row all-rounder Chris Morris conjured a victory for South Africa, taking the hosts to a three-wicket win over England off the last ball of the first Twenty20 international at Newlands on Friday.

England looked set to defend a modest total as Reece Topley started the last over, with South Africa needing 15 runs to win. Kyle Abbott stole a single to get Morris on strike. The tall Morris struck the next two balls for four and six. After a dot delivery, he hit twos off the last two balls. Topley had a chance to run out Abbott to force a tie and a super over but fumbled a throw from long-off.

Morris finished with 17 not out off seven balls. A week earlier his 62 off 38 balls was a match-winner in the fourth one-day international. The man of the match, though, was leg-spinner Imran Tahir, who took four for 21 to restrict England to 134 for eight after the tourists were sent in to bat.

"We let ourselves down with the bat," said England captain Eoin Morgan. "It is a huge credit to the bowling unit that we came close to defending that score."

England looked set for a big total as opening batsmen Jason Roy and the in-form Alex Hales hit 38 off the first 3.3 overs before Roy clipped Kagiso Rabada to Hashim Amla at mid-wicket.

Tahir came on to bowl after the six-over

power play had yielded 50 runs for Roy's wicket. He struck with his fourth ball when Hales top-edged a sweep to backward square leg. JP Duminy held the catch despite being knocked to the ground by Rabada, who was also running for the ball. Tahir followed up by dismissing Ben Stokes, Morgan and Moeen Ali. The latter two wickets were off successive balls and he narrowly missed a hat-trick when a googly went over Chris Jordan's middle stump. South Africa made a confident start, with Hashim Amla and AB de Villiers putting on 31 for the first wicket. But England bowled well on a slow pitch and no batsman was able to dominate.

All-rounder Ben Stokes and leg-spinner Adil Rashid were impressive in the middle overs, taking one for 19 and one for 24 respectively. It seemed to be England's match when Jordan dismissed David Miller and David Wiese in the penultimate over. But that merely set the stage for Morris. The Delhi Daredevils, who paid over US\$1-million for his services in the 2016 Indian Premier League, will feel they have made a good purchase. "Successful teams get over the line, even at times when they shouldn't," admitted South African captain Faf du Plessis. "It gives us a massive amount of confidence."

The second and final game is in Johannesburg today. —AFP



**CHRISTCHURCH:** New Zealand's Brendon McCullum batting against Australia on the first day of the second International Cricket Test match at Hagley Park Oval, Christchurch, New Zealand, yesterday. — AP

## MCCULLUM SMASHES FASTEST TEST CENTURY TO RESCUE NZ

**CHRISTCHURCH:** Brendon McCullum belted the fastest century the world has seen yesterday as he thrashed the Australian bowling in a landmark innings to celebrate his final Test.

At the end of his explosive 145-run innings, the popular New Zealand captain felt a mixture of pride in what he had achieved and embarrassment at breaking a record set by his childhood hero Viv Richards.

With a stream of sixes and fours, McCullum brought up his 100 in just 54 deliveries, two fewer than the previous record of 56 achieved by West Indies' great Richards 30 years ago and Pakistan's Misbah-ul-Haq in 2014.

With New Zealand fighting to save the series after losing the first Test, McCullum's aggression had set his side up for a first innings 370 and Australia were 57-1 at the end of the first day. The 34-year-old, who retires from international cricket at the end of this Test, said that when he went to the middle on a seaming wicket, and with New Zealand in trouble at 32-3, he felt attack would be the best form of defence.

### 'AN ALMIGHTY, FILTHY SLOG'

And he knew early on that luck was on his side. "Probably second ball when I had an almighty, filthy slog and sort of managed to go over the slips cordon for four," he laughed.

"When you're confronted with wickets like that and you know you're going to have to be pretty aggressive you need some luck along the way." When he was joined by the equally belligerent Corey Anderson (72) they put on 179 runs in 110 deliveries.

"It was great fun and it was also instrumental in us being able to, hopefully, set the Test match up for us," McCullum said.

When he charged down the wicket and sliced Josh Hazlewood for four to bring up his century, McCullum had no idea it was a record performance and after he found out he was slightly uncomfortable at removing Richard's name from the record books.

"He was my idol growing up. I'm almost embarrassed to go past him to be honest but hopefully he enjoyed a little bit of the stroke making."

There were 21 fours and four sixes in McCullum's innings with the first six setting a new world record for total Test sixes, overtaking Australian Adam Gilchrist, who hit 100.

As McCullum pounded the boundaries, the Australian bowlers could only fire the ball down and hope, but when they finally claimed the wicket there was nothing but praise.

"It was pretty amazing striking," said spinner Nathan Lyon. "He's been a credit to the game of cricket the way he's conducted himself for New Zealand for a long period of time and to see him come out there and do that was pretty amazing."

"He rode his luck and that's the way he's played cricket and I'm sure that's the way he will want to go down at the end of his career as a person who took the game one."

There was one element of luck in McCullum's audacious display when he was on 39 and Mitchell Marsh pulled off a spectacular catch only for the wicket to be disallowed because the James Pattinson delivery was ruled a no ball. McCullum said that let-off inspired him to attack the bowling even harder. "It was fortu-

nate for the reprieve so it loosened me up a bit, just relaxes you a little bit more because you're probably not meant to be out there so you play with a little bit more freedom," he said.

Asked what his approach would be in the second innings, which will be his final appearance after 101 Tests, McCullum had a succinct answer. "Swing hard." —AFP

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day in the second and final Test between New Zealand and Australia yesterday in Christchurch, New Zealand.

New Zealand 1st innings		Australia 1st innings	
M. Guptill c Burns b Pattinson	18	D. Warner c Guptill b Boult	12
T. Latham c Smith b Bird	4	J. Burns not out	27
K. Williamson c Smith b M. Marsh	7	U. Khawaja not out	18
H. Nicholls lbw b Hazlewood	7	Extras	0
B. McCullum c Lyon b Pattinson	145	Total (for 1 wickets, 20 overs)	57
C. Anderson c Voges b Lyon	72	Fall of wickets: 1-25 D. Warner	
B. Watling c Burns b Bird	58	To bat: S. Smith, A. Voges, M. Marsh, P. Nevill, J. Pattinson, J. Hazlewood, N. Lyon, J. Bird.	
T. Southee c Hazlewood b Lyon	5	Bowling: T. Southee 7-1-21-0, T. Boult 6-1-18-1, M. Henry 6-2-18-0, C. Anderson 1-1-0-0.	
M. Henry c Khawaja b Lyon	21		
N. Wagner c Nevill b Hazlewood	10		
T. Boult not out	14		
Extras (lb-2 nb-2 w-5)	9		
Total (all out, 65.4 overs)	370		
Fall of wickets: 1-21 M. Guptill, 2-23 T. Latham, 3-32 H. Nicholls, 4-74 K. Williamson, 5-253 B. McCullum, 6-266 C. Anderson, 7-273 T. Southee, 8-297 M. Henry, 9-333 N.			

### FASTEST TEST CENTURIES

- 54 balls-Brendon McCullum, New Zealand vs. Australia, Christchurch, 2016.
- 56-Viv Richards, West Indies vs. England, St. John's, 1986.
- 56-Misbah-ul-Haq, Pakistan vs. Australia, Abu Dhabi, 2014.
- 57-Adam Gilchrist, Australia vs. England, Perth, 2006.
- 67-Jack Gregory, Australia vs. South Africa, Johannesburg, 1921.
- 69-Shivnarine Chanderpaul, West Indies vs. Australia, Georgetown, 2003.
- 69-David Warner, Australia vs. India, Perth, 2012.
- 70-Chris Gayle, West Indies vs. Australia, Perth, 2009. — AP



**KARACHI:** In this photograph taken on December 9, 2015, Pakistani bowler Irfan Shah (R) from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) delivers the ball during a domestic match at the National Cricket Stadium in Karachi. They have lived under the shadow of drone strikes and lost loved ones to Taliban suicide bombers, but Pakistan's tribal zone cricketers refuse to be victims and are determined to make their mark on the field. — AFP

frontier by Islamabad, and British colonial powers before them.

The rugged mountains and small towns of these regions have historically been the setting for generations-long blood feuds between opposing clans, with boys learning to use Kalashnikovs at a young age.

But since the army widened its military operations in the region two years ago, a semblance of peace and normality is slowly returning—and some young boys are trading guns for cricket bats fashioned out of planks of wood.

Three years ago the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) accorded the region full member status, giving it a much-needed fillip.

### BATS NOT BAZOOKAS

FATA cricket head Noorul Haq said he was never in doubt that once security improved bat and ball would replace gun and grenade.

"I was always convinced that one day we will be recognised in national cricket," Haq told AFP.

"The boys of FATA have expressed themselves and once we get better facilities our team will show better results in the years to come." The results in the nation's qualifying rounds were encouraging.

FATA first defeated higher-ranked Abbottabad by nine wickets, then followed up with wins over established Faisalabad by 10 wickets and Karachi by 81 runs, all of which was enough to earn them a place in the Quaid-e-Azam trophy, the country's premier first-class tournament.

Playing in the big leagues FATA managed to win only one of their seven games—losing three and drawing the rest—but their flair and fight impressed everyone.

Their biggest moment came when they outlasted a much-fancied Rawalpindi attack, rebounding from a dismal four wickets lost without any runs on the board in the first innings, to reaching 180 in their second outing for a four-wicket victory.

Stocky right-hander Fawad Khan was the toast of the FATA batting, with 521 runs in seven trophy matches highlighted by a pair of centuries—a 108 against Lahore and an impressive 172 against Karachi.

"I used to play for Peshawar before FATA team was granted rights," said Bannu-born Fawad, who also previously played for Abbottabad. "But this is great to have a team of our own region and I tell you, we have the talent to go places."

Like others in the squad Fawad has experienced personal loss because of the region's troubles—his brother-in-law died in a suicide bomb attack in 2012.

Pace bowler Irfanullah Khan, a one-time member of Pakistan's under-19 squad, lost his brother, another promising cricketer, in the same attack.

"Sadly he lost his life and I am carrying on his mission to play," said Irfanullah.

FATA's cricketers are mostly on retainers amounting to hundreds of dollars per month as opposed to the tens of thousands some Pakistani players earn in the EPL. But coach Kamran Khan said the hard-knocks backgrounds of his team could work in their favour.

"The best thing about them is they don't give up," said Kamran, a former first-class player. "They fight till the end and that's in their blood. That will help them develop into a top side in the years to come." — AFP



**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka's cricket team players watch as Sri Lankan Buddhist monks chant prayers for their success during a Buddhist ceremony in Colombo yesterday, prior to the team's departure for a cricket tour in Bangladesh to participate in the Asia Cup Tournament from February 20 till March 6. — AFP



## DURANT RECOVERS FROM INJURY, RETURNS TO MVP LEVEL

**OKLAHOMA CITY:** Kevin Durant had finally reached the pinnacle. After years of chasing LeBron James, the Thunder forward finally was named league MVP two seasons ago. His emotional acceptance speech was as memorable as his play, and soon, endorsement deals piled up like points for the four-time scoring champion.

Everything was moving in the right direction heading into last season. Superstar point guard Russell Westbrook, who had missed much of Durant's MVP run due to injury, was healthy again, making the Thunder one of the favorites to win it all.

Then it happened. Durant, the most reliable of ironmen, broke a bone in his right foot. It required three procedures, and a player who had missed 16 regular-season games in his first seven seasons missed 55. The Thunder didn't make the playoffs, Golden State won the NBA title and Stephen Curry replaced him as MVP.

Through it all, Durant kept reminding himself who he had been, and who he planned to become once again. "I just

told myself every day that, 'I'm the best player in the world,'" Durant told The Associated Press. "I'm the best player in the world. I wrote that on my wall. I wrote that on my mirror in the bathroom, just because it's easy to say that when you're on top of the world, but it's kind of hard to say it when everybody's dogging you."

Durant listened to his doubters and made it a goal to shut them down. "I was able to change the perception that was out there of me of, 'I won't come back from this, this is going to be devastating, career threatening,'" he said. "I just used all of that. I think that type of pride is good for the game of basketball - just wanting to prove yourself after you fall down and wanting to stand back up even taller and stronger than I did before."

Durant has some opportunities this month to make an even stronger claim to being the best. Oklahoma City hosts James' Cleveland Cavaliers on Sunday and Curry's Warriors next Saturday. It wasn't clear immediately whether

he'd be ready to make any kind of claim, but after limited minutes in the preseason, Durant announced his full return in the second game of the season. He dropped 43 points in 54 minutes during a double-overtime win at Orlando.

He missed six games in November with a left hamstring injury, but bounced back again. He shared the Western Conference Player of the Month award with Westbrook in December, then won it in outright in January.

### INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS

For the season, he ranks third in the league with 27.8 points per game. He's also posting 7.9 rebounds and 4.5 assists per game while shooting .508 from the field. He said it's meaningful to be playing at such a high level.

"I put in the work," he said. "We talk about individual success a lot, and we kind of deem that as being selfish when you think about yourself like that. But I looked at it as the total opposite. I felt like I needed to think about myself a little bit more. I needed to worry about my

health, and my game, my mindset."

Thunder general manager Sam Presti took some time to reflect with Durant before this year's All-Star game. "I'm truly grateful for the fact that he was participating in the All-Star Game, healthy, with a great spirit, having fun," Presti said.

Indiana forward Paul George, whose broken leg cost him most of last season, also has bounced back and regained his place among the league's elite. He worked out with Durant at times during rehab and is impressed with how his friend has recovered.

"It's either or," George said. "There's guys who have that self-doubt, that can't get back to where they were, and there's guys that live up to that moment. Knowing at the end of the day where he wants to be, and that's one of the league's best players - ultimately, at the end of his career, one of the league's best players - that's what it comes down to. Same way for me. My approach for coming back from my injury was wanting to be back to who I was."

Durant was especially good in the

final 16 games heading into the All-Star break, and it went beyond points. He averaged 30 points, 8.4 rebounds and 4.8 assists while shooting 49 percent from the field as the Thunder went 14-2.

"Since he's been in this league, he's proven to be one of the great scorers of right now, but maybe the history of the game with his efficiency," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "I think the one thing I admire with Kevin is his willingness to pass and make people better and be a playmaker. I think there's so much more to his game than scoring."

Durant is thriving while Westbrook is peaking, too. Last season, Westbrook won the scoring title, in part, because Durant was injured. This season, Westbrook is averaging 24.1 points, 10.1 assists and 7.5 rebounds per game.

With the two playing at a high level, the Thunder feel they have a chance to push for that elusive NBA title. Westbrook, who missed significant action two seasons ago with a knee injury, fully expected Durant to return to form. — AP

## VONN WINS RECORD 20TH W CUP TITLE

**LA THUILE:** Lindsey Vonn won a record 20th World Cup trophy with second place in yesterday's downhill in the northern Italian resort of La Thuile, after having to withdraw a video on social media for fear of upsetting her ski sponsor.

Second place was enough to leave the American 173 points ahead of nearest rival Larisa Yurkiw of Canada in the downhill cup standings with one race-offering a maximum 100 points- remaining on the calendar.

Vonn, who had previously shared the record of 19 titles with Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark who raced in the 1970s and 1980s, cut a much more cheerful figure after Friday's controversy which followed her early exit from the first downhill at La Thuile.

After her right ski came off on a sharp turn and she slid out of the race, Vonn posted a video on Facebook showing her attacking the broken ski with a hammer.

She deleted the video yesterday and posted a statement apologising to her ski

suppliers HEAD, saying her action had been "a huge mistake" caused by frustration.

"The video was posted on social media to express my emotions but I understand how it could be misinterpreted," Vonn said. "In fact, thank goodness the binding released as it should, preventing a possible injury."

Saturday's podium place, sandwiched between Italians Nadia Fanchini and third-placed Daniela Merighetti, enabled Vonn to take back the overall World Cup lead from Swiss Lara Gut, winner of Friday's downhill.

"With all the records this year that I'm breaking it's still really hard to process what I'm doing," said Vonn, who has won 76 World Cup races and is chasing Stenmark's record of 86.

"I won't fully grasp the magnitude of everything until I'm done with my career."

Today's super-G in the same resort will give Vonn, four times World Cup champion in the discipline, another shot at moving closer to Stenmark's all-time mark. — Reuters



**LA THUILE:** US Lindsey Vonn, celebrates during the podium ceremony of the FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup Women's Downhill yesterday in La Thuile, northern Italy. Nadia Fanchini upstaged Lindsey Vonn and Lara Gut to provide a home winner in the women's alpine skiing World Cup downhill yesterday. —AFP

## PARIS WINS MEN'S WORLD CUP DOWNHILL IN FRANCE

**CHAMONIX:** Italian skier Dominik Paris mastered tricky conditions at the French Alpine resort of Chamonix to win a men's World Cup downhill race ahead of American veteran Steven Nyman yesterday.

Paris finished second in Friday's Alpine combined race and carried that form over into the downhill, flying through the fog and heavy snowfall on the soft and powdery La Verte des Houches course for a fifth career win and 13th podium.

The Italian clocked 1 minute, 58.38 seconds to finish .35 seconds clear of Nyman and .39 ahead of Swiss racer Beat Feuz, who secured his 20th podium.

After a "rough start to the year" that he attributed to equipment issues, the 34-year-old Nyman is hitting form. He placed third in the downhill at the South Korean resort of Jeongseon two weeks ago and now has eight career podiums.

"Two podiums in a row, hopefully I can keep it rolling until the end of the season," Nyman said. "I had some questions in my head and when you have those doubts and those questions you're never fully sending it down the hill like you should."

Poor visibility that hampered Nyman's run slightly early ultimately cost him a shot at victory. "I had a mistake on the first split. The vision is the hard part, with the snow and the flat light today and the lines kind of changed," Nyman said. "Hats off to my ski technician, he prepared some rocket ships and I'm good at tucking so I really had a good bottom (section). But Dominik, that guy has some kilos on him and some fast skis, and he took me down."

Nyman explained how obscured visibility on a downhill course makes for somewhat of a guessing game for racers - one where strong instinct and faith in your memory of the terrain is required.

"It's all what you've convinced yourself of, going down the course and really throwing yourself over those blind rolls, over that ter-

rain you know has bumps but you can't see," he said. "So you just have to get your body in a position and go with it. You're going in there with a doubt in your mind: It is like, 'this is what I think it is and I'm going to go that way.'"

It's more exciting - for the spectators at least. "I would rather have good light so you can see where you're going," he said. "You can even see the road-gap jump; you're coming in there at 70-plus miles per hour but you don't see how far you actually fly." Guillermo Fayod of France, who has two downhill podiums this season, missed out on a third, placing fourth - .80 behind Paris. Peter Fill of Italy took fifth to close the gap on downhill leader Aksel Lund Svindal, who is out injured for the rest of the season. — AP



**LES HOUCHEs:** Italy's Dominik Paris competes to win the Kandahar FIS World Cup men's Downhill race on February 20, 2016 in Les Houches near Chamonix, French Alps. —AFP



**PORTLAND:** Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, left, drives to the basket as Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, right, defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Friday. — AP

## LILLARD SCORES 51 POINTS AS TRAIL BLAZERS ROUT WARRIORS

**PORTLAND:** Damian Lillard scored a career-high 51 points and had seven assists and six steals to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a stunningly dominant 137-105 victory over the NBA-leading Golden State Warriors on Friday night. C.J. McCollum added 21 points and seven assists for Portland in the first game after the All-Star break for both teams. The Trail Blazers have won four straight and nine of 10 to improve to 28-27, the first time they've been over .500 since they were 3-2 on Nov. 4. Stephen Curry led the Warriors (48-5) with 31 points and five assists. Draymond Green added 14 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists, but also had nine turnovers. Golden State had won 11 straight. The Blazers used a stifling defense throughout the game, but especially in the third quarter when they forced the defending champions into 13 turnovers. Portland led 104-79 after three and the lead could have been bigger if the Blazers had been able to convert more of those turnovers into points.

### SPURS 119, LAKERS 113

Tony Parker scored 25 points in San Antonio's victory over Los Angeles in the final matchup between Kobe Bryant and longtime Western Conference adversary Tim Duncan. Bryant is retiring at season's end with the Lakers way out of the playoff picture at 11-45. Bryant and Duncan have each led their clubs to five NBA titles and have at least one league MVP award to their credit - in addition to MVP of the Finals and All-Star game MVP. Bryant had 25 points in 29 minutes, and Duncan finished with 12 points and 13 rebounds to help San Antonio complete a four-game season sweep. The Spurs (46-9) are three games behind defending champion Golden State in the race for the league's best record. Spurs scoring leader Kawhi Leonard missed his second straight game because of tightness in his left calf.

### PACERS 101, THUNDER 98

Monta Ellis scored 27 points to help Indiana beat Oklahoma City. Paul George had 22 points and 10 assists, Ian Mahinmi matched a career high with 19 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and Myles Turner had 16 points and a career-high six blocks for the Pacers. George Hill had nine points and nine assists and matched a career high with 11 rebounds for Indiana. The Pacers have won six of nine. Kevin Durant had 31 points and eight rebounds, and Russell Westbrook had 23 points and a career-high 18 assists for the Thunder. Oklahoma City had won 14 of 16.

### NETS 109, KNICKS 98

Brook Lopez scored 33 points and the Brooklyn beat New York to hand the Knicks their seventh straight loss. The Nets buried the Knicks under two big second-half runs and put six players in double figures in a strong showing in front of new general manager Sean Marks, who was hired Thursday. Lopez shot 13 of 23 from the field and added

eight rebounds in dominating twin brother Robin, who had 10 points and seven boards. Carmelo Anthony had 22 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Knicks. Interim coach Kurt Rambis continues to say the playoffs are the Knicks' goal, but they may have blown any shot of that by losing 11 of their last 12 games since they were 22-22. They've dropped both games under Rambis after Derek Fisher was fired Feb. 8.

### BULLS 116, RAPTORS 106

Doug McDermott had a career-high 30 points and Chicago beat Toronto to snap a five-game losing streak. Derrick Rose scored 26 points, and Pau Gasol added 18 points and 11 rebounds for the injury-depleted Bulls. They won for just the fifth time in their last 20 games. Chicago was playing without Jimmy Butler, Nikola Mirotic and Joakim Noah because of injuries. Kyle Lowry had 27 points for Toronto, and Jonas Valanciunas had 25 points and 12 rebounds.

### ROCKETS 116, SUNS 100

James Harden had 27 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists in Houston's victory over free-falling Phoenix. Trevor Ariza added 25 points and six rebounds, and Patrick Beverley had 18 points and six rebounds for the Rockets. The Suns have lost 10 straight, their longest losing streak of the season, and 25 of their last 27. Houston led by 25 points in the third quarter after taking control in the first half. The Rockets had lost three straight games by double figures leading into the break.

Mirza Teletovic had a season-high 25 points and added eight rebounds for Phoenix a day after the Suns traded Markieff Morris to Washington.

### HEAT 115, HAWKS 111

Luol Deng scored 30 points and Josh McRoberts had 19 - season highs for each player - and Miami, playing without All-Stars Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, beat Atlanta. Wade was ruled out about an hour before the game due to soreness in the back of his left knee, leaving the Heat with nine healthy players. Bosh is out indefinitely with a blood clot in his leg. Miami also was missing center Hassan Whiteside, who was suspended for one game. Jeff Teague led Atlanta with 23 points, and Kyle Korver had 18.

### MAGIC 110, MAVERICKS 104, OT

Victor Oladipo had 17 points and a career-high 14 rebounds and hit the 3-pointer that put Orlando ahead for good in overtime against Dallas. The Mavericks overcame an early 21-point deficit to lead by as many as 14 and broke a franchise record with 19 3-pointers, but lost for the fifth time in six games. Deron Williams scored 25 points for Dallas and Chandler Parsons added 24, and the pair combined to make 11 of 16 3-pointers. Williams' record-setter with 9.3 seconds left in overtime was Dallas' only 3-pointer in more than 14 minutes. Nik Vucevic led the

Magic with 21 points and 12 rebounds.

### WIZARDS 98, PISTONS 86

John Wall scored 22 points and Bradley Beal had 17 to help Washington beat Detroit. Markieff Morris scored six points in 12 minutes in his Wizards debut - against twin brother Marcus' Pistons - after arriving from the Phoenix Suns following a deal at trade deadline Thursday. Marcin Gortat had 15 points for Washington. The Wizards never trailed and led by as many as 23 in their second straight comfortable victory against another team on the edge of the playoff picture. Tobias Harris scored 21 points on 9-of-12 shooting in his Detroit debut, three days after the Pistons acquired the forward from Orlando.

### HORNETS 98, BUCKS 95

Kemba Walker scored 25 points and Cody Zeller added a season-high 23 in Charlotte's victory over Milwaukee. The Hornets were without Michael Kidd-Gilchrist and didn't play Courtney Lee, the guard acquired in a three-way trade with the Memphis Grizzlies on Tuesday. Lee dressed for the game and is expected to replace Kidd-Gilchrist, out for the season after reinjuring his right shoulder. Coach Steve Clifford made the decision based on Lee's lack of quality practice time with his new team. Jabari Parker had 23 points for Milwaukee.

### GRIZZLIES 109, TIMBERWOLVES 104

Mike Conley had 25 points and seven assists, Vince Carter added a season-high 15 points and Memphis beat Minnesota. Zach Randolph added 17 points and eight rebounds for Memphis. Zach LaVine led the Timberwolves with 22 points.

### KINGS 116, NUGGETS 110

DeMarcus Cousins had 37 points, 20 rebounds and four blocks in Sacramento's victory over Denver. Rajon Rondo had 24 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists for the Kings. Rudy Gay had 24 points, Darren Collison 17, and rookie Willie Cauley-Stein 10. Danilo Gallinari led the Nuggets with 27 points.

### PELICANS 121, 76ERS 114

Anthony Davis scored 18 of his 34 points in the first quarter in New Orleans' victory over Philadelphia. Ryan Anderson added 26 points, and Jrue Holiday had 24 points and 12 assists for New Orleans. Philadelphia turned the ball over 20 times and lost for the eighth time in 10 games. Nerlens Noel led the 76ers with 24 points and nine rebounds.

### JAZZ 111, CELTICS 93

Derrick Favors had 23 points and 10 rebounds to help Utah beat Boston. Gordon Hayward added 22 points for the Jazz, and Rudy Gobert had 11 points, 15 rebounds and four blocked shots. Isaiah Thomas had 25 points and six assists for Boston. — AP



## HIDDINK WARNS CHELSEA NOT TO TAKE CUP PROGRESS FOR GRANTED

**LONDON:** Guus Hiddink has warned Chelsea not to take victory for granted after Manuel Pellegrini vowed to go through with his threat to send out a weakened Manchester City team in the FA Cup fifth round today.

With City due to make the long flight to the Ukraine on Monday ahead of their Champions League last 16 first leg tie at Dynamo Kiev on Wednesday, Pellegrini had pleaded with the FA not to bow to demands from television networks to move the Chelsea game from its original Saturday date.

But Pellegrini's request was ignored and City, who also have to prepare for next weekend's League Cup final against Liverpool, have been forced to head to Stamford Bridge 24 hours later than they

wanted. In response, the City boss has promised to field a starting line-up comprised mostly of untested youngsters. "We always try to play with a strong team in every competition, every competition is important, especially the FA Cup," Pellegrini said.

"We are very interested in continuing in this cup. But I said a couple of weeks ago if you want to protect the English team in the Champions League the game was played on Saturday.

"For different reasons we couldn't play that day. We must prioritise the Champions League, so we'll see what is the best team we can put on the pitch for the FA Cup."

At first glance, it appears Pellegrini has handed Chelsea a gift-wrapped place

in the quarter-finals because Hiddink, whose side played their Champions League last 16 first leg tie against Paris Saint German earlier this week, can afford to send out a stronger team this weekend.

But the Blues' interim manager believes the City kids could pose a significant threat because they will be so motivated to make the most of a rare moment in the spotlight.

Hiddink is also concerned City have been stung by damaging successive defeats against Premier league title rivals Leicester and Tottenham and will be desperate for a morale-boosting win.

"A big team always reacts. We are warned. We'll take ourselves and them very seriously," said Hiddink, who will be

without injured captain John Terry.

"Hypothetically, if City play a younger side they will go to 120 per cent effort so it does not always work in your favour. Let's see what happens today."

### FORMALITY

Despite Hiddink's caution, what appeared at the time of the draw to be the tie of the round could be transformed in a formality by Pellegrini's stance.

The Chilean has been accused of disrespecting the famous old competition, but he knows City's Abu Dhabi-based owners would much prefer success in Europe rather than a first FA Cup triumph since 2011.

Pellegrini, who will be replaced by Pep

Guardiola at the end of the season, would also prefer to leave with the Champions League trophy as a reminder of his talents.

And he points to a lengthy injury list as another reason why he will rest the likes of Joe Hart, Yaya Toure, Vincent Kompany, David Silva and Sergio Aguero.

"The priority is usually the next game but maybe we are going to make an exception now because of the amount of players we have injured," Pellegrini added.

City's lack of experience today could provide Chelsea midfielder Eden Hazard with a golden opportunity to play his way back into form after Hiddink called on the under-achieving Belgian to raise his level. — AFP

## FIFA REJECTS DEMAND FOR TRANSPARENT VOTING BOOTHS

**ZURICH:** FIFA has rejected a demand from a presidential candidate to use transparent voting booths at next week's election to ensure delegates do not photograph their ballot papers when they choose the head of soccer's world ruling body.

The request came from Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan, who said he would take his case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), sport's highest tribunal. Prince Ali wanted to ensure that transparent booths were used at the Feb. 26 election "to safeguard the full transparency of the electoral proceedings", he said in a statement released by his French-based lawyer.

FIFA's 209 member national associations (FAs) each hold one vote at the election where Prince Ali is among five candidates standing to replace outgoing President Sepp Blatter, who is banned for eight years amid a graft scandal that has shaken soccer's global governing body. Under FIFA statutes, voting is secret.

The statement said Domenico Scala, head of FIFA's electoral committee, had admitted to Prince Ali in correspondence that the voters could produce evidence of

their vote by using a mobile phone.

Scala rejected transparent booths, however, and said members would be reminded that voting is secret and told to hand over mobile phones and cameras before doing so.

"He (Scala) has said it is enough just to tell them they must not do so, and has rejected Prince Ali's request to use transparent voting booths," the statement said, adding that there was an "absence of any dedicated system to detect potential violations of this rule."

A spokesman for the electoral committee declined to comment. Jerome Champagne, another presidential candidate, said this week that FAs were under pressure to vote for certain candidates and some had been asked to provide evidence of their vote. Prince Ali has also said that FAs face reprisals if they fail to tow certain political lines. "Development projects mysteriously stall; tournament hosting bids are suddenly compromised or withdrawn; national teams start to mysteriously face less favourable fixtures or and even referees," he said last week. — Reuters



**MUNICH:** Bayern Munich's striker Thomas Mueller (R) and Darmstadt's midfielder Florian Jungwirth (L) vie for the ball during the German Bundesliga first division football match FC Bayern Munich vs SV Darmstadt 98 in Munich, southern Germany, yesterday. — AFP

## MUELLER'S BRACE RESCUES BAYERN AGAINST DARMSTADT

**BERLIN:** Thomas Mueller netted twice yesterday as Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich came from behind to beat Darmstadt 3-1 in their last match before their Champions League clash at Juventus. With second-placed Borussia Dortmund playing on Sunday, Bayern took their chance to go 11 points clear in Germany's top flight but Mueller had to dig them out of trouble at the Allianz Arena before Robert Lewandowski added their third goal.

Against the run of play, Pep Guardiola's Bayern went behind when Darmstadt's Munich-born striker Sandro Wagner headed home midway through the first half.

It was only the fifth time this season Bayern had gone behind. But using their 81 percent possession to fire in a total of 36 shots on goal to Darmstadt's six, Guardiola's side roared back to claim their 19th win in 22 league games this season.

Serdar Tasci made his debut at centre-back in a makeshift Bayern defence also featuring Rafinha, Joshua Kimmich and David Alaba. Darmstadt went ahead when Wagner powered

his header past Manuel Neuer on 26 minutes, but Bayern were back level four minutes into the second half when Mueller chested down and slammed his shot into the right-hand corner. He added a superb second-half 17th league goal of the season by chipping down Arturo Vidal's cross and hitting a bicycle kick into Darmstadt's net on 71 minutes. Lewandowski added the third on 84 minutes when he converted Franck Ribery's low cross after the Frenchman came off the bench for only his third appearance of the season.

### YOUNGEST COACH

It was Lewandowski's 22nd goal of the season in 21 league games to leave him as the league's top scorer ahead of Bayern's Champions League last 16, first leg in Turin on Tuesday.

Elsewhere, fresh from their 3-2 Champions League win at Gent in midweek, Wolfsburg picked up a point in the capital with a 1-1 draw at Hertha Berlin. Wolves took the lead at the Olympic Stadium when Marcel Schaefer converted Vleirinha's cross on 53 minutes.

But Salomon Kalou equalised with his 11th

goal of the season by drilling home a clearance off the line from Wolfsburg's Naldo on the hour mark. Julian Nagelsmann, the Bundesliga's youngest ever coach at 28, steered Hoffenheim to only their third win of the season on his second match in charge with a 3-2 victory at home to Mainz.

Colombia striker Jhon Cordoba scored his first goal for Mainz in his tenth Bundesliga match when he slotted home early on. But the hosts roared back as Nadiem Amiri levelled, then striker Mark Uth netted twice.

Hoffenheim remain 17th, but are now only three points from safety after Werder Bremen, who are 16th, lost 2-0 at Ingolstadt. Cologne fans protested about the price of away tickets at Borussia Moenchengladbach as the hosts sealed a 1-0 win thanks to Mahmoud Dahoud's first-half goal.

Gladbach move up to fifth ahead of today's matches when Dortmund are at Bayer Leverkusen, Schalke play Stuttgart away and Hanover host Augsburg in a key match in the relegation battle. — AFP

## GRIFFITHS DOUBLE SENDS CELTIC SIX CLEAR AT TOP

**GLASGOW:** Leigh Griffiths grabbed a double as Celtic extended their lead over Aberdeen at the top of the Scottish Premiership to six points with a 3-0 defeat of Inverness Caledonian Thistle at Parkhead yesterday.

Celtic had to wait until the 53rd minute to open the scoring thanks to a deflected Gary Mackay-Steven strike, and Griffiths added two more to take his tally for the season to 32 goals.

The result, Celtic's fifth consecutive home win, gives Ronny Deila's side some breathing space between themselves and Aberdeen, whose game with Partick Thistle on Friday was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch at Firhill. "In the first half we didn't create enough and we were too slow," the Celtic manager said.

"But in the second half we were more direct and got them on the back foot and got more chances." Meanwhile, Inverness manager John Hughes, the former Celtic defender, said his players had given their all in defeat.

"I felt our shape was very good and we gave as good as we got in the first half," said Hughes, whose side had lost only one of their previous 11 games, including beating Aberdeen 3-1 in the Highlands on Monday. "I told them not to get complacent so to lose a goal 10 minutes into the second half was bitterly disappointing but it was the second goal that killed us."

After a cagey start it was Inverness who threatened first with defender Gary Warren somehow heading wide with the goal gaping after Celtic keeper Craig Gordon had failed to deal with an Iain Vigurs free-kick. Moments later Griffiths' strike from outside the box was spilled by Owain Fon Williams after it bounced awkwardly in front of him but the Inverness defence cleared the danger. The home crowd then breathed a sigh of relief when Ross Draper's deflected shot whistled inches wide as Inverness came close to an opener.

### EXPLOSIVE

What the first half lacked in action the second half made amends for with an explosive start.

Once again it was Inverness who blew a golden chance to take the lead when Jordan Roberts beat Erik Sviatchenko for pace to race in on goal but the striker saw his strike blocked by the out-rushing Gordon. The visitors were left to rue that miss in the 53rd minute when Mackay-Steven gave Celtic the lead with a deflected strike from the edge of the box after some good build-up play.

Inverness barely had time to regroup when Griffiths doubled Celtic's advantage in the 59th minute. The Scotland striker showed some good touches to make room for himself in the box before lashing an angled strike into the bottom right-hand corner of the net.

The two-goal cushion allowed Deila to throw on teenager Ryan Christie to face his former side while on-loan Manchester City player Patrick Roberts was handed his Celtic debut.

With the match deep in stoppage time Griffiths nabbed his second of the match with a low shot into the bottom left-hand

corner to finish a sweeping move. Elsewhere, Dundee United claimed a vital 2-1 victory over Hearts at Tannadice thanks to a late Paul Paton winner, although the Tangerines remain a huge 11 points adrift at the bottom from Kilmarnock, who were held to a goalless draw by Dundee.

Ian McShane got the winner as fourth-placed Ross County beat Hamilton Academical 2-1 while Tam Scobbie struck late to give St Johnstone a 2-1 win at home to Motherwell. — AFP

### Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLAND FA CUP		
Blackburn Rovers v West Ham	17:00	beIN SPORTS 11 HD
Tottenham v Crystal Palace	18:00	beIN SPORTS 8 HD
Chelsea v Manchester City	19:00	beIN SPORTS 2 HD
SPANISH LEAGUE		
Rayo Vallecano v Sevilla	14:00	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
Malaga CF v Real Madrid	18:00	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
Bilbao v Real Sociedad	20:15	beIN SPORTS 12 HD
Granada CF v Valencia	20:15	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
Atletico v Villarreal	22:30	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE		
Atalanta v Fiorentina	17:00	beIN SPORTS 4 HD
Torino FC v Carpi	17:00	beIN SPORTS
Genoa v Udinese Calcio	17:00	beIN SPORTS 1 HD
Sassuolo v Empoli	17:00	beIN SPORTS 9 HD
Frosinone v Lazio	20:00	beIN SPORTS 4 HD
AS Roma v Citta	22:45	beIN SPORTS 4 HD
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA		
Bayer 04 v Dortmund	17:30	beIN SPORTS 5 HD
Schalke 04 v Stuttgart	19:00	beIN SPORTS 5 HD
Hannover 96 v Augsburg	19:30	beIN SPORTS 1 HD
FRENCH LEAGUE		
Marseille v Etienne	16:00	beIN SPORTS 6 HD
Caen v Stade Rennes	19:00	beIN SPORTS 6 HD
Lille OSC v Lyonnais	23:00	beIN SPORTS 6 HD

## ALBION STAR BRUNT PELTED WITH COINS BY OWN FANS

**LONDON:** West Bromwich Albion defender Chris Brunt was pelted with coins by his own club's fans after their surprise FA Cup fifth round defeat at Reading yesterday.

Brunt had gone over to applaud Albion's travelling fans following their 3-1 loss to the second tier side, but the mood turned sour and he went down clutching his face as coins rained down from angry supporters. Northern Ireland international Brunt then confronted a group of Albion fans before being led away by captain Darren Fletcher after giving his shirt to a supporter.

The 31-year-old said a coin had been thrown at him and was quick to condemn the fans' behaviour. "I was walking towards our supporters at the end, and they thought it was okay to throw a coin at their own players. I'm disgusted," Brunt told BBC Sport. "If they want to come forward and say they don't like what they've seen then that's fine. Fans are frustrated we were 1-0 up and lost.

"They paid a lot of money to come, but a small minority spoil it. There were young kids there. I was absolutely disgusted and ashamed." — AFP



**READING:** Reading's English defender Michael Hector (C) heads the ball past West Bromwich Albion's Swedish defender Jonas Olsson to score during the FA cup fifth round football match between Reading and West Bromwich Albion at Madejski stadium in Reading yesterday. — AFP



# Sports

Errani wins  
Dubai title

16



McCullum  
smashes fastest  
test century

17



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016

VONN WINS RECORD 20TH WORLD CUP TITLE

Page 18



LONDON: Arsenal's English defender Calum Chambers (C) tries to shoot past Hull City's Swiss goalkeeper Eldin Jakupovic (3R) during the FA cup fifth round football match between Arsenal and Hull City at the Emirates Stadium in London yesterday. — AFP

## ARSENAL HELD BY HULL AHEAD OF BARCA CLASH

LONDON: FA Cup holders Arsenal were left frustrated in their efforts to warm up for Tuesday's Champions League meeting with Barcelona with a win as their fifth round meeting with Hull City ended goalless at the Emirates Stadium yesterday.

An outstanding display by Hull goalkeeper Eldin Jakupovic meant Steve Bruce's under-strength side retain hope of avenging their 2014 FA Cup final defeat by Arsenal and so preventing Arsene Wenger's side becoming the first team to win the competition three years in succession since the 1880s.

The draw also ensured the strength of Wenger's belief that replays are an integral part of the FA Cup will be tested just days after he spoke out in support of such matches.

Veteran French manager Wenger, in charge of Arsenal since 1996, made his remarks this week following reports the Football Association (FA) were considering ditching replays in the competition to ease the fixture schedule, a proposal that drew support from Hull

boss Bruce. In truth, neither manager wanted the burden of an extra game at this stage of the season, with Arsenal pushing for the Premier League title and Hull top of England's second-tier Championship.

But the Gunners, who also beat Hull in the third round of last season's FA Cup, paid the price for their failure to turn territorial dominance into goals. The feeling that the priority for both clubs lay elsewhere was confirmed by the two line-ups.

With Barcelona due to visit for the first leg of the Champions League round of 16 tie in three days time, Wenger dipped deep into his squad, making nine changes to the side that started last weekend's Premier League meeting with Leicester City.

Bruce went even further, making ten changes to his side in a bid to protect key players ahead of the mid-week league trip to Ipswich Town when Hull will attempt to strengthen their bid to make an immediate return to the Premier League.

Wenger's decision to ring the changes for his 100th

FA Cup tie meant Danny Welbeck made his first Arsenal start in 308 days, having marked his first team return with the last minute goal that brought victory over Leicester. A smart turn and cross by England team-mate Theo Walcott presented Welbeck with the chance to direct a 13th minute header on goal that was well saved by Jakupovic. And the striker's burst into the box brought strong home appeals for a penalty as Arsenal turned up the pressure during the opening half hour.

### DIOMANDE THREAT

Hull's makeshift line-up struggled to make any impression during the early stages. However, they grew into the game with the pace of Adama Diomande alongside Nick Powell, the Manchester United midfielder signed on loan last month and making his first start since August 2014, beginning to cause the home side problems.

Diomande in particular was threatening and Arsenal centre-back Laurent Koscielny could count himself

lucky team-mate Per Mertesacker was covering when he brought down the striker and escaped with only a yellow card. When Arsenal did assert themselves, Jakupovic was in excellent form, saving well from Walcott with his legs in the 28th minute.

And the Switzerland keeper produced an even better save to deny Welbeck just after the hour when he adjusted his dive to save one handed after the Arsenal forward had produced a powerful, curling shot from the edge of the area. That effort came after another period of sustained Arsenal pressure which saw Joel Campbell's free-kick bounce away to safety off the inside of the post with Jakupovic beaten.

Wenger's growing frustration and his desire to avoid a replay was reflected in the manager's decision to introduce Olivier Giroud and Alexis Sanchez midway through the second half. But that wasn't enough to settle the tie in the holders' favour, with Jakupovic producing another excellent save in added time to keep Hull's hopes alive. —AFP

## SUAREZ, NEYMAR OPEN UP 9-POINT BARCA LEAD

MADRID: Barcelona moved nine points clear at the top of La Liga thanks to first-half goals from Luis Suarez and Neymar despite an unconvincing display in a 2-1 win at Las Palmas yesterday.

Suarez opened the scoring early on with his 41st goal of the season, but Willian Jose deservedly levelled for the hosts inside 10 minutes.

Neymar restored the lead from close range before the break, but the European champions had to withstand a late onslaught from the Canary Islanders to stretch their unbeaten run in all competitions to 32 games.

Barca's closest challengers Atletico Madrid can cut the gap when they host Villarreal, whilst third-placed Real Madrid, who are now 10 points adrift of Barca, travel to Malaga on Sunday.

"To win titles you have to suffer and we've now had a couple of games away from home where we have struggled," Suarez told Canal Plus. "It is always nice to play in a different way and win games easily, but these are the games which win you the league." Despite facing Arsenal in the Champions League

on Tuesday, Barcelona boss Luis Enrique rested only Gerard Pique, whilst Sergio Busquets was also suspended from the side that is expected to start at the Emirates.

The star trio of Lionel Messi, Suarez and Neymar started once more and bore fruit after just six minutes as Suarez extended his lead over Cristiano Ronaldo as La Liga's top scorer with his 25th Liga goal of the campaign.

Andres Iniesta's perfectly weighted pass freed Jordi Alba down the left and his low cross was fired into the roof of the net by Suarez at the back post. However, just as in their win at Sporting Gijon in midweek, Barca conceded minutes after scoring the opener as Jonathan Viera's brilliant backheel teed up Jose to drive home the equaliser.

Unlike the majority of Barca's opponents, Las Palmas were determined to take the game to the visitors, but in doing so left themselves exposed at the back against the most feared attacking trio in the world. Javi Varas made fine saves to deny Messi and Andres Iniesta in quick succession before Suarez



MADRID: Barcelona's Luis Suarez fights for the ball against Las Palmas' Javi Garrido, right, during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Las Palmas and Barcelona, at the Gran Canaria stadium in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria island, Spain, yesterday. — AP

somehow headed wide when completely unmarked from Messi's free-kick.

However, the former Liverpool striker redeemed himself with brilliant play down the right in the build-up to Barca's second as from his cutback Varas again denied Messi, but the ball fell perfectly for Neymar to slam home the rebound.

Suarez had a golden chance to put the game to bed after the break as Varas made another remarkable save from point-blank range after a great knockdown by Dani Alves. And with Barca tiring in the final quarter, Las Palmas had a

host of chances to snatch a point. Firstly, Claudio Bravo dived to his left to parry Viera's effort before Jose fired into the side-netting. Sergio Araujo came closest to an equaliser when his shot across Bravo flew inches past the far post and the Argentine had another great chance a minute from time when he couldn't divert a loose ball inside the area on target with Bravo flapping.

However, it was Barca who should have set the seal on an eighth consecutive league win when Neymar fired straight at Varas with just the 'keeper to beat in stoppage time. — AFP

## EVERTON EASE INTO LAST EIGHT

BOURNEMOUTH: Goals from Ross Barkley and Romelu Lukaku sealed Everton's passage into the FA Cup quarter-finals with a 2-0 fifth-round win at Bournemouth.

Having controlled large spells of the first half at the Vitality Stadium on Saturday evening, the Toffees made the breakthrough on 55 minutes when Barkley's deflected effort looped over Adam Federici.

Lukaku then put the tie beyond Bournemouth, who saw a first-half Charlie Daniels penalty saved by Joel Robles, with a low effort 15 minutes from time.

And that was the way it finished as Everton, yet to concede in this season's FA Cup, put their name in the hat for the next round with another assured cup display. Bournemouth made seven changes to the side which lost at home to Stoke last week, welcoming back captain Tommy Elphick for only his second start since September as the hosts Cherries looked to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals for only the first time since 1956. Roberto Martinez signalled his intention of reaching the next round of the cup by naming an unchanged side, and it took a familiar Toffees side just four minutes to create their first opening, but Barkley was unable to test Federici.

Juan Iturbe mustered the hosts' first attempt ten minutes later but, having shown great pace to get away from Bryan Oviedo, the on-loan Roma frontman screwed his effort wide.

Lukaku's blistering run then saw him escape the clutches of Elphick shortly before the half-hour mark, but the Belgian was

denied by Federici. Bournemouth were then gifted the opportunity to open the scoring when James McCarthy inexcusably handled the ball in the area on 37 minutes, but Robles was on hand to deny Daniels' well-struck effort, before the rebound was fired into the side-netting. Seamus Coleman congratulates Joel Robles after his penalty save.

Everton took full advantage of their reprieve after the interval, wresting the initiative before breaking the deadlock.

Barkley was invited to shoot on the edge of the Bournemouth area and his effort took a wicked deflection off former Everton man Dan Gosling, sending the ball agonisingly over Federici. And it was almost two a couple of minutes later as Lukaku was slipped through on goal and found the back of the net, only for the offside flag came to the hosts' rescue. Bryan Oviedo and Juan Iturbe compete for the ball during at Dean Court.

Bournemouth then mounted sustained push for an equaliser. First, Junior Stanislas saw a free-kick deflect inches wide of the target shortly after the hour before Gosling spurned a glorious chance on 72 minutes, heading straight at Robles from close range. The Cherries pursuit of an equaliser proved to be fruitless as substitute Matt Ritchie became the next player to waste a chance, blazing a left-footed effort over after Joshua King's great work down left.

And the hosts paid the price for not taking their chances as Gareth Barry flicked Oviedo's corner into the path of Lukaku who tapped home from close range 14 minutes from time to reach the quarter-finals. — Agencies





## ONLY 64 FIRMS REPORTED 2015 FINANCIAL RESULTS



**SHARM EL-SHAikh:** Delegates attend the Africa 2016 forum yesterday in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. More than 1,200 delegates including some heads of state will negotiate business agreements for the next two days at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, to attract private sector investments in Africa. —AFP (See page 23)

# OOREDOO KUWAIT POSTS KD 718M REVENUE IN 2015

TELECOM OPERATOR POSTS 19% PROFIT RISE • CUSTOMER BASE UP BY 3% TO 24M

**KUWAIT:** National Mobile Telecommunications Company —NMTC (Ooredoo) yesterday announced its financial results for the Year 2015:

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Chairman of the Board, commented: "2015 was a successful year for Ooredoo Kuwait, as we delivered a good performance and capitalized on the progress and development made during 2014. By introducing initiatives that were designed to strengthen our position in a competitive environment, we increased our customer base by 3 percent to 24 million. We recorded growth in EBITDA by 3 percent despite adverse currency movements in some of our markets. While underlying revenue and EBITDA trends were positive, Net Profit was negatively impacted by adverse currency movements and a one off, non-cash impairment loss. Net profit growth would have been 11.9 percent excluding the above exceptional items, reflecting improved operational performance."

and now has more than 13 million customers, representing 7 percent increase on 2014.

We focused on our network investments in Tunisia, successfully building a clear differentiation in quality with over 40 percent market share in mobile data. We became the first operator to test LTE in Tunisia. In the Maldives we celebrated ten years of operations. We were awarded a fixed line internet license, providing the platform to become a fully-fledged telecommunications company and increased our customer base by 17 percent.

The shift to a digital world means innovation and technology is increasingly present in all facets of our lives. Growing digitalization offers a significant opportunity for Ooredoo as it capitalises on this trend with its data-led strategy to create value for its customers and shareholders.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors declared that the Board decided to submit a recommendation to the AGM to distribute cash dividends to the Company Shareholders



**Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani**

for 2015 were KD 188.1 million (\$619.8 million), an increase of 11.9 percent compared to 2014 of KD 168.0 million (\$ 573.3 million). EBITDA in 2015 was KD 51.3 million ( \$ 169.1 million) versus EBITDA of KD 37.0 million ( \$ 126.4 million) for 2014, an increase of 38.6 percent. Net Profit in 2015 was at KD 17.8 million ( \$ 58.8 million), compared to KD 14.9 million ( \$ 50.9 million) in 2014.

#### Ooredoo - Tunisia

Ooredoo's Tunisia customer base at the end of 2015 was 7.5 million customers, a decrease of 0.8 percent on 2014. During 2015, the Tunisian Dinar depreciated by 9 percent compared to 2014, which has significantly impacted the results shown in dinar. Revenues for 2015 were KD 149.0 million ( \$ 490.9 million), compared to revenues of KD 178.7 million ( \$ 609.8 million) in 2014. EBITDA was KD 61.6 million ( \$ 203.0 million) compared to KD 83.7 million ( \$ 285.7 million) for last year representing a decrease of 26.4 percent. The net profit in 2015 was KD 12.1 million (\$39.9 million), a decrease of 48.2 percent compared with KD 23.3 million ( \$ 79.6 million) in 2014. The net attributable profit to Ooredoo in 2015 was KD9.1 million (\$29.9 million), compared to KD 17.5 million ( \$ 59.7 million) in 2014.

#### Ooredoo - Algeria

Ooredoo's customer base in Algeria was 13.0 million customers at the end of 2015, an increase of 6.6 percent on 2014. During the twelve months to 31 December 2015, the Algerian Dinar depreciated by 18 percent compared to 2014, which has significantly impacted the results shown in KWD. Revenues

attributable net profit to Ooredoo would be KD 22.4 million ( \$ 73.9 million) compared with KD 19.2 ( \$ 65.4 million) in 2014.

#### Wataniya - Palestine

The total customer base for Wataniya Mobile Palestine at the end of 2015 was 0.7 million, an increase of 13.0 percent from the previous year. Revenues increased by 3.2 percent to KD 25.1 million ( \$ 82.5 million), compared with 2014 revenues of KD 24.3 million ( \$ 82.8 million). EBITDA for 2015 was KD 6.5 million ( \$ 21.4 million) an increase of 76.9 percent, compared to an EBITDA of KD 3.7 million ( \$ 12.5 million) in 2014. The total Net Loss for 2015 was KWD 1.5 million ( \$ 5.0 million) compared to a total net loss of KD 4.7 million ( \$ 16.1 million). The net attributable Loss for the year 2015 stood at KD 0.7 million ( \$ 2.4 million) compared to a net attributable Loss of KWD 2.3 million ( \$ 7.8 million) in 2014.

#### Ooredoo - Maldives

Maldives total customer base at the end of 2015 was 0.3 million, an increase of 17.1 percent from the previous year. Revenues for 2015 were KD 23.8 million ( \$ 78.4 million), an increase of 47.4 percent, compared to KD 16.2 million ( \$ 55.1 million) for 2014. EBITDA increased by 104.9 percent in 2015 to KD 11.0 million ( \$ 36.1 million), compared to an EBITDA of KD 5.3 million ( \$ 18.2 million) in 2014. Net attributable profit for 2015 was KD 5.1 million ( \$ 16.7 million) compared to the net attributable profit of KD 1.3 million ( \$ 4.4 million) in 2014.

*The KD to the dollar conversion rate used for the year 2015 is 0.30350 and for the year 2014 is 0.29308.*

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

\* Total customer base increased by 2.7 percent to 23.8 million in 2015 from 23.2 million in 2014.

\* Positive trend delivering growth in EBITDA and improvement in margin in 2015 supported by revenue growth (in local currency terms) in key markets.

\* Revenues for 2015 stood at KD 718.4 million ( \$ 2,367.1 million), compared with KD 748.5 million (\$2,553.9 million) for the same period in 2014, a decrease of 4.0 percent including adverse FX impact. However, in local currency terms, Ooredoo Kuwait, Ooredoo Maldives and Ooredoo Algeria increased their revenues compared to 2014.

\* EBITDA for 2015 was KD 250.2 million (\$824.5 million), compared to EBITDA of KD 242.8 million (\$828.4 million) in 2014 demonstrating strong underlying fundamentals.

\* Net Profit attributable to NMTC was

impacted by adverse currency movements in Tunisia (-9 percent YoY) and Algeria (-18 percent YoY), foreign exchange losses of KDD 9.0 million ( \$ 29.7 million) mainly from Algeria, and a one-off, non-cash KD 16.7 million (\$55.0 million) impairment loss on investment in Tunisia due to the economic challenges in the market. Excluding the adverse impact of foreign currency losses and the impairment, Net profit attributable to NMTC would have been KD 52.4 million ( \$ 172.7 million) compared to KD 46.8 million (\$159.8 million) of 2014 which excludes foreign exchange losses and one-off gains from discontinued business, resulting in an increase of 11.9 percent.

\* The consolidated Earnings per Share was 53.2 fils (\$17.5 cents), compared to 91.2 fils (\$31.1 cents) per share earned for the same period last year.

In Kuwait we became the first telecom operator to launch 4G+ during 2015 and we now have the largest retail network in the country. We delivered 39 percent increase in EBITDA and 18 percent increase in Net Profit. We had similar success in other OpCos such as Wataniya Palestine where we aim to expand our services into Gaza and launch 3G services. Ooredoo Algeria maintained its position as the clear market leader in 3G and data services

valued 100 percent of the nominal value of share, which is equivalent to 100 Fils."

#### Review of Operations

The Group's operational performance can be summarized as follows:

#### Ooredoo - Kuwait

Ooredoo's customer base in Kuwait was 2.3 million at the end of 2015, a decrease of 9.8 percent on the same period in 2014. Revenues

## EU LENDERS CHART PLAN FOR GREEK DEBT RELIEF

**ATHENS:** Greece's EU lenders have been working on a plan to offer the country gradual debt relief on condition it adopts additional reforms by 2022, weekly Agora newspaper reported yesterday.

The paper said that the plan discussed by officials from European Commission, the euro zone's rescue fund, the European Central Bank, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands, envisages that initially there will be lower interest rates and longer maturities for Greece's 316-billion-euro debt.

At a later stage, there will be talks on linking debt payments to the country's economic growth as long as Athens implements measures it will agree with its creditors by 2022, the paper added.

On Thursday, the chairman of euro zone finance ministers Jeroen Dijsselbloem said international lenders were concerned with the quality of reforms in Greece and that even if politically difficult, the government needed to implement a pension reform and other

agreed upon fiscal changes.

Negotiations between the heads of the EU/IMF mission reviewing the country's progress over a tough pension reform plan, fiscal targets and the handling of bad loans, took a break earlier this month. Greece hopes the lenders will return soon to sign off the first assessment of its bailout reforms which will open the way for debt relief talks the country is desperately seeking to show austerity-weary Greeks their sacrifices are paying off.

In an interview with another Greek newspaper, Economy Minister George Stathakis said the review can be wrapped up by the end of March.

"The target for the Catholic Easter (March 27) is absolutely realistic," he was quoted as saying. "I believe that there will be a deal and that the most viable solution will be found."

EU Council President Donald Tusk in Athens said on Feb 16 that he now felt more optimistic on the review process. — Reuters





TEHRAN: Iranian technicians work on a Peugeot 206 car at the Iran Khodro auto plant, west of Tehran, yesterday. —AFP

## EGYPT SIGNS \$500M FACILITY AGREEMENT WITH AFREXIMBANK

**CAIRO:** The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has agreed a \$500 million facility with the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) to help Egyptian importers through a foreign currency crisis. Egypt, which needs to import much of its food and energy, has struggled to revive its economy since the 2011 uprising drove away its main sources of hard currency, foreign investors and tourists.

The Afreximbank deal, signed on Friday, will provide a trade liquidity facility to Egyptian importers, focusing on imports considered strategic to the Egyptian economy. Egypt's central bank reserves dwindled from some \$36 billion before 2011 to \$16.48 billion at the end of

January as the central bank helped finance imports and kept the exchange rate artificially strong at 7.7301 pounds per dollar.

The black market rate hovered above 9 pounds per dollar on Thursday, up from around 8.8 pounds a week earlier. The facility from Cairo-based Afreximbank is part of a program approved in December and worth more than \$3.5 billion, aimed at helping member countries adjust to a collapse in commodities prices and the impact of political violence.

Afreximbank is a multilateral organization with a mandate to help African countries overcome difficulties with financing and developing trade. —Reuters

## TEHRAN BOOSTS OIL EXPORTS BY 500,000 BPD

**TEHRAN:** Iran has increased oil exports by 500,000 barrels per day since international sanctions against Tehran were lifted in January, a top official said yesterday. "As we had promised, we managed to increase our exports by 500,000 bpd shortly after the lifting of sanctions," Mohsen Ghamsari, Director of International Affairs of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), was quoted by the FARS news agency as saying yesterday. Greece's biggest oil refiner, Hellenic Petroleum, will buy 60,000 barrels a day of crude oil from Iran which

can increase to 150,000 bpd, Iran's deputy oil minister said yesterday.

The deal was made during the recent visit of Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to Tehran, Amir-Hossein Zamaninia was quoted as saying by oil ministry's news agency, Shana. Hellenic Petroleum was a major buyer of Iranian crude, which accounted for about 20 percent of the southeast European country's annual crude oil imports, before sanctions were imposed on Tehran in 2011. —Agencies

## SIX OFFICIALS OF CHINA'S ICBC BANK HELD IN SPAIN

**MADRID:** Six officials of Chinese megabank ICBC have been placed in detention by Spanish authorities on suspicion of laundering tens of millions of euros, judicial sources said yesterday.

They were detained overnight and while three of them can be freed if they post bail of 100,000 euros (\$111,000) each, the others will remain in custody for the time being, the Madrid appeals court said.

The suspects were arrested on Wednesday at the bank's central Madrid branch as part of a probe into the suspected laundering of at least 40 million euros (\$44.5 million).

They were questioned from Friday afternoon through to early yesterday.

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China is accused of allowing traders to move money earned through smuggling and tax fraud out of the country, to China, "in a way that appeared legal", Spanish

police said in a statement.

Spanish prosecutors said the employees were being sought for "economic crimes" but did not elaborate. The raid was a follow-up to an operation last year that targeted Madrid-based Chinese syndicates suspected of importing huge amounts of goods from China without declaring them, to avoid duties and taxes.

The groups allegedly deposited the proceeds in ICBC accounts, with the lender accused of sending the funds to China without checking their origin as required by law.

ICBC is the world's largest bank by market capitalisation. It entered the Spanish market in January 2011 with the inauguration of its branch in Madrid. A year later it opened a second branch in Barcelona.

The Chinese lender's foreign operations accounted for about 10 percent of its total assets at the end of last year. —AFP

# ONLY 64 FIRMS REPORTED 2015 FINANCIAL RESULTS

### COMPANIES POST KD 1.16BN IN PROFIT

**KUWAIT:** By the end of last week, the number of companies that disclosed its 2015 financial results reached only 64, out of the 190 total listed companies in Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE), however more than half of the legal disclosing period have passed, said a report.

The disclosed companies have realized around KD 1.16 billion, with an increase of 4.28 percent compared to the results of the same companies for year 2014, Bayan Investment Company added in its report yesterday.

On the other hand, the market capitalization for KSE reached by the end of last week KD 23.28 billion, down by 0.22 percent from its level in a week earlier, where it was KD 23.33 billion. On an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE dropped by 7.87 percent from its value at end of 2014, where it reached then KD 25.27 billion, the report noted.

As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 8.44 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 8.35 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 8.61 percent loss, it showed.

KSE ended last week with mixed performances. The Price Index closed at 5, 140.96

points, up by 0.18 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.15 percent after closing at 349.83 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 822.89 points down by 0.52 percent, it said.

KSE indicators closed mixed last week, among a continued decline in the trading activity compared to a week earlier, as the purchasing operations that included many small-cap stocks of positive annual results continued in providing support to the Price Index, which enabled it to realize some gains by the end of the week, whilst the Weighted and KSX-15 indices couldn't follow due to the continued profit collection operations in controlling the large-cap and operational stocks' activity during the week, it mentioned.

Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 25.51 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 8.95 million, whereas trading volume average was 123.58 million shares, recording a decrease of 12.57 percent, it pointed out.

Eight of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, while the other four recorded declines. Last week's highest gainer was the Health Care sector, achieving 5.48 percent growth rate as its index closed at 987.80

points, it said. Whereas, in the second place, the Technology sector's index closed at 822.10 points recording 3.07 percent increase, it stated. The Telecommunications sector came in third as its index achieved 2.43 percent growth, ending the week at 564.87 points, it concluded.

#### KSE trading

Meanwhile, Al-Oula Brokerage Company said yesterday that Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week trading on variation in the performance due to negative trading indexes, weak trading and selective operations on shares that witnessed sales' pressure. Al-Oula special report said most sessions witnessed anticipation of financial results of the last quarter of 2015, which played a role in reducing investment desires to benefit from the prevailing selling tendencies.

Al-Oula added the market closed last Thursday with low turnout by the three main indexes, with 5.32 points in price index to 5,140 points and 2.28 for weighted index, and 8.41 for Kuwait-15 index. The report also noted some deals' announcements which helped in boosting trading in the KSE, including the announcement of financial results. —KUNA

# BRAZIL RELAXES 2016 FISCAL GOAL AS INVESTOR FEARS MOUNT

**BRASILIA:** Brazil's government said on Friday it will cut its key fiscal target to a deficit from a surplus this year if tax revenue continues to fall, in a move that increased market doubts about leftist President Dilma Rousseff's commitment to austerity.

Rousseff's government, under pressure from investors and the business community to cut spending amid a deep recession, will be able to run a deficit of 1 percent of gross domestic product before interest debt payments under the new target.

The government had targeted a primary surplus, or excess revenue prior to interest debt payments, of 0.5 percent of GDP. The change

came after it announced a 2016 budget cut of 23.4 billion reais (\$5.82 billion), lower than the 70 billion reais seen last year.

Congress must approve the new fiscal target. To ease a market backlash, newly appointed Finance Minister Nelson Barbosa also unveiled plans to limit public spending growth by setting annual expenditure ceilings and automatic cuts in wages, new hires and tax benefits.

With Brazil running an overall deficit of more than 10 percent of GDP last year because of its heavy debt burden, the primary balance is regarded by markets as a key indicator of the direction of public finances in Latin America's largest economy.

Although government officials argue a more flexible fiscal target shows greater transparency, many investors see the move as proof that the Rousseff administration is not committed to austerity.

"Our initial impression is that all of this looks like fiddling around the edges," Neil Shearing, chief emerging market economist for Capital Economics, wrote in a research note. "It certainly falls well short of the more determined measures needed to stabilize Brazil's public finances."

Brazil's real currency and stocks on the Sao Paulo exchange ended slightly higher on Friday. Brazil's gross public debt has risen more than

15 percentage points to 66.2 percent of GDP over the past three years, and many analysts expect its debt to climb to 80 percent of GDP in the coming years.

Later on Friday the government offered debt relief to states if local authorities adopted tougher fiscal rules to reduce their payrolls and limit their overall spending.

The government proposed extending the maturity of debts owed by the state for 20 years, reducing debt payments by 36 billion reais (\$8.96 billion) in the next three years.

"These are tough fiscal measures that will take us in the right path," Treasury chief Otavio Ladeira told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"The governors understand these are necessary measures and are willing to discuss them."

Rousseff, who is battling impeachment proceedings in Congress, is being urged by her leftist allies to ditch austerity in favor of measures to jump-start the economy and boost employment.

A sharp drop in tax revenue as the economy enters a second year of recession and a political deadlock in Congress that has delayed key austerity measures have complicated Rousseff's efforts to shore up Brazil's finances. Brazil's budget deficit has mushroomed since Rousseff took office in 2011, hitting 10.3 percent of GDP in 2015. —Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>ASIAN COUNTRIES</b>		
Japanese Yen	2.664	
Indian Rupees	4.393	
Pakistani Rupees	2.863	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.084	
Nepali Rupees	2.733	
Singapore Dollar	214.680	
Hongkong Dollar	38.567	
Bangladesh Taka	3.819	
Philippine Peso	6.305	
Thai Baht	8.439	
<b>GCC COUNTRIES</b>		
Saudi Riyal	79.989	
Qatari Riyal	82.397	
Omani Riyal	779.106	
Bahraini Dinar	796.600	
UAE Dirham	81.667	
<b>ARAB COUNTRIES</b>		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	35.950	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	38.353	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.400	
Tunisian Dinar	148.780	
Jordanian Dinar	422.760	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	1.999	
Syrian Lira	2.138	
Morocco Dirham	31.164	
<b>EUROPEAN &amp; AMERICAN COUNTRIES</b>		
US Dollar Transfer	299.800	
Euro	336.830	
Sterling Pound	435.010	
Canadian dollar	219.470	
Turkish Lira	102.320	
Swiss Franc	305.760	
Australian Dollar	217.210	
US Dollar Buying	298.600	

	GOLD
20 Gram	243.060
10 Gram	124.450
5 Gram	63.070

### UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES	TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000
Australian Dollar	201.91
Canadian Dollar	219.82
Swiss Franc	306.95
Euro	336.85
US Dollar	299.90
Sterling Pound	431.04
Japanese Yen	2.67
Bangladesh Taka	3.817
Indian Rupee	4.375
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.083
Nepali Rupee	2.732
Pakistani Rupee	2.860
UAE Dirhams	0.08161
Bahraini Dinar	0.7970
Egyptian Pound	0.03819
Jordanian Dinar	0.4265
Omani Riyal	0.7788
Qatari Riyal	0.08269
Saudi Riyal	0.07994

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	300.050
Canadian Dollar	219.775
Sterling Pound	433.380
Euro	335.145
Swiss Franc	298.080
Bahrain Dinar	793.775
UAE Dirhams	81.935
Qatari Riyals	83.140

Saudi Riyals	80.690
Jordanian Dinar	422.675
Egyptian Pound	38.208
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.086
Indian Rupees	4.364
Pakistani Rupees	2.858
Bangladesh Taka	3.816
Philippines Peso	6.285
Cyprus pound	571.490
Japanese Yen	3.665
Syrian Pound	2.365
Nepalese Rupees	3.730
Malaysian Ringgit	72.035
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.370
Thai Bhat	9.370
Turkish Lira	101.875

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.425452	0.434452
Czech Korune	0.004340	0.016340
Danish Krone	0.040648	0.045548
Euro	0.328945	0.336945
Norwegian Krone	0.030982	0.036182
Romanian Leu	0.085998	0.085998
Slovakia	0.008886	0.018885
Swedish Krona	0.031517	0.036517
Swiss Franc	0.296886	0.307085
Turkish Lira	0.095590	0.105890
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.206455	0.217955
New Zealand Dollar	0.190351	0.202551
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.212606	0.221106

US Dollars	0.295700	0.300200
US Dollars Mint	0.296200	0.300200
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003433	0.004033
Chinese Yuan	0.044515	0.048015
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036581	0.039331
Indian Rupee	0.004172	0.004562
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002584	0.002764
Korean Won	0.003001	0.003001
Kenyan Shilling	0.000234	0.000249
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067555	0.073555
Nepalese Rupee	0.002841	0.003011
Pakistan Rupee	0.002709	0.002989
Philippine Peso	0.006223	0.006503
Sierra Leone	0.000066	0.000072
Singapore Dollar	0.210353	0.216353
South African Rand	0.013494	0.021994
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001732	0.002312
Taiwan	0.008944	0.009124
Thai Baht	0.008102	0.008652

	BUY	SELL
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.788343	0.796343
Egyptian Pound	0.033695	0.038031
Iranian Riyal	0.000083	0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000197	0.000257
Jordanian Dinar	0.418825	0.426325
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020335	0.044335
Nigerian Naira	0.001230	0.001865
Omani Riyal	0.772282	0.777962
Qatar Riyal	0.081636	0.082849
Saudi Riyal	0.079060	0.080010
Syrian Pound	0.001270	0.001490
Tunisian Dinar	0.145491	0.153491
Turkish Lira	0.095590	0.105890
UAE Dirhams	0.080643	0.081792
Yemeni Riyal	0.001354	0.001434



## XCITE.COM LAUNCHES THE 'CELEBRATE KUWAIT' MEGA SALE

**KUWAIT:** February has long been a festive month that celebrates everything about Kuwait. X-cite by Alghanim Electronics intends to add more joy to these celebrations by offering customers upto 70 percent off on almost everything on Xcite.com, the go-to online destination for Kuwait's largest electronics retailer. The exclusive and limited-time offer is available on February 21 - 27, 2016 so make sure to treat yourself to the newest electronics and latest gadgets on the market during this exciting time.

Whether it's a phone, tablet, home appliance, or any other electronics

gadget, as they put it, Xcite.com aims to give the customer '5 ways' to get the best deal by offering period long price slashes on almost everything, Daily and Hourly blockbuster offers, free delivery, exclusive discount coupon codes and additionally an extra 5 percent OFF discount coupon redeemable on the next purchase in March for anyone who purchases during this sale period. This promotion has been partnered by Apple, Beko, Daewoo, Wansa & eQ.

Xcite.com offers an easy but rich shopping experience with a wide product variety to choose from, image and

video rich product content, thousands of product reviews enabling informed purchases, capability to compare multiple products side by side, easy and secure payment options while offering convenient doorstep delivery as well as buyer protection with an easy return policy.

So make the most of your National & Liberation Days holiday and get the bang for your buck by shopping today onwards till the 27th of Feb on xcite.com or download the Xcite App via the Google Play store or iOS App Store to receive deal notifications while shopping on the move!



## HOW TO NETWORK YOUR WAY UP THE CAREER LADDER

Bayt.com weekly report

**D**o you want to find a new job this year or simply meet new professionals in your industry? Then you need to do some networking. Networking is the act of going out and meeting people, making your strengths known to them, and eventually creating a mutually beneficial relationship. One of the great ways to network today is through the internet. The internet is a way for you to meet hordes of people who can endorse you, recommend you, and hire you.

Here, the career experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, provide 3 tips to help you network like a pro on the internet:

## 1. Create a public profile

Our Bayt.com research has revealed that 82 percent of employers in the Middle East research a candidate online before calling them in for an interview. Since your online public profile is the first thing people see when they google your name, then this profile is the best way to make yourself searchable for them to find and contact you. A public profile, such as the one offered by Bayt.com, opens doors and endless opportunities and will help you get more interviews and grow in your career. And it's 100 percent free.

## 2. Engage in online discussions

Bayt.com Specialties is a platform where you can engage freely with other professionals and discuss topics that relate to your interests and specialty. Professionals can post questions and answers related to their field and spark intellectual debates with other professionals. Bayt.com Specialties is a great platform for employers to ask questions and interact with future employees - it's also a great platform for you to find a job and get noticed by employers.

## 2. Head to the app store

Mobile apps are a great way to stay in the know and follow discussions and jobs you care about. The Bayt.com mobile app is free and will help you stay connected, anytime and anywhere. You can follow other people's public profiles simply through a click of a button. You can also ask people to recommend you for a job.

## 3. Connect with companies

Another great way to network online is to connect with companies through their corporate profiles, such as the company pages on Bayt.com. In fact, 80 percent of professionals check a company's online profiles before applying for a job. You can always follow your favorite company and get their latest jobs, news, and much more.

## AFRICAN LEADERS VOW TO PUSH FOR INVESTMENTS AT EGYPT SUMMIT

SISI PLEDGES TO BOOST AFRICA'S PLACE IN WORLD ECONOMY

**SHARM EL SHEIKH:** African leaders and bankers turned out at an economic summit in Egypt yesterday, vowing to push for trade and investments on the continent despite growing security concerns in the region. More than 1,200 delegates including some heads of state aim to sign business agreements during the next two days at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, to attract private sector investments in Africa.

Organisers hope the "Africa 2016" conference can build on a 26-nation free trade pact signed last year to create a common market on half the continent. Analysts say that despite the continent's economic growth rate of more than four percent, Africa still accounts for about only two percent of global trade.

The forum was aimed at "pushing forward trade and investment in our continent to strengthen Africa's place in the world economy," Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi said in his opening remarks at the conference.

"It not only aims to present investment opportunities that Africa offers to the international business community... but aims to pave the way for active decisions, communication and cooperation."

Organisers are also seeking to turn the spotlight on Egypt as its economy remains sluggish after years of political turmoil following the ouster of longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak in early 2011.

Heavily dependent on tourism, Egypt's economy was dealt a body blow when a Russian airliner broke up mid-air on October 31, minutes after taking off from Sharm el-Sheikh.

All 224 people on board, mostly Russian tourists, were killed when the plane blew up over the Sinai Peninsula. The jihadist Islamic State

group said it brought down the jet with a bomb on board.

Egypt says it still has no evidence that a bomb downed the plane, although Moscow has acknowledged that a "terrorist attack" caused the disaster. "Africa 2016 forum is expected to position Egypt as a gateway for foreign investments into

and investment.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said that growing security concerns in Africa were absorbing huge resources.

"The new problem affecting investments is international terrorism... lot of resources that could be used for development are being

Bankers however say the continent remains a growth story. "We plan to invest 12 billion dollars in the energy sector over the next five years... so that people in Africa can have universal access to electricity," Africa Development Bank president Akinwumi Adesina told AFP.

Africa still has 645 million people



**SHARM EL-SHEIKH:** Delegates attend the Africa 2016 forum yesterday in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. —AFP

African markets," Omar Ben Yedder, member of the organising committee, told AFP.

## Security concerns

Those attending the summit organised by Egypt and the African Union include the presidents of Sudan, Nigeria, Togo, and Gabon, and dozens of ministers and senior officials from Africa involved in trade

diverted to address security issues," Buhari said.

Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, is fighting a brutal insurgency launched by Boko Haram since 2009.

Boko Haram, which seeks a hard-line Islamic state in northern Nigeria, has killed some 17,000 people and forced more than 2.6 million others to flee their homes since the start of the insurgency.

without access to electricity, he said, and the only way to address the issue is to widen private sector participation in the energy sector.

The economy is projected to grow at a rate of 4.4 percent this year and five percent in 2017 as against three percent growth expected in developed countries, he said. "Africa is doing well despite the challenges it is facing," Adesina said. —AFP



**BEIJING:** In this March 11, 2014, photo, then head of China Securities Regulatory Commission Xiao Gang, left, and Zhou Xiaochuan, governor of the People's Bank of China, attend a press conference in Beijing, China. —AP

## CHINA'S TOP SECURITIES REGULATOR QUILTS AMID TURMOIL

**BEIJING:** China's top securities regulator will step down following months of turmoil in Chinese stock markets that have battered faith in Beijing's economic management.

The departure of Xiao Gang, a legal expert with decades of experience in the finance industry, may help assuage public anger at the dramatic boom and bust, but doesn't address the market's underlying problems. The official Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday that Xiao would be replaced by Liu

Shiyu, chairman of the Agricultural Bank of China and a former deputy governor of China's central bank. "Xiao Gang is worth no pity but he is destined to be a tragic figure, caught between pro-government and pro-market factions and left to take care of a mess from an unhealthy system," Beijing-based veteran financial commentator Shi Shusi said. "His departure will not bring a clean era for China's capital, but at most a belated consolation for investors who have been hurt."

The capital market is where China's rivaling political forces have come into most intense clashes, Shi said. The unusual intervention by the Ministry of Public Security and investigations against securities firms following market meltdowns are proof that covert political forces within the Chinese government had made waves, Shi said.

"As China transforms, the capital market is where political forces wrestle with each other and is where the conflicts play out," he said.

Fueled by cheerleading in the state press after officials said Chinese stocks

should rise, the Shanghai and Shenzhen markets vaulted from late 2014, reaching a peak in June last year, then crumbled in several waves of panic selling that sent shockwaves around the world.

Officials prolonged the turmoil with draconian measures such as banning major shareholders in publicly traded companies from selling any shares and ordering state funds to buy. The bust hurt millions of neophyte Chinese investors who piled into the market when it was near its peak.

Analysts say Beijing's moves on stocks, as well as its halting steps to ease currency controls, show the tension between the ruling Communist Party's desire for market-oriented reform and its overriding objective of retaining absolute political control. The Shanghai Composite Index closed at 2,860.02 on Friday, a decline of about 45 percent from its peak in June of about 5,178 and barely higher than late 2014, when the market started rising.

Liu, the new chief securities regulator, was trained in engineering at the prestigious Tsinghua University and started a career in the state banking industry in the late 1980s.

Xiao, who was appointed in March 2013, was particularly criticized for the mishandled introduction of a "circuit breaker" mechanism for the markets in January that halted trading when prices fall by a certain percentage.

It was meant to help stabilize Chinese stocks as authorities gradually withdrew their emergency support measures, but only added to the turmoil. —AP

## OIL OUTPUT FREEZE TALKS SHOULD END BY MARCH 1: RUSSIA

**MOSCOW:** Consultations on a preliminary deal between leading oil producers to freeze output should be concluded by March 1 after a group led by Russia and Saudi Arabia reached a common position this week in Doha, Russia's energy minister said.

In a television interview aired yesterday, Alexander Novak also said that the agreement announced on Feb. 16 was weighty enough. "Those countries which have openly supported this approach are producing around 75 percent out of global (oil) export volumes. My point is that, in practice, this is enough to agree," Novak told the Vesti yesterday program.

Russia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Venezuela said this week after talks in Doha that they were ready to freeze production at January levels if other producers do the same.

Iran welcomed the deal. But it stopped short of saying it would itself freeze production at January levels and its deputy oil minister said yesterday it would increase production soon.

Novak said talks between Venezuela and Iran were still ongoing, and said consultations would also be held with non-OPEC countries, including Mexico and Norway. "I believe that they (Mexico and Norway) would take a constructive stance," he said. If additional oil were not supplied to the market, then the global surplus of oil would fall by at least 1.3 million barrels per day, Novak added.

## WITH OR WITHOUT IRAN?

Novak said Iran had taken a relatively constructive stance on the Doha deal but not yet said it was ready to sign up to the proposals.

Its Deputy Oil Minister Rokneddin Javadi was quoted as saying on Saturday that Tehran aimed to increase oil production by 700,000 barrels per day in the near future.

Alexey Texler, Russia's first deputy energy minister, said earlier this week that even without Iran there would be an effect from the deal.

According to Texler, Russia is talking about freezing January production levels. January output was around 1.5 percent higher than the annual average for 2015.

Novak also said it was "discussed with colleagues" that an oil price of \$50 per barrel would suit consumers and exporters in the long term. He did not elaborate.

The minister believes that if the Doha agreement enters into force then Russia's market share would remain unchanged. —Reuters

## OIL IN 'TUMULTUOUS' WEEK AFTER OUTPUT FREEZE DEAL

**LONDON:** The oil market was gripped this week by an output freeze deal between the world's top two producers Saudi Arabia and Russia. Prices initially rebounded on Tuesday, before hitting reverse as traders assessed the conditional agreement between Saudi Arabia and Russia and two other producers to limit output.

In a bid to stabilize an oversupplied market, Russia and OPEC members Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Qatar announced Tuesday that they had reached a preliminary deal to freeze output at January levels, provided that other major producers followed suit. The news sparked hopes the market would stabilise after sinking to near 13-year lows last week on the stubborn supply glut-but disappointed those looking for an output cut. "It has been another tumultuous week for oil markets this week after newsflow has pointed to a potential resolution to the ongoing supply glut," said analyst James Hughes at traders GKF.

"Undoubtedly the biggest story of the week was the news that Saudi Arabia and Russia had agreed to freeze production ... however the obvious problem with that is that we are already at record highs

for oil production.

"The news saw oil prices jump higher, before dropping on the prospect that Iran and Iraq were not on board." Saudi oil minister Ali Al-Naimi said Tuesday's decision was "the beginning of a process which we will assess in the next few months and decide whether we need other steps to stabilize... the market."

Iran meanwhile entered talks with other producers to address low prices-but stopped short of committing itself to any production cutbacks.

Iran, which has been pumping oil at maximum levels since a deal with Western powers ending sanctions, said in response to the freeze announcement that "there is room for discussion" but Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh added that Iran "won't relinquish" market share.

The 13-nation OPEC oil cartel, of which Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Qatar and Iran are members, has refrained from cutting output as it looks to maintain market share in the face of competition from US shale oil producers. Russia-which is not an OPEC member-has seen its recession-hit economy damaged further by the slump in oil. —AFP

## NOUR REAL ESTATE POSTS KD 1.9 MILLION NET PROFITS IN 2015

**KUWAIT:** Nour Al-Salhiya Real Estate Company's deputy chairman of the board and CEO, Bader Al-Rabee'a said that his company has made KD 1,916,226 net profits in 2015 making an increase of 3.8 per cent compared to the previous year. He also noted that the company's assets increased by 34.5 per cent compared to 2014.



**Bader Al-Rabee'a**

Further, Al-Rabee'a said that the board of directors recommended distribution of 6 per cent cash dividends to shareholders. He also stated that the company was currently planning to expand its activities.



# Mohamed Naser Al Sayer and Toyota Unveils ALL NEW PRIUS HYBRID REVOLUTION

ALWAYS A  
BETTER WAY



The Future is Now  
**PRIUS**  
Hybrid Innovation

## Embrace the Change, Drive Prius The Iconic Game Changer:

Introducing the Prius Hybrid – the iconic drive that will change the way you think about driving. The engine, which is nothing less than an engineering marvel, delivers efficiencies and a driving dynamics that will surprise you. The outside is beautifully designed with aerodynamically sleek lines and the high-end interior is packed with technological features, including Toyota's very first full colour Heads Up Display, plus the finest safety features.

## Toyota Prius ushers in new era for hybrids in the Middle East

- Global hybrid icon all set to create a significant impact in terms of sustainable mobility in the region
- Striking new design complements refined interiors to make the Prius stand out
- Superior driving dynamics with remarkable results in terms of engine performance and fuel economy will delight environmentally conscious customers
- Advanced safety technologies signify comprehensive protection for passengers

Mohamed Naser Al Sayer, one of the Al Sayer Group Holding Companies held a press conference to unveil the all new Prius "The Future is Now", pioneering hybrid from Toyota. Mr. Mubarak Naser Al Sayer CEO Al Sayer Group Holding welcomed delegates from Toyota Motor Corporation Mr. Susiyama Masayuki Assistant Chief Engineer, Mr. Yugo Miyamoto General Manager Sales and Marketing, Mr. Wada from Middle East Division Japan, Mr. Takayuki Yoshitatsu Chief Representative, Mr. Taniguchi and Mr. Mohamed Assal Senior Marketing Manager from the Middle East and North Africa Regional Office Dubai along with representatives of the press and media at the event which was held at the Prestige Ball room Grand Avenue.

Speaking during the occasion Mr. Mubarak Naser Al Sayer CEO Al Sayer Group Holding said "We are going to introduce a new era of automotive technology – Hybrid and first one from Toyota as we unveil the Prius Hybrid. The Future is Now – the all new fourth generation Prius marks a further advance in the history and achievements of Toyota's hybrid power technology."

"Toyota's efforts to make ever better cars have earned top recognition: Once again it took the top spot as the most valuable automotive brand in the Brand™ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands 2015. For the 12th straight year Toyota won the most valuable automotive brand worldwide and the sixth important brand across all business categories in Interbrand's new ranking of the 100 Best Global Brands for 2015. Furthermore the Number#1 Japanese Automotive giant has led the industry on the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's (IIHS) annual list of safety awards.

Toyota continues to focus on the safety and peace of mind of customers. Mohamed Naser Al Sayer is committed to the strategy for steady development and growth in the Kuwait market with promising expansion plans. We always aim to offer ever greater value for our customers through continued improvement and development based on our confidence in the Kuwait market." Mr. Mubarak added.

Spearheading a new era in hybrid technology across the Middle East, Toyota announces the launch of the much anticipated Prius in the region. By far the world's most successful hybrid car, the fourth generation Prius brings groundbreaking environmental performance along with a striking new design, in addition to a fun-to-drive spirit that promises to appeal to eco-conscious customers as well as driving enthusiasts.

According to Mr. Johan Heislitz Senior Business Director Toyota "A breakthrough that took more than a century – Pioneer Hybrid, Prius with the powerful Toyota Hybrid System, The Future is Now, embrace the change. The new Prius is power packed with smart and futuristic technology. It is intelligent and will appeal to affluent drivers. Those who want to be unique, those who want to make a statement. Toyota always make Cars that are fun to drive and offer absolute peace of mind Today the spirit of Toyota to make ever better cars will take a big leap forward At Al Sayer we celebrate this spirit of Toyota with value added offers and benefits in



addition to best facilities and customer service."

"For eighteen years, Prius has continued to build a legacy of outstanding efficiency and innovation for hybrid technology," said Kouji Toyoshima, Chief Engineer of the Prius. "It has always been a revolutionary car with a unique DNA. So, I asked myself: What is essential for the next generation? The answer was our development concept of 'Beautiful Hybrid'. We wanted the Prius to turn into a charming, beautiful hybrid vehicle, while maintaining its essential qualities such as outstanding fuel economy."

Toyoshima added: "Our 'Beautiful Hybrid' concept includes Joy of Efficiency to achieve even better fuel economy, Joy of Ownership reflected by the emotional exterior design to the high-quality interior to deliver a powerful presence and the Joy of Driving which exemplifies the Prius' fun to drive spirit."

The first-generation Prius was the world's first mass-produced hybrid vehicle. Launched in Japan in 1997, the unique Toyota hybrid established a major industry milestone in vehicle powertrain development and sustainable mobility. The name Prius, 'to go before' in Latin, became symbolic of a car that was launched even before environmental awareness had become a mainstream social issue.



Anticipating the 21st century's need for vehicles with exceptional fuel efficiency, successive generations of Prius have showcased Toyota's commitment to environmentally conscientious forward thinking, and led the company's drive towards the creation of the ultimate eco car.

According to Takayuki Yoshitatsu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, "The Prius underlines Toyota's continued commitment to progressive thinking and being environmentally conscious. The new model is a triumph of technology and boasts significant advances in every area, with a clever, class leading aerodynamic design that allows it to offer excellent fuel and emissions efficiency without sacrificing either cabin space or driving ease and comfort."

Yoshitatsu continued: "The Prius is a symbol of Toyota's innovative nature and inherits Toyota's legendary QDR (Quality, Durability, Reliability). Over 3.5 million satisfied customers have put their faith in the car to make it the world's most popular hybrid. Toyota fans in the region can rely on the brand's extensive and comprehensive support network to enjoy their ownership of the Prius."

He added: "More than just another car, we see the Prius as an opportunity to really make a difference, which



essentially is what Toyota is all about as we seek to fulfill our vision of leading the way towards the future of mobility. We are thankful to our customers all over the globe whose support and patronage has allowed Prius to maintain its timeless appeal as a global hybrid icon."

Combining improved aerodynamics, excellent handling and comprehensive safety features with an elegant interior designed to pamper its occupants, the all-new Prius represents another step forward for Toyota's renowned hybrid technology. The car comes with a reengineered 1.8-litre petrol engine that works in tandem with a new lightweight and compact electric motor to offer unbeatable environmental efficiency and responsive performance.

The Prius is a superior hybrid and eminently versatile. Unlike most of other hybrids, the Prius can be driven completely on electrical power or with a combination of electric motor and gasoline engine depending on the driving behaviour.

The car's gasoline engine teams up with its electric motor to offer the best features of both. The hybrid batteries are charged continuously when braking and decelerating; therefore, there is no need to plug in a power cord resulting in fewer stops for gasoline fill up. The Prius also does not require any special fuel and yet drives like any other conventional car.

The new Prius builds on the environmentally friendly credentials of its predecessors to achieve an impressive fuel efficiency of up to 26.1 km/L. Determined to broaden the car's appeal, Toyota has rebuilt the Prius from the ground up – overhauling its design, improving performance and adding personal touches both inside and out, under the developmental concept of 'a beautiful car for a beautiful earth.' The result is a sleeker, sportier form that elicits an emotional response from the outset.

Based on the advanced Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA) – an innovative, integrated development program for powertrain components and vehicle platforms – the all-new Prius takes the hybrid driving experience to another level, thanks to a lower centre of gravity, increased body rigidity and improved suspension.

Striking new design complements refined interiors

The new Prius has received a dramatic makeover. Based on Toyota's iconic Human Tech design philosophy of fusing emotional and rational vehicle factors, the exterior of the Prius hints at the car's advanced functions while also expressing its fun to drive spirit, creating an instant and lasting impression. The fourth generation Prius retains the 2,700 mm wheelbase of the third generation Prius, but is 60 mm longer overall at 4,540







mm. It is also 15 mm wider at 1,760 mm.

The Prius' signature triangular silhouette begins with the Toyota emblem, continues along the lower hood and sweeps over the top of the cabin towards the rear wing. The rocker panel features a distinctive light-catching surface that begins at the lowest part of the front bumper and under the door, and then races upward to accentuate the car's low-slung stance. Completing the triangle is the beltline, which is angled lower and forward for a sense of motion, creating an advanced structure in which the glasshouse intersects with the body for a unified yet aggressive appearance.

The sculpted bumper, large lower grille and sculpted roof not only look great, but work to provide a seamless flow of air around the vehicle to maximize fuel efficiency and create more quietness inside the cabin. Black C-pillars create the illusion of a floating roof, while the sporty stance is enhanced by a lower roofline, bonnet and sleek proportions. At the front and rear, distinctive LED lights give the Prius a pioneering look, and a leading drag coefficient of  $C_d$  0.24; means the car cuts through the air with aerodynamic grace.

In redesigning the Prius, Toyota has moved the peak of the roof forward and lowered the car's maximum height. The result is a distinctive outline that instils the car with a unique presence while also being functional in ensuring ample head clearance for occupants. The nose, as well as the rearmost section of the cowl and hood, has also been lowered to further improve front visibility.

At the rear, distinctive character lines and a coordinated LED lamp design add to the car's emotional appeal and distinctive hybrid presence. The overall impression is a firm, planted stance achieved with an upper beltline and prominent rear spoiler that connect with corner edges for more efficient aerodynamics.

The Prius comes in seven exterior colours: Attitude Black Mica, Dark Blue Mica Metallic, Gray Metallic, Silver Metallic, White Pearl Crystal Shine, Super White II and Emotional Red. The Emotional Red colour has been designed with a new technology to create a brilliant and sporty presence with high intensity and vibrant clarity. A reflective layer contains aluminium flakes to add a 3-dimensional appearance to the surface. A separate translucent layer contains a deep red pigment. These two layers combine to create a strong reflection and a deep red hue.

The interior has a modern cockpit with soft-touch materials and cool metallic finishes in addition to innovative touches such as signature Prius logos on the air vents which create a cabin of contemporary flair. The car's interior is available in two colours, Cool Gray and Black.

The Prius has an advanced full-colour TFT (Thin-Film Transistor) display. It consists of dual 4.2-inch full-colour TFT displays with a full-colour meter that has high brightness, contrast and precision. It can display several combination displays such as the odometer and average fuel economy after the last reset, Trip A distance and average fuel economy, Trip B distance and average fuel economy, and travelled distance and average fuel economy after the ignition is on. There is also a Multi Information Display (MID) with an energy monitor which displays changing energy flows in conjunction with driving conditions. The energy flow is expressed with arrows and moving beads of light.

MID also has a Hybrid System Indicator which includes various indicators used to display accelerator pedal operation, hybrid system operation, among others. An ECO Accelerator Guidance for example will illuminate

in accordance with a more eco-friendly use of the accelerator. There is also a Fuel Economy Record Indicator which you can set to record every 5 minutes, 1 km or 5 km after the hybrid system is started. It also can display the record of the present month, last four months and the same month of the previous year.

The air conditioning system benefits from the latest in compact and lightweight components and technology, including a new electric compressor that helps enhance cooling performance and reduces noise. A pollen-eliminating clean air filter has also been adopted. The S-flow mode focuses airflow only to areas where passengers are seated in order to maximize fuel economy and comfort. It can be controlled with the following settings: air conditioner temperature settings, outside temperature, cabin temperature and amount of sunlight.

An air conditioning score has been added to Eco Score for fuel efficient setting. There is also an ECO air conditioning mode available along with separate air conditioning ECO heat/cool mode switch to accommodate driver preferences. This is linked to the Drive mode select switch.

The occupant-friendly interior focuses on ease of use, with a design that aims to evoke the car's advanced capabilities while remaining warm and welcoming. The instrument panel, with its thin, horizontal design and smooth surfaces, consolidates operational areas near the driver and places information areas further away. The large colour Head-Up Display (HUD) projects a range of important information – from driver alerts to navigation, speed and an energy meter – on to the windscreen in the driver's line of sight.

Despite its sleek appearance, the new Prius accommodates five people with ease, has increased boot capacity and now comes with towing facility, making it a car that can adapt to everybody's life. In order to minimize discomfort during long drives, Toyota has totally redesigned the Prius' seats. In the front seats, improvements to frames and cushion bolstering have enhanced comfort while saving weight and space, providing a 'snug' fit and chiropractic control, while the seatback springs have been moved rearward for optimal occupant posture. The rear seats (60/40-split and fold-down) have

also been optimised for greater comfort and benefit from an improved armrest and cup holder.

A newly designed steering wheel matched with the rest of the interior styling has been adopted and is available in synthetic leather. The synthetic leather wheel has surface temperature regulating properties for excellent comfort and the surface feels less hot in summer and less cold in winter.

The Prius also has a convenient wireless charging system which allows users to simply place a compatible device on the pad to initiate charging, without the need for a cable. It is also Qi compatible. Qi is an international standard established by Wireless Power Consortium (WPC). It supplies 5 watts or less of charging power to smartphones and mobile batteries.

A JBL audio system is available, with a total of 10 speakers all placed optimally throughout the cabin. Newly designed 17 cm diameter front door woofers offer powerful and rich bass throughout the cabin. The speaker layout has been optimized to deliver clear stereo sound, including a delicate high range along with dynamism, realism and clarity. High efficiency GreenEdge™ technology allows for a powerful output to deliver excellent sound quality with minimal power consumption.

Superb driving dynamics with remarkable results in terms of engine performance and fuel economy

The Prius' 1.8-liter VVT-i equipped Atkinson cycle petrol engine has been completely re-engineered, with remarkable results in terms of performance and fuel economy. The new engine achieves a maximum thermal efficiency of 40 percent – the world's highest level in a mass-produced gasoline engine. This improvement was enabled in part through the use of a large-volume exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) system and improvements in combustion efficiency. Additionally, a redesigned air intake port improves airflow inside the combustion chamber, while the coolant passages have been redesigned to optimize internal engine temperature.

The maximum output of the car's gasoline engine and electric motor is 130hp delivered at 5,200 rpm, with a peak torque of 14.5 kg-m at 3,600 rpm.

Key components of the hybrid system including the electric motor and gasoline engine, transaxle, power control unit and hybrid batteries are now smaller and lighter, improving fuel efficiency and making excellent use of space. The two all-new motor-generators in the Prius boast higher output density, with size and weight reduced to suit the multi-shaft transaxle design without affecting fuel economy. Both motors feature an innovative rolling-coil structure.

Improvements to the power control unit, including the use of low-loss components, have resulted in a 20 percent reduction in electrical losses. A more compact design enables the unit to be positioned directly above the transaxle while the auxiliary battery has been relocated from the luggage area to the engine compartment.

Through TNGA, body torsional rigidity on the new Prius has been increased by approximately 60 percent compared to the previous model. Combined with an all-new double wishbone rear suspension and a lower centre of gravity, these improvements heighten the driving experience of the all-new Prius and contribute to exceptional stability and minimal sway during driving.

The rigidity of the body suppresses vibration and noise, while laser screw welding allows for further noise elimination throughout the vehicle by decreasing the distance between welded joints, making for an exceptionally quiet ride. Further, new updates to the Prius' hybrid system software improve the feel of acceleration, giving a smooth and direct response in a lower rpm range.

Advanced safety technologies signify comprehensive protection for passengers

As one would expect, the Prius sets high standards for safety with an impressive array of active and passive features. These include 7 airbags to protect the driver and passengers, active front head restraints and HUD.

There are also 3-point front and rear seatbelts with ELR (Emergency Locking Retractor), pretensioners and force limiters. The Electronically Controlled Brake System employs a newly developed active hydraulic booster. It also incorporates active safety features such as the Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) and Traction Control (TRC). The brake system uses sensors to detect how much the driver is pressing the brake pedal in order to determine how much brake force is required by the driver. It fully utilizes the ability of the hybrid system to recover kinetic energy as electrical power, also known as 'regenerative braking.'

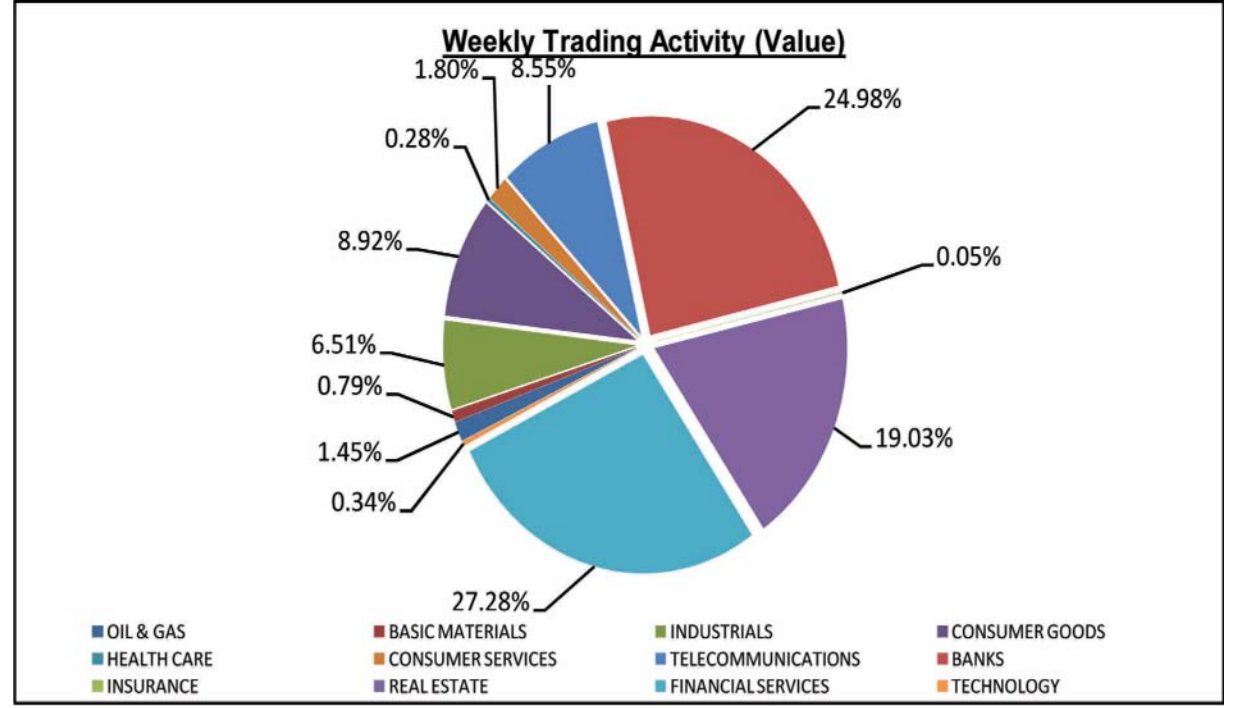
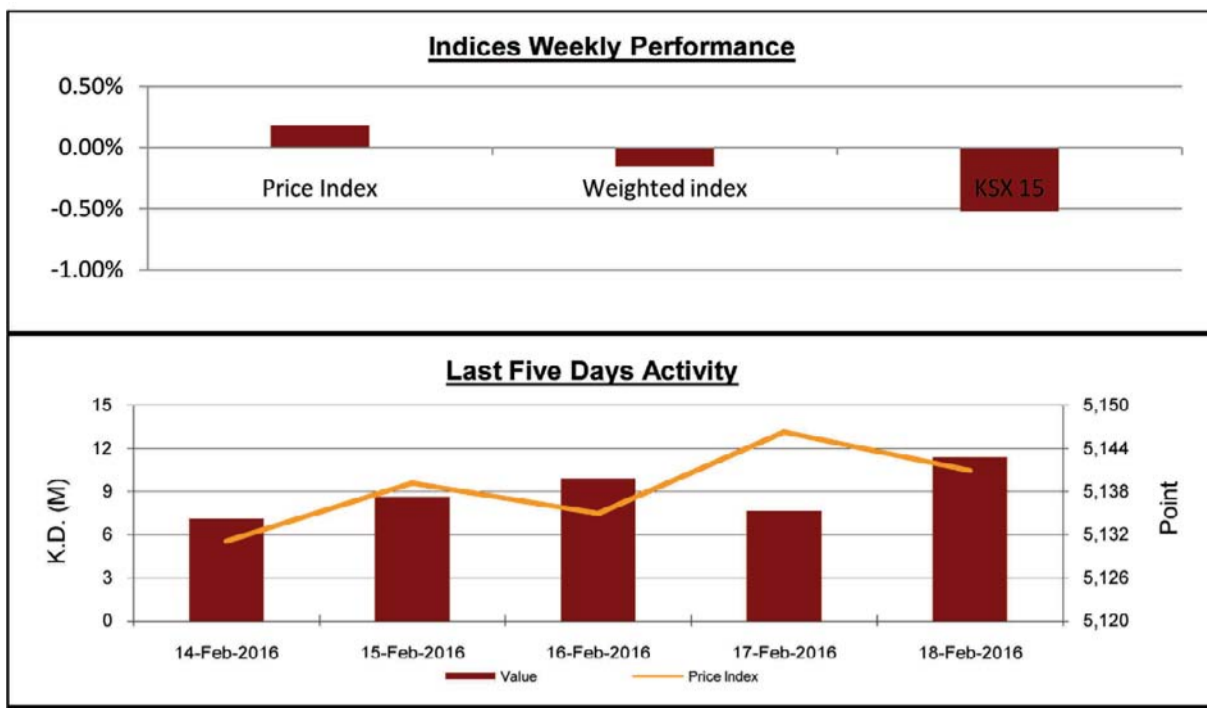
The Prius also features a Blind Spot Monitor (BSM) and Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) developed to warn the driver if there is a vehicle on either side when making a lane change.

The BSM uses radar sensors mounted on the rear corners of the vehicle to detect nearby vehicles in adjacent lanes as they move into the driver's blind spot. The driver is alerted to their presence by LED warning indicators in the door mirror on the appropriate side of the car. The LED indicators will remain illuminated as long as the vehicle remains in the blind spot. If the driver operates the turn indicators, intending to move into path of the vehicle, the LEDs will flash rapidly to draw further attention to the hazard.

The same radars are used to provide the RCTA, monitoring approaching traffic from either side as the vehicle is reversed out of a parking space and warning the driver if any vehicles are detected.







# KUWAIT EQUITIES REMAIN MIXED

## BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week with mixed performances. The Price Index closed at 5,140.96 points, up by 0.18 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.15 percent after closing at 349.83 points, whereas the KSE-15 Index closed at 822.89 points down by 0.52 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 25.51 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 8.95 million, whereas trading volume average was 123.58 million shares, recording a decrease of 12.57 percent.

Kuwait Stock Exchange indicators closed mixed last week, among a continued decline in the trading activity compared to a week earlier, as the purchasing operations that included many small-cap stocks of positive annual results continued in providing support to the Price Index, which enabled it to realize some gains by the end of the week, whilst the Weighted and KSE-15 indices couldn't follow due to the continued profit collection operations in controlling the large-cap and operational stocks' activity during the week.

As per the daily trading activity, the stock market opened its first session of the week with grouped losses for the three indicators, due to the random selling pressures and the profit collection operations executed on some small-cap and leading stocks together. On the next session, the market was able to return to the green zone to compensate a part of its previous session's losses and record limited gains for the three indicators, supported by the active purchasing operations that included many large-cap and small-cap stocks, especially the ones of low tempting purchasing prices, among an increased traded value.

On Tuesday's session, the market recorded a mixed closing for the three indicators, as the Price Index returned to decrease under the effect of the continued targeting to the small-cap and low-priced stocks, while the Weighted and KSE-15 indices maintained its upward direction as a result to the purchasing powers that were present during the session, and concentrated on some leading and opera-

KSE INDICES				
	Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15	
Weekly	Last week	5,140.96	349.83	822.89
	Previous week	5,131.56	350.36	827.17
	Change (Point)	9.40	-0.53	-4.28
	Change (%)	0.18%	-0.15%	-0.52%
Annual	Last year	5,615.12	381.70	900.43
	Change (Point)	-474.16	-31.87	-77.54
	Change (%)	-8.44%	-8.35%	-8.61%

tional stocks; the market witnessed such performance in parallel with an active movement of some investment groups which pushed the trading activity to increase and moved the cash liquidity to compensate its previous session's losses. However on Wednesday's session, the mixed performance of the market indicators continued, which changes in positions, as the Price Index was able to increase affected by the quick speculative operations that concentrated on the small-cap stocks that previously declined and reached low levels with good annual results, whilst the profit collection operations forced the Weighted and KSE-15 indices to close

in the red zone.

On Thursday's session, the stock market indicators returned to the red zone once again, despite the random purchasing operations witnessed by some listed companies, and the increased trading activity during the session, especially the value, as the strong selling pressures executed on some small-cap and leading stocks pushed the market indicators to record different losses by the end of the session.

By the end of the last week, the number of companies that disclosed its 2015 financial results reached only 64 company, out of the 190 total listed companies in KSE, however more than

half of the legal disclosing period have passed. The disclosed companies have realized around KD 1.16 billion, with an increase of 4.28 percent compared to the results of the same companies for year 2014. On the other hand, the market capitalization for Kuwait Stock Exchange reached by the end of last week KD 23.28 billion, down by 0.22 percent from its level in a week earlier, where it was KD 23.33 billion. On an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE dropped by 7.87 percent from its value at end of 2014, where it reached then KD 25.27 billion.

As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week

recording 8.44 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 8.35 percent, and the KSE-15 recorded 8.61 percent loss.

### Sectors' Indices

Eight of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, while the other four recorded declines. Last week's highest gainer was the Health Care sector, achieving 5.48 percent growth rate as its index closed at 987.80 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Technology sector's index closed at 822.10 points recording 3.07 percent increase. The Telecommunications sector came in

third as its index achieved 2.43 percent growth, ending the week at 564.87 points.

On the other hand, the Oil & Gas sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 3.33 percent to end the week's activity at 740.36 points. The Consumer Goods sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 1.99 percent, closing at 1,048.07 points, followed by the Real Estate sector, as its index closed at 826.67 points at a loss of 1.04 percent.

### Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 281.79 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 45.61 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 31.16 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 192.52 million shares. On the other hand, the Financial Services sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 12.20 million or 27.28 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Banks sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 11.17 million representing 24.98 percent of the total market trading value.

— Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	22,149,707	3.58%	650,639	1.45%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,615,413	0.26%	353,768	0.79%
INDUSTRIALS	38,628,543	6.25%	2,912,230	6.51%
CONSUMER GOODS	3,351,616	0.54%	3,987,262	8.92%
HEALTH CARE	740,741	0.12%	125,753	0.28%
CONSUMER SERVICES	7,443,617	1.20%	806,541	1.80%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	14,085,003	2.28%	3,825,966	8.55%
BANKS	53,405,324	8.64%	11,171,312	24.98%
INSURANCE	252,680	0.04%	23,921	0.05%
REAL ESTATE	192,517,760	31.16%	8,511,968	19.03%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	281,789,837	45.61%	12,201,738	27.28%
TECHNOLOGY	1,909,089	0.31%	152,436	0.34%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	740.36	765.84	-3.33%	-9.57%
BASIC MATERIALS	894.62	888.15	0.73%	-9.30%
INDUSTRIALS	967.52	964.70	0.29%	-7.24%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,048.07	1,069.30	-1.99%	-4.28%
HEALTH CARE	987.80	936.47	5.48%	6.75%
CONSUMER SERVICES	967.54	965.73	0.19%	-4.08%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	564.87	551.46	2.43%	-5.64%
BANKS	795.77	789.82	0.75%	-12.27%
INSURANCE	1,055.67	1,058.53	-0.27%	-6.33%
REAL ESTATE	826.67	835.38	-1.04%	-12.13%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	531.69	523.90	1.49%	-10.70%
TECHNOLOGY	822.10	797.63	3.07%	0.24%

# FOCUS SHARPENS ON FED AFTER HOT INFLATION DATA

## WALL STREET WEEK AHEAD

**NEW YORK:** With next week's calendar full of economic data releases and speeches by economic policymakers, investors have been poised to watch the Federal Reserve for clues about the US central bank's next move, but an unexpectedly hot reading on inflation on Friday will further sharpen that focus.

After coming into 2016 with an expectation of three or four interest rate hikes through the year, market participants recently were viewing the Fed as likely raising interest rates once, if at all, in light of weak inflation and global volatility. But Friday's data showed the core consumer price index (CPI), a measure of underlying US inflation, rose in January by the most in nearly 4-1/2 years to a 2.2 percent annualized rate. It drew particular attention as the number was above the Fed's 2.0 percent target, though it is not the central bank's benchmark inflation measure.

The uptick in price pressures has already shifted the market's expectations on the Fed's next move. "The inflation numbers definitely caught the markets off guard," said Joseph Lavorgna, senior economist at Deutsche Bank in New York. "Last week at this time the market was pricing a 25 percent chance of a rate hike by year-end and now it's over 40 percent and that's largely because of today's stronger than expected CPI." The dollar rose alongside Treasury yields shortly after the data, as markets saw the higher inflation as nudging the Fed towards tightening policy. The euro hit its lowest since Feb. 3.

Equity markets have also closely followed expectations on Fed policy. Lower rates tend to support stocks in general, with high-paying dividend names like utilities gaining investors' favor. In an environment of rising rates, banks tend to take the lead.

The expectation of higher interest rates has been cited as one of the reasons for stocks

having fallen as much as 11 percent this year. The S&P 500 is down 6 percent so far in 2016, and on track for its third positive week of the year. The inflation numbers add to recent economic data, including a stronger job market and consumer spending, that will force the Fed to seriously reconsider more rate hikes, said Jim Paulsen, chief investment officer at

Wells Capital Management in Minneapolis. "I think what's happening is that people are starting to put tightening back on the table," Paulsen said.

### CHOCK-FULL OF FED SPEAKERS

Personal consumption expenditures, the Fed's favorite measure of price inflation, is out next Friday and could confirm or outweigh the trend in the CPI reading. Among other market-moving numbers next week are purchasing managers indexes (PMIs) for the manufacturing and services sectors and two gauges of consumer confidence.

Investors and the Fed could address a decline in earnings, now seen as down 3.7 percent for the S&P 500 in the fourth quarter of last year, and lower outlooks for 2016 as other reasons to keep rates lower for longer. The incoming data gives more weight to next week's scheduled speeches from many Fed officials, including Vice Chair Stanley Fischer on Tuesday and Atlanta Fed President Dennis Lockhart on Thursday as markets look for a change in tone. Two Fed surveys of business conditions, Richmond and Kansas City, are also out next week.

"I don't think the Fed can help stocks, they can only hurt them," said Wayne Kaufman, chief market analyst at Phoenix Financial Services in New York. "If they came out too hawkish that can hurt stocks; too dovish can help a little but not create sustainable investor demand." In Fed-watcher parlance, hawks are seen quicker to push for rate hikes than doves. In a U-turn late on Wednesday, Fed voting member and hawkish St. Louis Fed President James Bullard said it would be "unwise" to raise rates further given US inflation data and global volatility. He speaks Wednesday in New York, followed by questions from the media.

The Fed's policy-setting committee next meets March 15 and 16 in Washington, with a statement followed by a news conference with Chair Janet Yellen. —Reuters



A Wall Street sign is shown in New York. —AP



## CISCO INTRODUCES INDUSTRY'S FIRST INTEGRATED NEXT-GENERATION FIREWALL

**KUWAIT:** As global companies embrace new digital business opportunities, cybersecurity is regularly cited as a top concern impeding growth and innovation. To give businesses the confidence to pursue digital opportunities to enable growth, Cisco has made security a top priority and is today announcing innovations to its flagship Next-Generation Firewall. The goal: to deliver leading protection to keep organizations safer.

Cisco's first fully integrated, threat-focused Cisco Firepower(tm) Next-Generation Firewall (NGFW) marks a significant departure from the focus of legacy NGFWs on application control. By focusing instead on threat defense, Cisco will help organizations better manage and minimize risk. Think of it as legacy NGFWs protecting "homes" by securing windows and doors, whereas Cisco's approach is to identify, detect and protect against would-be burglars no matter how they try to gain access to a property.

Cisco is also introducing the Cisco Security Segmentation Service, an advisory service that helps organizations create security controls that enhance compliance, breach containment, threat detection, content security and data loss prevention across their IT infrastructure.

Both offerings are aimed at protecting against bold and resilient threats from increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks.

"Attackers are getting bolder and coordinating their efforts. The industrialization of hacking is putting Kuwait businesses on the defensive against a growing group of adversaries that steal information for profit. In the last three years, Cisco has spent billions in strategic cybersecurity acquisitions and internal innovations to help stay ahead of the world's most malicious attacks that threaten organizations. For businesses in Kuwait to get real value and manage risk as they implement digital operational models, their security platforms need to integrate into the business and support growth opportunities. This means taking a threat-centric approach, with protection from the mobile endpoint to the cloud," said Ziad Salameh,

Managing Director & General Manager Gulf, Levant & Pakistan and Middle East Services Leader, Cisco.

### BETTER PROTECTION

"The Cisco Firepower NGFW acts as a unifying platform, integrating Cisco and third-party security solutions for increased correlation and context. The result is better protection, and faster detection and response to advanced threats. The Cisco Segmentation Service will help our Kuwait customers build a dynamic, resilient secure infrastructure to combat threats in real-time," concluded Ziad Salameh.

Firepower NGFW's Threat-Focused Capabilities Set It Apart Traditional NGFWs continue to focus on application enablement and control, which limit the ability to protect against the breadth of threats in today's business environment. Cisco's approach is different. Cisco empowers customers to easily manage and dynamically update protection from the endpoint to the network, and out to the cloud, by going beyond applications and identifying and stopping threats, both known and unknown.

Cisco's Firepower NGFW is the industry's first to link contextual information about how users are connecting to applications, with threat intelligence and policy enforcement. Gaining this level of visibility across a business environment accelerates threat detection and response, and enhances protection.

Cisco's NGFW can also automate and fine-tune security measures to rapidly harden defenses, based on its ability to see vulnerabilities, assets and threats. The consistent and pervasive advanced security capabilities provide protection that point solutions cannot deliver.



Ziad Salameh

### Firepower NGFW Integrates Controls and Attack Detection and Response to Enable Business Growth

The new Cisco Firepower(tm) NGFW significantly improves the speed, simplicity and effectiveness of attack detection and response. It combines Cisco's stateful firewalling technology and industry-leading threat services in a single solution. The threat services take protection to a new level, beyond application visibility and control, and include Next-Generation Intrusion Prevention System, Advanced Malware Protection and reputation-based URL filtering.

### STOP ADVANCED ATTACKS

Cisco's integrated NGFW incorporates Cisco and complementary third-party solutions and uniquely enables intelligence and context to be shared between solutions. Now businesses can effectively correlate previously disparate pieces of information to identify and stop advanced attacks more rapidly wherever they may be. This has competitive implications for organizations looking to deploy cloud, virtual environment, new Internet of Things (IoT) solutions and mobile endpoints to securely drive new business opportunities.

### New Firepower Appliances Launched for High-Performance Applications

Cisco is releasing new Cisco Firepower 4100 Series appliances for high-performance applications within mid-to large-sized organizations. They are the highest performing, density-optimized appliances in their class, capable of high-throughput and low latency threat inspection, sufficient for high-frequency trading and data center deployments. They are among the first with 40GbE network connectivity in a compact, one rack-unit space.

Firepower Management Center Integrates Security Solutions in Single Nerve Center. The new Cisco Firepower Management Center serves as the nerve center for the Firepower NGFW, providing a rich, unified management console. It features shared intelligence, shared contextual awareness, and consistent policy enforcement for the

Cisco Firepower NGFW plus other Cisco security and network solutions. Complementary third-party solutions, beginning with Radware for Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS), also are integrated through the Cisco Firepower Management Center. The management center provides rich, comprehensive management, delivering information and insight in a single console. Other NGFWs often require users to switch between three or more consoles to gain the same detail.

### Security Segmentation Service Customizes Design to Manage Risk

The Cisco Security Segmentation Service is an advisory service that designs a custom-tailored framework that reduces risk, simplifies audit profiles, secures data and helps businesses comply with board-level requirements.

Cisco Services has developed the Security Segmentation Service to help organizations create a strategic infrastructure segment strategy. Cisco's approach is customer-specific, extends beyond the network, and incorporates reusable design patterns to apply security controls across compliance, breach containment, threat detection, content security, data loss prevention, and other distinct security disciplines.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANNEL PARTNERS

These new security offers provide Cisco channel partners with an expanded end-to-end portfolio and represent additional profitability opportunities. When combined with Cisco's threat-centric security approach, channel partners are able to simplify and reduce costs of managing their customers' security environments through a unified management platform. They also can increase cross-sell opportunities enabled by strong network integration, and drive new revenue streams through new services and licensing options.

In addition, Cisco is investing in developing security practice acceleration programs, training and enablement for both products and services so channel partners can fuel growth and increase profitability.



Marissa Mayer

## YAHOO LAUNCHES AUCTION PROCESS AS STARBOARD GEARS UP FOR FIGHT

**NEW YORK:** Yahoo Inc officially launched the sale of its core business on Friday, a move seen as a positive step for frustrated investors but not enough to keep an activist hedge fund from pursuing a proxy fight against the struggling Internet company.

Yahoo shares jumped after the company announced its board has formed a committee of independent directors to explore strategic alternatives, and that it has hired investment banks and a law firm to run the process.

The launch of the auction process, a move activist hedge fund Starboard Value and other shareholders have pushed since late last year, showed the company was moving another step closer to selling its core business, which includes search, mail and news sites, rather than spin it off as previously planned. The move follows more than three years of effort by CEO Marissa Mayer to turn around Yahoo by focusing on mobile apps and trying to boost advertising revenue. Yahoo had acknowledged during its earnings last month that

it was open to exploring options for its core business. Despite the launch, Starboard's founder Jeffrey Smith is not backing down, and will continue his pursuit of nominating a group of directors for the Yahoo board, people familiar with the matter said.

Smith stated in a letter to the board on Jan. 6 that if the board is unwilling to accept the need for significant change, "then an election contest may very well be needed so that shareholders can replace a majority of the Board with directors who will represent their best interests." Even though the board is showing that it's now willing to accept that need, Smith is still going to nominate a slate of directors to ensure that the sales process is handled properly, people familiar with the matter said.

The window for a shareholder to nominate a director or group of directors to the Yahoo board begins on Feb. 25 and ends on March 26, with the annual meeting expected to be held in May, according to the company's proxy statement. "It

seems pretty clear that the only reason this is happening even is because of the threat of the proxy fight," Pivotal Research analyst Brian Wieser said. Starboard, which owns about 0.75 percent of Yahoo, declined to comment.

Yahoo's attempt to sell its core business comes after shelving previous plans to spin off its stake in ecommerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.

"Separating our Alibaba stake from Yahoo's operating business is essential to maximizing value for our shareholders," Mayer said on Friday.

Yahoo's board is concerned about the risk of losing a possible proxy contest, investor Eric Jackson, of SpringOwl Asset Management, said.

Yahoo's committee of independent directors has engaged Goldman Sachs & Co Inc, J.P. Morgan and PJT Partners Inc as financial advisers, and Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP as legal adviser. Verizon Communications Inc is among the companies seen as a potential buyer of Yahoo's core business. — Reuters

## KASPERSKY LAB NAMED LEADER IN GARTNER'S MAGIC QUADRANT FOR ENDPOINT PROTECTION

**DUBAI:** Kaspersky Lab announced that it has been positioned in the "Leaders" quadrant of the 2016 Gartner Magic Quadrant for Endpoint Protection Platforms. The evaluation was based on the criteria for both "completeness of vision" and "ability to execute". This is the fifth year in a row the company has received a leadership position from Gartner.

Kaspersky Lab's global brand recognition, growing market share, strong influence within the IT security industry, and recognition as a Leader by Gartner further positions the company as a top provider of best-in-class endpoint protection solutions. Kaspersky Lab's comprehensive portfolio encompasses solutions to protect a wide range of customers from all types of cyber threats, and the company scored more top-three places than any other vendor in independent testing throughout 2015. Powered by industry-leading threat intelligence, Kaspersky Lab is the security technology solutions choice for 400 million users and 270,000 corporate clients.

"We are pleased to remain a leader in the Gartner Magic Quadrant for the fifth time in a row. We will continue to deliver the industry's best multi-layered protection

by transforming our global cyber security intelligence into technologies that address a wide range of threats, including known, unknown and the most advanced ones," commented Nikita Shvetsov, Chief Technology Officer at Kaspersky Lab. "The wealth of expertise we have gained through years of combating major IT threats has allowed us to develop endpoint security solutions which unite ease of management with effective protection to meet our clients' most pressing needs."

A complimentary copy of the Gartner Magic Quadrant for Endpoint Protection Platforms, Peter Firstbrook, Eric Ouellet, 1 February 2016, is available here.

Gartner does not endorse any vendor, product or service depicted in its research publications, and does not advise technology users to select only those vendors with the highest ratings or other designation. Gartner research publications consist of the opinions of Gartner's research organization and should not be construed as statements of fact. Gartner disclaims all warranties, expressed or implied, with respect to this research, including any warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.



Donald Trump

## TRUMP CALLS FOR BOYCOTT UNTIL APPLE UNLOCKS SHOOTER'S PHONE

**PAWLEYS ISLAND:** Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump called on Friday for a boycott of Apple Inc products until the tech company agreed to help the US government unlock the cellphone of one of the killers in last year's San Bernardino, California, shooting.

"Boycott Apple until such time as they give that information," Trump said at a campaign event in Pawleys Island, South Carolina. "It just occurred to me."

Trump, front-runner for the Republican nomination ahead of the Nov. 8 presidential election, made the off-the-cuff comment at a town hall-style event at a country club, a day before the state's nominating contest.

Even as he was still speaking, Trump's campaign posted on his Twitter handle (@realDonaldTrump) from an iPhone, with the timestamp labeled "via Twitter for iPhone." Trump later posted on Twitter that he used both an iPhone and a Samsung device.

In response, senior Apple executives, on a call with reporters on Friday, said they felt they were in good company given the other groups and people Trump has criticized in the past. They defended encryption as a way to protect Apple customers' rights.

It was not the first attack on the world's best-known technology company by the real estate mogul and reality TV personality. Trump has previously been critical of Apple, which has its headquarters in Cupertino,

California, for not producing enough of its products in the United States.

"We're gonna get Apple to start building their damn computers and things in this country, instead of in other countries," Trump said in a January speech at Liberty University in Virginia.

Apple is resisting U.S. government demands that it unlock an iPhone used by Rizwan Farook, who along with his wife, Tashfeen Malik, shot and killed 14 people and wounded 22 others at a holiday party in San Bernardino last December.

Trump made his comments as the U.S. Department of Justice filed a motion seeking to force Apple to comply with a judge's order for the company to unlock the phone, portraying the tech company's refusal as a "marketing strategy."

The filing increased tension in a showdown between the Obama administration and Silicon Valley over security and privacy. The government has said the couple were sympathizers of Islamic State militants and wants to open the phone to find out more about possible connections and contacts.

"If Apple doesn't give the information to the authorities on the radical Islamic terrorists, I'll only be using a Samsung - until such time as they give the information," Trump tweeted.

"Hopefully others will follow suit. Our country needs and should demand security. It is time to get tough and be smart!" — Reuters

## OOREDOO TO DEMONSTRATE 5G, VOICE OVER TECHNOLOGY AT MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Group will demonstrate a range of innovative solutions and services at the upcoming Mobile World Congress, set to take place in Barcelona, Spain, next week.

The company will use its presence at the event to highlight the incredible progress it has made in updating and optimising networks in the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia, as well the range of solutions that Ooredoo companies are delivering over these next-generation networks. Ooredoo Kuwait's delegation will be headed by General Manager and CEO Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani.

The theme of this year's GSMA Mobile World Congress is "Mobile is Everything," and Ooredoo has taken major strides in recent years in delivering a diverse portfolio of life-enriching digital services via mobile.

One of the main areas of focus on the Ooredoo stand will be a special demonstration of 5G technology, deploying Ooredoo networks to deliver faster, smoother mobile Internet than ever before. Ooredoo has a strategy in place to use 5G to offer significantly faster data speeds, ultra-low latency, and to enable a host of Internet of Things (IoT) solutions, by enabling more devices to connect to the network.

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer, Ooredoo Group, said: "Ooredoo has shown that faster networks deliver real economic and social benefits across our markets, giving people access to more information, education and transformative services."

### NETWORK INNOVATION

Ooredoo aims to remain at the cutting-edge of



network innovation, which is why we are already taking key steps to be ready to introduce 5G network services as soon as customer demand and 5G-compatible handsets are available, and have already brought Voice over LTE to market."

In 2015, Ooredoo companies launched 4G+ services in Kuwait, the Maldives, and Indonesia, and set a new speed test record on LTE-Advanced (LTE-A) three-band carrier aggregation technology in Qatar, which launched 4G+ in 2014. The company is already in discussion with a number of technology leaders about beginning 5G trials in some of these key markets.

As well as 5G, Ooredoo is also set to showcase Voice over LTE (VoLTE) services during Mobile World Congress. In Qatar, Ooredoo has already become the first operator in the GCC region to successfully trial VoLTE across a substantial part of its nationwide network in a pre-commercial phase.

The service gives customers access to crystal clear HD voice calls and provides faster call setup. It also enables customers to switch between ongoing voice calls and high-quality video calls, and browse the Internet while still on a call.

Ooredoo will also demonstrate the incredible range of business services and machine-to-machine solutions currently being provided to small companies and massive enterprises across its footprint.

The company has developed strong expertise in "Smart City" and "Smart Stadium" solutions in recent years. This has been driven by major investment in key markets such as Qatar and Indonesia, where Ooredoo M2M solutions are supporting everything from traffic management services through to smart metering to manage energy use.



## STUDY: RIGHT GUT BACTERIA MAY PROTECT AGAINST MALNUTRITION

**WASHINGTON:** Manipulating what kinds of bacteria live in the gut might lead to a new way to treat millions of children suffering chronic malnutrition, says new research that suggests the right microbes can help get the most out of a poor diet.

Researchers culled intestinal bacteria from babies and toddlers in Malawi, where malnutrition is a serious problem, and transferred them into mice for study. Tweaking those gut microbes improved growth - even though the animals didn't eat more, or more nutritiously. We share our bodies with trillions of bacteria, a customized set called a microbiome that starts building at birth, and Thursday's work is the latest to illustrate how crucial it is to develop a healthy one. Among the findings: Certain nutrients in breast milk may help that happen.

### Immune responses

"If we could hammer home a key point, microbiota count," said Dr Jeffrey Gordon of Washington University in St Louis, who led the series of experiments published in the journals *Science* and *Cell*. "Building healthy gut microbiota we think is important for health in the course of one's life." Gut bacteria do more than simply break down food for digestion. They synthesize particular vitamins and micronutrients, and influence immune responses, for example.

"A healthy microbiome will allow us to access calories we might not have been able to use before," explained Dr

Ilseung Cho, a gastroenterologist and gut bacteria specialist at New York University School of Medicine, who wasn't involved in the new work. More research is needed before testing the approach in children, but Cho said the findings suggest there may be "very precise bacteria or very precise nutrient interventions that can unlock the microbiome and help it combat malnutrition."

While providing special "therapeutic foods" and vitamin supplements helps reduce deaths from malnutrition, Gordon said children still experience stunted growth and neurodevelopmental problems. His team turned to Malawi, where according to UNICEF almost half of children under 5 have growth stunted by malnutrition. The researchers already suspected gut bacteria played a role, based on previous research with pairs of Malawian twins, only some of whom were affected.

This time, working with more than 250 healthy or undernourished children, Gordon's team defined how a healthy gut microbiome normally develops - and found that the chronically malnourished tots harbored an immature one, too young for their age. Are those abnormal gut bacteria a result of the kids' malnutrition, or could they actually be contributing to it? To tell, the researchers transferred gut bacteria from either healthy or malnourished tots into different sets of germ-free baby mice, rodents born in sterile conditions so they lacked their own intestinal microbes. They received a mouse ver-

sion of the typical Malawian diet, primarily corn flour with beans, peanuts and certain vegetables.

### Markedly different

Despite eating the same calories, mice with the healthy gut bacteria gained more lean body mass, and showed healthier bone development and better metabolism in the liver, brain and muscles, the team reported in *Science*. "The growth of these animals is markedly different," Gordon said.

Can the unhealthy gut bacteria be repaired? The researchers switched up the cages so some healthy mice could live with some unhealthy ones and, through that yucky rodent trait of eating feces, trade their gut bacteria. Sure enough, some microbes the team had identified as particularly healthy invaded the intestines of the undernourished mice - and prevented their growth impairment. Two bugs with tongue-twisting names - *Ruminococcus gnavus* and *Clostridium symbiosum* - seemed key.

In the US, doctors sometimes perform fecal transplants to alter the gut bacteria of patients suffering certain intestinal diseases. When it comes to malnutrition, the goal would be to build healthy gut bacteria from the start. So the researchers next looked at babies' first food - breast milk - and found certain nutrients may play a role in how their microbiome develops. Breast milk from the mothers of the healthy Malawian babies harbors higher levels



**MALAWI:** This photo provided by Washington University School of Medicine shows researchers measuring children's growth. — AP

of sugars containing sialic acid, a nutrient linked to brain development, the team reported in *Cell*. Using a version of those sugars made from cow's milk, the researchers once again put gut bacteria from malnourished children into mice and supplemented some of the rodents' diets with the sugars. Sure enough, the

supplemented mice grew better. Repeating the experiment with piglets showed the same benefit. It's not extra calories, Gordon stressed. Different strains of bacteria were interacting at different stages of the sugars' digestion, pointing to what he calls a complex food web in the gut. — AP

## IRRADIATED MOSQUITOES TO HELP DIMINISH ZIKA'S POWER

MISSION IS STOPPING FEMALES FROM BREEDING

**SEIBERSDORF:** The atmosphere inside the laboratory on the outskirts of Vienna is literally buzzing with armies of male mosquitoes locked up inside net-covered boxes. Their sole mission in life: stop females from breeding. Better known for keeping a close watch on countries' nuclear activities, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has joined the fight against *Aedes aegypti*-the notorious mosquito responsible for spreading dengue, chikungunya and now the Zika virus.

Experts from around the globe have been working strenuously in the IAEA's tightly-secured research facility in Seibersdorf, 30 kilometers south of the Austrian capital, to perfect something called the sterile insect technique, or SIT. The clue's in the name: male mosquitoes have their private parts zapped with a radioactive source before being released into nature to mate with wild females, which, as a result, will lay infertile eggs. The aim is to gradually reduce, if not suppress, their population.

"Basically it's family planning for insects," said Jorge Vreysen, director of the IAEA's insect pest control unit. The method has already proven successful in eradicating several pests, including the tsetse fly in Zanzibar and the fruit fly in most of northern Mexico. The recent Zika outbreak in Latin America and the Caribbean is now spurring governments to find ways of containing the epidemic. Several, such as worst-hit Brazil, are considering using SIT, which is most effective coupled with other methods including insecticide spraying and removing breeding sites.

### Moment of panic

The stench in the hot lab is overpowering, prompting several of the visiting journalists to cover their noses. "That's the smell of insects," grins Marc Vreysen who leads the Seibersdorf research team. In a large foyer, several trays on a table contain either wriggling larvae or hard-shelled pupae—"the stage when the mosquitoes get irradiated," Vreysen explains.

Another room has a row of shelves stacked with whirring cages. Small signs reveal their occupants' country of origin: Brazil, Indonesia, Thailand. There is a brief moment of panic when one manages to break free and circles wildly around the narrow space. The escape is short-lived, however, as the lone daredevil meets a scientist's expertly-swung electric fly swatter.

"Sometimes this happens. There are so many of them here," shrugs entomologist Rosemary Lees who works on the SIT team. In any case, a bite from a Zika-carrying mosquito would be primarily dangerous for pregnant women. While it causes only mild flu-like symptoms in most people, the virus is strongly suspected of spark-



**VIENNA:** This file photo taken on February 10, 2016 shows a lab worker holding a vial containing mosquitos of the kind "*Aedes aegypti*", that can carry zika virus at the IAEA Laboratories. — AFP

ing a recent surge in the number of children born with microcephaly-abnormally small heads and brains-to infected mothers.

Importantly, only female mosquitoes bite and transmit diseases. "The male feeds on flowers and nectar," says Lees. Right on cue, a lab assistant behind her starts to fill a sausage-shaped membrane with a thick, dark red liquid. "We use blood from pigs or cows," he is quick to point out, before gingerly placing the bag on top of a cage. Almost instantly, swarms of the parasitical insects shoot up and, piercing the membrane with their tube-shaped mouths, start to frantically suckle away.

### Costly birth control

Countries may be itching to wipe out the bloodthirsty creatures, but several obstacles remain. One key challenge is how to separate the sexes before irradiation. There's also the size

issue: the ratio of lab-reared to wild mosquitoes needs to be at least 20 or even 10 to 1 for SIT make inroads into the host population.

Plus a sterilized male's mating strength can quickly wane, says Vreysen: "Because we are rearing these insects at high density... this has in many cases a quality-reducing impact." Last but not least, SIT entails building industrial-scale rearing facilities-an expensive undertaking. Pilot studies in Mauritius and Sudan have proven SIT's effectiveness in small villages.

"By upscaling (the programme), you could maybe do trials in big cities in a couple of years from now," says Vreysen. IAEA member states affected by Zika will discuss using SIT at a meeting in Brazil next week. But Vreysen warns there is no quick fix: "This is not like the World Food Program: there is an outbreak of hunger in a country, they come in and dump food. We develop long-term, sustainable technologies." — AFP

## WHY THE ZIKA VIRUS IS CAUSING ALARM

**G**lobal health officials have said the Zika virus is spreading in the Americas and could infect up to 4 million people. The race is on to develop a Zika vaccine. The following are some questions and answers about the virus and current outbreak.

### How do people become infected?

Zika is transmitted to people through the bite of infected female mosquitoes, primarily the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the same type that spreads dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said *Aedes* mosquitoes are found in all countries in the Americas except Canada and continental Chile, and the virus will likely reach all countries and territories of the region where *Aedes* mosquitoes are found.

### How do you treat Zika?

There is no treatment or vaccine for Zika infection. Companies and scientists are racing to develop a safe and effective vaccine for Zika, but the World Health Organization (WHO) said it would take at least 18 months to start large-scale clinical trials of potential preventative shots.

### How dangerous is it?

The PAHO said there is no evidence that Zika can cause death, but some cases have been reported with more serious complications in patients with pre-existing medical conditions. The virus has been linked to microcephaly, a condition in newborns marked by abnormally small heads and brains that may not develop properly. It also has been associated with Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare disorder in which the body's immune system attacks part of the nervous system. The suspected link between Zika and the two conditions could be confirmed within weeks, the WHO said.

### How is Zika related to microcephaly?

Much remains unknown about Zika, including whether the virus actually causes microcephaly. Brazil said 508 cases of microcephaly have been confirmed, while 3,935 were still being investigated. Research in Brazil indicates the greatest microcephaly risk appears to be associated with infection during the first trimester of pregnancy. Recent studies from other countries have shown evidence of Zika in amniotic fluid, placenta and fetal brain tissue.

### What are the symptoms of Zika infection?

People infected with Zika typically have a mild fever, skin rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain and fatigue that can last for two to seven days. As many as 80 percent of people infected never develop symptoms. The

symptoms are similar to those of dengue or chikungunya, which are transmitted by the same type of mosquito.

### How can Zika be contained?

Efforts to control the spread of the virus focus on eliminating mosquito breeding sites and taking precautions against mosquito bites such as using insect repellent and mosquito nets. U.S. and international health officials have advised pregnant women to avoid travel to Latin American and Caribbean countries where they may be exposed to Zika.

### How widespread is the outbreak?

Zika outbreaks have been reported in at least 30 countries or territories, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Brazil has been the nation most affected.

### What is the history of the Zika virus?

The Zika virus is found in tropical locales with large mosquito populations. Outbreaks of Zika have been recorded in Africa, the Americas, Southern Asia and the Western Pacific. The virus was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in rhesus monkeys and was first identified in people in 1952 in Uganda and Tanzania, according to the WHO.

### Can Zika be transmitted through sexual contact?

Two cases of possible person-to-person sexual transmission have been described, but the PAHO said more evidence is needed to confirm if sexual contact is a means of Zika transmission. British health officials reported Zika was found in a man's semen two months after he was infected, suggesting the virus may linger in semen long after infection symptoms fade. The WHO has advised women, particularly pregnant women, to use condoms. The PAHO said Zika can be transmitted through blood, but this is an infrequent transmission mechanism. There is no evidence Zika can be transmitted to babies through breast milk. What other complications are associated with Zika? The WHO says because no big Zika outbreaks were recorded before 2007, little is known about complications caused by infection. During an outbreak of Zika from 2013-2014 in French Polynesia, national health authorities reported an unusual increase in Guillain-Barre syndrome. Health authorities in Brazil have reported an increase in Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Long-term health consequences of Zika infection are unclear. Other uncertainties surround the incubation period of the virus and how Zika interacts with other viruses that are transmitted by mosquitoes, such as dengue. — Reuters

## ONE IN THREE US ADULTS NOT GETTING SLEEP

**ATLANTA:** Did you get enough sleep last night? If not, you are not alone. More than one out of three American adults do not get enough sleep, according to a study released Thursday from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "That's a big problem" says, Dr. Nancy Collop, director of the Emory Sleep Center at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, who is familiar with the study. "You don't function as well, your ability to pay attention is reduced, and it can have serious, long term side effects. It can change your metabolism for the worse."

At least seven hours of sleep is considered healthy for adults aged 18 to 60, according to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the Sleep Research

Society. CDC analyzed data from a 2014 survey of 444,306 adults and found 65.2 percent of respondents reported getting that amount of sleep. "Lifestyle changes such as going to bed at the same time each night; rising at the same time each morning; and turning off or removing televisions, computers, mobile devices from the bedroom, can help people get the healthy sleep they need," said Dr. Wayne Giles, director of the CDC's Division of Population Health, in a statement. Getting less than seven hours a night is associated with an increased risk of obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke and frequent mental distress, the study shows. Conducted by the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, the study is the

first of its kind to look at all 50 US states and the District of Columbia. The study found that among those most likely to get great sleep were married or have a job, with 67 percent and 65 percent respectively saying they get enough. Only 56 percent of divorced adults said they get enough sleep, and just over half of jobless adults sleep seven hours a night regularly. Among the best sleepers were college graduates, with 72 percent reporting seven hours or more. The study found geographical differences as well as ethnic disparities. Hawaiian residents get less sleep than those living in South Dakota, the study found. Non-Hispanic whites sleep better than non-Hispanic black residents, with 67 and 54 percent respectively. — Reuters

## US ENDS ENHANCED AIRPORT SCREENING FOR EBOLA VIRUS

**WASHINGTON:** The United States announced Thursday it will end enhanced screening of passengers for potential Ebola virus infection from West Africa after an epidemic that killed more than 11,000 people.

On Friday, Guinea will be removed "from the list of nations affected by Ebola for which travelers are subject to enhanced US visa and port-of-entry screening," said the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Guinea will be the last of the affected countries in West Africa to be removed from enhanced entry screening measures."

The change means that travelers from Guinea-as well as Liberia and

Sierra Leone-will be able to enter the United States through any available port of entry, instead of being routed to one of five specially selected airports.

"Travelers departing Guinea will remain subject to outbound screening measures, and the United States will continue to support Guinea's Ebola prevention and detection measures, including at its primary international airport in Conakry," said the CDC. "Travelers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone are still encouraged to watch their health for 21 days after leaving one of these countries and to contact their local health departments or seek healthcare if they develop

symptoms consistent with Ebola."

Guinea was declared free of Ebola by the World Health Organization on December 29, 2015. The US Department of Homeland Security said the enhanced travel measures were taken in response to the public health emergency faced in 2014, the peak year of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

"During this time not a single traveler exhibiting Ebola symptoms is known to have entered the country undetected," the DHS said in a statement. "Over the past 16 months, DHS has screened more than 42,000 travelers from Ebola-affected countries." — AFP



## NASA SEES RECORD NUMBER OF ASTRONAUT APPLICATIONS

WASHINGTON: NASA has received a record 18,300 resumes from people keen on becoming astronauts, the US space agency said Friday. The number of applications for a spot in NASA's 2017 class is almost triple the amount that came in during the last recruitment call for the 2012 class. And it shatters the previous record of 8,000 in 1978.

"It's not at all surprising to me that so many Americans from diverse backgrounds want to personally contribute to blazing the trail on our journey to Mars," NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden, a former astronaut, said in a statement. But only a chosen few will actually see their galactic career goals realized.

Over the course of the next year and a half, a selection board will whittle down the applications and invite only the most highly qualified candidates for interviews at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. In the end, a mere eight to 14 lucky individuals will be asked to report for training. NASA expects to announce its new class in mid-2017. The timeframe for submitting applications opened on December 14

and closed Thursday, with the space agency taking to social media to get the word out. Training for the chosen candidates includes a focus on spacewalking and teamwork, as well as some command of Russian language. Those who make it through will be given technical duties at Johnson's Astronaut Office. They will then be assigned to the International Space Station, the Orion spacecraft for deep space exploration or one of two commercial crew spacecraft currently in development—SpaceX's Dragon crew capsule and Boeing's CST-100 Starliner.

With the American spaceflight program grounded since 2011 when the space shuttle was retired, NASA's current active corps currently comprises 47 members, down from 149 in 2000 at the peak of the space shuttle era. In its call for recruits, NASA encouraged pilots, engineers and other scientists to apply. Qualified candidates need to be US citizens and have at least a bachelor's degree in engineering, science, computer science or math, as well as three years of professional experience or at least 1,000

hours of pilot-in-command time in jet aircraft. They also have to be physically fit and pass a "NASA long-duration astronaut physical." More than 300 people have been hired as NASA astronauts since the US space agency's first corps of seven was selected in 1959 as part of Project Mercury, which sent men into orbit around the Earth. "A few exceptionally talented men and women will become the astronauts chosen in this group who will once again launch to space from US soil on American-made spacecraft," Bolden said. — AFP

## VIRGIN GALACTIC ROLLS OUT NEW SPACE TOURISM ROCKET PLANE GOAL OF TURNING ORDINARY CIVILIANS INTO ASTRONAUTS

MOJAVE: Virgin Galactic rolled out a new version of its SpaceShipTwo space tourism rocket Friday as it prepares to return to flight testing for the first time since a 2014 accident destroyed the original craft, killing a pilot and setting back the nascent industry.

A Land Rover with Virgin Galactic founder Sir Richard Branson standing through the sunroof pulled the ship in front of an audience inside a hangar at Southern California's Mojave Air & Space Port, where it was assembled. Branson's 1-year-old granddaughter, Eva-Deia, helped by her mother, christened the craft by breaking a little bottle of milk over its nose. The baby is the daughter of Branson's son, Sam, and his wife, Bellie.

"All of us in this room need to pinch ourselves ... isn't she quite beautiful," Branson told the audience. The ship is the size of a small corporate jet. It was named Virgin Spaceship Unity at the suggestion of theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking, whom Branson promised a free ride into space.

SpaceShipTwo is designed to be flown by a crew of two and carry up to six passengers on a high-speed suborbital flight to the fringes of space. At an altitude above 62 miles, passen-

gers will experience a few minutes of weightlessness and see the Earth below.

### Too important to give up

After years of development, Virgin Galactic appeared to be nearing the goal of turning ordinary civilians into astronauts when the first SpaceShipTwo broke apart on Oct 31, 2014, during its fourth rocket-powered flight. Wreckage fell to the Mojave Desert floor.

"When we had the accident, for about 24 hours we were wondering whether it was worth continuing, whether we should call it a day," Branson told The Associated Press. He said engineers, astronauts and members of the public helped convince him that space travel is too important to give up on.

The crash investigation found that co-pilot Michael Alsbury prematurely unlocked the so-called feathering system that is intended to slow and stabilize the craft as it re-enters the atmosphere. Alsbury was killed, but pilot Peter Siebold, although seriously injured, parachuted to safety. The "feathers" - a term derived from the design of a badminton shuttlecock - are tail structures that extend rearward from each wingtip. They are designed to

swivel upward at an angle to create drag, preventing a buildup of speed and heat, and then rotate back down to normal flying position as the craft descends into the thickening atmosphere.

A National Transportation Safety Board investigation found that Scaled Composites, a company that was developing SpaceShipTwo with Virgin Galactic and was responsible for its test program, should have had systems to compensate for human error. The NTSB chairman, Christopher Hart, said it wasn't a matter of shortcuts but of not considering a crew member would make the mistake that occurred.

Virgin Galactic subsequently assumed full responsibility to complete the test program. Company officials said that the new spaceship will have a device to prevent a similar pilot error. The company stressed in a statement Thursday its commitment to testing from the level of individual parts on up to the complete craft.

### Obvious tests

"Our team's job is to plan out not just the obvious tests but also the strange and inven-



MOJAVE: In this Nov 1, 2014 file photo, wreckage lies near the site where a Virgin Galactic space tourism rocket, SpaceShipTwo, crashed in the desert.

tive ones, to conduct those tests, and to use the data from those tests to re-examine everything about our vehicle to ensure we can take the next step forward," it said. The company, which has invested more than \$500 million in the program, did not project a timeline for actually carrying space tourists, noting that "our new vehicle will remain on the ground for a while after her unveiling, as we run her through full-vehicle tests of her electrical systems and all of her moving parts."

SpaceShipTwo is the successor to SpaceShipOne, the winged rocket plane that won the \$10 million Ansari X Prize in 2004 by demonstrating a reusable spacecraft capable of carrying three people could make two flights within two weeks to at an altitude of

least 62 miles. The prize announced in 1996 was intended to spur the development of private manned spaceflight in the same way the Orteig Prize offered in 1919 fostered trans-Atlantic aviation. Charles Lindbergh won that prize with his nonstop flight from New York to Paris in 1927.

Like SpaceShipOne, SpaceShipTwo is carried aloft beneath the wing of a mother ship - a special jet aircraft that releases it at an altitude of about 45,000 feet. After gliding for a few moments, SpaceShipTwo's pilots ignite the rocket engine to send the craft hurtling toward space. After reaching the top of its suborbital trajectory, the spacecraft begins falling back toward Earth and glides to a landing on a runway. — AP



MOJAVE: In this Sept 25, 2013, file photo, British entrepreneur Richard Branson poses with the first SpaceShipTwo at a Virgin Galactic hangar at Mojave Air and Space Port. — AP photos

## PLUTO'S LARGEST MOON LIKELY FRACTURED BY OCEAN: NASA

WASHINGTON: Images from the New Horizon space probe suggest that Pluto's moon Charon once had a sub-surface ocean that has since frozen and expanded, causing the surface to stretch and fracture, NASA said Friday.

Charon's surface was photographed by the New Horizons's Lorri (Long-Range Reconnaissance Imager) camera as the spacecraft flew past the moon in July 2015 at a distance of 48,900 miles. The detailed pictures show a system of "pull-apart" tectonic faults on the moon's equator.

These faults and fractures run "at least 1,100 miles long and in places there are chasms 4.5 miles deep. By comparison, the Grand Canyon is 277 miles long and just over a mile deep," NASA said. The chasms are the longest ever observed in the solar system, NASA said.

Charon's outer layer today is mainly water ice. But millions of years ago, when Charon was young, scientists believe that layer was

kept warm "by heat provided by the decay of radioactive elements, as well as Charon's own internal heat of formation." The moon could have been warm enough to cause the water ice to melt deep down, creating a subsurface ocean.

"But as Charon cooled over time, this ocean would have frozen and expanded (as happens when water freezes), lifting the outermost layers of the moon and producing the massive chasms we see today," NASA said. Pluto, a dwarf planet in the far reaches of the solar system some 3.6 billion miles away from the sun, has five moons. Charon, with a diameter about half that of Pluto, is the largest of them. Other moons in the solar system that are closer to the sun still have liquid oceans under their surface. Experts believe that oceans on Europa, one of Jupiter's moons, and on two of Saturn's moons, Ganymede and Enceladus, are the best places in the solar system to look for microbial life forms. — AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



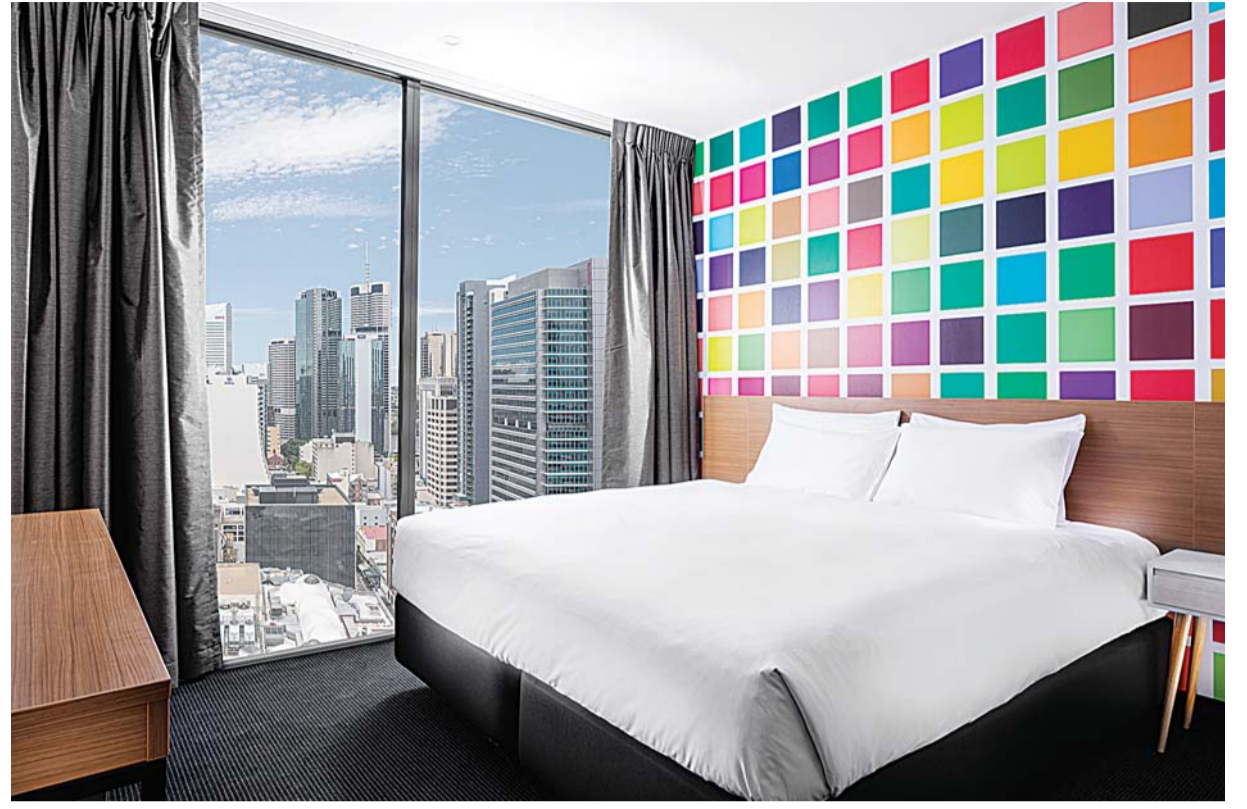
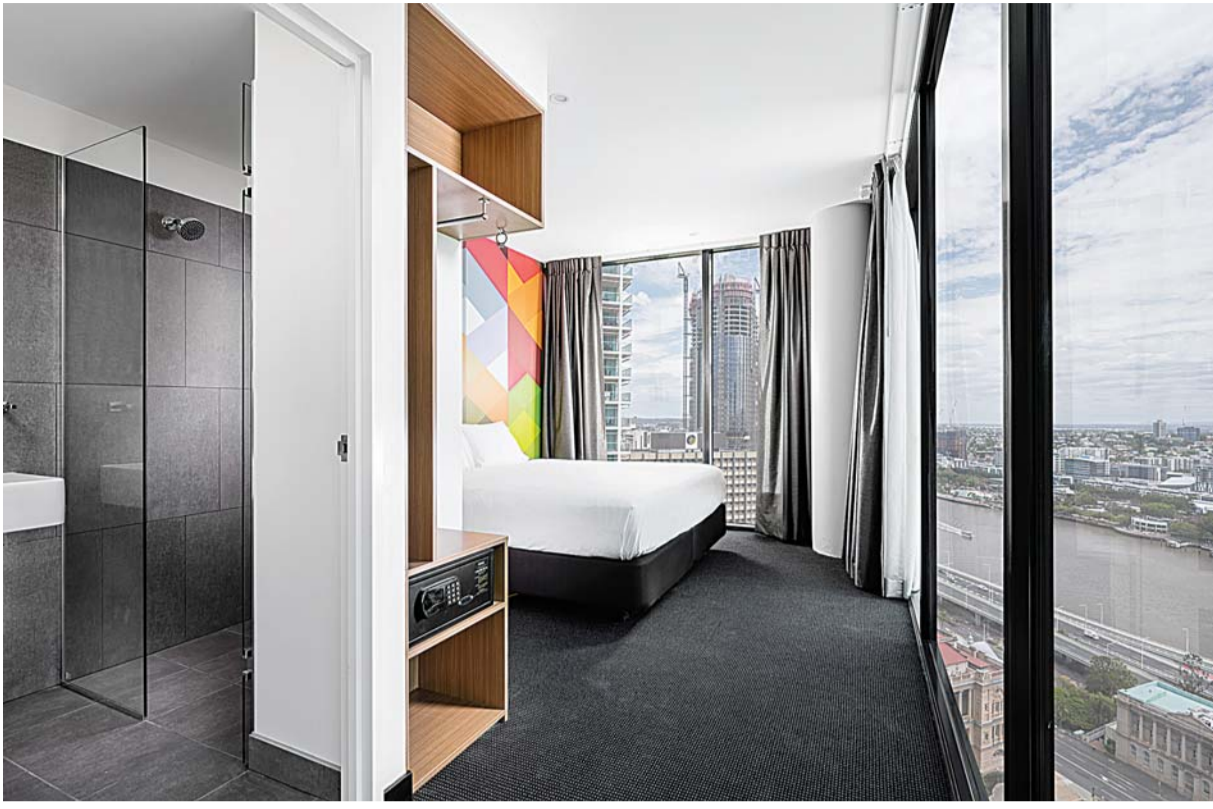
Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
ر. فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368





## KUWAITI COMPANY TO OPEN LARGEST IBIS-BRANDED HOTEL IN AUSTRALASIA AN ACTION-PACKED STAY IN AUSTRALIA!

Australia is a place like no other. Catering to the discerning yet budget-conscious traveller, Kuwait's Action Hotels is expanding in Australia with branded hotels in key locations that offer world-class amenities.

Action Hotels Founder and Chairman Sheikh Mubarak A M Al-Sabah founded Action Hotels in 2005 to be the leading hotel company in the 3 and 4 star hotel market in the Middle East and Australia. Sheikh Mubarak understood the potential of the Australian market and capitalized on the strong relationship with Accorhotels. Ibis Melbourne Glen Waverly opened in December 2007 as Action Hotels' first hotel in Australia.

The Company is expanding its footprint in Australia with the acquisition of the Ibis Budget at Melbourne Airport which was completed in July 2015, and it has just announced the completion of the first new-built Ibis Styles in Australia. The 368-room Ibis Styles Brisbane is the largest hotel in the group's portfolio, as well as the largest Ibis-branded hotel in the Australasian region. Located at 40 Elizabeth Street, the hotel boasts one of the most central locations in Brisbane's Central Business District, adjoining the Myer Centre and Queen Street Mall, and is within walking distance to government departments and Brisbane's key attractions, so is therefore well-positioned to cater to both business and leisure travellers.

**Largest hotel**  
Speaking about the recent completion of Ibis Styles Brisbane, Sheikh Mubarak A M Al-Sabah stated: "We are delighted with the completion of our largest hotel in Brisbane, Australia and are confident it will be highly successful. It is a top quality and stylish 3-4 star branded hotel, and is Accor's first newly-built Ibis Styles in Australia. Brisbane is a gateway to the Gold Coast and its prime location will make it the hotel of choice for the value-conscious traveller. The opening of our largest hotel is a big step towards achieving our goal of 5,000 rooms by 2020".

With an extensive network and invaluable relationships, Action Hotels has access to high-

ly sought-after plots of development land. Action Hotels maintains strategic partnerships with the leading global hotel companies such as Accorhotels, Whitbread and Intercontinental Hotels Group, which are tasked with managing the hotels' day-to-day affairs, bringing superior operational performance to the mix.

### Lucrative market

Whilst the majority of Action Hotel's portfolio is in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Australia has been a lucrative market where the company will selectively continue further expansion. Following the completion of Ibis Styles Brisbane, Action Hotels now owns and operates three hotels in Australia, with close to

600 rooms in partnership with Accor hotels. Action Hotels has been listed on the AIM market of the London Stock exchange since December 2013 and is the leading owner, developer and asset manager of branded three- and four-star hotels in the Middle East and Australia. Action Hotels has a simple and clear strategy to continue addressing the underserved market of internationally-branded economy and midscale hotels within the region. Action Hotels currently has 11 operating hotels with more than 2,000 rooms, spanning across seven countries. With six more hotels currently being developed, Action Hotels will close 2017 with over 3,000 hotel rooms.

## ACK ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST PROJECT BASED LEARNING (PBL) SYMPOSIUM

After successfully developing and implementing a variety of active learning projects, the School of Engineering at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) is organizing its first "Project Based Learning (PBL) Symposium" under the theme "Preparing Students for the Workplace" on Sunday, the 13th of March, 2016, at ACK's campus.



Professor Alex Stojcevski

The symposium will bring together leaders, engineers and engineering educators from sectors such as petroleum, construction, infrastructure and manufacturing to share expected outcomes, learning techniques and experiences that influence and shape the learning process of the next generation of engineers. With a keynote speech from the Head of the Centre of Technology, RMIT University, and an internationally recognized expert of Project Based Learning (PBL), Professor Alex Stojcevski, the symposium will also serve as a platform for professional development, while providing networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities between the panel of speakers and audience members. The School of Engineering invites interested parties to attend the symposium, whereby registration can be completed online by visiting the website: [www.ack.edu.kw](http://www.ack.edu.kw) or call 96960504.

### Greetings



On the occasion of Ahmadi Governor Shaikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah's granddaughter birthday, Rafiq (event designer), Dr Prakash Indian Tata from Mumbai and Tarun Tiwari (President of Jai Ho Foundation) visited the Governor's house and wished and greeted his granddaughter, Shaikha Modi on her 7th birthday.



## ROYALE HAYAT HOSPITAL THE BEST HOSPITAL IN KUWAIT FOR THE 6TH TIME IN A ROW

For the 6th year in a row, Royale Hayat Hospital has been named first hospital in Kuwait and won the "Best Hospital Award" in Service Hero Awards, Arab World's only 100 percent consumer-driven customer satisfaction index.

Royale Hayat Chairman and board members expressed their appreciation and thanked the loyal community for their trust and confi-

dence in Royale Hayat. They also stressed on the importance of this award since it reflects customer satisfaction and appreciation of all the products, facilities, services, and treatments at Royale Hayat. Royale Hayat Chairman and board members congratulated all the dedicated physicians, staff and management who work hard to provide the best medical care and comfort to patients and their families

and considered this award to be empowering and inspiring, as it encourages them to give more.

Since 2006, Royale Hayat has dedicated all its resources, technologies, facilities, educational programs and awareness campaigns to provide the best care in the medical industry, and will continue to do so in appreciation of this loyal community.





## 'IBTIKAR AL-KUWAIT' HOLDS AWARDS CEREMONY

By Nawara Fattahova

Ibtikar Al-Kuwait for Innovation held an awards ceremony on Thursday at the Gulf University for Sciences and Technology (GUST). During the ceremony, the organizing committee announced the three winners on the local level in both the high school and intermediate school categories. Twelve innovative projects participated in this competition.

The Ibtikar Al-Kuwait competition was first launched in 1999 with participants only from Kuwait, and later expanded to include other GCC countries in 2011. In 2014, the competition transformed into a part of an initiative to develop the scientific abilities of female students in Kuwait's public schools, with the intention of training them to participate in the competition.

### Opportunity

The Ibtikar initiative gives the girls an opportunity to express their skills through their inventions. "Tonight we are celebrating the creativity and innovations of the participating girls from Kuwait schools, and the winners announced today will compete with GCC participants in the final stage. Today, we have reached the halfway stage of this year's competition. We have the opportunity to see their inventions, which expresses the combination of education with thinking, skills with analysis, and ideas with applications. Their inventions show how an idea can be transferred into reality. Their inventions serve the community and solve problems of people. In addition, it also highlights the ability of women and girls to positively develop the community," said Sheikhha Fadiya Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah,

founder of Ibtikar Al-Kuwait, during the awards ceremony.

The competition is growing and developing every year. "This year we added intermediate schools that are participating for the first time in this competition. Through this activity, we aim to empower Kuwaiti women, especially with the difficult situation of the region and particularly the drop in oil prices. So we should focus on training girls. I would like to thank HH the Amir for supporting this competition," she added.

"There are many examples of young ladies who had leading roles in different situations, which reflects their strong will and hard work to achieve their goals. And tonight, we are witnessing women excelling in the field of innovation and creativity, which is the weapon of the 21st century. Through

Ibtikar Al-Kuwait, we encourage innovation and creativity from the early grades," concluded Sheikhha Fadiya.

### Innovation

Dr Donald Bates, President of GUST, noted that the Ibtikar competition is hosted and partially sponsored by GUST. "Ibtikar means innovation, and innovation with science and technology makes a perfect match. When this university was founded in 2002, it had a vision to become the place where upcoming generations could build their futures through pathways that are increasing in importance - science, technology, innovation and creativity," he pointed out. "Today we are honoring an exceptional collection of students who are putting together the building blocks of a better tomorrow. I commend each of

you on your hard work, determination and will to find solutions to everyday problems," added Bates.

General Director of the initiative Dr Fatma Al-Hashim said that through this initiative, we can support youth and help them spend their free time in useful activities. "This initiative made the girls express their creativity and ideas through the inventions they presented. This competition encourages girls to learn and invent. It also proves that inventing is not limited to men only. I hope that their ideas and inventions will be realized in projects, from which the government will benefit," she stated.

A short documentary about Ibtikar was presented during the event, which was followed by awarding not only the winners, but all the participants in this competition, including the girls and their supervising teachers.

## KFH PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL OPEN DAY FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the national open day for people with special needs organized by Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem's Committee for people with special needs, as part of the bank's social responsibility and its interest in supporting this segment, while contributing in helping people with disabilities integrate into the community.

KFH participated in this event for the second consecutive year. The event aims at improving skills of handicapped people who showcase their projects and demonstrate their hobbies and talents. This open day is associated with exhibitions to increase awareness, not to mention competitions and valuable prizes.

It is noteworthy that KFH is keen on participating in different social activities emanating from its endeavors to achieve the social responsibility, while reinforcing the social values that comprise an impetus towards positive social environment, thus paves the way for comprehensive development.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly's Committee praised KFH's efforts in supporting the segment of disabled people, and in recognition of its participation in the national open day.



## I MISS YOU KUWAIT!

By Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Major General Mohammad Ashab Uddin, ncd, psc(Retd)

After my tenure as Ambassador of Bangladesh in Kuwait as I leave, my feeling and emotions are many and multidimensional. I will always remember beautiful Kuwait and its heart touching aspects.

- The warmth of bilateral relation between the two countries and its people.
- The reminiscence by people of Kuwait about coalition support in Gulf war and liberation of Kuwait and participation of Bangladesh Armed Forces.
- The Diwaniya and its unique environment and associations.
- Frankness and traditional Arab hospitality of the people.
- The HH Amir's humanitarian and charismatic approach for the world and special feeling for Bangladesh
- My farewell 'calls on' and warmth of H.H. the Amir, H.H the PM, H.E. the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and other colleagues and friends of diplomatic corps, and Kuwaiti friends.
- The making of Kuwait green efforts and its sand dunes.
- The warmth of the Bangladeshi expatriates and their dedication, sincerely law abiding approach and efforts for the development of Kuwait and making the bondage and relation between two countries.

I am leaving with contentment and hope and pray for the happiness and prosperity of the people of the Kuwait. At the same time request and welcome you all to visit our 'Golden Bangladesh-A country of hope and aspiration'. Almighty Allah gives us all to support and help each other all the time.

Allah Hafez



## FOKE CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Friends of Kannur Expats Association in Kuwait (FOKE) conducted its 10th anniversary celebration-"Kannur Mahosalvam" on 5th February 2016 at Indian Central School, Abbasiya with a wide variety of programs.

Programs started at 10 am with competitions like fancy dress, drawing, mehndi, cooking etc and winners were honored during a public function later.

The public function started with a silent prayer which was followed by Kuwait and Indian National anthems. The meeting was presided over by Jithesh P, FOKE President. The event was inaugurated by lighting the traditional lamp by the Indian Embassy Second Secretary A K Srivastava. FOKE General Secretary Biju Antony welcomed the gathering and the guests.

K S Jayamohan, Managing Trustee, HOPE Charitable Trust, Pilathara, Kannur, Kerala was selected for the prestigious Golden FOKE Award for his tremendous contribution in the field of health and the award was presented to Jayamohan by Jleeb Al-Shouyoukh Police Officer Raed Al-

Mutairi during the function.

The personalities honored during the functions for their tremendous contribution in social activities in Kuwait were Hamza Payyananur - Metro Medical

Center and Nazar - Frontline.

FOKE honored all former presidents and general secretaries and also other important contributors to the growth of FOKE at this function.

Felicitations were rendered by media person Sajeev K Peter, Hamza Payyannur and FOKE Vanithavedi Chairperson Bindu Rajeev. Program Geneneral Convener Vijayesh Marar delivered a vote of thanks.

FOKE Patrons G V Mohanan and Jaya Shankar, FOKE Joint Treasurer Sabu T V, Vanithavedi Gen Convener Leena Sabu and Master Adivath Suneesh-Balavedi were others who shared the dais.

The main entrance was beautifully designed like Kannur Fort. The cultural program started with a 'goshayatra' to bring all the cultural vibrancy of Kannur to Kuwait with colorful programs. The soul of Kannur 'Theyyam' was brought live to Kuwait. Thousands of people attended the event and enjoyed the programs.

The highlight of the event was the musical extravaganza performed by Unni Menon, well-known playback singer of South India, Kannur Abaidh, famous map-pilla pattu singer, Sumi Arivind, playback singer and Preethi Warrior, Star Singer fame. They enchanted the audience with their dazzling performances.



### WHAT'S ON - SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All photos submitted for What's On should be minimum 200dpi. Articles must be in plain text and should include name and phone numbers. Articles and photos that fail to meet these requirements will not be published.

Please send them to [news@kuwaittimes.net](mailto:news@kuwaittimes.net)

### Czech embassy opens visa application center

The Embassy of Czech Republic in Kuwait is pleased to announce the opening of the Visa Application Center in Kuwait City. Starting from November 15, 2015 the visa applications can be submitted at the Joint visa application Center in Kuwait.

The Address is: VFS Global, Czech Republic Visa Application Center, 1st floor Al-Banwan Building, Ali Al-Salem Street, Al-Qiblah Area, Kuwait City

Submission of Applications: 9:00 - 16:00 (Sunday - Thursday) Passport collection time: 16:00 - 17:00 (Sunday - Thursday) Further instructions you can get from the website: [www.vfsglobal.com/Czech/Kuwait](http://www.vfsglobal.com/Czech/Kuwait) or on call line: 00965 22971114

Note: Applicants need to come in person to submit the visa application at the Czech visa Centre. The Embassy of Czech Republic in Kuwait reserves the right to invite the applicant for a personal interview.



AMC

- 01:05 The Birdcage
03:10 Lords Of Dogtown
04:50 Music Of The Heart
06:55 Robinson Crusoe
08:25 Death Rides A Horse
10:20 Adventures Of Hercules
11:50 Duplex
13:20 The Beautiful Country
15:20 Eight Men Out
17:20 Jakob The Liar
19:15 Groundhog Day
21:00 Breaking Bad
22:00 The Birdcage

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:50 River Monsters
01:45 Swamp Brothers
02:15 Swamp Brothers
02:40 Dog Rescuers
03:35 Tanked
04:25 Africa's Outsiders
05:15 Gator Boys
06:02 Treehouse Masters
06:49 Dog Rescuers
07:36 Swamp Brothers
08:00 Swamp Brothers
08:25 Bad Dog
09:15 Dog Rescuers
10:10 Treehouse Masters
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Bad Dog
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 Dog Rescuers
14:45 Gator Boys
15:40 Treehouse Masters
16:35 Tanked
17:30 Africa's Outsiders
18:25 River Monsters
19:20 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
20:15 Tanked
21:10 Cheetah: Race To Rule
22:05 Treehouse Masters
23:00 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
23:55 Gator Boys

BBC entertainment

- 00:20 Eastenders
00:50 Call The Midwife
01:45 Call The Midwife
02:40 Ripper Street
03:30 Doctors
04:00 Eastenders
04:30 Startlings
05:15 Startlings
06:00 The Cafe
06:25 The Cafe
06:50 Doctors
07:20 Eastenders
07:50 Stella
08:40 Call The Midwife
09:25 Doctor Who
10:15 Doctors
10:45 Eastenders
11:15 Death In Paradise
12:10 Stella
13:00 Call The Midwife
13:45 Doctor Who
14:35 Doctors
15:05 Eastenders
15:35 Stella
16:25 Dickensian
17:10 Doctor Who
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Holly City
21:00 Stella
21:45 Ripper Street
22:45 Death In Paradise
23:40 Doctors
23:55 Eastenders

BBC

- 00:20 Eastenders
00:50 Call The Midwife
01:45 Call The Midwife
02:40 Ripper Street
03:30 Doctors
04:00 Eastenders
04:30 Startlings
05:15 Startlings
06:00 The Cafe
06:25 The Cafe
06:50 Doctors
07:20 Eastenders
07:50 Stella
08:40 Call The Midwife
09:25 Doctor Who
10:15 Doctors
10:45 Eastenders
11:15 Death In Paradise
12:10 Stella
13:00 Call The Midwife
13:45 Doctor Who
14:35 Doctors
15:05 Eastenders
15:35 Stella
16:25 Dickensian
17:10 Doctor Who
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Holly City
21:00 Stella
21:45 Ripper Street
22:45 Death In Paradise
23:40 Doctors
23:55 Eastenders

12:10 Stella

- 13:00 Call The Midwife
13:45 Doctor Who
14:35 Doctors
15:05 Eastenders
15:35 Stella
16:25 Dickensian
17:10 Doctor Who
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Holly City
21:00 Stella
21:45 Ripper Street
22:45 Death In Paradise
23:40 Doctors
23:55 Eastenders

Bloomberg TELEVISION

- 00:00 What'd You Miss?
01:00 Charlie Rose
02:00 First Up With Angie Lau
03:00 First Up With Angie Lau
04:00 Trending Business
05:00 Trending Business
06:00 Asia Edge
07:00 Bloomberg West
08:00 Charlie Rose
09:00 Countdown
10:00 Countdown
11:00 On The Move
12:00 On The Move
13:00 Bloomberg Surveillance
15:00 Bloomberg Go
18:00 Bloomberg Markets
19:00 Bloomberg Markets: European Close
20:00 Bloomberg Markets
23:00 Bloomberg Markets

CCTV NEWS

- 00:00 News Update
00:30 Dialogue
01:00 News Update
01:15 China 24
02:00 The Heat
02:30 News Update
03:00 Global Business
04:00 News Update
05:00 News Update
06:30 Dialogue
07:00 News Hour
08:00 Global Business
09:00 News Update
09:30 Sports Soene
11:00 Global Business
12:00 News Update
12:30 Culture Express
13:00 Africa Live
14:00 News Update
14:30 Dialogue
15:00 News Update
15:15 China 24
16:00 News Update
16:15 Global Business
17:00 News Update
17:15 World InSight
18:00 Asia Today
18:30 Culture Express

03:00 Crime Stories

- 04:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
05:00 The Ghost Inside My Child
06:00 The Haunting Of...
07:00 The FBI Files
08:00 Stella
09:00 Frenemies
09:30 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 Frenemies
16:30 Private Crimes
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 Frenemies
22:30 Private Crimes
23:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover

Discovery CHANNEL HD

- 00:20 Fast N' Loud
01:10 Mythbusters
02:00 The Weapon Hunter
02:50 Big Giant Swords
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 Highway To Sell
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 Mythbusters
11:25 The Weapon Hunter
12:15 Big Giant Swords
13:05 Storage Hunters
13:30 The Liquidator
13:55 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
14:20 Flying Wild Alaska
15:10 Kings Of Crash
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
17:15 How Do They Do It?
17:40 What On Earth?
18:30 Unearthed
19:20 Deception With Keith Barry
20:10 The Liquidator
20:35 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
21:00 What On Earth?
21:50 Unearthed
22:40 Kings Of The Wild
23:30 Kings Of Crash

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

- 00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
01:30 The Haunted
02:20 Ghost Lab
03:10 Soemed: Crimes Of Passion
04:00 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:10 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



when IN ROME

TRISTAR PICTURES PRESENTS A GARY FOSTER PRODUCTION A MARK STEVEN JOHNSON FILM "WHEN IN ROME" KRISTEN BELL JOSH DUHAMEL WILL ARNETT JIM BEAN BOB SHERIDAN WITH DANNY BLUMFELD AND RAELI CA RUSTON... JOSHUA JAHN SAHETI AND JIMMY MANDY LARSEN STEVEN ROSETER LENA SWENSON... "PRIVILEGE BRANDING" DAVID WELLS/SONAR... "GARY FOSTER" MARK STEVEN JOHNSON ANDREW PRINCEY

WHEN IN ROME ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 17:31 Unchained Reaction
18:18 Mythbusters
19:05 Weird Or What?
19:50 Mega Builders
20:40 Space Pioneer
21:25 How It's Made
21:50 How It's Made
22:15 Mythbusters
23:00 Mega Builders
23:45 Space Pioneer
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
21:30 Guy's Big Bite
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:15 Binny And The Ghost
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 The Pioneer Woman
18:30 The Pioneer Woman
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Iron Chef America
21:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
21:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
22:00 Dinner At Tiffani's
22:30 Dinner At Tiffani's
23:00 Sibal's Table
23:30 Sibal's Table

WHEN IN ROME ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:05 Henry Hugglemonster
00:20 Calimero
00:35 Zou
00:50 Loopdidoo
01:05 Art Attack
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
01:45 Calimero
02:00 Zou
02:15 Loopdidoo
02:30 Art Attack
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:05 Calimero
03:20 Zou
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:45 Art Attack
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calimero
04:35 Zou
04:45 Loopdidoo
05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 Calimero
05:50 Zou
06:00 Loopdidoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calimero
07:00 Zou
07:20 Loopdidoo
07:35 Art Attack
08:00 Calimero
08:10 Zou
08:25 Loopdidoo
08:40 Miles From Tomorrow
08:55 Sofia The First
09:30 Goldie & Bear
09:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
10:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:35 Doc McStuffins
11:00 Sofia The First
11:30 Goldie & Bear
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 Goldie & Bear
14:50 Doc McStuffins
15:15 Zou
15:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:55 Loopdidoo
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 Goldie & Bear
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 Goldie & Bear
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
23:50 Zou

WHEN IN ROME ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 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 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
07:40 Jessie
08:05 Shake It Up
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 That's So Raven
09:20 That's So Raven
09:45 Austin & Ally
10:10 Austin & Ally
10:35 A.N.T. Farm
11:00 A.N.T. Farm
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
12:45 Fish Hooks
12:55 Fish Hooks
13:10 Good Luck Charlie
13:35 I Didn't Do It
14:00 Dog With A Blog
14:30 H2O
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
21:10 Good Luck Charlie

WHEN IN ROME ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 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 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
07:40 Jessie
08:05 Shake It Up
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 That's So Raven
09:20 That's So Raven
09:45 Austin & Ally
10:10 Austin & Ally
10:35 A.N.T. Farm
11:00 A.N.T. Farm
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
12:45 Fish Hooks
12:55 Fish Hooks
13:10 Good Luck Charlie
13:35 I Didn't Do It
14:00 Dog With A Blog
14:30 H2O
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
21:10 Good Luck Charlie

WHEN IN ROME ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Chopped
02:00 All Star Academy
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Iron Chef America
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Man Fire Food
07:30 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa
09:30 Barefoot Contessa
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 The Pioneer Woman
11:30 The Pioneer Woman
Chopped

00:35 Street Food Around The World

- 01:00 Bangkok Airport
01:50 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
02:15 Eat Street
02:40 Eat Street
03:05 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
03:55 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
04:20 Miguel's Feasts
04:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:10 Street Food Around The World
05:35 Dream Cruises
06:25 A Marriage Of Flavours
06:50 Bangkok Airport
07:40 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
08:05 Eat Street
08:30 Eat Street
08:55 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
09:45 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
10:10 Miguel's Feasts
10:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
11:00 Street Food Around The World
11:25 Dream Cruises
12:15 A Marriage Of Flavours
12:40 Cradle Of Mandopop
13:35 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
14:00 Eat Street
14:30 Eat Street
14:55 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
15:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
16:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
16:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
17:15 Street Food Around The World
17:40 Dream Cruises
18:35 A Marriage Of Flavours
19:05 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
20:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
20:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
20:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
21:15 Street Food Around The World
21:40 Dream Cruises

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:30 Weird Loners
01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
01:30 Brickleberry
02:00 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll
03:00 Big Time In Hollywood Fl
03:30 New Girl
04:30 Playing House
04:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 Modern Family
06:00 \$#!\* My Dad Says
06:30 Community
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
08:30 Cristela
09:00 New Girl
09:30 The Last Man On Earth
10:00 Hot In Cleveland
10:30 Community
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:30 \$#!\* My Dad Says
12:30 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
13:00 Cristela
13:30 Community
14:00 Playing House
14:30 The Last Man On Earth
15:00 Hot In Cleveland
15:30 Weird Loners
16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
16:30 \$#!\* My Dad Says
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 New Girl
18:30 Playing House
19:00 Kevin From Work
19:35 Hot In Cleveland
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Weird Loners
21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
22:00 Web Therapy
22:30 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Chicago Fire
01:00 Quantico
02:00 Rosewood
03:00 Allegiance
04:00 Good Morning America
06:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
07:00 Backstrom
08:00 The Player
09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:00 Quantico
11:00 Backstrom
12:00 Coronation Street
13:00 Coronation Street
14:00 The Player
15:00 Live Good Morning America
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 The Player

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Chicago Fire
01:00 Quantico
02:00 Rosewood
03:00 Allegiance
04:00 Good Morning America
06:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
07:00 Backstrom
08:00 The Player
09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:00 Quantico
11:00 Backstrom
12:00 Coronation Street
13:00 Coronation Street
14:00 The Player
15:00 Live Good Morning America
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 The Player

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:10 Street Food Around The World

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Chopped
02:00 All Star Academy
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Iron Chef America
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Man Fire Food
07:30 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa
09:30 Barefoot Contessa
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 The Pioneer Woman
11:30 The Pioneer Woman
Chopped

OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 00:00 Pusher
02:00 Superfast
04:00 Jack The Giant Killer
06:00 Need For Speed
08:15 Forget And Forgive
10:00 Superfast
12:00 The Assault
13:45 Need For Speed
16:00 Forget And Forgive
18:00 Battle Of The Damned
19:45 X-Men: Days Of Future Past

OSN MOVIES COMEDY

- 00:00 We'll Never Have Paris
02:00 When In Rome
04:00 The Devil Wears Prada
06:00 Mr. Wonderful
08:00 How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days
10:00 The Devil Wears Prada
12:00 When In Rome
14:00 Garfield's Fun Fest
16:00 How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days
18:00 Pitch Perfect
20:00 Textuality
22:00 No Way Jose

OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

- 00:45 A Passage To India
03:30 At Any Price
05:15 Sleepless In Seattle
07:15 Jodorowsky's Dune
09:00 Memories
11:00 Sleepless In Seattle
13:00 Heaven's Door
15:00 A Civil Action
17:00 Memories
19:00 Frankie & Alice
21:00 White Bird In A Blizzard
23:00 Donnie Brasco

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:00 Shiver
03:00 The Giver
05:00 Stonehearst Asylum
07:00 Bad Parents
09:00 Get On Up
11:15 Oggly & The Cockroaches: The Movie
13:00 Step Up Revolution
14:45 Divergent
17:00 Imogene
19:00 Seventh Son
21:00 The Bronx Bull
23:00 Deliver Us From Evil

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:00 Asian Tour Highlights
02:00 PGA Tour Highlights
03:00 PGA European Tour Highlights
04:00 Trans World Sport Golfing World
05:00 Live PGA European Tour Inside The PGA Tour
06:00 European Tour Weekly Golfing World
07:00 Live PGA European Tour Inside The PGA Tour
08:00 Live Welsh Open Snooker
09:00 LPGA Tour Highlights
10:00 Live Welsh Open Snooker

OSN SPORTS 1 HD

- 00:00 Super League
02:00 Welsh Open Snooker
05:00 NFL All-Star Match
07:00 Golfing World
08:00 WWE Afterburn
09:00 This Week In WWE
09:30 Gillette World Sport
10:00 AFL Premiership Highlights
11:00 Live AFL NAB Challenge
14:00 Porsche GT3 Cup Middle East
14:30 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Highlights
15:00 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Highlights
15:30 V8 Supercars Bathurst
18:30 Mobil 1 The Grid
19:00 WWE NXT
20:00 WWE Smackdown
22:00 Europro Tour

OSN SPORTS 2 HD

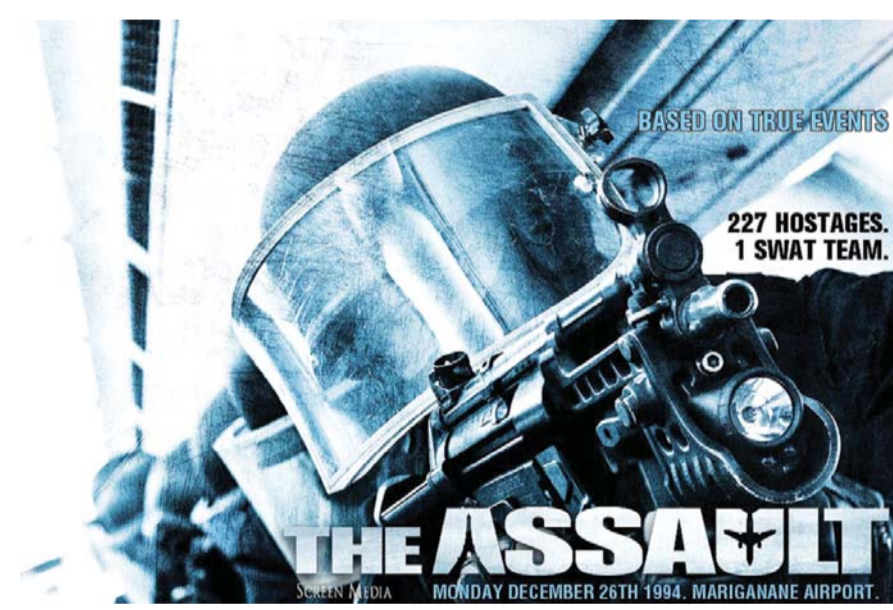
- 02:30 Trans World Sport
03:30 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Highlights
04:00 Asian Tour Highlights
05:00 The World Sailing Show
05:30 Inside Sailing
06:00 World Pool Masters
07:00 Welsh Open Snooker
10:00 Europro Tour
12:00 The Weber Cup
13:00 LPGA Tour Highlights
14:00 The World Sailing Show Inside Sailing
15:00 Asian Tour Highlights
16:00 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Highlights
16:30 World Rugby
17:00 LPGA Tour Highlights
18:00 The Weber Cup
19:00 Europro Tour
21:00 Trans World Sport
22:00 Live Premier League Darts

OSN SPORTS 3 HD

- 01:00 FIA Asia Cup Championship
01:30 Aquabike World Championship
02:00 Mobil 1 The Grid
02:30 Extreme Sailing Highlights
03:00 Mass Participation U.K
03:30 F1 H2O World Championship Highlights
04:00 Trithon UK
04:30 UIM XCATS Power Boat World Series
05:00 TCR International Series
05:30 TCR International Series
06:00 Aquabike World Championship
06:30 Mobil 1 The Grid
07:00 Pro Kabaddi
08:00 Mobil 1 The Grid
08:30 World Match Racing Tour Highlights
09:00 The World's Strongest Man
10:00 FIA Asia Cup Championship
10:30 FIH Hockey World
11:00 WWE Vintage
12:00 NHL
14:00 This Week In WWE
14:30 WWE Raw
17:20 Live Pro Kabaddi
18:30 Live Pro Kabaddi
20:00 NHL
22:00 WWE NXT
23:00 WWE Smackdown

OSN SPORTS 4 HD

- 01:00 FIA Asia Cup Championship
01:30 Aquabike World Championship
02:00 Mobil 1 The Grid
02:30 Extreme Sailing Highlights
03:00 Mass Participation U.K
03:30 F1 H2O World Championship Highlights
04:00 Trithon UK
04:30 UIM XCATS Power Boat World Series
05:00 TCR International Series
05:30 TCR International Series
06:00 Aquabike World Championship
06:30 Mobil 1 The Grid
07:00 Pro Kabaddi
08:00 Mobil 1 The Grid
08:30 World Match Racing Tour Highlights
09:00 The World's Strongest Man
10:00 FIA Asia Cup Championship
10:30 FIH Hockey World
11:00 WWE Vintage
12:00 NHL
14:00 This Week In WWE
14:30 WWE Raw
17:20 Live Pro Kabaddi
18:30 Live Pro Kabaddi
20:00 NHL
22:00 WWE NXT
23:00 WWE Smackdown



THE ASSAULT ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 10:15 Doctors
10:45 Eastenders
11:15 Death In Paradise
12:10 Stella
13:00 Call The Midwife
13:45 Doctor Who
14:35 Doctors
15:05 Eastenders
15:35 Stella
16:25 Dickensian
17:10 Doctor Who
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Holly City
21:00 Stella
21:45 Ripper Street
22:45 Death In Paradise
23:40 Doctors

BBC FIRST

- 00:20 Eastenders
00:50 Call The Midwife
01:45 Call The Midwife
02:40 Ripper Street
03:30 Doctors
04:00 Eastenders
04:30 Startlings
05:15 Startlings
06:00 The Cafe
06:25 The Cafe
06:50 Doctors
07:20 Eastenders
07:50 Stella
08:40 Call The Midwife
09:25 Doctor Who
10:15 Doctors
10:45 Eastenders
11:15 Death In Paradise

BBC

- 00:20 Eastenders
00:50 Call The Midwife
01:45 Call The Midwife
02:40 Ripper Street
03:30 Doctors
04:00 Eastenders
04:30 Startlings
05:15 Startlings
06:00 The Cafe
06:25 The Cafe
06:50 Doctors
07:20 Eastenders
07:50 Stella
08:40 Call The Midwife
09:25 Doctor Who
10:15 Doctors
10:45 Eastenders
11:15 Death In Paradise

CNBC

- 01:00 The Edge
01:30 Tech Transformers: Davos Compilation
02:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
03:00 Asia Squawk Box
05:00 Asia Street Signs
07:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report
08:00 Capital Connection
09:00 Squawk Box Europe
12:00 Europe Street Signs
13:00 Worldwide Exchange
14:00 U.S. Squawk Box
17:00 Squawk On The Street
19:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
20:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report
21:00 U.S. Power Lunch

crime & investigation network

- 00:00 The Haunting Of...
01:00 The Ghost Inside My Child
02:00 My Haunted House

Discovery SCIENCE

- 00:35 Weird Or What?
01:20 How It's Made
01:44 How It's Made
02:08 Invent It Rich
02:55 Space Pioneer
03:42 Mythbusters
04:29 Weird Or What?
05:16 Invent It Rich
06:03 Space Pioneer
06:50 Prototype This
07:37 How Do They Do It?
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:23 Weird Or What?
09:08 Mythbusters
09:53 Prototype This
10:38 How It's Made
11:00 How It's Made
11:23 Food Factory
11:45 Food Factory
12:08 Space Pioneer
12:58 Prototype This
13:58 Weird Or What?
14:23 How It's Made
14:46 How It's Made
15:10 Mythbusters
15:57 Food Factory
16:20 Food Factory
16:44 Space Pioneer

Discovery world

- 00:40 Solved
01:30 Codes And Conspiracies
02:20 America: Facts vs. Fiction
02:45 America: Facts vs. Fiction
03:05 Dinosaurs: Return To Life
03:50 Solved
04:35 Extreme Engineering
05:20 Deadliest Catch
06:05 Bizarre Foods
06:50 Alps From Above
07:35 Origins
08:00 Deadliest Catch
08:50 Commander In Chief
09:40 Alps From Above
10:30 Bizarre Foods
11:20 Extreme Engineering
12:10 Deadliest Catch
13:00 Treasures Of The Royal Captain
13:50 Bizarre Foods
14:40 Extreme Engineering
15:30 Codes And Conspiracies
16:20 100 Miles From Nowhere
17:10 Deadliest Catch
18:00 Dinosaurs: Return To Life
18:50 Bizarre Foods
19:40 Codes And Conspiracies
20:30 American Guns
21:20 Prehistoric Elephant
22:10 Extreme Engineering
23:00 American Guns
23:50 Prehistoric Elephant

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
04:3



# CLASSIFIEDS

**Kuwait Times**  
 Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (18/02/2016 TO 24/02/2016)

Programme	Time
<b>SHARQIA-1</b>	
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	11:45 AM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	1:45 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	3:45 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	6:15 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	8:15 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	10:45 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:45 AM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>	
HAIL, CAESAR!	12:45 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	2:45 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	4:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS	6:45 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	8:30 PM
SHAKET DABOUS	10:30 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	12:15 AM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b>	
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	1:00 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	3:15 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	5:30 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	7:30 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	9:45 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:05 AM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b>	
HAIL, CAESAR!	11:45 AM
HAIL, CAESAR!	1:45 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	3:45 PM
SYNCHRONICITY	5:45 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	7:45 PM
SYNCHRONICITY	9:45 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	11:45 PM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b>	
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:15 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	2:45 PM
FITTOOR - Hindi	5:00 PM
KRISHNASHITAMI - Telugu	5:00 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	8:00 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	10:30 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:45 AM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b>	
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:30 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	2:30 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	4:30 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	6:30 PM
SHAKET DABOUS	8:30 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	10:15 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:15 AM
<b>FANAR-1</b>	
HAIL, CAESAR!	12:30 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	2:30 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	4:30 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	6:30 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	8:30 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	10:30 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:30 AM
<b>FANAR-2</b>	
SYNCHRONICITY	11:30 AM

SYNCHRONICITY	1:30 PM
SYNCHRONICITY	3:30 PM
SYNCHRONICITY	5:45 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	7:45 PM
SYNCHRONICITY	10:15 PM
SYNCHRONICITY	12:15 AM
<b>FANAR-3</b>	
THE FINEST HOURS	11:30 AM
FITTOOR - Hindi	2:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	4:45 PM
FITTOOR - Hindi	6:45 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	9:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	12:05 AM
<b>FANAR-4</b>	
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	1:00 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	3:00 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	5:00 PM
SHAKET DABOUS	7:00 PM
SHAKET DABOUS	9:00 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	10:45 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:45 AM
<b>FANAR-5</b>	
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:30 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	2:45 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	5:00 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	7:15 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	9:30 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	11:45 PM
<b>MARINA-1</b>	
HAIL, CAESAR!	11:45 AM
HAIL, CAESAR!	1:45 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	3:45 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	5:45 PM
SYNCHRONICITY	7:45 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	9:45 PM
SYNCHRONICITY	11:45 PM
<b>MARINA-2</b>	
THE FINEST HOURS	12:45 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	3:15 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	5:30 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	8:00 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	10:15 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:30 AM
<b>MARINA-3</b>	
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:15 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	2:15 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	4:15 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	6:15 PM
SHAKET DABOUS	8:15 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	10:00 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:05 AM
<b>AVENUES-1</b>	
JANE GOT A GUN	1:15 PM
FITTOOR - Hindi	3:30 PM
BROOKLYN	6:15 PM
FITTOOR - Hindi	8:30 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	11:30 PM

<b>AVENUES-2</b>	
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	1:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	3:15 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	5:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	7:45 PM
VERY BIG SHOT	10:00 PM
THE REVENANT	12:15 AM
<b>AVENUES-3</b>	
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	11:45 AM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	2:00 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	4:30 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	7:00 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	9:30 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:05 AM
<b>AVENUES-4</b>	
HAIL, CAESAR!	12:45 PM
FITTOOR - Hindi	3:00 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	6:00 PM
Special Show "ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP"	6:00 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	8:15 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	10:30 PM
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	1:00 AM
<b>360° 1</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>360° 2</b>	
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	11:45 AM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	2:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	4:15 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	6:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	8:45 PM
THE REVENANT	11:00 PM
<b>360° 3</b>	
SHAKET DABOUS	11:30 AM
SHAKET DABOUS	1:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS	3:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS	5:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS	7:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS	9:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS	11:45 PM
<b>AL-KOUT.1</b>	
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:15 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	2:30 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	4:30 PM
SHAKET DABOUS	6:30 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	8:30 PM
SHAKET DABOUS	10:30 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:15 AM
<b>AL-KOUT.2</b>	
HAIL, CAESAR!	12:00 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	2:00 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	4:00 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	6:00 PM

### REQUIRED FINANCIAL OFFICER.

- At least 3 years experience in investment / financial industry.
- University Education.
- Good command of written and spoken English.
- Good working experience with Microsoft Office.
- Transferable work Visa.

email at: [hr\\_job@live.com](mailto:hr_job@live.com)  
 Fax on: 22497287

### CHANGE OF NAME

Abid Hussain Bohra, holder of Passport No. F7052032, changed my name to Abid Hussain Dholkawala. (C 5135)

I, PIEDADE RANGEL holder of Passport No. 4643677 R/o H.No. 129 Kursavaddo Piedade Diwar, Tiswadi Goa changed my name from PIEDADE RANGEL to PIEDADE DA CRUZ. In future all my dealings and documents, I shall be known by the name PIEDADE DA CRUZ. (C 5134) 21-2-2016

**EIG**  
 EIG Investment Group  
**BUSINESS IN OMAN**  
 We Are Providing  
**Visas, Registration, Local Sponsor, Business Partner, Document Clearing.**  
 Contact Us: 00968-98457638  
 Email: [Info@EigIcoman.Com](mailto:Info@EigIcoman.Com)

**Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988**

**EMERGENCY 112**

**Prayer timings**

<b>Fajr:</b>	<b>05:03</b>
<b>Shorook</b>	<b>06:22</b>
<b>Duhr:</b>	<b>12:02</b>
<b>Asr:</b>	<b>15:16</b>
<b>Maghrib:</b>	<b>17:42</b>
<b>Isha:</b>	<b>18:59</b>

## Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Sunday 21/2/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05
JZR	239	Amman	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:05
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05
ETH	3402	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	01:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:35
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:25
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10
CEB	7694	Manila	03:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25
KAC	544	Cairo	03:35
LMU	510	Cairo	04:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	04:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55
QTR	8511	Doha	06:10
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00
OMA	641	Muscat	08:00
KAC	354	BLR	08:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	08:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40
KAC	362	Colombo	08:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05
SYR	341	Damascus	11:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55
SAW	701	Damascus	12:20
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:20

## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

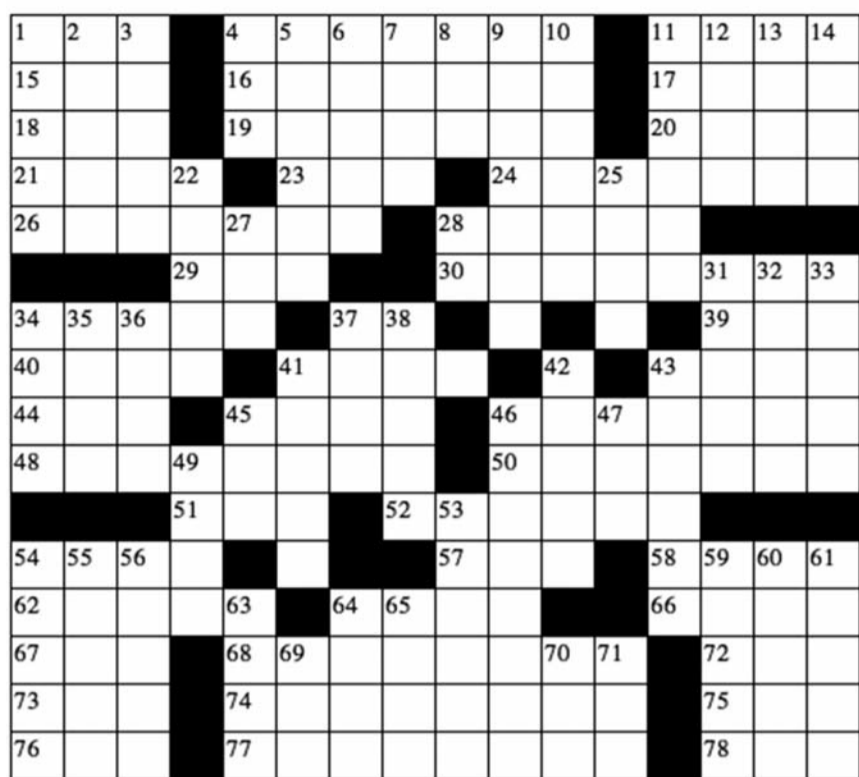
In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Departure Flights on Sunday 21/2/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
MSC	404	Asyut	00:55
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55
MSC	416	Sohag	01:00
THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa	03:05
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55
OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
MSR	613	Cairo	04:10
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:55
QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
LMU	511	Cairo	05:05
THY	765	Istanbul	05:15
CEB	7695	Manila	05:20
JZR	560	Sohag	06:10
FDB	070	Dubai	06:30
JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
RJA	643	Amman	07:05
THY	771	Istanbul	07:05
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10
GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
QTR	8512	Doha	07:40
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
QTR	1087	Doha	08:40
BAW	156	London	08:45
SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
OMA	642	Muscat	08:55
JZR	1562	Sohag	08:55
KAC	171	Frankfurt	09:05
JZR	534	Cairo	09:15
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
KAC	117	New York	09:55
KAC	541	Cairo	09:55
KAC	561	Amman	10:00
KAC	671	Dubai	10:05
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25
KAC	501	Beirut	10:30
FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
JZR	482	Istanbul	10:35
IRA	664	Shiraz	10:40
KAC	677	Abu Dhabi/Muscat	10:50
QTR	1071	Doha	11:00
IRC	529	Ahwaz	11:00
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20
SYR	342	Damascus	12:25
KAC	103	London	12:25
UAE	874	Dubai	12:30
MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**



CROSSWORD 1175



ACROSS

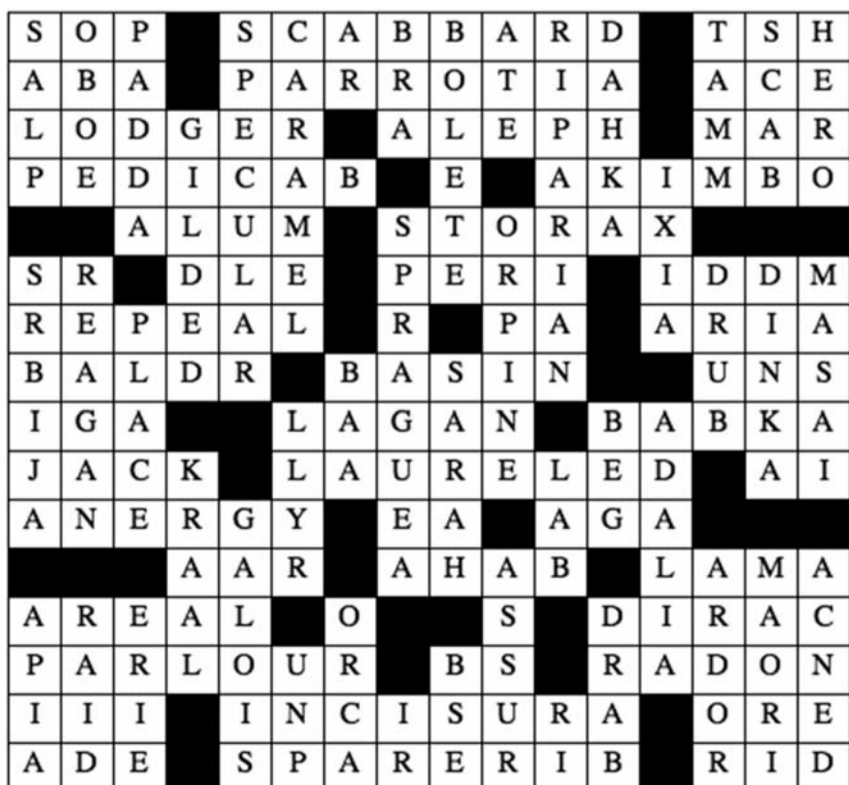
- 1. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
4. (zoology) Lacking a tail or taillike appendage.
11. Great in vertical dimension.
15. (Irish) The sea personified.
16. Evergreen tree of Pacific North America having glossy leathery leaves and orange-red edible berries.
17. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
18. A metal-bearing mineral valuable enough to be mined.
19. Lean dried meat pounded fine and mixed with melted fat.
20. Ctenophores lacking tentacles.
21. Type genus of the Ranidae.
23. An enclosed space.
24. A naturally occurring estrogenic hormone.
26. An early French settler in the Maritimes.
29. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
30. A family of vines belonging to order Rhamnales.
34. Lake in northwestern Russia near the border with Finland.
39. Resonance of protons to radiation in a magnetic field.
40. Very light colored.
44. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
48. A person who eats human flesh.
50. Mottled curly-grained wood of Pterocarpus indicus.
51. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
52. United by being of the same opinion.
54. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
57. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
58. An informal term for a father.
62. Diuretic drug (trade name Naqua) used to treat hypertension.
66. A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
67. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
68. Resembling a tail.
72. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
73. Extremely pleasing.
74. Semi-parasitic herb with purple or white or pink flowers.
75. Be obliged to pay or repay.
76. A reptile genus of Iguanidae.
77. Temperamentally disinclined to talk.
78. A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.

DOWN

- 1. All the plant life in a particular region.
2. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics

- and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
3. A particular environment or walk of life.
4. The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.
5. Conqueror of Gaul and master of Italy (100-44 BC).
6. Someone whose business is advertising.
7. In or relating to or obtained from urine.
8. A licensed medical practitioner.
9. Relating to anemia or suffering from anemia.
10. East Indian tart yellow berrylike fruit.
11. Small often spiny insectivorous mammal of Madagascar.
12. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
13. (British) A recreational facility including a swimming pool for water sports.
14. (archaic or Scottish) Faithful and true.
22. A condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people.
25. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
27. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
28. The eleventh month of the civil year.
31. Of or belonging to an enemy.
32. The capital and largest city of Jordan.
33. Any plant of the genus Erica.
35. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
36. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
37. The arch of bone beneath the eye that forms the prominence of the cheek.
38. Mexican revolutionary leader (1877-1923).
41. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
42. Widely known and esteemed.
43. Cheap and shoddy.
45. Top part of an apron.
46. In football.
47. The compass point that is one point east of due south.
49. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
53. Relating to or characteristic of the Celts.
55. A unit of weight for precious stones = 200 mg.
56. Jordan's port.
59. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
60. An Indian tree of the family Combretaceae that is a source of timber and gum.
61. Having help.
63. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
64. A legally binding command or decision entered on the court record (as if issued by a court or judge).
65. (Norse mythology) Goddess of old age who defeated Thor in a wrestling match.
69. How long something has existed.
70. Related by blood.
71. Standard time in the 5th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 75th meridian.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is not a good time to make any concrete decisions about a relationship. You should find a constructive way to release that tremendous energy that you are feeling now. You may have decided to reupholster a couch or refinish a piece of wood furniture. Help may be hard to find so you may decide to dedicate yourself to the work. You are full of enthusiasm and enjoy learning new things. Applying this force to learning new things can bring all sorts of fun experiences your way. Later today, you and a friend may engage in activities that are carefree and pleasant-creating pleasant memories. Your ability to perceive thoughts from others may bring unexpected rewards. This evening is a prime time to imitate a favorite music artist.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your motivation is high and you can be quite creative in your activities today; you can apply your ideas to your hobby or any chores that need tending today. You are buoyed with confidence and will succeed at any project you attempt. Make sure both your expectations and abilities are realistic before diving into something you may not want to complete. Yes, there are different ways to look at many situations and you are learning to take your time before answering requests too quickly. Companionship with others is most rewarding. Young people are involved in your evening and you will find many opportunities to teach as well as to be taught. Laughter reigns most of the time this evening. There is much to share later, with a loved one or mate.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

The need for emotional security is accentuated at this time, though you should not pressure someone into doing things just to satisfy you. A little extra motivation is available now to sort out any difficulties. A misunderstanding smooths out as you listen and learn-empathy is good. You should take the time to clearly express your desires to loved ones. You may decide to add to the calm and fix some hot chocolate or tea for all to enjoy. Later today is a good time to sit down alone and get many things accomplished-tax papers, phone calls, letters, etc. Fun conversations can be enjoyed with all the members of your household. Laughter is healing. Take extra care with pets today-it may be very cold or dry in your area and warmth and water are necessities.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your efforts and optimism go hand in hand to help you grasp the big picture. This is a good day for long-range planning-flexibility will grease the wheels. This is not one of those days to try and accomplish everything. It is a good time to do one thing at a time. You may want to note some chores on your calendar for future reference. This will help you get into a routine. You will at least have a reminder of when these chores or goals will come due for your attention. This will also help you to stay in touch with, on top of and in control of your business as well as your personal goals. Perhaps a movie, dinner out, bowling or a walk at the mall will be a choice to help you create a relaxing evening when your work is completed.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You enjoy being around people. The need to be connected is the mood of today. Having a magnetic type of personality, you will no doubt manage to interest a few friends into some type of gathering this afternoon. Some fun movie or activity that each of you enjoy will be the draw. If you are unattached, you could be viewing the opposite sex with renewed interest. A country vegetable stand comes to mind this afternoon and you enjoy making the trip to collect some winter vegetables for some salads and stews or soups this next week. At home, you may be asked to help with small children. You could find yourself actually enjoying the games that young people can create. You enjoy good relations with family members.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Maternal instincts may come into play now, even if you are male. You have a strong desire to make your surroundings as pleasant as possible. Use your intuition-it is surprisingly accurate. You should try to remain objective and open-minded when discussing subjects with loved ones. Being homebound because of bad weather will make the living quarters seem a bit small but you know how to make everyone feel comfortable, and a few good smelling oils, fun in the kitchen or games may be the answer. This could also be a good time to have the young people in your family finish their homework. Prepare for next week by supervising their kitchen experiments. A busy person has no time for long complaints; you will find the atmosphere a good one.

WORD SEARCH

Surgery

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- ANESTHESIA DRILL LUNGS SPLINT
APPENDIX ENDOSCOPE MALLET SPONGE
BIOPSY FORCEPS NEEDLE STAPLER
BLOOD GRASPERS OCCLUDERS SUCTION
BONE SAW HEART PROBE SURGEON
BRAIN HEMOSTAT RETRACTORS SUTURE
CALIPER HOOK RIBS SYRINGE
CANNULA INCISION RULER TISSUE
CATHETER INJECTION SCALPEL TRACHEOTOME
CLAMPS IRRIGATION SCISSORS TRANSPLANT
COLON KIDNEY SKIN TREPINE
DILATORS LANCET SPECULA TROCAR
DISTRACTORS LIVER SPLEEN TWEEZERS



Libra (September 23-October 22)

An unexpected change of some sort today could cause you worry. This may mean a friendly neighbor decides to move or there is an end to some routine that you enjoyed. You will be happy to know that all of this is temporary and will give you an opportunity to show your talents. Your curiosity, intuition and a desire to achieve will help you become more and more successful in all areas of your life. Story writing or poetry may become a fun pastime for you. If you are not writing, you could be proofing other writers' stories or poetry. As this day evolves you will find a dating opportunity awaits you this evening and now you must decide if you are up to the evening with new acquaintances. Wherever you are this evening, you will find enchantment.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your drive is high! You feel in harmony with the universe. Others sense your enthusiasm, so they in turn are drawn to you. This is a successful day for a group endeavor. You may, however, decide to update a few things around your house. This could mean better locks. It could also mean you will be adding insulation or new heaters. Since groups are something you might prefer today, consider getting a group of people together to do two important jobs at each person's house and then celebrate your accomplishments by having a pizza party or any number of fun things that everyone can agree upon. This could become a habit. Some sort of sports gathering or team challenge might be fun and could carry into tomorrow. Enjoy taking pictures.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

It may be a good thing you are not working today-it may be difficult to concentrate just now. You and your friends may get together for a day in the snow or a day of sports. There is not only a desire for outdoor, physical activity at this time, but there will most likely be ample opportunities to partake in it. However, you should be careful of taking any undue risks at this time. Giving flowers or some other token of your esteem to a loved one at this time will bring rich rewards. Now is an extremely creative period in your life and you should take full advantage of this. You are particularly witty and make stimulating company. If your relationships are less than idyllic, this is probably a good time to resolve those difficulties.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

The law, religion or becoming published is an interest that may occupy your mind today. Perhaps it is time to assess your goals and what you would like to accomplish this year. Consider it that by writing a page a day you will have a book by the end of the year consider plans to update or revise your bank accounts, loans or investments. Obtaining and exchanging information take on an emotional significance now. A common interest in spiritual and mystical values among family members may occur as well. You are concerned about the future of a romantic associate now and may give this relationship a great deal of thought. Avoid extravagance. This is a time when your powers of creativity are great; your problem solving skills come easily.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You will create a clean, less-cluttered look about the main living area this morning. Shopping and finding the best buy take relentless resolution on your part today. You may be responding to a family member's request to view some property, homes, a vehicle or any number of other large expensive items. A family member may be using his or her own money but it is you who is respected to provide guidance in the right direction. Somehow, fun seems more important than work this evening. You simply have a real need for people and the sound of laughter. You feel genuine warmth and affection for all of your loved ones, including the kids. If you cannot find a party, you may consider setting one up-beware of the temptation to overindulge.



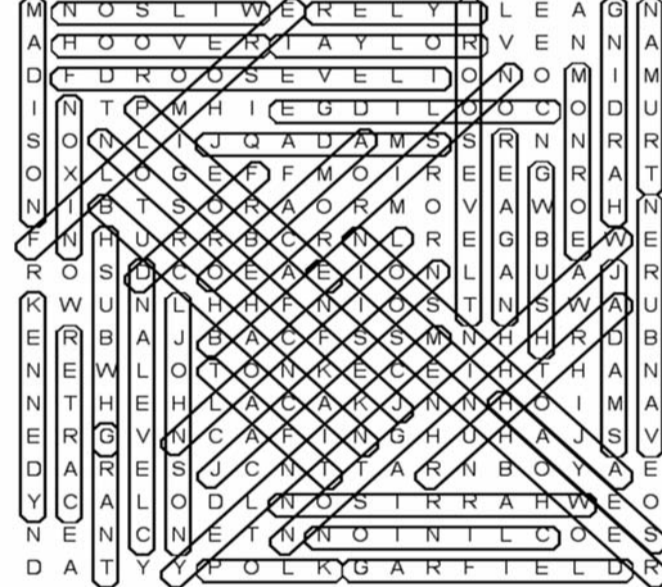
Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Quiet time this morning is one of the best parts of this day. Because of some new people or a new animal in your life, it may seem your Sundays may never be dull again. On another note, it also seems as though you also have more friends these days. The number of your friends will continue to increase and these new friends will be just as dependable and available for those rainy or sunny days as you are for them. It may be time for a good steady relationship, perhaps the soul mate you have been looking for, for so long-patience. A creative activity this afternoon may uncover a new talent you never knew you had! The difficult times of the past are becoming fewer and further apart. You will enjoy all of your friends tonight!

Yesterday Solution

USA Presidents

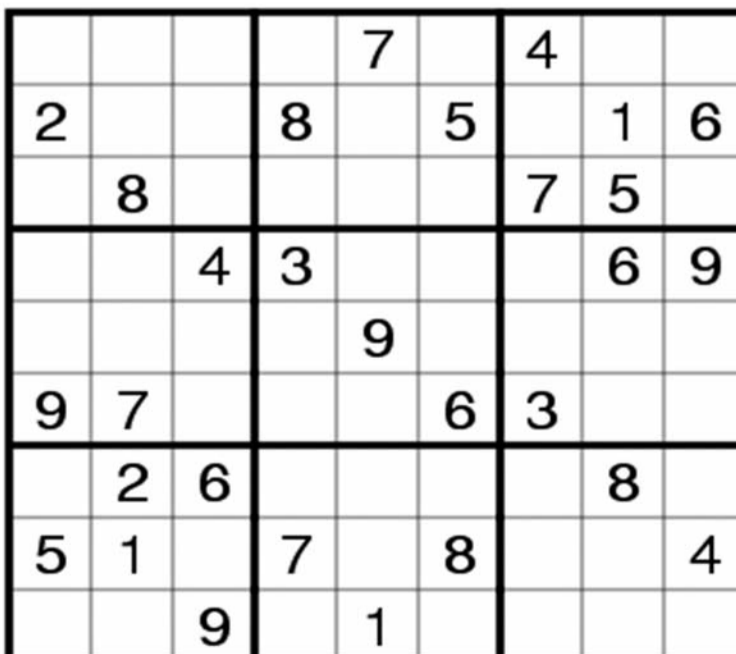
This is the solution to the puzzle located here.



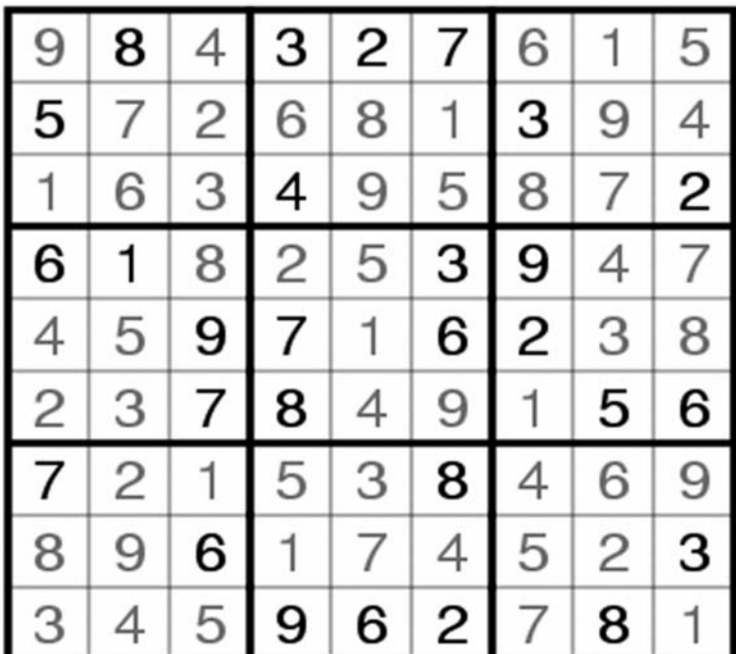
- WASHINGTON TAYLOR B HARRISON KENNEDY
J ADAMS FILLMORE MCKINLEY L JOHNSON
JEFFERSON PIERCE T ROOSEVELT NIXON
MADISON BUCHANAN TAFT FORD
MONROE LINCOLN WILSON CARTER
J Q ADAMS A JOHNSON HARDING REAGAN
JACKSON GRANT COOLIDGE G H W BUSH
VAN BUREN HAYES HOOVER CLINTON
W HARRISON GARFIELD F D ROOSEVELT G W BUSH
TYLER ARTHUR TRUMAN OBAMA
POLK CLEVELAND EISENHOWER

The hidden sentence is: LEAVE NOTHING FOR TOMORROW WHICH CAN BE DONE TODAY

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

### Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



### PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

### INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	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	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lithuania	00370		

### STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

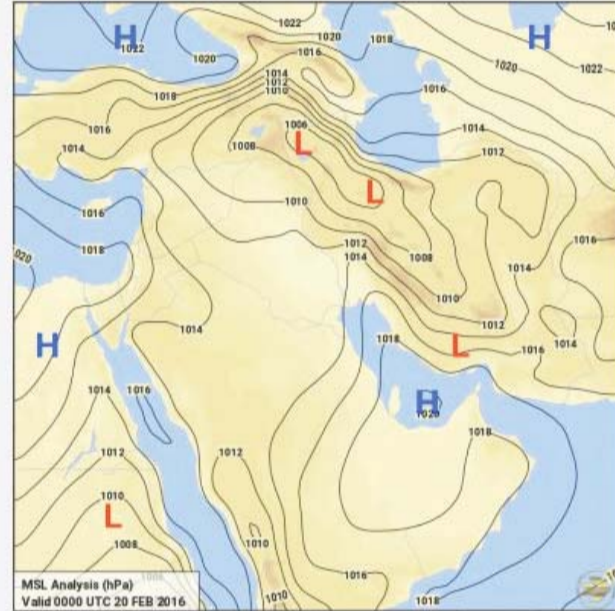
#### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 20/02/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 32 °C

**By Day** : A significant Increase in temperature with light to moderate freshening gradually at times southerly to south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for blowing dust over open areas  
**By Night** : Fair with light to moderate south easterly changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	warm	partly cloudy + raising dust	partly cloudy + rising dust + scattered rain	warm
Min Temp °C	13	14	13	12
Max Temp °C	30	29	28	28
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	south easterly	south easterly changing to north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 30	20 - 45	15 - 40	12 - 32

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	19		28	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	14		32	
ABDALY	14		30	
BUBYAN	16		26	
JAHRA	13		30	
FAILAKA ISLAND	16		27	
SALMIYAH	16		27	
AHMADI	16		27	
JAL ALIYAH	14		28	
QAROH ISLAND	19		25	
UMM AL-MARADEM	18		25	
NUWAISIB	13		30	
WAFRA	12		30	
MANAGISH	14		28	
SALMY	12		27	
MUTRIBA	14		29	

#### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	29
Min Temp (°C)	10
Max Rel Hum (%)	61
Min Rel Hum (%)	11
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	06:22
Sunset	17:41

#### Prayer Times

Fajr	05:03
Sunrise	06:22
Zuhr	12:02
Asr	15:15
Sunset	17:41
Isha	18:58



### PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
<b>Ear, Nose &amp; Throat (ENT)</b>	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	2455050 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
<b>General Practitioners</b>	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	2455050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadab	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
<b>Urologists</b>	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
<b>Dermatology</b>	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
<b>Dentists</b>	
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. Abdalateef Al-Katrah	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
<b>Neurologists</b>	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
<b>Gastrologists</b>	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foaid Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Family Doctor	Psychiatrists	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581	
<b>Psychiatrists</b>		
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047	
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0	
<b>Gynaecologists &amp; Obstetricians</b>		
Dr. Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581	
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321	
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539	
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406	
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272	
Dr. Salem soso	22618787	
<b>General Surgeons</b>		
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044	
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148	
<b>Internists, Chest &amp; Heart</b>		
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	

Physiotherapists & VD	Rheumatologists:
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
<b>Physiotherapists &amp; VD</b>	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. MUSAED FARAJ KHAMEES	22666288
<b>Rheumatologists:</b>	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
<b>Internist, Chest &amp; Heart</b>	
DR.MOHAMMES AKKAD	2455050 Ext 210
<b>Consultant Cardiologist</b>	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC	
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
<b>Consultant Cardiologist</b>	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	



## George Michael preparing to go on tour

The 52-year-old singer has been making enquiries with various insurance companies about the "logistics" of touring again and the news is set to delight fans of the former Wham! star, who last appeared on stage in 2012. A source told The Sun newspaper: "This is a big step for George. There was a time when it seemed he might never make another public appearance. Friends said he was scared and had lost his confidence. But if he's asking about the logistics of getting back on the road it shows he must be improving." It's not clear if he'd be planning a major tour but festival slots and one-off appearances look extremely likely. Demand for him as a live act has never wavered. The 'Careless Whisper' singer has shift-

ed more than 100 million records throughout his career. Despite this, insiders believe there is a chance that George - who has previously had a string of public run-ins with the law while under the influence of alcohol - could be rejected by insurance companies and promoters because he has cancelled a number of gigs over the years. An industry source said: "No one doubts George can sell tickets. But whether he'd fulfil his commitments is another story. A lot of companies will be unwilling to take the risk." George's spokeswoman said: "There are no official plans yet."

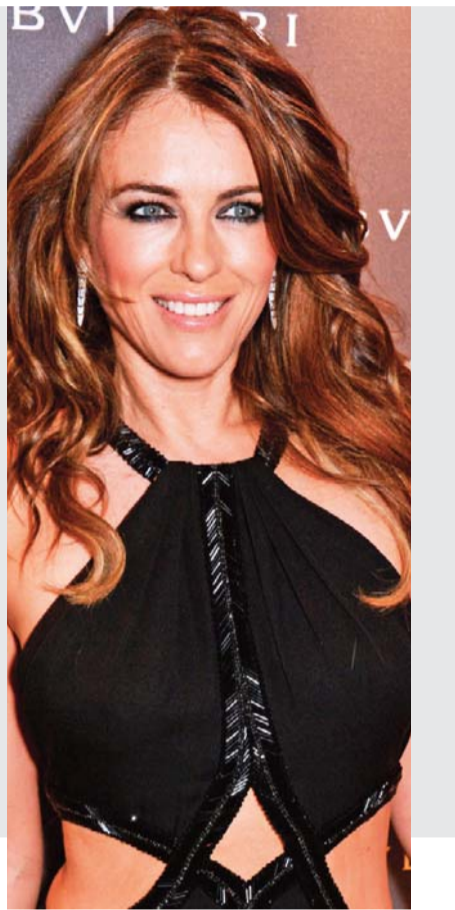


## Spears has strict rules for backup dancers

The 34-year-old singer has just returned to her 'Piece of Me' residency in Las Vegas and is so obsessed with impressing fans with her dance moves, infectious music and dazzling costumes that she's put her staff on a strict routine. A source said: "Britney expects the same level of commitment from her dancers as she does herself, and so any distractions like sex and booze are off-limits. Anyone who doesn't play by the rules is out; it's as simple as that." "There are plenty of dancers who'd kill to be in the show and are happy to do whatever it takes." The blonde beauty was reportedly spurred on to embed the strict clause into her backing dancers' lengthy contract following her split from TV producer Charlie Ebersol, whom she dated for eight months, last June. The insider explained to heat magazine: "Since she's been single, she's been throwing herself into work. Brit's really feeling the pressure of Jennifer Lopez also having a Vegas residency and says she wants everyone to focus." However, her staff probably weren't shocked to hear of Britney's demands as her father Jamie - who has been her conservator since her highly-publicized breakdown in 2007 - also banned booze from her 'Femme Fatale' tour in 2011.

## Hurley's son bosses her around

The 'Royals' actress has admitted her 15-year-old Damian, her son with American businessman Steve Bing, has started to take control of her social networking sites and tells her when and what to post on Instagram. She explained: "Damian bosses me around non-stop about what I should be posting. He begs me daily for a public Instagram account but I'm making him wait until he's 16. However, he is going to start the definitive 'Royals' fan account this summer when we shoot season three." And the 50-year-old actress is confident her boy will follow in her footsteps and carve out a career in showbusiness when he's older, though more likely behind the camera. She told Britain's HELLO! magazine: "He loves showbusiness. I just want him to be happy and to have his creativity blossom. He's a bit of a despot when shooting his own mini-movies so he could end up behind the camera. 'I've always been like an adoring Italian mother and think my son's the bee's knees ...' He loves being on 'The Royals' set. The crew are very patient with him and he feels very at home. We shoot over the summer holidays so he's there pretty much every day. He runs lines with all the actors, has a razor sharp memory and knows episodes backwards. He inundates writers with script ideas."



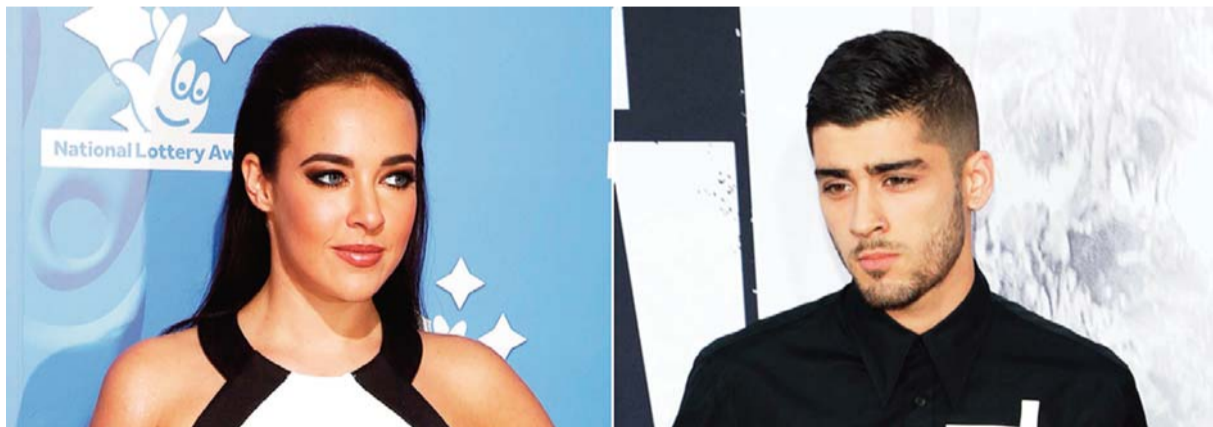
## Jaimie Alexander and Peter Facinelli call off engagement

The 'Thor: The Dark World' star and the 'Twilight' actor have chosen to end their relationship after three years, citing "conflicting family and work commitments on opposite coasts". A statement released on behalf of the pair reads: "Due to conflicting family and work commitments on opposite coasts, and after much consideration, Peter and Jaimie have chosen to part ways amicably and remain good friends." The news will come as a surprise to fans as they were only recently discussing having a "stunt-oriented" wedding. She said at the time: "We're just moving slow because both of us are so busy. But we're toying with the idea of doing something kind of stunt-oriented to just mix it up and doing something kind of wild and fun." "But if I could have someone else do it [put on a white dress] for me I'd be, like 'Great! I just don't have it in me, that, like, girly gene that's, like, 'I need to be in a white dress.' I could be in a pair of jeans and be just as well." Peter got down on one knee to propose to Jaimie on top of the Empire State Building in New York in March 2015.

## Davis dumped Zayn Malik because he was seeing Perrie Edwards

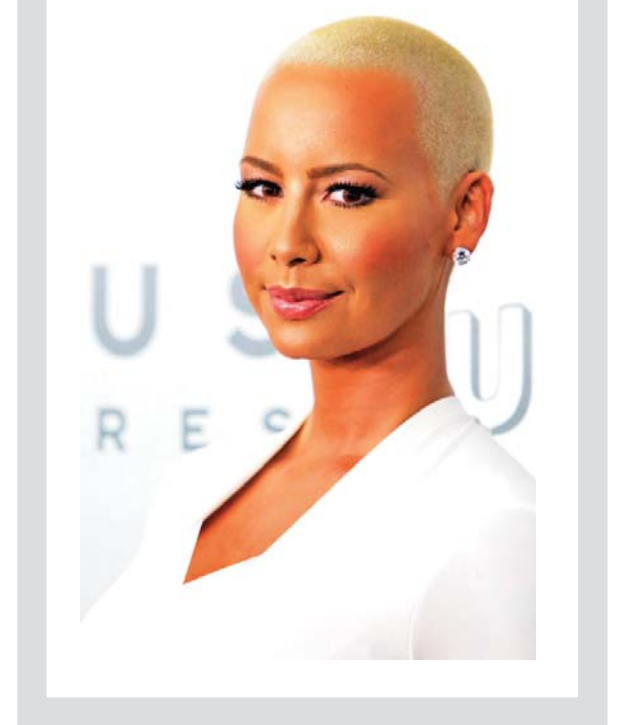
The axed 'Hollyoaks' actress has admitted she decided to call time on her brief fling with the former One Direction hunk, 23, in 2011 after she discovered he was meeting up with his now-ex-fiancee. She explained: "We dated for five months in 2011 just before he started seeing Perrie. We actually broke up because I found out he had been meeting up with Perrie. "It was just one of those things. Zayn is a good lad really, I don't have anything bad to say about him." But although they didn't end on extremely bad terms, the brunette beauty, 22, has admitted she hasn't spoken to the 'Pillowtalk' hitmaker for years.

She told Britain's OK! magazine: "We still have mutual friends. Zayn is dead sound, I'm sure if we bumped into each other now we'd be absolutely fine." Meanwhile, after breaking up with Stephanie, Zayn went on to date Perrie and later became engaged but things crumbled last year. He's now in a relationship with model Gigi Hadid, while Stephanie is romancing her 'Celebrity Big Brother' co-star Jeremy McConnell.

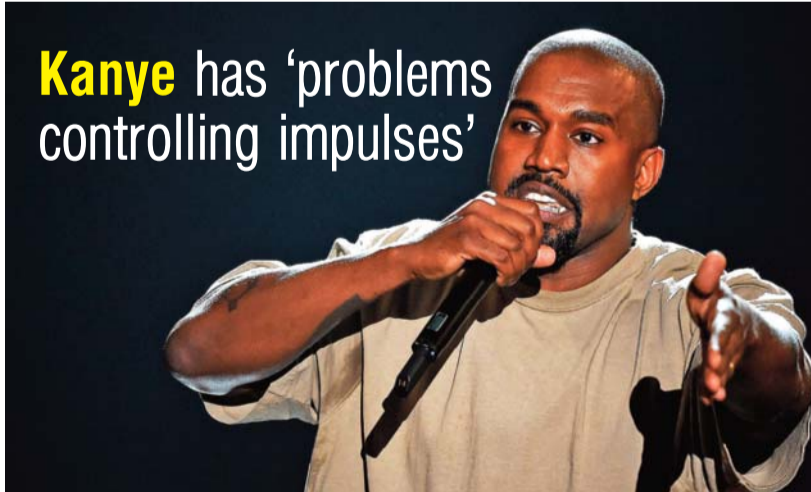


## Amber Rose won't date another rapper

The 32-year-old model - who was previously in a relationship with Kanye West and has two-year-old son Sebastian with estranged husband Wiz Khalifa - insists she doesn't want a romance with a recording artist again. In an exchange with clairvoyant Tyler Henry on Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry, she said: "I guess I wanna know if, if I'm gonna find love again and if I'm gonna have more babies." To which he replied: "What's interesting about this is that I'm either seeing a relationship with someone who has a record label, I'm seeing a record label, record label, record label. I don't want you to date a rapper." Amber immediately quipped back: "No I don't want to date a rapper anymore, get them away from me! I'm very attracted to creative people so that's why they just, they call me." Meanwhile, Amber previously claimed she has no time for a relationship at the moment because she is so focused on her work and raising her son. When asked if she had her eye on anyone, she shared: "I just want to focus on my kid and work."



## Kanye has 'problems controlling impulses'



The 'Love Lockdown' hitmaker has been behind a number of foul-mouthed rants over the past few weeks but a source insists his outbursts have no effect on his family life with wife Kim Kardashian West and his two children, North, two and Saint, two months. A source told PEOPLE magazine: "It's been a rough week for Kim. She has lots of support from her family though. Everyone knows that Kanye, once in a while, goes on public rants and they are all very understanding that it's exhausting for Kim. It's like a tick that he has. "When he starts his rants, it's very difficult for him to stop. When he starts venting, it's like he needs to get it all out. Kanye might seem mentally unstable at times, but there has never been any concern for Kim, or the kids. Kanye just has a

problem controlling his impulses. It's not anything that usually affects their everyday life. Their marriage is not perfect, but there are no plans to split." But despite Kim assuring her family everything is alright, mother Kris Jenner is reportedly still worried he could "damage" the Kardashian brand. An insider said previously: "His Twitter rants are out of control, and Kris fears that he's taking the family down. Kris wants Kanye to hire someone to handle all the noise and drama so he can focus on being an artist."

## Hudson feels 'blessed' that her father 'abandoned' her



The 36-year-old actress insists she forgives her biological father Bill Hudson for leaving her and her brother Oliver and admits it has only made the pair stronger as siblings. Speaking on Jenny McCarthy's Dirty Sexy Funny show on Sirius XM, she said: "I think [Oliver and I] both probably suffered differently and very similarly to anybody who feels abandoned by a parent ... We can have a sense of humor about it together. We can sort of laugh at the challenges that we faced because of it together. "To be honest, our dad, who we don't really know very well, is really funny ... from what I remember when we were younger [he] had a great sense of humor. When we laugh about our father, we go, "We probably got that from him." "Life is funny. I just feel so lucky. I actually feel like it was a blessing. No matter what he goes through, I'm all forgiveness." Meanwhile, Bill previously disowned both Kate and Oliver, insisting he does not "recognize them as his own". He said at the time: "I say to them now, 'I set you free! I had five birth children but I now consider myself a father of three. I no longer recognise Oliver and Kate as my own. "I would ask them to stop using the Hudson name. They are no longer a part of my life. Oliver's Instagram post was a malicious, vicious, premeditated attack. He is dead to me now. As is Kate. I am mourning their loss even though they are still walking this earth."



## Watson taking a break from acting

The 'Harry Potter' star has revealed she will spend her newfound free time reading one book every week and some independent studying. She explained: "I'm taking a year away from acting to focus on two things, really. My own personal development is one. I know that you read a book a day. My own personal task is to read a book a week, and also to read a book a month as part of my book club. I'm doing a huge amount of reading and study just on my own. "I almost thought about going and doing a year of gender studies, then I realized that I was learning so much by being on the ground and just speaking with people and doing my reading. That I was learning so much on my own. I actually wanted to keep on the path that I'm on. I'm reading a lot this year, and I want to do a lot of listening." Meanwhile, the 25-year-old actress - who is also a UN Women Goodwill Ambassador - championed reading, revealing it has "exposed" her to "so many new ideas". In an interview with Bell Hooks

for Paper magazine, she added: "I'm reading so much and exposing myself to so many new ideas. It almost feels like the chemistry and the structure of my brain is changing so rapidly sometimes. "It feels as if sometimes I'm struggling to keep up with myself. It's a really cool period of time for me. My work that I do for the UN is all very clearly outlined, but my personal views and opinions are still being defined, really. So it'll be an interesting time."

— Bangshowbiz



## Johnson, Kevin Hart will host MTV Movie Awards

The 'Furious 7' star is "honored" to be teaming up with the 36-year-old comedian to host the annual ceremony and is promising an "epic, historic unforgettable night" for viewers. He said: "It's an honor to be hosting the MTV Movie Awards' with a guy who's not only one of the funniest guys on the planet, but who's often mistaken as my twin, Kevin Hart. We live for our fans and promise to make this an epic, historic unforgettable night for them." Whilst Kevin added: "I love hosting - it's my thing. Dwayne and I are the perfect team for the epic 25th anniversary show. It's going to go down." Praising their appointment, Executive Producer Casey Patterson shared: "Dwayne Johnson and Kevin

Hart define what it means to be modern movie stars. They have a direct and personal relationship with their fans, who love them for it and have made them two of the biggest entertainers in the world. "They are bringing the action and comedy to the big 25th anniversary of the MTV Movie Awards, which makes me excited and frankly a little afraid. Double trouble!" The 25th anniversary edition of the MTV Movie Awards will be taped on Saturday April 9 at the Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank, California and will be aired on April 11 at 8pm GMT.

## Goulding shocks fans with duet

Best friends Martha and Lucy thought they were recording a version of Ellie's track 'Army' for a documentary but were left completely in shock when they were joined on stage by the 'Love Me Like You Do' hit-maker as part of MasterCard's Priceless Surprises campaign. Ellie shared: "It was amazing to surprise Martha and Lucy. They are so talented and nailed some tricky harmonies. I was impressed. "Army" is about my best friend, so it was great to surprise two best friends. Their reaction was so

worth it." Whilst Martha gushed: "[It was] the best moment of our lives! I can't believe it really happened. There was a time when I thought I would never be able to sing again because of medical problems, and I've just sung on stage with Ellie! "Ellie is amazing, and a huge influence for Lucy and I. When we first heard 'Army', we felt like it was written about us. It means so much that we got a chance to meet Ellie and perform it with her."



## Wahran Trading Company unveils Cristiano Ronaldo's debut fragrance 'Cristiano Ronaldo Legacy'

Wahran Trading Company has recently introduced Cristiano Ronaldo's exotic new fragrance, Cristiano Ronaldo Legacy, which brings Cristiano Ronaldo fans in Kuwait closer than ever to his luxury lifestyle.

The fragrance campaign takes fans behind closed doors, offering them a glimpse into Ronaldo's glossy lifestyle and meticulous grooming routine. His passion for first-class products and leaving a lasting impression were crucial factors in the creation of his fragrance which, like the campaign, perfectly captures his distinctive allure.

Dominated by a mixture of lavender, apple and cinnamon, Cristiano Ronaldo Legacy blends luxurious and exotic notes for a seductive scent that embodies Ronaldo's masculinity and timeless appeal. Internationally revered for his stamina on-pitch, the same principles apply to his uniquely blended fragrance which is designed to last all day, leaving a legacy from day to night.

Ronaldo said, "Fragrance is a real passion of mine – it's the ultimate grooming essential and provides the finishing touch to any outfit so I am very excited to be launching my own scent, Cristiano Ronaldo Legacy. I believe a fragrance can define you and how you present yourself to the world, so I wanted my debut scent to be masculine, sexy and confident."

"Legacy is about creating something that people will remember you for, which is what I strive to do both on and off the pitch. Fragrance has the ability to leave a strong and lasting impression, so creating my signature scent - Cristiano Ronaldo Legacy - seemed the perfect fit."

Speaking about the crafting process, Ronaldo continued, "Creating the right formula was really important to me, so I worked closely with an expert perfumer to hand select key notes that reflect my personal style. We focused on using the highest-quality ingredients to deliver a really superior product – Cristiano Ronaldo Legacy lasts all day so it's a scent with both style and stamina!"

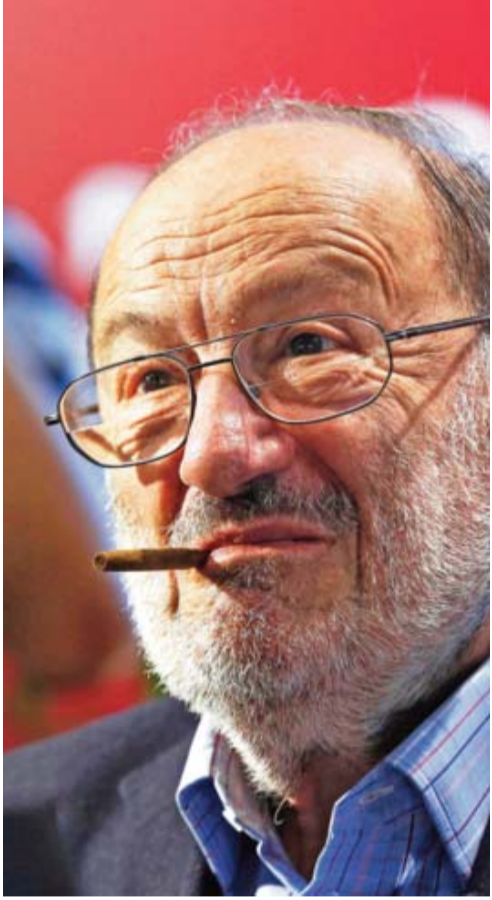
In true reflection of Ronaldo's timeless appeal, the fragrance is housed in a sleek, solid glass bottle which brings a touch of refined luxury, whilst the bottle's clean lines are distinctly masculine. To bring the lasting legacy of the fragrance to life, textured, gold details were added for a stylish yet glamorous aesthetic. The slick and minimalist design is finished off with understated gold engraving of Cristiano Ronaldo Legacy, to make a luxurious and quintessential addition to the modern man's grooming routine.





# Umberto Eco: From philosophy to bestsellers

Umberto Eco started working a novel that set the world's imagination on fire "prodded by a seminal idea: I felt like poisoning a monk." The Italian author/academic who intrigued, puzzled and delighted readers worldwide with his best-selling historical novel "The Name of the Rose" died at home in Milan on Friday evening after a battle with cancer, according to a family member who asked not to be identified.

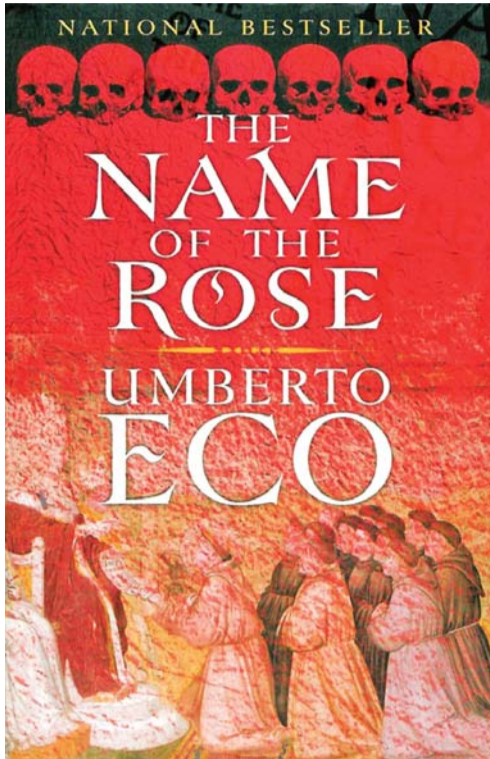


Umberto Eco

His death was also confirmed by his American publisher, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Author of a wide range of books, Eco was fascinated with the obscure and the mundane, and his books were both engaging narratives and philosophical and intellectual exercises. The bearded, heavy-set scholar, critic and novelist took on the esoteric theory of semiotics, the study of signs and symbols in language; took on popular culture icons like James Bond; and took on the technical languages of the Internet.

#### Academic to celebrity

"The Name of the Rose" transformed him from an academic to international celebrity, especially after the medieval thriller set in a monastery was made



into a film starring Sean Connery in 1986. "The Name of the Rose" sold millions of copies, a feat for a narrative filled with partially translated Latin quotes and puzzling musings on the nature of symbols.

His second novel, the 1988 "Foucault's Pendulum," a byzantine tale of plotting publishers and secret sects also styled as a thriller, was successful, too - though it was so complicated that an annotated guide accompanied it to help the reader follow the plot. In 2000, when awarding Eco Spain's prestigious Prince of Asturias Prize for communications, the jury praised his works "of universal distribution and profound effect that are already classics in contemporary thought."

Eco was born Jan 5, 1932, in Alessandria, a town east of Turin. He said the reserved culture there was a source for his "world vision: a skepticism and an aversion to rhetoric." He received a university degree in philosophy from the University of Turin in 1954, beginning his fascination with the Middle Ages and the aesthetics of text. He later defined semiotics as "a philosophy of language." He had always loved storytelling and as a teenager wrote comic books and fantasy novels.

"I was a perfectionist and wanted to make them look as though they had been printed, so I wrote them in capital letters and made up title pages, summaries, illustrations," he told The Paris Review in 1988. "It was so tiring that I never finished any of them. I was at that time a great writer of unaccom-

plished masterpieces."

Eco remained involved with academia, becoming the first professor of semiotics at the University of Bologna in 1971. He also lectured at institutions worldwide and was a fellow at elite colleges like Oxford University and Columbia University. Twenty-three institutions had awarded him honorary degrees by 2000. But Eco was also able to bridge the gap between popular and intellectual culture, publishing his musings in daily newspapers and Italy's leading weekly magazine L'Espresso.

#### Varied career

Eco started in journalism in the 1950s, working for the Italian state-owned television RAI. From the 1960s onwards, he wrote columns for several Italian dailies. He also wrote children's books, including "The Bomb and the General" ("La Bomba e il Generale").

In 2003, Eco published a collection of lectures on translations, "Mouse or Rat? Translation as Negotiation," and a year later he wrote the novel "The Mysterious Flame of Queen Loana," a story about an antiquarian book dealer who loses his memory.

Recent works include "From the Tree to the Labyrinth," an essay on semiotics and language published in 2007 and "Turning Back the Clock," a collection of essays on various subjects, ranging from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to anti-Semitism and to staunch criticism of Silvio Berlusconi's conservative government in Italy. His most recent novel, "Numero Zero," came out last year and recalled a political scandal from the 1990s that helped lead to Berlusconi's rise.

In a 2011 interview with the Guardian newspaper, Eco explained how someone as "strongly anti-intellectual" as Berlusconi could become a political force in Italy, a cradle of Renaissance culture. "There was a fear of the intellectual as a critical power, and in this sense there was a clash between Berlusconi and the intellectual world," he said. "But Italy is not an intellectual country. On the subway in Tokyo everybody reads. In Italy, they don't. Don't evaluate Italy from the fact that it produced Raphael and Michelangelo."

In the same interview, Eco shrugged off critics who found him "too erudite and philosophical, too difficult," saying he wrote "for masochists." "It's only publishers and some journalists who believe that people want simple things," Eco said. "People are tired of simple things. They want to be challenged." — AP

## Key works by Umberto Eco

Academic and novelist Umberto Eco, whose death at the age of 84 was announced by the Italian media yesterday, wrote many philosophical books and essays but is best known for his novels. Here a list of his main books published in English. Dates given are for the original publication in Italian.

- 1980: "The Name of the Rose" (Il nome della rosa)
- 1988: "Foucault's Pendulum" (Il pendolo di Foucault)
- 1994: "The Island of the Day Before" (L'isola del giorno prima)
- 2000: "Baudolino" (Baudolino)
- 2004: "The Mysterious Flame of Queen Loana" (La misteriosa fiamma della regina Loana)
- 2010: "The Prague Cemetery" (Il cimitero di Praga)
- 2015: "Numero zero"

He wrote dozens of essays on semiotics, of which he was a specialist, mediaeval aesthetics, linguistics and philosophy. Notable among them are "History of Beauty" (2004), and "On Ugliness" (2007) explorations of what we consider to be physically attractive or repellant, and why. —AFP



Jeff Hemenway, left, plays Fox Innovation Lab's 'The Martian VR Experience' and receives game instruction from Harrison Muecke at the D.I.C.E. Summit.

## Virtual reality promises to transform film

Chris Milk stepped onto a TED Conference stage and took the audience on an awe-inducing trip into the future of movies. While much of the early attention on virtual reality has focused on use of the immersive technology in video games, Milk and his US startup Vrse are using it to transform storytelling and filmmaking.

"We have just started to scratch the surface of the true power of virtual reality," Milk said. "It's not a video game peripheral. It connects humans to other humans in a profound way... I think virtual reality has the potential to actually change the world." He had everyone in the Vancouver audience at TED, which ended Friday, hold Google Cardboard viewers to their eyes for what was billed as the world's collective virtual reality experience.

Google Cardboard gear is literally that-cardboard with a slot for holding smartphones at act as screens for viewing. Ear buds plug into smartphones to tune into soundtracks. Audience members gasped collectively at times as they found themselves virtually transported in front of an oncoming locomotive, the sky above a city, a stage with a rock band and elsewhere.

"It is the first medium that actually makes the

jump from the author's expression of an experience to our experiencing it first hand," Milk said. Vrse has made more than a dozen virtual reality films in the past year and Milk said peers in the industry are tremendously interested in the technology.

#### An empathy machine

"It is amazing that you can just take a cardboard box and add it to someone's smartphone and have an experience like that together," Milk said after his TED talk. "Virtual reality is not just a social experience, but a collective experience."

Milk sees virtual reality as bringing people together instead of isolating them in fantasy worlds disconnected from what is going on around them. "I can connect you not just with someone across the aisle from you, I can connect you to someone across the world," Milk said.

He referred to virtual reality as "an empathy machine" capable of making people better relate to the lives of others by sharing places and experiences in such a manner that comes powerfully close to walking alongside them.—AFP

## Tissot introduces Virat Kohli as its Indian male brand ambassador

Tissot, famous Swiss watch brand, known for its spirit of innovation by tradition announced ace cricketer Virat Kohli as the brand ambassador today in Mumbai. The cricketer, who mirrors the Swiss brand's mastery for breaking new ground and its uncompromising commitment to excellence, also oozes style and confidence that makes him a youth icon.

Owning various records in the cricketing genre, Virat Kohli went on to become an exemplary batsman and won the historic 2011 World Cup with his teammates. He now leads the Indian test cricket team and is a trendsetter, both on and off the field.

Speaking at the announcement, Virat Kohli expressed his excitement of coming onboard. "It is an honour to be chosen by Tissot. Tissot is a brand that is recognized for its precision and I also hold that very close to my performances. A watch is about the only accessory I love wearing and I am so happy that Tissot is what I will be wearing now. I am looking forward to our journey together."

François Thiébaud, President of Tissot said "I am very happy to welcome Virat Kohli in the Tissot family. Tissot is a brand with strong heritage just like the Indian culture. In addition, we have a deep connection with sports. Therefore, Virat, who is one of the best cricketers in the world, is the perfect ambassador for us. We wish for him and his team to win the next Cricket World Championship."

On this occasion, Virat was presented with Tissot's classic collection - Chemindes Tourelles. It takes its name from the street in Le Locle, Switzerland, where the Tissot manufacture was established in 1907, and where the company can still be found today. The watch compliments the company's vast years of expertise with a contemporary design with an elegant case that comes in a variety of different finishes, including polished and brushed, perfectly demonstrating the technical know-how Tissot puts into every piece.

Virat Kohli joins reigning Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone in being the face of the brand, who has been representing Tissot since 2007. Welcoming Virat into the Tissot world from Toronto, Deepika said, "I would like to welcome Virat to the Tissot family! I think he completely defines the Tissot man and I look forward to our association together as Tissot Ambassadors."

On this occasion, Tissot unveiled its first ever campaign with Virat Kohli, where he is seen in his cricketing gear flaunting Tissot's latest T-Touch Expert Solar, the first tactile watch to be powered by solar energy. Tissot T-Touch Expert Solar is coolly edgy with 20 tactile essential functions for everyday use, including weather forecast, altimeter, chronograph and compass. An iconic watch for an iconic man.



## Massimo Dutti launches SPRING SUMMER 2016 in Kuwait

Colour and a combination of lines could well be considered the stars of this new season in the Dutti Women's Collection. Articles that overflow with their own style, which separately create concepts brimming with expressiveness and trendiness, and that combined make up the style of a true woman, neutral while original in turn.

Ranging from olive greens to the khaki and petroleum blues of the Industry collection, in which the front pocket on the jackets and the skinny look of the trousers take on an important role, right through to the arabesque airs and reddish tones of the Asilah Collection in which a nod to Northern Africa is made with the free-flowing shirts and long blazers.

Ikat motifs, prints and earthy colors all make up this small Atlas Collection, in which linen is of utmost importance to cool down the warmest summer afternoons. Beautifully worked leather accessories, esparto for shoes, even the total look of mustard, Burgundy and natural hue prints presage the seasonal changes, leaving the cold winds of winter behind.

And even more refreshing, there are the cold blues with greys making up the Saint Malo Collection, in which the shirts highlight the beginnings of a very important and well-worked part of the Dutti tailoring craft. In the men's collection we find ourselves with a wide ranging variety of neutral shades that clash with the appearance of different colors such as currant red or earth oranges.

Earthy shades, indigos and beiges recalling the wondrous decade of the fifties in Cuba, country that holds the starring role in the entire Spring Summer Dutti Collection for men. Herringbone blazers in natural colors, ethnic trends and striking use of linen with ethnic, geometric and tribal print shirts, all under the influence of a certain vintage look, which on occasion is combined with sports accessories such as glasses, satchel bags and pocketbooks.

The B&G Collection is represented by colors such as yellows, greys and the novelty of black tones for the girl's collection. All this treated with romantic nuances in blouses with embroidery, tweed sweaters and cardigans. Crochet is also to be highlighted, combined with free-flowing trousers and light-weight fabrics in which fringes are to be found on leather jackets.

In the boy's collection we have to underscore the denim shirts and light-weight feather parkas as essential accessories for casual and laid-back looks. Also included in the collection are trainers for boys and perforated sneakers with satin laces for girls.

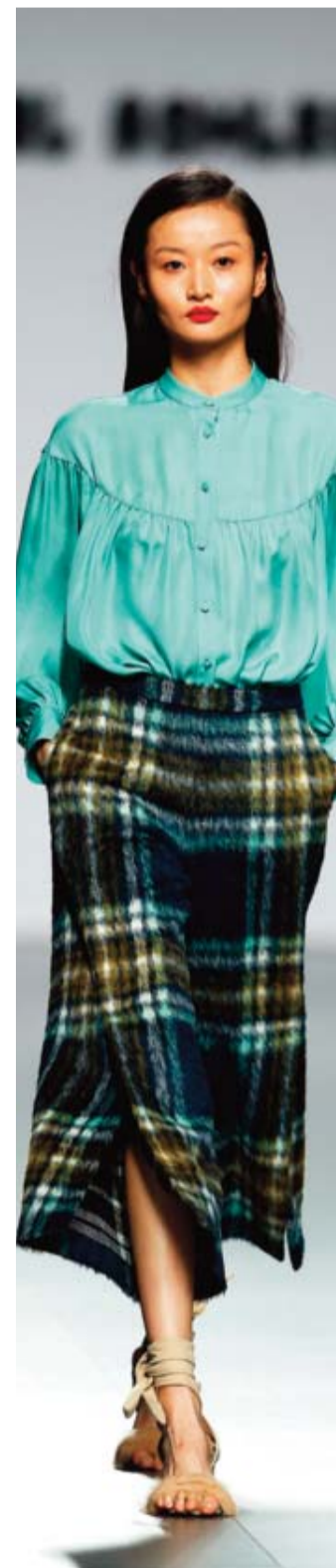




MADRID FASHION WEEK



Models present the creations from Amaya Arzuaga's Autumn/Winter 2016-2017 collection during the Mercedes-Benz Madrid Fashion Week.



Model display the 2016 Fall/Winter designs by Francis Montesinos during the Madrid's Fashion Week. — AP photos



# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016

Virtual reality promises to transform film

38



A model presents a creation from Juanjo Oliva's Autumn / Winter 2016-2017 collection during the Mercedes-Benz Madrid Fashion Week in Madrid. — AFP (See more on Page 39)

## Crimean Tatar tells harrowing family tale for Eurovision

**T**hey come to your house, they kill you all" — those are the harrowing opening words of Ukraine's front-running entry in this year's usually festive and flamboyant Eurovision song contest. The lament entitled "1944" is being performed by 32-year-old Jamala, who belongs to the Muslim Tatar minority of Crimea, a Black Sea peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014.

memories of that horror have been revived by Russia's seizure of Crimea and Jamala's poignant song, which tells the story of a people with a history of persecution that continues to this day.

Ukraine picks its entry to the globally watched contest on Sunday, with Jamala already making international headlines and deeply touching compatriots' hearts. Originally an opera singer who became a jazz

song about my great-grandmother Nazalkhan and thousands of Crimean Tatars who never had a chance to return to Crimea again," she told AFP. "That year changed their lives forever."

### 'Locked in freight cars'

Over a span of three days in May 1944, Stalin accused the Turkic ethnic group of collaborating with the Nazis and deported them thousands of kilometers to the east, where nearly half the people died of severe living conditions. Jamala's great-grandmother was in her mid-20s when she, her four sons and daughter were deported, while her husband fought against the Nazis in the Soviet Army's ranks.

The whole family was "locked in freight cars like animals—without food, without water, without fresh air—and taken to Central Asia," the artist says. In a journey that took several weeks, about 8,000 people—mostly the elderly and children—died of thirst and typhoid. Nazalkhan's daughter did not survive the tortuous trek and "her body was thrown from the car like garbage," Jamala continues.

"I needed that song to free myself, to release the memory of my great-grandmother, the memory of that girl who has no grave, the memory of thousands of Crimean Tatars, who have nothing left, not "even photographs", says Jamala, tears flowing down her cheeks.

### 'State of helplessness'

If she is chosen, Jamala will perform her song in Stockholm—this year's Eurovision host — in mid-May, just days before the 72nd anniversary of the deportation. Jamala says she has chosen this competition because she wants people to hear a song written "in a state of helplessness" after Russia's seizure of her land.

"It was hard for me to recall all these memories again and again, but I understand that it is necessary

now. Because now the Crimean Tatars are desperate and they need support," the artist says. Crimean Tatars, who began returning to their ancestral homeland after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, were horrified by Russia's takeover of the region, with the majority opposing the new authorities.

In the wake of Russia's takeover, many Tatar activists were arrested or had their homes raided, while community leaders living in Kiev were barred from entering the region. The United Nations, United States and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) have repeatedly condemned widespread human rights violations against the community.

### 'This is our home'

Today, Jamala says, some pro-Russians taunt local Tatars with insults such as: "Deportation, you think it cannot be repeated?" The singer herself says she has not visited the peninsula in two years because she is "in the risk zone" for supporting Ukraine.

Her parents and some other relatives remained in Crimea and she misses them greatly, but understands their refusal to leave. "This is our land. Our well dug by my great-grandfather, our garden with figs, persimmons and pomegranates," she says. "This is our home. We returned there and nobody has the right to kick us out," Jamala sighs. The international community has not recognized Russia's annexation, but the prospects of Crimea's return to Ukraine are dim. Sadly, Jamala says she believes only a "miracle" can now reunify Ukraine. — AFP



Photo shows Crimean Tatar singer Susana Jamaladinova known as Jamala during rehearsal in Kiev. — AFP photos

Jamala's words refer to the great tragedy that befell her great-grandmother in the penultimate year of World War II, when Soviet dictator Stalin deported 240,000 Tatars—or nearly the entire community—to barren Central Asia and other far-flung lands. But the

star in Ukraine, Jamala won the national semifinal on February 6, with some calling her a "pearl" and "genius".

The svelte brunette is now seen as the favorite to represent Ukraine after it skipped last year's contest due to its dire economic malaise. "I wanted to make a

## Dumond presents its new summer 2016 collection

**D**umond announced the launch of its all new summer 2016 collection, which brings the principal tendencies shown in the international fashion weeks. The 70's becomes the protagonist of the hottest season of the year in the 21st century. The characteristics of Boho style that never go out of fashion are present in the bags and shoes of the brand.

The closed clogs and the espadrilles show that the hippie chic will not get out the women feet so early. In the other hand the disco era come with midsole sandals. Super comfortable they combine both with a relaxed style and a more fashion look.

The urban sport conquered the Brazilian women and come back in the new collection. The slip on sneaker or with an espadrille inspiration combines comfort and style. The high heel sandals with fabric uppers using innovative cuts are the bet for

who wants a relaxed visual. The great brand bet for the summer 2016 is the gladiator sandal. With short and long bootlegs it promises to be the must-have of this season. Besides the stones and the knitted fabric will also be all over the women closets.

The brand successful partnership with Camila Coutinho gets its fifth edition. The blogger line brings five models between: flats, sandals, thick heels and a structured bag in critical and hot colors. The summer 2016 Collection of Dumond was made for the modern woman that need shoes and bags options for work, leisure, events and parties but does not give up the comfort and personality.

