THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

**Echoes of** 1991 Gulf War linger on in Mideast



1,170 sent for deportation after Khaitan police raids



IMF chief urges Gulf states to bring in taxes



Turkish referee 'shown red card' in stormy top-flight clash

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# TOP COMMANDERS OF ANTI-IS COALITION MEET IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT CALLS FOR GLOBAL PLAN TO FIGHT TERRORISM

Min 18° **Max** 29° **High Tide** 11:43 & 23:18 **Low Tide** 

05:44 & 17:47

## **CABINET RAISES** PENALTIES FOR **VISA TRADING**

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet yesterday approved key amendments to the labor law in the private sector to stiffen penalties against visa traders and for trafficking in expatriate workers. A statement issued after the weekly Cabinet meeting said the council of ministers approved the amendments which aim at "toughening penalties against the violations of employers in order to curb these violations and to control the labor market in the private sector".

The amendments will now be sent to HH the Amir to sign before sending them to the National Assembly for approval. No specific details were provided about the amendments, but earlier in the day, Arabic daily Al-Anbaa reported that three provisions in the law will be amended.

It said the main amendment stipulates a prison term of up to three years and a fine of between KD 2,000 and KD 10,000 per worker for employers who recruit laborers from outside Kuwait but fail to give **Continued on Page 13** 



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah (center) and chiefs of staff of the countries that are part of the international US-led coalition against the Islamic State (IS) group pose for a group photo before a meeting to discuss the situation in the region yesterday.

**KUWAIT:** Top military commanders from 30 nations fighting the Islamic State group gathered yesterday in Kuwait to discuss ways to defeat the jihadists who occupy large areas in Syria and Iraq. Chief of staff of host country Kuwait, General Mohammad Al-Khader, urged increased efforts to defeat extremists worldwide. "As military leaders, it is our responsibility to double efforts and urgently work out suitable plans to eliminate all terrorist groups threatening many countries in the world," Khader said.

The meeting was held under tight security measures and made off-limit to reporters with only photographers allowed to take pictures. It comes less than two weeks after defense ministers of the 66-nation US-led coalition battling IS pledged in Brussels to accelerate their campaign against the jihadist group. Countries attending the Kuwait meeting include the United States, Britain, France, as well as Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The coalition has launched more than 10,000 air strikes against IS but the group still retains control of large parts of Iraq and Syria and has expanded its presence in Libya.

During the Brussels meeting, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates promised to renew their air operations in Syria after a long lull because of their war against Iran-backed rebels in Yemen. Officials say the campaign is making the most progress in Iraq, where local security forces have retaken the city of Ramadi and clawed back some 40 percent of territory previously held by IS. — AFP







KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Defense Minister and chiefs of staff of members of the US-led coalition against the Islamic State. (Right) His Highness the Amir receives families of Kuwaiti ex-detainees in Guantanamo. —KUNA

## AMIR RECEIVES CROWN PRINCE, US-LED COALITION CHIEFS OF STAFF

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received at Seif Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received Deputy Prime Minister and

Al-Sabah, and participating chiefs-of-staff of members of the US-led coalition against the so-called Islamic State (IS), currently in a meeting hosted in Kuwait. His Highness the Amir praised international efforts exerted by the coalition in combating terrorism and preserving peace and security, wishing them success in achieving stability in the world. The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and US Chairman of the

Joint Chief of Staff General Joseph Francis Dunford.

Also, His Highness the Amir received the families of Kuwaiti ex-detainees in Guantanamo Bay, at Seif Palace yesterday. Head of People's Committee in Defence of

Kuwaiti ex-detainees in Guantanamo Bay Khaled Abdullah Al-Ouda and his deputy Dr Mohammad Taleb Al-Kandari jointly expressed their appreciation to the Amir's adoption of the ex-detainees' case and exerting all efforts that led to their release. —Agencies



Some of the ministers are pictured during a Cabinet weekly meeting yesterday. —KUNA

## CABINET AUTHORIZES DECREE TO NAME ROAD AFTER LATE SAUDI PRINCE

#### A GESTURE OF APPRECIATION FOR PRINCE SAUD'S INDELIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet in its weekly meeting yesterday, issued a decree christening the main road in the Diplomatic Zone in Mishref area after late Saudi Prince Saud Al-Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. The decision, in the meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, was a gesture of appreciation for Prince Saud's indelible contributions to the Islamic and Arab worlds.

With the onset of Kuwait's national and liberation days celebrations, the Cabinet wished the country and its people continued peace and prosperity. Moreover, the Cabinet looked over a letter sent to His Highness the Prime Minister by Moroccan King Mohammad VI, one that tackled bilateral relations and ways to bolster cooperation between Morocco and Kuwait in numerous fields. The Cabinet also looked at another letter sent to His Highness the Prime Minister, by Fiji Prime Minister JV Bainimarama. The letter reviewed amicable relations between Kuwait and the South Pacific Ocean archipelago.

Meanwhile, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the Cabinet on his recent visit to Egypt, one that yielded a myriad of agreements on mutual cooperation in various realms. Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah offered an analysis of the third constituency byelections held on Saturday. The Cabinet extolled the efforts of security personnel for ensuring that the elections proceed in an orderly fashion, while congratulating Ali Abdullah Al-Khamis on winning the elections.

The Cabinet also listened to an explanation by Finance and Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh, one that detailed various planned strategies to cope with volatile economic conditions in the country, as a result of plummeting oil prices. Al-Saleh highlighted the need of swift action to overcome these mounting economic hurdles. The cabinet concurred that these economic obstacles require careful deliberation and well planned strategies to ensure continued growth in spite of a global economic downturn, calling on the need to diversify economic policies.

#### SCPD reveals new plan

The Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) let the Cabinet in on planned development projects in the country, and ways to finance these projects. SCPD revealed a new plan to track the progress of these projects and to ensure efficiency and transparency. The Cabinet vowed to cooperate with SCPD in order to bring these planned proj-

#### Law number 6/2010

The Cabinet also reviewed plans to modify law number 6/2010, which pertains to work in non-governmental sectors. The modifications seek to stiffen punishment for those held accountable for violations as well as restore order in this sector. The Cabinet has agreed to modify the law and will forward it to Parliament for implementation. An agreement between Kuwait and Nicaragua to exempt holders of diplomatic and special passports from obtaining a visa prior to entering either country was also reviewed in the meeting. Memorandums of cooperation between Kuwait and United Arab Emirates in the oil and gas sectors were discussed, as well as an agreement between Kuwait and Australia on cooperation in aviation services.

The Cabinet also delved into current regional and international events, commiserating with the Arab world over the passing of former United Nations Secretary General and President of the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The Cabinet condemned Wednesday's car bomb attack in the Turkish capital Ankara, which claimed scores of innocent lives. The Cabinet stressed that Kuwait stands in solidarity with Turkey and denounces terrorism in all of its manifestations. —KUNA



Kuwait Chamber of Commerce & Industry officials seen during the forum of businessmen. —KUNA

## KUWAIT 'IS A UNIQUE AND PREFERRED' INVESTMENT, **BUSINESS DESTINATION**

**KUWAIT:** Director-General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDI-PA) Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday said that Kuwait is a unique and preferred investment and business destination. citing relevant reports by international organizations. The remark was made by Dr Meshaal Jaber in a presentation during a seminar organized by the Kuwait Diplomatic Institute in collaboration with the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry's Economic Department on direct investment in Kuwait. Representatives from over 20 European, Gulf, Arab and Asian embassies in Kuwait were present in the

Expounding on Kuwait's investment potentials and advantages, the KDIPA director-general said the State of Kuwait is rich in oil and gas, and has 10 percent of the world's proven reserves. He added that Kuwait's fiveyear development plan (2015/2016-2019/2020) includes many strategic and mega projects covering different sectors, primarily oil, gas, electricity, tourism, media, health, education, urban development and housing. These projects, which are worth more than \$103 billion, provide a lot of opportunities for investors and businessmen to invest in Kuwait, he said.

#### Security and stability

Kuwait also enjoys security and stability, high macroeconomic performance, favorable legal framework and business environment atmosphere, he said, pointing to anti-corruption and commercial laws, public-private partnership law, Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), as well as the fund for small and medium-sized enterprises. "All those and many others just work together in order to enhance the business environment in Kuwait which the investors can benefit from

them," the KDIPA director-general said.

He went on to say that Kuwait is high in per capita income, enjoys a low risk business climate, low cooperate taxes, very educated and qualified Kuwaitis. Furthermore, Kuwait is a very youthful society as 50 percent of Kuwaitis are between one to 34 years old, he boasted, pointing to Kuwait's strategic and unique geographical location and low cost of manufacturing utilities, fuel and electricity.

Lauding high human development in Kuwait, the KDIPA chief urged the private sector to play a more active role in development process in the country. On KIDPA, he said its main task is, among others, to actively promote Kuwait as an investment hub through formulation of successful partnerships in line with the country's development goals, improving the overall investment climate, fostering competitiveness, encouraging more engagement in value added investment opportunities by both local and foreign investors, and streamlining the business envi-

ments witnessed in the Kuwaiti economy that

have caught the attention of investors. It distinctly demonstrates the Kuwaiti Government's resolve to attract quality local and foreign investments, by creating the right investment environment, simplifying procedures, enabling a favorable legislative framework for the encouragement and protection of investment, and offering a host of incentives and exemptions, including allowing for a 100% foreign ownership.

The Kuwait Investment Forum will attract ministers and high-ranking government officials, as well as local, Arab and international leading dignitaries, businesspersons and investors in sectors pertaining to banking, finance, investment, and industry; in addition to academics and experts from renowned regional and international organizations, and representatives from the local, regional, and international media. The agenda of the forum mainly includes foundations and prospects of economic and developmental policy, modern legislations for an attractive investment environment, potential and lucrative investment opportunities, and future of investment for sustainable development.

#### Kuwait's strategic goal

Meanwhile, Osama Al-Nisf, a member of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce Industry (KCCI) said yesterday that promoting investment and commercial cooperation with world's countries is a key strategic goal of Kuwait. Al-nisf made the statement yesterday during a speech at the forum of businessmen hosted by the chamber on the sidelines on the first international Kuwait Trading Fair entitled: "Kuwait Heart of the Commercial World".

He added that volume of Kuwait's trade hit \$133 billion in 2014, noting that the country has trade exchange with all countries across the globe. Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade and International Organizations Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Nimr Fahad Al-Sabah said the government pays much attention to the private sector as it is a main pillar which activates economic growth.

The forum stressed the importance of dialogue, and sharing ideas and experiences among world's countries, he said, adding that Kuwait has all capabilities of reviving economy and main factors needed by countries across the globe to achieve a comprehensive development. Kuwait enjoys political stability, and has developed infrastructure, an active private sector, and attractive legislations which are in favor of local and foreign investors, he stated.

Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) Dr Khaled Mahdi made a presentation on Kuwait's development plan and its vision 2035 seeking to turn the country into a commercial and financial hub. He said strategic goals of the medium-term development plan aims to increase gross domestic product, raise standards of living of citizens, support societal and human development, and evolve housing policies. About 25 Arab and foreign countries are taking part in the fair, which was inaugurated by Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali on Sunday and runs until February 27. —Agencies

## MESSAGE FOR US CITIZENS

Tuwait National and Liberation Days will be Thursday, February 25, and Friday, February 26. Festive celebrations, large crowds, and heavy traffic congestion are expected in downtown areas. Expect heavy traffic congestion and pedestrian traffic from early afternoon to evening hours around Gulf Road and in Salmiya. In years past, the police have blocked U-turn lanes on Gulf Road forcing traffic to the next intersection or roundabout to turn around. Many celebrants engage in water gun fights, throw water balloons, and set off fireworks as part of these national holidays.

While the US Embassy in Kuwait is not aware of any specific security threats, US Mission personnel have been instructed to practice good personal security and traffic safety measures. Avoid crowds, be vigilant of surroundings, and keep vehicle doors locked at all times. It's also a good idea to carry a mobile phone at all times and contact Kuwait Emergency Services at 112 for emergencies. For State Department and Embassy information: See the State Department's travel website for the Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Kuwait Country Specific Information.

We strongly recommend that US citizens traveling to or residing in Kuwait enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the nearest US embassy or consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest US embassy or consulate. Regularly monitor the State Department's travel website for the Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Kuwait Country Specific Information. For additional information, refer to the "Traveler's Checklist" on the State Department's website.

Contact the US embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except US federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook. to have travel information at your fingertips. The US Embassy in Kuwait is located at Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa Street, Block 6, Plot 14, Bayan, Kuwait, at +965-2259-1001. After-hours emergency number for US citizens is +965-2259-1001.



Top officials pose for a group photo after a seminar on US-Kuwaiti relations organized by the Diplomatic Institute. —KUNA

## **US-KUWAITI ALLIANCE** BASED ON FIRM BASIS

**KUWAIT:** Director General of Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Sharekh said the US-Kuwaiti relations and alliance are based on mutual visions, stances and interests. Al-Sharekh made the statement on Monday during a seminar on the US-Kuwaiti relations organized by the institute, adding that the two countries have been enjoying solid and strong relations for several years. He referred to the current diplomatic coordination between Kuwait and the US.

He stressed institute's keenness on organizing such seminars and meetings for trainees to help them acquire experiences in diplomacy, noting that this seminar is part of the country's celebrations of the 25th anniversary of Liberation Day, the 55th anniversary of National Day and the 10th anniversary of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's ascension to power. Meanwhile, US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas Silliman affirmed that Kuwait enjoys "distinguished" relations with international organizations, in particular the United Nations, lauding Kuwait's role which facilitated the resumption of diplomatic ties after the Iraqi invasion.

He recalled roles of Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and permanent delegate to the UN Ambassador Mohammad Abul Hassan during the Iraqi invasion that contributed to liberating the country. Former US ambassador to Kuwait Edward Ghoneim stressed the depth of relations between the two countries as Kuwait is a strategic ally for the US, lauding the country's foreign policy under the leadership of His Highness the Amir. He said the late Sheikh Saud contributed to crystalizing the US stance on popular and official levels during the invasion. —KUNA

Regarding the Kuwait Investment Forum (KIF) due between March 8-9, 2016, under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, he said the KDIPA's first promotional event comes against the background of several positive develop-



In this Nov 4, 1990 file photo (responding to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait), troops of the US 1st Cavalry Division deploy across the Saudi desert during preparations prior to the Gulf War. Twenty five years after the first US Marines swept across the border into Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War, American forces find themselves battling the extremist Islamic State group, born out of Al-Qaeda, in the splintered territories of Iraq and Syria. —AP



In this Feb 12, 1991 file photo, US Marines prepare to board Chinook CH-46 helicopters during a deployment exercise in the desert of Saudi Arabia during the Gulf crisis. —AP

# ECHOES OF 1991 GULF WAR LINGER ON

#### 25 YEARS AFTER, AMERICAN FORCES BATTLE ISLAMIC STATE

**KUWAIT:** The 1991 Gulf War saw only 100 hours of ground fighting as US forces entered Kuwait to end the Iraqi occupation but echoes of that conflict have lingered on for decades in the Mideast. The war pushed America into opening military bases in the Arabian Gulf and Saudi Arabia, drawing the anger of an upstart militant named Osama bin Laden and laying the groundwork for Al-Qaeda attacks leading up to Sept 11, 2001.

Saddam Hussein, demonized as being worse than Adolf Hitler by President George HW Bush, would outlast his American rival in power until Bush's son launched the 2003 American-led invasion that toppled the Iraqi dictator. Now, 25 years after the first US Marines swept across the border into Kuwait, American forces are battling the extremist Islamic State group, born out of Al-Qaeda, in the splintered territories of Iraq and Syria.

The Arab allies that joined the 1991 coalition are fighting their own conflicts both at home and abroad, as Iran vies for greater regional power following a nuclear deal with world powers. In all, the United States finds itself in the quandary it hoped to avoid back in 1991. "Had we taken all of Iraq, we would have been like the dinosaur in the tar pit - we would still be there, and we, not the United Nations, would be bearing the costs for that occupation," the late US Gen Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of Desert Storm, wrote in his memoirs.

#### **Kuwait invaded**

Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug 2, 1990, angry that the tiny neighbor and the United Arab Emirates had ignored OPEC quotas, which Saddam claimed cost his nation \$14 billion. Saddam also accused Kuwait of stealing \$2.4 billion by pumping crude from a disputed oil field and demanded that Kuwait write off an estimated \$15 billion of debt that Iraq had accumulated during its 1980s war with Iran. Fearing Saudi Arabia could be invaded next, US officials moved quickly to deploy troops to the region. After months of negotiations and warnings, the US launched its assault on Iraqi forces in Kuwait on Feb 24, 1991.

In purely military and political terms, the first Gulf War marked a tremendous success for a US still haunted by Vietnam. America suffered 148 combat deaths during the entire conflict, while 467 troops were wounded out of the over 500,000 deployed, according to the Defense Department. It held together an allied army, its war effort was supported by a number of United Nations resolutions, and the conflict cemented its position as the sole world power following end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

#### **Arab allies**

America's Arab allies also footed much of the bill for the \$61-billion war, with both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait contributing some \$16 billion while the United Arab Emirates offered \$4 billion, according to US congressional reports. Japan and Germany together contributed another \$16 billion, while South Korea gave \$251 million. The US covered the rest. But the key players in the Arab world on whom long gone. Saudi King Fahd died in 2005. A popular uprising toppled Egyptian autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011. Syria's totalitarian ruler Hafez Assad, a longtime US foe who joined the Gulf War effort to reap billions in aid and diplomatic benefits, died

and flooded Europe with those fleeing vio-

the US relied on during the conflict are in 2000. His son, President Bashar Assad, still clings to power amid a five-year civil war that has killed more than 250,000 people



In this Nov 22, 1990 file photo, President George Bush poses with soldiers during a stop at an air base in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. —AP



In this Jan 28, 1991 file photo, US Marines located just a few miles from Kuwait, fire an ordinance at Iraqi positions inside Kuwait in eastern Saudi Arabia. —AP

lence across the region. In Israel, the memory of an uprising by both Shiites and Kurds follow-Iraqi Scud missile fire prompted the military to speed up a missile-defense program that included the development of its Iron Dome rocket-defense system with the help of the Americans. Then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, a hard-liner, held back from retaliating at the request of Bush, who feared losing Arab support for the war. Though American aid to Israel exceeds \$3 billion a year, relations have been strained over stalled Palestinian peace talks.

#### No-fly zone

Yet despite seeing his forces routed from Kuwait, Saddam clung to power and survived ing the war.

The US and its allies began to patrol a northern and southern no-fly zone to protect the Shiites and the Kurds while Saddam remained a thorn in the inside of American politics for more than a decade. "I miscalculated," Bush said in a December 1995 interview. "I thought he'd be gone." It would take President George W Bush's 2003 invasion to end Saddam's reign, coming amid the US campaign in Afghanistan. In its aftermath, Al-Qaeda in Iraq would arise and be put down by a US military surge, coupled with the support of Sunni tribesmen.

But as the US withdrew from Iraq and Baghdad stopped supporting the Sunni tribesmen, the Islamic State group emerged from the ashes of Al-Qaeda in Iraq and in 2014, took control of about a third of both Iraq and neighboring Syria. Today, the US finds itself mired in a long war feared by Schwarzkopf and others who oversaw Operation Desert Storm. Oil prices, which sparked Saddam's invasion of Kuwait, have dropped to under \$30 a barrel from more than \$100 in just a year and a half. The cause, in part, is the same OPEC overproduction the late dictator Saddam railed against across the splintered Middle East. —AP



#### **Photo**

of the day



KUWAIT: Young girls dressed in Kuwaiti flag uniforms perform during a national artistic occasion. — KUNA

# GULF BANKS UNDER PRESSURE

#### LOW OIL PRICES HIT GCC BANKS

**DUBAI:** Banks in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are being increasingly challenged by a liquidity squeeze resulting from low oil prices, Moody's Investor Services said yesterday. A sustained loss in oil revenue is likely to reduce government and government-related deposits in banks and could eventually reduce state support for the banking system, the ratings agency said. Government willingness and capacity to support GCC banks has played a key role in sustaining their credit growth, asset quality and lossabsorbing buffers, it said. "The widening gap between low oil prices and high government spending policies could have

BRITAIN WOOS

**KUWAITIS** 

KUWAIT: British Minister for Middle East and

Electronic Visa Waiver (EVW) system for Kuwaitis would contribute to an increase in number of visitors to Britain. Ellwood was quoted by a statement by the British Embassy as expressing hope EVW would further strengthen people-topeople links between Kuwait and Britain.

The British Embassy announced the official launch of EVW for Kuwaiti passport holders who wished to travel to Britain for business and tourism. The EVW will allow Kuwaiti passport holders to travel to Britain for a visit of up to six months by filling in an online form at least 48 hours before they travel to Britain, the embassy

said. The scheme removes the need to give biometrics, attend a visa application center or hand

in passports in advance of travel. The application will cost Sterling Pounds 15 (around seven

Ellwood congratulated the people of Kuwait

who would be celebrating the 25th anniversary

of liberation from the Iraqi invasion and the 55th

national day. Passengers will be asked to upload

a copy of their passport's biographic data page

so that details can be checked for accuracy and

security purposes prior to travel. The British

Embassy warned that an EVW could not be

changed less than 48 hours in advance of your

flight departing. "Therefore, if your travel plans

are likely to change at the last minute, a (normal)

visa will remain a better option." People can

apply for the EVW by visiting: https://www.

electronic-visa-waiver.service.gov.uk.— KUNA

Kuwaiti dinars).

increasingly negative credit implications for the banks," Moody's said.

The national budgets of GCC states in 2016 indicate a slowdown in economic growth accompanied by large fiscal deficits, it said. World oil prices have dropped by more than 70 percent since June 2014. Oil income normally contributed 80 to 90 percent to GCC public revenues. "We anticipate banks will be pressured by a further softening of their operating environment and the potential for reduced willingness or capacity of governments to provide support," Moody's said.

In the past few decades, GCC governments have shown a consistent record of intervention to avoid losses to creditors and depositors through direct capital injections and official guarantees, it said. "Lower government financial reserves, however, could lead to a shift in policy towards more selective support," the agency said. So far, the most visible impact of lower oil prices on GCC banks has been a tightening in liquidity due to significantly reduced deposit inflows from government and government-related entities. The squeeze in liquidity is already pushing banks to compete more aggressively for deposits and tap public markets, thereby increasing funding costs and impacting profitability.

A sharp slowdown in public spending

will also negatively impact loan growth and corporate earnings, Moody's said. GCC states-Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates-are estimated to have lost \$300 billion in revenues last year due to low oil price. Last week, the London-based Capital Economics said the slump in oil revenue was unlikely to cause any major problem for Gulf banks which are well-placed to deal with a rise in bad debts. It said deposits withdrawn by governments from banks to plug budget deficits were being used in domestic spending with part of it going back to the banking system through the private sector.—AFP



# ZAIN GRABS 9TH ANNUAL HSE PERFORMANCE AWARD

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, was awarded with the ninth Health, Safety and Environment Performance Award for the second time. This annually held event, organized by Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), sheds light on sustainable projects, initiatives, and achievements undertaken by Kuwait's public and private organizations. KNPC's yearly award aims at raising health, safety and environment standards in Kuwait, while recognizing the distinguished contributions of Kuwait's key players in the fields of sustainable business, whether from the private or the public sectors.

Zain was awarded with this year's ninth Performance Award for a number of HSE initiatives and programs the company launched and supported during 2015, including the annual Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign, supporting Rijeemy health program, internal blood donation campaigns, the internal Health Week initiative, celebrating Earth Day, supporting Environment Public Authority's awareness campaign, and more.

Zain, being one of the region's top leaders in Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability, expressed its utmost pride in this latest achievement, adding to the long list of achievements it obtained by being a socially responsible company with a clear and firm CSSR strategy. During 2015, Zain was awarded the Gold Award for Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility from the Arab Organization for Social Responsibility in Dubai. The company was recognized for its series of CSR initiatives and programs, which were assessed to have had a deep and meaningful impact on many groups, institutions, and agencies across multiple communities.



# WARBA BANK APPOINTS AL MAZYAD 'BRANCHES DEPARTMENT MANAGER'

kuwait: Warba bank, the fast-growing bank in Kuwait providing a full spectrum of banking and investment services compliant with Islamic Sharia, announced the appointment of Musaed Al Mazyad as Branches Department Manager. Al Mazyad will be in charge of supervising branches' performance, monitoring their progress and planning a strategic expansion across Kuwait to best cater to customers' needs.

Warba's initiative comes in line with its strategy to support national calibers while providing them with needed tools to showcase their competency, excel in performance and get them incorporated in the bank workforce. About the new appointment, Warba bank stated: "being a leading Kuwaiti banking institution, we are committed to encourage national talents while giving them the opportunity to develop their skills which would be a great value to the

bank overall performance".

"We are proud to have Musaed Al

Mazyad added to Warba workforce considering that he is joining us with a track record of achievements in his previous jobs, which are tangible proofs of his competency and highend working skills. We are confident that he will contribute efficiently in reinforcing the bank's expansion strategy". Al Mazyad has a rich experience in banking industry where he previously worked in different departments including: personal loans, client servicing and branches' management in a number of banking institutions. He holds certificates accredited from international leading universities.

From his end, Al Mazyad appreciated the bank's executive management confidence in his capabilities while thanking it for the opportunity he was given to join a leading bank as Warba; he said:" I'm proud to join

such a reputable banking institution as Warba bank which is fast growing despite the fierce competition in the industry; this fact adds to the bank's team responsibility and urge it to exert all needed professional efforts to uplift services level while catering to customers' needs with proficiency and excellence".

On the same note, Warba bank continues in developing national talents. Recently the bank held a graduation ceremony for trainees in the Banking Studies Institute and sponsored many activities in different sectors including: culture, education and health. Warba's initiative stems from both its development strategy and sincere belief in Kuwaiti youth capabilities as they are the main pillar for the country development and prosperity should they are well trained and prepared, according to professional criteria, to pursue successful careers.

#### News

In brief

#### Al-Najat to organize free medical camp in Amghara

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Al-Najat Charitable Society said yesterday that it would erect a free medical screening camp for expat workers in Amghara Bachelors City on February 25, supported by Al-Rahma committee for medical services. General Manager of the charity Mohammad Al-Ansari said that setting up the camp coincides with Kuwait's National celebrations and in accordance with kuwait's UN title as a Humanitarian Center. He added that the organization of such camp comes in recognition of the role of communities in the development of society in all kinds of jobs. The camp aims at providing medical services to hundreds of workers and to conduct check ups of all diseases, in addition to providing other necessary treatment. Experts from various medical specialties including Orthopaedics, ENT, Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Diabetes, Cardiology, General Medicine, Pediatrics, Dermatology and Dental will examine the patients.

#### Al-Arabi to launch cultural institute

KUWAIT: Kuwait's

Al-Arabi Magazine, one of the top Arab cultural publishing, is set to launch "Al-Arabi cultural institute", recently approved by the Cabinet. The magazine, launched in 1958, has seen many developments through its long history in publishing cultural topics, including special editions for children, youth and science. The magazine's different articles are written by top Arab authors,



'Al-Arabi' Magazine cover

scientists and poets including Taha Hussein, Abbas Mahmud Al-Aqqad, Naguib Mahfouz, Nizar Qabbani and many others. Al-Arabi's TV channel launched by the Ministry of Information is specialized in covering polls and is part of a huge development plan, the magazine's Editor-in-Chief Adel Al-Abdul Jader told Kuwait News Agency KUNA on Monday. Meanwhile, he noted that the cultural institute will cover the magazine's publishing as well as publishing of the Kuwaiti government.

#### Disabled athletes train in UAE for upcoming events

KUWAIT: Kuwait's disabled athletics team traveled to Al-Ain city in the UAE yesterday for a training camp in preparation for the 6th Sharjah International Open Athletics Meeting and the 8th Fazza IPC Athletics Championships to be held from March 12-21. The team includes 16 male and female athletes, competing in shot put, discus throw, javelin throw and wheelchair racing, head of the team and Chairman of the Board of Kuwait's Disabled Sport Club Shafi Al-Hajry said. The club chose Al-Ain to hold the twoweek camp for its advanced training facilities and stadiums, said Al-Hajry, adding that the Kuwaiti disabled team has prominent international achievements in different sports.



Kuwait's Judge Essam Al-Sedani takes group photo with other officials after a meeting of the Arab Investment Court (AIC).

#### Kuwait Judge Sedani elected head of AIC

CAIRO: Kuwait's Judge Essam Al-Sedani has been chosen as president of Arab Investment Court (AIC) for three years. Al-Sedani said in a statement that he was elected unanimously during a meeting of the court at the Arab League's headquarters in recognition of Kuwait's role supporting the joint Arab economic action. He referred to the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah aiming to turn Kuwait into a developed commercial and economic hub. Al-Sedani noted that the AIC has compulsory jurisdiction over disputes involving investors, who may initiate proceedings before the AIC without prior consent. Meanwhile, Dr Alaa Al-Tamimi, head of the league's legal department, said all court's new members were sworn in today before Arab League Secretary General Nabil Al-Arabi. The court includes members from Kuwait, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Libya, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco and

#### Ministry of Education keen on using advanced technology

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa said the ministry is keen on using technology instead of paper in the coming period. The minister made the statement yesterday to reporters following the inauguration of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational Zone's building, adding that electronic work facilitates many measures and achieves quickly many missions. He expressed his joy over the scientific project submitted by a female student at the competition of "Ibtikar Al-Kuwait", noting that the contest helped students to use scientific thinking and innovation. The minister earlier said that the building was established through cooperation between the ministry and the academic faculty, including contributions from students in intermediate and high schools. Meanwhile, Faisal Al-Magseed, assistant undersecretary for educational activities and development, said the building is the Ministry's response to stepped-up efficiency standards to serve students and staff, referring to huge efforts exerted to set up the project. schools and nurseries, adding that all efforts exerted are in line with the general policy of developing education.









## Thousands arrested as police raid Farwaniya Governorate

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Security authorities carried out a campaign in Farwaniya Governorate led by Interior Ministry Undersecretary Suleiman

Al-Fahad, Assistant Undersecretary for General Secretary Major General Abdelfattah Al-Ali and Assistant Undersecretary for Operations Major General Jamal Al-Sayegh. Police closed

General Al-Fahad deployed the teams across the streets. Some suspicious places were also raided.

Papers of 3,548 persons were checked.

Khaitan surroundings from 5 am to 7 am. Lt 1,170 were sent for deportation; seven are wanted on felony cases; 52 wanted on civil cases; 117 were arrested for residency law violation. Also 255 absconders were detained and 269 people did not have their

papers on them. 218 had expired residencies. Two persons were arrested for trading liquor and 12 were arrested for vice offences, 2,378 persons were later released after their documents were cross-checked.



Boubyan Bank and Public Authority for Civil Information officials seen during the

#### **BOUBYAN BANK LAUNCHES ITS AUTOMATIC DEPOSIT SERVICE**

**KUWAIT:** Boubyan Bank yesterday launched the automatic deposit service by smart civil ID - describing the strategic relation with Public Authority for Civil Information as a "example" of cooperation between the private and public sectors. Clients can make deposits through their smart civil IDs without the need to use their bank debit cards, Abdullah Al-Tuwaijri, Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Boubyan Bank, said during a joint news conference with the authority.

Meanwhile, Director-General of the authority Musaed Al-Asausi said this achievement is part of a plan seeking to expand services of smart civil IDs at all government bodies, banks, oil companies and others. He stressed the importance of the distinguished application of the smart civil ID in terms of its technical and security properties that has become a key factor in both citizens and residents lives. He added that the smart civil ID contributed to solving problems pertaining to identity of citizens and residents using electronic services. He said that there are some offices at some institutions offering this service, noting that other offices will be opened at other government bodies for the same purpose. — KUNA

# KUWAIT TOWERS TO OPEN MARCH 8

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Towers' manager Mubarak Abdul Aziz Al-Enezi said that an urgent change was made to the date of officially reopening the Kuwait Towers after renovations and maintenance. Enezi added that the Towers had been scheduled to reopen today (Feb 23), but due to visitors' safety during fireworks, the Amiri Diwan deferred the opening until March 8, three days after a mega fireworks festival is due to be held there on March 5.



Enezi said that all the Towers' facilities have been renovated and reopened including restaurants, cafes and the sphere. "All the decor, equipment, kitchens, sound systems, illumination, touch technology, toilets and all pipe fittings have been renovated", explained Enezi, noting that TEC had also replaced all restaurant staff and hired the most efficient ones from Arab and Asian countries to avoid previous complaints about the quality of food and



service in the Towers' restaurants. Notably, TEC had invited media and journalists to a lunch banquet yesterday at the Towers to announce its reopening.

#### **Newly-built building**

The Ministry of Public Works announced assigning a number of its engineers to immediately inspect the newly-built Hawally educational area building to investigate why a tiled-ceiling collapsed. The ministry also announced referring its technical team that was in charge of the building for investigation as well as referring the contractor to the public prosecution.

**Nawaf Al-Ahmad Residential City** The housing authority stressed that the municipality had approved a request it made earlier to allocate 49,000 sq km of Nawaf Al-Ahmad Residential City to make the city an integrated one including all kinds of facilities (commercial, services, recreational, investment, governmental and administrative).

Notably, the municipality had asked for the authority's authorization to set the site's final coordinates provided they matched the conditions set by various ministries, namely the oil ministry with regards to the land and MPW with regard to the regional highway. The authority also explained that the city would accommodate 52,000 housing units plus the needed services and amenities.





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#### اللثنباء

Al-Anbaa

### SATIATION

#### By Saad Al-Motesh

nce upon a time, a certain group of people owned a camel and a donkey and used to overwork them without providing them with proper nourishment, so they both eventually became too weak to work. Accordingly, the people set them free and left them to go astray in the wild, feeding on whatever they could find here and there. The two animals accidently reached a very leafy area with plenty of water in it and decided to settle down there to live and feed for the rest of their lives.

The two friends lived happily ever after, where they became healthier now that they had enough to eat without having to do any onerous or arduous work. One day, the donkey told the camel that he wanted to sing. "Why would you want to sing?" the camel asked. "Now that I have experienced all life's joys, nothing is left but singing, and I want to enjoy it," the donkey replied, thinking he had a nice voice.

"Just remember the past old days when we had to work hard every day to earn what we ate and when people barely fed us until we almost starved to death. Now we are more comfortable, satisfied and well-fed, and yet you want to attract those people's attention to our whereabouts by your singing? May Allah protect us from your satiation!" said the camel.

Well, the donkey did not get the message (simply because he was a donkey) and started 'singing' loudly, which attracted the previous owners who came over and found both friends in very good health, so decided taking them back to be used in the same old way. "Damn you and your satiation!" the camel said angrily to the donkey. (End of sto-

By writing this article, I do not intend to be rude to anybody, but I am not responsible if the story matches any real one of people suffering now because of their 'satiation'. It is mere telepathy. Yet, my worst fear is that you might not find single person similar to our 'hero', but I am sure you will find hundreds of singers. Long live the camels who read between the lines and down with those wishing to sing and cause endless tragedies to their peaceful society!

—Translated by Kuwait Times



اللثنباء

#### Al-Anbaa

### THE CAPITAL OF GCC HERITAGE

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

ver since the Sabah Al-Ahmed Heritage Village opened, it has been remarkably and amazingly developing. Its facilities have been evolving, expanding and gaining fame not only amongst Kuwaitis, but also amongst GCC nationals. Over the span of record time, the heritage village turned from a mere geographic location accommodating traditional celebrations and festivals into a historic cultural project and a local tourist attraction. Despite being located far north, Kuwaiti and GCC families have been flocking to visit it as a major tourist attraction besides malls, the Scientific Center, the Sailor's Day village and the chalets.

Nobody would have imagined this remote barren spot to change into a cultural oasis that revives as well as renovates heritage and traditions. It was the only in the Gulf to set rules for judges in camel competitions, for instance, which was later on followed in various other camel competitions. The village has become a remarkable Kuwaiti achievement by all means and calls for pride that we, Kuwaitis, can still lead others.

The submitted photos should be taken by the participant.

Every participant is allowed to submit maximum five entries.

 The photos can be black and white or colour size 40X30 cm. All entries should be provided a hard copy and Soft Copy on a

CD (in high resolution) with photo of the participant needs to be

The original coupon should be attached to the back of each

photo and should include a complete information about the

The coupons are advertised at Kuwait Times and Al Anba newspa-

All submitted photos will become property of Kuwait Times

All photos must be original and should not be doctored with

Kuwait 🧀 Times

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2016

This achievement and the idea leading to it made it a cultural and heritage landmark in GCC states was established by men capable of turning HH the Amir's idea, as he was the one who ordered building it, into a glorious fact and prestigious landmark and eventually make it one of the largest and most important cultural and heritage landmarks in all GCC states.

I visited the village last year and on that first visit, I recall meeting advisor Mohammed Dhaifallah Sharar during a luncheon held to honor the jury panels, and I noticed that he discussed everything about the village and the competitions, the rules and their amendments. He listened to jury panel members with the ultimate goal of achieving utmost transparency in those competitions.

It is with such methods, attendance and discussions made by Sharar that major promising ideas can be turned into reality. So, thanks to all those in charge of the running the village that I expect to turn into the capital of GCC heritage, if this has not already happened. — Translated by Kuwait Times

#### **Crime**

Report

#### SYRIAN COUPLE ARRESTED OVER FORGED PASSPORT

KUWAIT: An attempt by a Syrian couple to leave the country using forged passports was foiled by the vigilance of Acting Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for border security Maj Gen Faisal Al-Sinen. An employee at the airport passports department who was supposed to help the couple leave was also sent to the public prosecution. A security source said information was received by Sinen on the attempt by a Syrian couple to leave the country after making an agreement with an employee to help them, so he ordered an investigation, which led to discovering that the Syrian couple have residency permits on Bulgarian passports, who agreed with an employee to let them board a Kuwait Airways to London using two forged Spanish passports. The employee was arrested red-handed along with the couple.

#### **Hashish seized**

Abdaly customs officers arrested a truck driver as he attempted to get rid of six kilograms of hashish he threw behind the customs booth in Abdaly. A security source said customs officers discovered the hashish behind the cabin, so they went over a list of the trucks that went through and were able to identify the truck and arrest the driver. — Al-Rai

#### VIVA, GOOGLE LAUNCH 'Direct Carrier Billing'

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator has launched the Direct Carrier Billing with Google. This significant service allows VIVA's postpaid and prepaid customers, holder of Android devices, to purchase apps, songs, games, movies and books on Google Play instantly, with no credit cards required. All purchases will be charged directly to customers'



monthly bills or prepaid accounts. Direct Carrier Billing is an easy, convenient and secure way to buy the Google Play content without slowing down by having to provide any credit card information.

Carrier customers can opt in during the initial set up of a new Android device, when setting "My account" within the Google Play Store or during their first purchase on Google Play. Commenting on this exclusive service, Abdulrazaq Bader Al-Essa, Director of Corporate Communications Division at VIVA, said: "We strive at VIVA to provide our customers with the latest products and services, therefore we built this partnership with Google to come up with an innovative service." To know more about this service, please visit one of the 70 VIVA branches, or the VIVA website at www.viva.com.kw, or call VIVA's 24 hour call center on 102.



#### First prize

- Canon Camera Eos 70D + Canon EF-5 18-200mm f/3.5-5.6 IS. -Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait Dubai-Kuwait. Second prize
- . Canon Camera Eos 70D + Canon EF 20mm f/2.8 U5M. Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait Dubai-Kuwait.

#### Third prize

- + Canon Camera Eos 70D + Canon EF-S 18-135 mm. · Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait Dubai Kuwait Fourth prize
- + Canon Camera EO5 760D + Canon EF 85 mm f/1.8 USM. · Free Camera Bag.

#### + One Economy class ticket Kuwait-Bahrain-Kuwait Fifth prize

- Canon Camera EOS 760D + Canon EF 70-300mm
- 1/4.5-5.6 DO IS USM.
- Free Camera Bag. • One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Bahrain - Kuwait
- Sixth prize
- Canon Camera PowerShot G15.
- · Free Camera Bag.
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- All photos should be submitted at the Kuwait Times newspaper before 17th of March 2016.







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any design program, such as Photoshop.

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The winners will be chosen by a panel of judges.

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KUWAIT: German Ambassador Eugen Wollfarth inaugurated the German ward at the Kuwait House for National



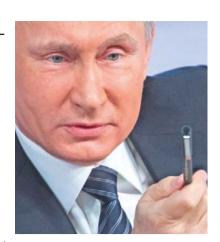




# Kuwait Times International

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016

FIJI CYCLONE TOLL HITS 21 AS TOURISTS FLEE



Russia wants to fly over US with advanced digicams

Page 12



QTAIFEH, Syria: Syrian volunteers take part in paramilitary training conducted by the Syrian army 50 km north of the capital Damascus yesterday. — AFP

# US, RUSSIA ANNOUNCE SYRIA TRUCE

#### Ceasefire to go into effect on Saturday, Feb 27

**BEIRUT:** Washington and Moscow announced yesterday that a cessation of hostilities in war-torn Syria will go into effect on Feb 27, as fierce clashes raged in the country's north. The announcement comes just one day after the deadliest jihadist attack in the nearly five-year war, with 134 people - mostly civilians - killed in a series of blasts near Damascus. In a joint statement, Russia and the United States said the cessation of hostilities would not apply to the Islamic State group (IS) or Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front.

The statement said other parties engaged in fighting on the ground must indicate to Russia or the US whether they would take part in the agreement by midday Damascus time on Feb 26. It said the opposition and the Syrian government must agree to allow "rapid, unhindered, and sustained" humanitarian aid access and to cease all attacks whether aerial bombardment or otherwise on other parties to the agreement.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the deal as a "long-awaited signal of hope", and urged all sides to abide by it. A spokesman for the High Negotiations Committee - the main grouping of opposition factions in Syria - said rebel groups were "studying the agreement". Riad Naasan Agha told AFP that the HNC had discussed the ceasefire with the US special envoy to Syria Michael Ratney on Monday, but would not comment on whether it will agree to the proposal.

#### **Deadliest Attack in War**

US President Barack Obama and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin are set to speak "in the next days or so" on the terms of implementing the agreement, according to US Secretary of State John Kerry. Announced by top diplomats in Munich earlier this month, the ceasefire failed to take hold by last Friday as initially planned.

Part of a plan that also included expanded humanitarian access, the proposal aims to pave the way for a resumption of peace talks that collapsed earlier this month in Geneva. The talks had been scheduled to resume on Feb 25, but the UN Syria envoy has acknowledged that date is no longer realistic. On Monday, the UN commission of inquiry said civilians remain the "primary victims" in Syria's war and that accountability for war crimes must be part of the peace process.

"Paradoxically, the international and regional stakeholders that are ostensibly pushing for a peaceful solution to the war are the same that continue to feed the military escalation," the 31-page report said. The HNC, meeting in Riyadh on Monday, has said any ceasefire must include provisions for Russia, Iran and foreign militia forces that back the regime to stop fighting. IS on Sunday claimed responsibility for two deadly attacks in regime-held areas, which a monitor said killed 134 people near the Sayyida Zeinab shrine south of Damascus and at least 64 in the Al-Zahraa district of Homs. The bombings near the shrine marked the deadliest jihadist attack since Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group.

#### **Key Regime Road Cut**

Russia began air strikes in Syria last September against what it said were "terrorists", but has been accused of bombing nonjihadist rebel forces in support of President Bashar Al-Assad, a longtime ally. Iran has sent military advisers to Syria and the Tehranbacked Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah has deployed at least 6,000 militants to fight alongside Assad's forces. Iran would have to be on board for any ceasefire to work, and Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu made a surprise visit to Tehran on Sunday, saying he was delivering a "special message" from Putin to President Hassan Rouhani.

Efforts have been intensifying to resolve Syria's war - which has killed more than 260,000 people, forced millions from their homes and devastated the country - as the conflict approaches the five-year mark. The rise of IS, which has seized large parts of Syria and neighboring Iraq and become the preeminent global jihadist group, has focused attention on the need for a solution. The group has used its ultra-radical view of Islam to justify kidnapping minorities, including Assyrian Christians in northeast Syria.

Yesterday, IS released 42 Assyrians, the last remaining hostages from a wide-scale kidnapping in the northeast province of Hasakeh nearly one year ago, the Assyrian Monitor for Human Rights said. But it also advanced against government forces in northern Aleppo province, cutting the only supply route linking the west of Aleppo with other governmentheld territory, the Observatory said. Fierce clashes were raging in the area, and if government forces are unable to recapture the road, it could slow their offensive. — AFP

#### LEBANON'S HARIRI **URGES SAUDIS NOT TO** ABANDON COUNTRY

BEIRUT: Lebanese Sunni politician Saad Al-Hariri yesterday urged Saudi Arabia not to abandon Lebanon after it halted aid to the army, reflecting concerns that Riyadh is reducing support for a country that has been an arena for its struggle with Iran. Hariri's direct appeal to King Salman reflects worries among Saudi Arabia's allies in Lebanon that a major shift is under way in its policy towards the country. Riyadh's backing has been crucial to the decade-long struggle waged by Hariri and his allies against the Iranian-backed Shiite group Hezbollah.

The crisis came to a head last week when Saudi Arabia decided to suspend its aid to the army in response to the Lebanese government's failure to sign up to statements condemning attacks on Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran. Reflecting deep differences among rival Lebanese politicians, a government statement issued after a meeting of the national unity cabinet yesterday also fell short of condemning them. Instead, it was left to Prime Minister Tammam Salam to condemn them himself after reading the declaration. Hariri, who heads the Saudi-backed March 14 alliance, said Lebanon would "not be a protectorate for Iranian policies in the region".

"We are here to confirm in the loudest voice that nobody will be able to cancel Lebanon's Arabness," he said, making only his third visit to the country since the Hezbollah-dominated March 8 alliance toppled his government in 2011. — Reuters

## NDIA DIVIDED AS SEDITION ROW TURNS UGLY

**NEW DELHI:** A bitter row over a student's arrest for sedition at a prestigious Indian university has exposed deep divisions between liberal intellectuals and the nationalist government in the world's biggest democracy. Student union leader Kanhaiya Kumar is accused of shouting "anti-India slogans" during a rally at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi to mark the anniversary of the execution of a Kashmiri separatist leader.

Thousands of students and teachers have since protested around the country against his arrest, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government of misusing the British-era sedition law to stifle dissent. Modi's ministers have stood firm, warning of similar tough action against anyone engaging in "anti-national" behavior, while in striking scenes, pro-government lawyers attacked Kumar at court and pelted journalists with stones.

Academics and others fear Kumar's arrest is politically motivated, part of a deliberate attempt to crack down on liberal activism at JNU, seen as the heart of a proudly independent-minded, left-leaning intelligentsia. "In their minds, this was an anti-establishment campus and ideologically opposed to the



NEW DELHI: A picture taken on Feb 17, 2016 shows Indian activists shouting slogans against Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and the late Kashmiri separatist Mohammed Afzal Guru at a protest outside the university. — AFP

BJP," said JNU's Gulshan Sachdeva, referring to studies, told AFP. Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "They were looking for an excuse, it was intended to send a message," Sachdeva, a professor at JNU's school of international

Others warn Kumar's arrest is the latest in a string of incidents on campuses around the country aimed at muzzling dissent by branding them anti-Indian or anti-national. "We

condemn the overreach of the state in the recent incidents in a number of institutions and the attempts of the Hindu right to stifle dissent and suppress differences," said a statement signed last week by 42 researchers and faculty members from the leading Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. "The state cannot dictate on the many meanings of what it is to be 'Indian' or mandate the meaning of 'nationalism".

Since sweeping to power in 2014 general elections with a landslide victory, Modi has worked relentlessly to restore India's place in the world and boost national pride. The prime minister has carried out extensive foreign outreach and promoted traditional Indian practices including yoga and Ayurvedic medicine. But critics say his efforts have emboldened hardline Hindu nationalists

and fostered an atmosphere of intolerance. A spate of violent attacks on secular intellectuals and Muslims suspected of killing cows, which Hindus consider sacred, have heightened the concerns. A flurry of writers have returned literary awards in protest, accusing Modi's government of failing to speak out against instances of intolerance and rein in the hardliners. —AFP

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## GAZA WOMEN TURNING HEADS WITH BIKE RIDES

have turned heads in the Islamist-run Gaza Strip by doing what would pass unnoticed in many other places in the world: Riding their bicycles. The women are bucking tradition in the enclave hit by three wars since 2008 and under Israeli blockade. One of them says that beyond enjoying simply going for a ride, she also hopes to make a statement. Many people encourage and admire them, they say. Others however insult or resent the women in their 20s and 30s because, in their view, they are violating Islamic decency.

"For lots of people, when a woman does anything outside, it's astonishing and surprising," said one of the four, 33year-old English teacher Amneh Suleiman, sporting a black sweatsuit and matching hat. "For them, it goes against our traditions, but nothing in our religion prevents it." She said that "those restrictions must disappear and I am trying to send this message. Women play an active role in society and have the right to freedom." With her friends Sara, Noor and Assalah, Suleiman regularly wheels her blue bicycle out of her home in Jabalia refugee camp.

The Gaza Strip has been run by Islamist movement Hamas since 2007, but it seems objections to their rides

GAZA CITY: Four Palestinian women have more to do with traditional attitudes than any new regulations. While Suleiman and her friends are voluntarily pedalling against the winds of conservatism, others are bending some of the old rules due to circumstances. The devastation caused by war along with the blockade in place for nearly a decade have led to an increasing number of women working to help feed their fami-

#### 'I Don't Pay Attention'

Palestinian women have long played a role in the struggle for statehood, with some holding senior political and diplomatic post. Others have even taken up arms. But while nearly 60 percent of Palestinian graduates are women counting both Gaza and the occupied West Bank, which is run by the Palestinian Authority - they represent only some 21 percent of the active labor force in Gaza. That amounts to one of the lowest rates in the world.

Official statistics show that more than

two-thirds of the women who do not work say they must devote themselves to being a housewife. For Suleiman, who moved with her family to Gaza in 1994 after having lived in Syria, leisure can represent freedom, which is why she began riding in December, with her three

friends joining her later. "We told ourselves: 'When we were children, we loved riding bicycles. Why not do it again?" she said. Sara Sleibi, 24, has also defied restrictions that some would like to impose in Gaza. Beyond tradition, a more radical strain of Islam has also taken root there in the form of Salafist jihadists who sympathise with the Islamic State group. Their movement, which has presented a significant though still limited challenge to Hamas, has fed off young people's desperation in the enclosed and impoverished coastal enclave. When Sleibi takes her five-kilometre rides with her friends, all wearing leggings, jackets and trainers, she doesn't hesitate to stop to buy a bottle of water near a checkpoint run by Hamas security forces. She says they greet her with a smile, like some of the drivers they pass, including those who stop to watch them go.

#### 'Who Will Take Taxis?'

"If all the girls start bicycling in Gaza, who will take taxis?" jibes Ayman, a 25year-old taxi driver. Not everyone is so welcoming, but Sleibi, who recruited her 20-year-old sister Noor to join the rides, says she doesn't let it bother her. "I don't pay attention," she said. Suleiman said "the insults are not a problem. It only makes me sad for them". "We put only



GAZA: (From left) Palestinians Amneh Salman, Sarah Sleibi, Nour Sleibi and Assalah Abu Sharkh cycling on a road in Beit Hanun in the northern Gaza Strip on Feb 19, 2016. — AFP

two pictures on Facebook and we received around 40 comments - many compliments and four insulting us," she

One said that it was "a great idea that shows Gazan women at their best." Another, however, told them to "get back in the house - it will be less shameful!" Sleibi said the rides are a way of exercising and escaping the daily hassles of work and life. Neither she nor her friends wanted to fire up any "social revolution". But after several rides, they found that "people's looks were positive" and she said the small group would be happy to take on new members and grow. — AFP



TEHRAN: An Iranian woman walks past a mural bearing electoral posters of reformist candidate Kazem Jalali in downtown Tehran yesterday ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections. —AFP

## TWO IRAN EX-PRESIDENTS URGE VOTERS TO BACK MODERATE BLOC

#### REFORMISTS URGED TO TURN OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS

**TEHRAN:** Iran's former president Mohammad Khatami and his predecessor have urged voters to back reformists and moderates in Friday elections, saying a big turnout is needed to stop hardline conservatives. Khatami, who is subject to a domestic media ban because of his support for defeated reformist leaders in a disputed 2009 presidential election, took to YouTube late Sunday to send a message to voters. "After the successful first step in 2013, this coalition should take the second step for the Majlis (parliament)," he said in a fourminute video, dubbing a joint ticket of reformists and moderates as "a list of hope".

He was referring to incumbent Hassan Rouhani's 2013 presidential election victory which led to a nuclear deal that ended a 13year standoff with world powers. In this week's election, Rouhani is looking to overturn the majority in parliament of conservatives who resisted the nuclear deal and have also opposed his broader outreach to the West. Despite the ban on use of his image or words in Iran's print and broadcast media, Khatami, who served as president from 1997 to 2005, remains an important figure in the pro-Rouhani coalition, the Alliance of Reformists and Government Supporters. "I

suggest that all blocs agree to present the list as the list of hope to the people," he said. The message was simultaneously distrib-

uted on the smart phone messaging app, Telegram. Khatami said voters should also support lists headed by Rouhani and former president Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in the second election taking place Friday, that of the country's Assembly of Experts. A powerful committee of 88 clerics, the assembly oversees the work of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and is tasked with electing his successor, should he die during its eight-year term. "Those who are concerned about the country's interests, progress and removal of threats and limitations should vote for all individuals on both lists," Khatami said. "I repeat, for all individuals on both lists... and take a step to secure the country's dignity, strengthen its security and stability and improve the reform of its affairs."

In a barely veiled dig at hardliners, Khatami's predecessor, Rafsanjani, said the elections were "a valuable opportunity to prevent institutionalization of political radicalism and religious extremism in society." Voters' support for moderates would "prove to the world" that rather than the "extremism of a limited group" the true Islam "avoids war and bloodshed in favor of kindness, peace and brotherhood," said Rafsanjani, who was presi-

Rouhani's victory in 2013 was made possible after he won backing from Khatami and Rafsanjani and the three are increasingly seen as allies. Iran's conservatives have had a lowkey campaign so far but they will hold a major rally today. Conservative media outlets have accused Britain of "interfering in Iran's internal affairs", charging that the BBC's Persian service has attempted to sway voters in favor of the

## SAUDIS SAY WAR GAMES WILL BOOST MILITARY TIES

RIYADH: The Middle East's largest ever war games are now underway and will boost military cooperation between the 20 Muslim nations taking part, host country Saudi Arabia said yesterday, as it seeks to check the growing influence of arch rival Iran. The Northern Thunder exercises, which began on Feb 14 and will run until March 10, involve more than 150,000 troops from the Gulf Arab nations, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Sudan and Senegal

"The council of ministers ... expressed the hope that these exercises achieve what was defined as their goals in exchanging expertise and raising the level of military coordination," Saudi Arabia's cabinet said in a statement. The statement also praised "the levels of preparedness and administrative and supply capabilities" shown by the nations participating in Northern Thunder

Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia is concerned by the growing regional clout of Shiite Iran, which has just emerged from years of international economic sanctions following an international deal over its nuclear program. Riyadh, which is contributing the bulk of the troops in the war games, is also worried by the reduced regional role of its key ally, the United States and is seeking to build alternative military alliances as a counterweight to Iran.

Saudi Arabia is leading a coalition of Muslim countries, backed by the United States, Britain and France, in a war in neighboring Yemen and says it will contribute troops if Washington leads land operations against Islamic State in Syria. Its war in Yemen, aimed at restoring a government ousted by an Iran-allied militia, is part of a more assertive effort by Riyadh since last year to counter Tehran's influence. —Reuters

#### BATTLE BREWS OVER SITE WHERE NAPOLEON, SALADIN FOUGHT

HORNS OF HITTIN: Saladin, Napoleon and the opposition Labour party, told AFP. "We now... Netanyahu? An Israeli government don't want complaints that we are going to plan to build a new town near the site of a live on the land of people who have historic battle between crusaders and Muslim icon Saladin - and where Napoleon also fought many years later - has itself come under fire. Scholars, farmers and even members of the Druze minority meant to benefit from the project have criticised the plan by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

They say that the planned construction of a Druze town on a Galilee hillside threatens archaeological treasures and natural landscape registered with UNESCO for possible future inclusion on its list of World Heritage sites, Israel's National Planning and Building Council approved it in January, with the government describing it as the first new town for members of the secretive offshoot of Shiism since the Jewish state was established in 1948.

"I ascribe great importance to the establishment of a new Druze town that will advance the Druze sector." Netanvahu said in a statement. There is across-the-board agreement that existing Druze towns and villages are cramped and lack infrastructure. But some leading Druze say that the proposed site, about 300 m above the Sea of Galilee and the lakeside town of Tiberias, is unsuited to their needs and could sour their relations with the Palestinians.

Although initial plans call for construction of 400 housing units, an expected second-stage expansion to 2,500 homes would mean building on fields formerly farmed by residents of the nearby Palestinian villages of Hittin and Namarin. They became refugees in 1948 during the fighting which accompanied Israel's declaration of independence.

#### 'No Druze Will Agree'

"There is no Druze who will agree to live on somebody else's land," Druze politician Saleh Tarif, a former cabinet minister from

nowhere to live or were displaced from there." Rafiq Halabi, council head at the country's largest Druze village, Daliyat al-Carmel, said: "It could have an impact on the already sensitive relations between Druze

and Palestinians." But Druze deputy minister Ayoob Kara, of Netanyahu's Likud party, is an enthusiastic backer of the plan and says he wants to be among the first to invest in a building plot. "I mean to live there and be the backbone of the community and to welcome there Druze army veterans and others who plan to live there in the best of conditions," he told AFP. Officials say there are 110,000 Druze in northern Israel.

Unlike other Arab citizens of Israel, they are obliged by law along with the country's Jewish population to perform three years of military service. Another challenge to the government's blueprint for the site is its close proximity to the twin peaks known as the Horns of Hittin, scene of a decisive 12thcentury clash between European crusaders and the forces of Muslim leader Saladin. The battle in July 1187 ended in the defeat and capture of crusader king Guy de Lusignan by Saladin, and was the beginning of the end of the crusader kingdom of Jerusalem.

#### 'Lord of the Muslim world'

"On the horns of Hittin the greatest army that the kingdom had ever amassed was annihilated," historian Steven Runciman writes in his three-volume history of the crusades. "The victor was lord of the whole Muslim world." In October of the same year, Saladin took Jerusalem, ending 88 years of crusader rule. Genadiy Nizhnik-Kolomiychuk of the Jerusalem Kingdom Club, which stages annual historical reenactments of the battle, says that not only the Hittin national park but the whole surrounding area is a site of major historical interest.—AFP



KEFAR HITTIM: A picture taken on Jan 28, 2016 shows an antelope running in this area in the Galilee where the Israeli government plans to build a new town near this historic site. — AFP

## RIYADH TRIES 32 FROM IRAN-LINKED 'SPY' RING

region of the kingdom have gone on trial for allegedly spying for Iran, local media reported yesterday. An Iranian and an Afghan are also accused, the reports said. The allegations come after Saudi Arabia and some of its allies cut diplomatic ties with Tehran in January during a crisis between the regional rivals. The decision came after demonstrators burned the Saudi embassy in Tehran and a consulate in Iran's second city of Mashhad to protest the Saudi execution of Shiite cleric Nimr Al-Nimr, a native of the Qatif area.

The trials are taking place before a special criminal court in Riyadh, the Saudi Gazette and Al-Arabiya news channel's website reported. The 32 suspects allegedly committed high treason against the Sunni-dominated kingdom by collaborating with Iranian intelligence. They divulged defence secrets, sought

RIYADH: Thirty Saudis from a Shiite-majority to commit sabotage, tried to recruit moles in government departments to send coded information, and supported "riots" in Qatif, the reports said. They added that some suspects met Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

> The executed Shiite cleric Nimr was a driving force behind protests that began in 2011 among the kingdom's minority Shiites. Those protests later developed into a call for equality in the kingdom where Shiites complain of marginalization. Saudi Arabia alleges that Iran has a 37-year record of spreading "sedition, unrest and chaos" in the region. During an interview last week with AFP, Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir accused "elements of the Iranian regime" of complicity in the January attacks on Saudi diplomatic facilities. He alleged Iran has "spy cells... that are conducting sabotage operations or terrorism". — AFP

dent from 1989 to 1997. reformists. — AFP

Kuwait <u>Times</u> INTERNATIONAL TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016

# RUBIO, CRUZ JOSTLE FOR 'ALTERNATIVE-TO-TRUMP' VOTE

Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz battled to emerge as the true anti-Trump on Sunday as the billionaire businessman took an ever-so-brief break from his trademark braggadocio to say his drive for the GOP nomination isn't unstoppable - yet. Fresh off a commanding victory in South Carolina, Donald Trump declined to say the nomination was his to lose. But he quickly went on to declare, "I'm really on my way." Soon enough, in a television interview, he was toting up electoral math all the way through Election Day and concluding, "I'm going to win."

The candidates' diverging flight plans demonstrated how the campaign spreads out and speeds up now. Nevada's GOP caucuses are today, and then a dozen states vote in the March 1 Super Tuesday bonanza. Trump was in Georgia exulting over his latest victory, Cruz headed for Nevada, and Rubio embarked on a Tennessee-Arkansas-Nevada trifecta.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton savored her weekend win in the Nevada caucuses as Bernie Sanders acknowledged that while his insurgent campaign has made strides, "at the end of the day ... you need delegates." He looked past Saturday's Democratic primary in South Carolina to list Colorado, Minnesota, Massachusetts and Oklahoma as places where he has a "good shot" to do well.

#### **Rosy Scenarios**

Rubio and Cruz used the Sunday morning news shows to spin rosy-road-

FRANKLIN, Tennessee: Republicans forward scenarios after complete but unofficial returns in South Carolina put Trump way up top, with Rubio squeaking past Cruz for second. But with roughly 70 percent of Republicans in national polls declining to back Trump, Cruz and Rubio tried to cast themselves as the one candidate around whom what Rubio calls the "alternative-to-Donald-Trump vote" can

> Rubio also took an aggressive run at Trump, faulting him for a lack of specifics on policy. "If you're running for president of the United States, you can't just tell people you're going to make America great again," he said on CBS' "Face the Nation." At a later rally in Franklin, Tennessee, a Nashville suburb, Rubio took note of the smaller GOP field after Jeb Bush's departure from the race, and celebrated his biggest crowd of the campaign, estimated at more than 3,000 people. Rubio avoided criticizing his GOP rivals, instead highlighting his efforts to help middle-class families.

> Cruz, for his part, stressed his conservative bona fides and said he was the lone "strong conservative in this race who can win. We see conservatives continuing to unite behind our campaign," he told NBC's "Meet the Press". With Bush gone from the race, Rubio was hoping to pick off past donors to the Bush campaign and looking to benefit as well from a cessation in the millions of dollars in negative ads run by the Bush campaign and its allies.

Rubio also suggested it was only a matter of time before John Kasich and



ATLANTA: Audience members cheer as Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump signs autographs at a campaign event on Sunday. — AP

Ben Carson folded as well. He hinted it would be better to get that winnowing over with, saving, "the sooner we can coalesce, the better we're going to be as a party in general". Not so fast, Kasich countered. "We're getting big crowds everywhere we go," the Ohio governor insisted, listing Vermont, Massachusetts and Virginia as places he can shine.

Cruz tried to brush right past his apparent third-place finish in South Carolina and instead hark back to his victory over Trump in leadoff lowa. "It is becoming clearer and clearer that we are the one campaign who can beat Donald Trump," Cruz told reporters before a campaign stop in rural Nevada. The Texas senator said his path to victory calls for a

strong showing on Super Tuesday, and that Texas was "clearly the crown jewel" of that day. Rubio, a Florida senator, highlighted the big delegate take available in the five-state round of voting on March 15, which includes his home state. He noted that round offers victors a "winnertake-all" share of delegates rather a proportional share. Cruz scoffed at Rubio's strategy, saying: "They're trying to wait until March 15 to win a state."

Trump suddenly had nice things to say about Bush, the candidate he had hammered so relentlessly when they were rivals. As for Rubio, Trump told "Fox News Sunday" that "I start off liking everybody. Then, all of a sudden, they become mortal enemies." At a rowdy Atlanta rally, Trump crowed over his big South Carolina win, saying "we're just doing one after another." Spitting out the superlatives, he called his sweep of all 50 delegates there "amazing," "beautiful," "conclusive" and "very, very decisive."

Clinton was happy with her Nevada win but acknowledged she has work to do in persuading voters that she has their best interests at heart. "I think there's an underlying question that maybe is really in the back of people's minds and that is, you know, is she in it for us or is she in it for herself?" Clinton said on CNN. "I think that is a question that people are trying to sort through." Working to increase his support among black voters, Sanders visited a Baptist church luncheon following services in West Columbia, South Carolina, and talked up the country's economic recovery under President Barack Obama. — AP



LA PAZ: A Bolivian with his dog casts his vote on Sunday. — AFP

#### MORALES HOPES LATE BALLOTS WILL RESULT IN VOTE VICTORY

yesterday that late returns from a referendum ont have a single candidate," Komadina said. on changing Bolivia's constitution would turn As a group they have "disparate leaderships in his favor despite media projections to the and political ideologies." contrary. Voters on Sunday had their say on a constitutional amendment that would let the leftist president seek another five-year term in office when his current one ends in 2020. He has been in power since 2006. According to media projections. Morales lost the referendum: Unofficial figures cited on private ATB television said that the "No" vote had 52.3 percent to 47.7 percent, while Unitel television gave the "No" vote as 51 percent to 49 percent.

However Vice President Alvaro Garcia said that count was based on returns in urban areas, and votes were still trickling in from rural areas where Morales has strong support. Ballots cast by Bolivians living abroad - especially those in Argentina and Brazil - also needed to be counted. "We are facing a very clear technical tie, and it is highly probable that these figures will drastically change" as the official count proceeds, Garcia said, signaling that media projections could be wrong. "So it would be better to hold your enthusiasm and calmly wait for results," Garcia told reporters. "All your celebration may well turn into weeping." Garcia said that Morales was closely monitoring the outcome.

Opposition figures however were celebrating based on the media projections. "Bolivia said no!" declared Santa Cruz Governor Ruben Costas. Samuel Doria Medina - defeated twice by Morales in presidential elections - said the vote "buried" plans to have single party rule in Bolivia. Analyst Jorge Komadina noted that, while Morales may be losing support, his

LA PAZ: President Evo Morales held out hope political opposition remains divided. "They do

#### A Longer Morales Era?

In January Morales became the longest serving president since Bolivia's independence from Spain in 1825 - a rare accomplishment in a country known for military coups and shaky, short-lived governments. Now 56, Morales is also Bolivia's first democratically elected president of indigenous heritage. He has overseen robust economic growth in Bolivia, but opponents accuse him of presiding over corruption and investing in flashy infrastructure projects at the expense of health and education. Since first taking office, he has been handily re-elected twice, most recently in 2014 to a five-year term that ends in 2020. Under the current constitution adopted in 2009, sitting presidents can only seek reelection once. But Bolivia's Supreme Court ruled that Morales's first term was exempt from the rule, allowing him to run again in 2014. Morales's politics blend the indigenous power movement with environmentalism and the "21st-century socialism" preached by other Latin American leftist leaders.

He has nationalized the oil, gas, mining and telecommunications sectors and rolled out welfare grants for the elderly, children, and expecting mothers. Bolivia's mineral- and gas-rich economy has more than tripled in size during his decade in office. Despite plunging prices for its oil and gas, Bolivia's economy grew 4.8 percent last year, one of the strongest rates in Latin America. —AFP

# RUSSIA WANTS TO FLY OVER US WITH ADVANCED DIGITAL CAMS

#### US INTELLIGENCE, MILITARY OFFICIALS CONCERNED

WASHINGTON: Russia was to ask permission yesterday to start flying surveillance planes equipped with highpowered digital cameras amid warnings from US intelligence and military officials that such overflights help Moscow collect intelligence on the United States. Russia and the United States are signatories to the Open Skies Treaty, which allows unarmed observation flights over the entire territory of all 34 member nations to foster transparency about military activity and help monitor arms control and other agreements. Senior intelligence and military officials, however, worry that Russia is taking advantage of technological advances to violate the spirit of the treaty.

Russia will formally ask the Open Skies Consultative Commission, based in Vienna, to be allowed to fly an aircraft equipped with high-tech sensors over the United States, according to a senior congressional staffer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the staff member wasn't authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

The request will put the Obama administration in the position of having to decide whether to let Russia use the high-powered equipment on its surveillance planes at a time when Moscow, according to the latest State Department compliance report, is failing to meet all its obligations under the treaty. And it comes at one of the most tension-filled times in US-Russia relations since the end of the Cold War, with the two countries at odds over Russian activity in Ukraine and Syria.

#### Vulnerability

"The treaty has become a critical component of Russia's intelligence



MOSCOW: In this Dec 17, 2015 file photo, Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during his annual end of year news conference. — AP

collection capability directed at the United States," Adm Cecil D Haney, commander of the US Strategic Command, wrote in a letter earlier this year to Rep Mike Rogers, chairman of a House subcommittee on strategic forces. "In addition to overflying military installations, Russian Open Skies flights can overfly and collect on Department of Defense and national security or national critical infrastructure," Haney said. "The vulnerability exposed by exploitation of this data and costs of mitigation are increasing-

ly difficult to characterize." A State Department official said Sunday that treaty nations had not yet received notice of the Russian request, but that certification of the Russian plane with a "digital electro-optical sensor" could not occur until this summer because the treaty requires a 120day advance notification. The official spoke on condition of anonymity

because he wasn't authorized to dis-

cuss the issue publicly.

The official also said that the treaty, which was entered into force in 2002, establishes procedures for certifying digital sensors to confirm that they are compliant with treaty requirements. The official said all signatories to the treaty agree that "transition from film cameras to digital sensors is required for the long-term viability of the treaty". In December, Rose Gottemoeller, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, sought to temper concerns about Russian overflights, saying that what Moscow gains from the observation flights is "incremental" to what they collect through other means. "One of the advantages of the Open Skies Treaty is that information imagery - that is taken is shared openly among all the treaty parties," she said at a joint hearing of the House

Foreign Affairs and Armed Services committees in December. "So one of the advantages with the Open Skies Treaty is that we know exactly what the Russians are imaging, because they must share the imagery with us."

#### **Serious Concern**

Still, military and intelligence officials have expressed serious concern. 'The open skies construct was designed for a different era," Lt Gen Vincent Stewart, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, told lawmakers when asked about the Russian overflights during a congressional hearing. "I'm very concerned about how it's applied today." Robert Work, deputy secretary of defense, told Congress: "We think that they're going beyond the original intent of the treaty and we continue to look at this

very, very closely. Steve Rademaker, former assistant secretary of state for the bureau of arms control and the bureau of international security and nonproliferation, told Congress at a hearing on security cooperation in Europe in October that Russia complies with the Open Skies Treaty, but has "adopted a number of measures that are inconsistent with the spirt" of the accord.

The treaty, for instance, obligates each member to make all of its territory available for aerial observation, yet Russia has imposed restrictions on surveillance over Moscow and Chechnya and near Abkhazia and South Ossetia, he said. Russian restrictions also make it hard to conduct observation in the Kaliningrad enclave, said Rademaker, who believes Russia is "selectively implementing" the treaty "in a way that suits its interests." — AP

### SWEEP TARGETS ODEBRECHT, ROUSSEFF CAMPAIGN CHIEF

SAO PAULO/RIO DE JANEIRO: Federal investigators yesterday launched a round of arrests and raids targeting the manager of President Dilma Rousseff's election campaigns and Brazil's largest engineering group in the latest stage of the nation's biggest corruption probe. Prosecutors said in a statement they were also looking into possible bribes paid off contracts signed by state-run oil company Petrobras and shipbuilder Sete Brasil with Keppel Fels, the Brazil unit of Singapore's oil rig builder Keppel Corporation Ltd.

The statement said Joao Santana, Rousseff's campaign manager, was suspected of receiving bribes in offshore accounts. TV station O Globo said he was currently out of the country. Santana and his lawyer could not immediately be reached for comment. Nicknamed the "maker of presidents", Santana, 63, also advised Rousseff's predecessor Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in his re-election bid in 2012.

His involvement in the investigation is a further blow to embattled President Dilma Rousseff, who is not being investigated in the scandal but has seen her popularity. The former ruling Workers' Party Treasurer and a top aide to former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva have also been arrested. Police said they had court orders for eight arrests without giving names in the ongoing "Operations Car Wash" corruption investigation that started nearly two years ago. Brazilian engineering giant Odebrecht

SA, one of the main companies at the center of the scandal, said its offices in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and in Salvador were searched by police and that it would collaborate with authorities.

Prosecutors said the 23rd phase of the two-year-old investigation had brought more incriminating evidence against Marcelo Odebrecht, the former CEO of the engineering group who has been jailed since June. Keppel Corporation said in October it may face an investigation into deals with Petrobras and Sete Brasil. A spokesperson for Keppel in Brazil strongly rejected any allegations of bribery. More than 300 officers conducted searches and arrests in the cities of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador, the federal police said. —Reuters

# UBER DRIVER FACES MURDER CHARGES AFTER US RAMPAGE

**CHICAGO:** An Uber driver who may have picked up fares during a weekend killing spree was headed to court yesterday to face charges of murdering six people in the northern state of Michigan. Kalamazoo County Prosecutor Jeff Getting said local law enforcement agencies were still assessing all the crimes 45-year-old Jason Brian Dalton will be charged with at an arraignment later in the day. "I anticipate out of that review will come six counts of murder, two counts of assault with intent to commit murder, and eight charges of what we call felony firearm, using a firearm during the commission of a felony," Getting told CNN yesterday. "Murder charges carry life in prison without the possibility of parole. The others, life sentence with parole."

Uber confirmed that Dalton was a driver for the ride-sharing company, adding he had passed a background check and had no criminal record. "We have reached out to the police to help with their investigation in any way that we can," Uber's chief security officer, Joe Sullivan, said Sunday in a statement. Uber's tracking system would show the location of Dalton's vehicle during the chain of shootings Saturday night that left six people dead and two seriously wounded at three different locations, officials said.

A woman was seriously wounded outside an apartment complex, two people were killed at a car dealership, and four more were shot dead at a restaurant, where a 14-year-old girl was also seriously wounded.

Kalamazoo's public security chief, Jeffrey Hadley, said police were looking into reports Dalton picked up fares between shootings. "I think as soon as we are able to latch on to the information in terms of his whereabouts in between the first and second shooting and second shooting and third shooting we will certainly understand where he traveled to and maybe lead us to other sources of information," Hadley said in a CNN interview.

One passenger has described being taken on a wild ride by Dalton a couple of hours before the rampage began. "We were driving through medians,

driving through the lawn, speeding along and when we came to a stop, I jumped out the car and ran away," Matt Mellen told CBS affiliate WWMT. Mellen said he escaped at 4:30 pm, and called the emergency phone number 911. He told his fiancee what had happened and she posted Dalton's picture on Facebook as a warning to others. —AFP



KALAMAZOO, Michigan: People gather and pray at Center Point Church following a mass shooting on Sunday — AFP

### UGANDAN OPPN LEADER ARRESTED AS ELECTION OUTCRY GROWS



KAMPALA: A Ugandan riot policeman blocks the gate of the party headquarters of opposition leader Kizza Besigye, shortly after raiding the premises for the second time in a week, in the capital Kampala yesterday. —AP

KAMPALA: Police arrested Uganda's main opposition leader, Kizza Besigye, for the fourth time in eight days yesterday, after an election that the United States and European Union have criticised and the opposition reject as fraudulent.

Police also stormed Besigye's Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) party headquarters and arrested eight people, one member said, two days after President Yoweri Museveni, 71 and in power for 30 years, was declared the winner of the Feb. 18 vote.

The EU observer mission said the vote had been conducted in an "intimidating" atmosphere and United States has voiced concerns about the frequent arrests of

Police said they detained Besigye as he was preparing to lead supporters to the Electoral Commission headquarters in the capital Kampala to collect the official results, and that he had not obtained government consent. "We have arrested people who are planning to cause violence in Kampala city centre," police spokesman, Patrick Onyango,

But Ingrid Turinawe, a senior FDC official, said Besigye was attempting to gather evidence as part of his challenging of the election result.

A second FDC official said that police had raided party headquarters, confiscating documents and arresting eight people. Museveni has presided over strong economic growth but is accused at home and abroad of repression of dissent and failing to tackle rampant corruption.

Critics say he wants to rule for life, emulating other African leaders who refuse to give up power.

On Friday, US Secretary of State John Kerry called Museveni to voice concern over the harassment of opposition figures and the shutdown of social media in Uganda, where Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp were blocked on election day.

Museveni said he told Kerry "not to worry" about Uganda's election and dismissed EU accusations that electoral commission had favoured him and his National Resistance Movement (NRM).

"I told those Europeans ... I don't need

lectures from anybody," Museveni told reporters in his country home in Kiruhura, southwestern Uganda. Museveni last clashed with Western donors in 2014, when Uganda passed a law that imposes harsh penalties on homosexuality. In response, donors cut aid, but largely restored it later when the law was repealed by a Ugandan

Questions about the election's fairness puts Western donors in an awkward position: Museveni, an important ally in the region, is leading mediation to end conflict in Burundi and contributes 5,000 Ugandan troops to the African Union force in Somalia that has brought a measure of stability to the country. Stephanie Wolters, an analyst at the Institute for Security Studies, said of the criticism from Western powers was "the kind of stuff that the international community has to say".

"I don't think it's going to translate into longer-term criticism of the Museveni government, or any kind of significant shift in how donors interact with that country," she said. —Reuters

# CAMERON TRIES TO SELL EU DEAL AFTER MAYOR BACKS BREXIT

PM TO UPDATE LAWMAKERS • BUSINESS LEADERS TO SUPPORT STAYING IN

**LONDON:** Prime Minister David Cameron will try to sell his case for Britain staying in the European Union to parliament yesterday facing hostility from his own lawmakers and a plunging pound after London's mayor threw his support behind the exit campaign.

Boris Johnson, one of Britain's most popular politicians, announced on Sunday he supported leaving the bloc, dealing a blow to Cameron who vowed to campaign to stay in after striking a deal to reform Britain's ties with the EU last week. The mayor's announcement, seen as increasing the chance of a British EU exit by giving the 'leave' campaign a muchneeded figurehead, pushed sterling towards its biggest loss in almost six years against the dollar on Monday. Government bond prices also fell.

Cameron shrugged off Johnson's statement, saying the issue of EU membership cut through usual party political lines. "The prime minister has been clear all along there will be different views on different sides of the argument," his spokeswoman said.

"Our message to everyone-bearing in mind that it is people up and down the country that will have a vote in this referendum rather than just one individual-is that we want Britain to have the best of both worlds."

Johnson, who has held his post as London mayor since 2008, defended his decision to go against his sometime ally, saying those who suggested Britain could not thrive outside the EU were the same people who wanted the country to make the "catastrophic mistake" of joining the euro single currency. "There are people who don't think that Britain could stand on her very own two feet and all the rest of it. I have to say I think that is profoundly wrong," Johnson told the London Assembly, the elected body which holds the mayor to account.

His decision to lobby against Cameron was welcomed by leaders of the 'leave' campaign, which has

been dogged by splits between factions and lacked a uniting political figure to spread its message that Britain needs to regain its sovereignty. "I'm delighted that he's come out for leaving the European Union," former finance minister and chairman of the Vote Leave campaign Nigel Lawson told BBC radio. "He is a superb campaigner so he's a great asset." Odds of a British exit rose to a 33 percent chance

from about 29 percent after his announcement, according to bookmakers.

#### **DE FACTO LEADER**

While Cameron's most senior cabinet colleagues have stuck with him, six others have said they will campaign for an exit, highlighting the deep divide in his Conservative Party over Europe dating back to Margaret Thatcher. The scale of divisions should become clear later on Monday when Cameron, who hailed Friday's agreement as handing Britain a special status in the bloc, is due to make a statement to lawmakers.But while many Conservatives may have turned against the deal, the prime minister was due to receive a boost from business leaders who were set to sign a letter saying the country would be better off in the bloc. Several corporate sources told Reuters the letter would be published on Tuesday.

Many businesses are keen to end the uncertainty that has weighed on markets and companies scrambling to come up with a 'plan B' if Britain votes to leave the bloc-a move that would transform the country's role in world trade.

Cameron's bid to remain in the EU also has the support of much of London's financial district as well as most of the Labour Party, major trade unions, international allies and Scottish nationalists. Johnson, 51, a political showman whose light-hearted wit masks a fierce ambition, said on Sunday he did not want to go against the prime minister but believed the EU project was in danger of getting out of democratic control. That led some commentators to question whether his stance is a designed to attract widespread eurosceptic support among Conservatives in a bid to succeed Cameron, who has said he will step down before the next election in 2020. A British exit from the EU would rock the Union-already shaken by differences over migration and the future of the eurozone-by ripping away its second-largest economy, one of its top two military powers and by far its richest financial centre. —Reuters



#### TACKLING MIGRANT SMUGGLING A 'KEY PRIORITY,' SAYS EUROPOL

THE HAGUE: Europe's police agency said yesterday it has made fighting migrant smuggling a "key priority" as it launched a new centre to help tackle the continent's worst migrant crisis in 60 years.

Rough estimates show criminal gangs generating between three and six billion euros (\$3.2 billion-\$6.6 billion) in people smuggling rackets last year, Europol reported at the opening of its new European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) in The Hague.

The turnover is set to double or triple if the scale of the current migration crisis persists in the upcoming year," Europol's director Rob Wainwright warned. Latest figures show tens of thousands of migrants have already crossed Europe's borders since the start of the year.

Europol has therefore "made migrant smuggling one of its key priorities", Wainwright said.

The EMSC will help EU member states trace and arrest the organised gangs behind the smuggling.

Almost 90 percent of the more than one million migrants who illegally entered the EU last year used a "facilitation service" to get to Europe, Wainwright said. "In most cases, these services were offered and provided by criminal groups... making substantial profits from migrant smuggling," he

added. Europol currently has intelligence on more than 40,000 individuals suspected of being involved in migrant smuggling and the agency has assisted in 1,551 investigations. Suspects were from more than 100 countries, but mainly from Bulgaria, Egypt, Hungary, Iraq, Kosovo, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The EMSC will see a team of migration and crime specialist focus in particular on two regional "hotspots"-Catania in Sicily and Piraeus in Greece.

"The aim of the regional hotspots is to assist national authorities in the field of identification, asylum support, intelligence sharing, criminal investigations and the prosecution of criminal networks of people smugglers," Wainwright said. The flow of refugees and migrants, which last year reached levels over one million people, shows no signs of slowing.

Fabrice Leggeri, head of EU border agency Frontex, last week warned that the bloc should brace for another charged year in 2016, telling AFP there had already been 140,000 illegal border crossings.

"The fight against migrant smuggling is a key priority for the EU in addressing the refugee crisis," added Dimitris Avramopoulos, the EU's Commissioner for Migration. —AFP



London yesterday ahead of giving a European Council Statement to parliament. —AFP

# **EUROPEANS SEE SOMETHING** FAMILIAR IN ODD US RACE

LONDON: With its red, white and blue banners, patriotic slogans and ubiquitous country songs, the presidential campaign marching through South Carolina and Nevada seems like an all-American affair. But it holds familiar overtones for Europeans watching anxiously

from abroad. Donald Trump - his bombast distinctly American - sometimes takes a nationalist stance that sounds a lot like the "blame the immigrant" approach used by a growing cadre of European politicians as the continent deals with unprecedented waves of immigration and Islamic extremism.

On the left, Bernie Sanders espouses Scandinavian-style "democratic socialism" that sounds radical to some American ears. But it has long been part of the political mainstream in Europe, where socialist governments come and go without particular fanfare. The sentiment fueling the unexpected ascent of Trump and Sanders seems the same as the mood powering trends in Europe: a flat-out, let'smake-a-change rejection of the political elite.

Jacek Kucharczyk, president of the Institute of Public Affairs in Warsaw, says despite huge differences between politics in Europe and the United States the same sense of grievance and helplessness is driving people to extremes on the left and the right.

He cites the Polish election in October that brought the anti-immigrant Law and Justice party led by Jaroslaw Kaczynski to power. "There is the same mistrust of the political mainstream. There is this lethal combination of social economic uncertainties and identity wars that are imposed on them," he says.

Fear of mass immigration is a common denominator that was exploited by Kaczynski in the final stages of his campaign - when he warned that the migrants arriving on Europe's shores were carrying dangerous infectious diseases - and Trump is stoking somewhat similar fears in the United States.

"When we hear Trump, it really sounds like Kaczynski," says Kucharczyk. In both Europe and the US, extremist attacks also have undermined the sense of security, heightening fears

Attacks have been far more frequent and lethal in Europe, which is relatively close to the Islamic State group's bases in Syria and Iraq. And Europe has been rattled by the arrival last year of more than 1 million immigrants, many fleeing Middle East conflict. But the December attacks that killed 14 people in San Bernardino, California, had a noticeable impact on the American psyche. It may have caused a bump in support for Trump, just as backing for anti-Islamic European lawmakers like the Netherlands' Geert Wilders appears to have grown since the extremist attacks in Paris and elsewhere.

#### **Political correctness**

Trump alarmed many overseas observers, by classifying some Mexican immigrants as rapists and suggesting a temporary ban to keep Muslims from entering the United States. Josef Braml, a specialist with the German Council of Foreign Relations, says the venomous attack style surfacing in the US primary campaign is calculated to capitalize on anger with a political class that can no longer be counted on to provide security, job growth and economic expansion. "They are saying, 'To hell with political correctness, I'm telling you the truth," he says. "That tells me they see political correctness as the code of the elite. He sees resurgent nationalism, fed by fear of outsiders, in both the United States and in Europe, where many felt it had faded as a political force. Trump's disparagement of Mexicans is similar to the anti-Semitic views expressed by the

National Front in France, he says. While Trump's rise is surprising to many Europeans, the strong early performance by Sanders in his bid to snatch the Democratic Party nomination from Hillary Clinton is not

setting off alarm bells because his views are similar to those expressed by left-wing politicians in Europe for generations.

Indeed, some trace the roots of his socialism to the world his Jewish father inhabited in Poland before he left for the United States and settled in Brooklyn in 1921. Sanders' call for free college tuition at public colleges and universities, for example, puts him squarely in line with policies already in effect in a number of prosperous European countries including Sweden and Norway.

His attacks on Wall Street and its bankers would also get a careful hearing in Europe, where even the rightist Law and Justice Party in Poland has complained about inequality and imposed new taxes on banks, with the same medicine planned for large supermarkets.

There are parallels between Sanders' bid for supremacy in the Democratic Party and Jeremy Corbyn's ultimately successful campaign for the top spot in Britain's Labour Party even though mainstream party leaders found him too far to the left for their taste. Sanders' rise has been cheered by European leftists including many in Scandinavia with deeply held anti-American views, says Mads Fuglede, a Danish historian and political commentator.

#### **Capitalist nightmare**

He says, "They see the US as a capitalist nightmare, so when someone says they want to make a revolution against free market capitalism, they embrace that, so he has a lot of

What does all this say about Trump and Sanders?

"The two are really significantly different but you can unite them by saying anti-elite sentiment coming from the left and from the right is gaining ground," said Dominique Moisi, senior adviser to the French Institute of International Relations. "We have not seen that in American elections before." —AP

#### WOMAN ON TRIAL IN SOUTH AFRICAN BABY-SNATCHING CASE

**CAPE TOWN:** A woman charged with stealing a newborn baby 18 years ago appeared briefly in a South African court yesterday, in a case that came to light only when school pupils noticed a startling resemblance between a student and a new girl.

The case in the Cape Town High Court was postponed until Tuesday by Judge John Hlophe after prosecutors said they needed time to formalise agreements on a number of admissions by the defence. The accused 50year-old woman has been on bail since March last year after

DNA tests confirmed that the new girl at the school and a 17-year-old final-year student were in fact biological sisters. The new girl was the daughter of Celeste and Morne Nurse, whose first child was snatched as a three-dayold baby named Zephany in April 1997 from Cape Town's Groote Schuur hospital. Police were alerted after Zephany's parents became convinced the older girl was their missing baby. The parents looked on from the public gallery as the alleged kidnapper sat emotionless in the dock.

Without knowing it, the Nurse family had been living within a couple of kilometres (miles) of their kidnapped daughter, while celebrating her birthday every year and never giving up hope of finding her.

Zephany, who was renamed by her new family, is now approaching her

19th birthday after reportedly being raised with love and kindness by the accused woman and her husband, who she believed were her real parents. Her whereabouts have been kept secret since she requested protection from the media storm over the case, a spokesman for the social services department told AFP.

The accused woman cannot be named, as that would reveal Zephany's identity after she was kidnapped. In a statement read on her behalf by a lawyer shortly after Zephany discovered the truth about her past, she said: "I want to say thank you to all the people who supported me through this, for continuously praying and never giving up on looking for me.

"Under the circumstances I am doing fine." Her biological parents told reporters at the time that their joy at finding her overwhelmed any desire for revenge.

The suspect reportedly had a series of miscarriages before allegedly stealing Zephany from the hospital. She has been free on bail on condition that she does not contact potential state witnesses-including her husband and Zephany. She faces a minimum of five years in jail if convicted of kidnapping, but prosecutors had indicated earlier that they could be open to a plea bargain after consultations with both sides. —AFP

## Indian troops kill 3 militants to end 3-day standoff



UDHAMPUR: The mother of Indian Army Captain Tushar Mahajan cries next the coffin of his son before performing last rites in Udhampur yesterday.—AP

**SRINAGAR:** Indian forces yesterday killed the last three militants who had holed up for three days in a building in India's portion of Kashmir, the army said, raising the standoff's toll to nine dead.

The troops recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition as they secured each floor of the five-story government building, said Lt Gen. Arvind Dutta, a senior army officer. Five soldiers and one civilian had been killed over the weekend. Loud explosions and fierce exchange of gunfire rattled the building during the 50-hour standoff that was the longest-running attack in five years in the disputed Himalayan region's main city of Srinagar or its outskirts. Fire was also seen in the building, but the flames subsided after a while. 'The exchange of gunfire has ended. We're now clearing the huge building room by room," senior police officer

Syed Javaid Mujtaba Gillani said.

During the day, the army said

During the day, the army said the last holdout rebels had been cornered in the building. "Our main purpose is to make sure that we don't have any more casualties," Lt Gen Satish Kumar Dua, India's top army officer in Kashmir, said as the operations were ongoing.

The militants had taken refuge in the building after they fired automatic rifles and ambushed a convoy of paramilitary soldiers Saturday. The rebels allowed more than 100 civilian government employees to leave the building without any harm.

Three members of the special forces, two army captains and a soldier, were killed in the standoff, along with two paramilitary soldiers and a civilian. Thirteen paramilitary troops were wounded. Hundreds of residents in the Pampore area, where the militants had holed up, demonstrated on the streets

Sunday and Monday to support the rebels. Ignoring government orders to stay away from the site, they chanted slogans against Indian rule in Kashmir. Government forces fired tear gas and pellet guns, while the protesters threw rocks. Police said at least 15 protesters were hurt.

Anti-India sentiment runs deep in the region, where rebel groups have been fighting since 1989 for either independence or a merger with neighboring Pakistan. More than 68,000 people have been killed in the armed uprising and ensuing Indian military crackdown.

India and Pakistan each administer a portion of Kashmir, but both claim the Himalayan region in its entirety. The rival nations have fought three wars, two of them over control of Kashmir, since they won independence from British colonialists in 1947.—AP

## Taleban suicide bomber Kills 13 in Afghanistan

KABUL: A suicide bomber targeting a police commander killed at least 13 people yesterday, including nine civilians, in Afghanistan's northern Parwan province, an official said. The attack happened near a clinic and a bazaar, said Gen. Zaman Mamozai, the provincial police chief. Four local police were among those killed, and another 19 people, including 17 civilians, were wounded, he said. The police commander who was targeted in the attack was among those wounded.

"Once again, a Taliban suicide bomber attacked innocent civilians," Mamozai said, adding that the bazaar was packed with shoppers and that people were waiting outside the clinic for treatment. The Taliban claimed responsibility in an email sent to media. The UN's mission in Afghanistan reported earlier this month that most of the 11,000 civilians killed and wounded in 2015 were the victims of insurgent attacks. A total of 3,545 civilians were killed last year as a result of the war, the UN report said, with another 7,457 wounded.

The figures mark a 4 percent drop in civilian deaths from the previous year, but a 9 percent rise in civilians wounded. Taliban insurgents regularly target Afghan security forces, often killing civilians in the process.

#### Afghan troops pull out

Meanwhile, Afghan government forces have pulled out of a second district in Helmand, officials said yesterday, leaving the Taleban in control of most of the northern part of the province after troops withdrew from Musa Qala district last week.

Military and government officials said the move had been made to concentrate forces more effectively. But it raises questions over the ability of Afghan security forces to take on Taleban militants who have stepped up their insurgency since the withdrawal of international troops in 2014 from most combat operations left them fighting largely alone.

Army and government officials said security forces had left Nawzad district, which borders Musa Qala, and would concentrate their strength on defending the area around the provincial capital Lashkar Gah and the main highway between Kabul and the western city of Herat

and the western city of Herat.

According to US estimates, the Islamist

Taleban control or threaten around a third of Afghanistan, although they have so far failed to take over any major provincial centres apart from their brief capture of the northern city of Kunduz last year.

The Taliban are seeking to topple the Western-backed government in Kabul and reimpose Islamic rule 15 years after they were ousted from power. Helmand, a major centre of opium production where thousands of British and American soldiers and marines struggled to subdue the Taliban, has been slipping out of government control for months as the insurgents overrun much of the countryside outside a few district centres. The latest move leaves security forces hanging on in the town of Sangin, north of the main Highway One, as well as a number of other towns and district centres including Gereshk, which lies on the highway and Marjah, close to Lashkar Gah. "We have withdrawn our forces from Nawzad and Musa Qala based on military plans," said Mohammad Rasoul Zazai, a spokesman for the 215th army Corps.

"Currently for us Sangin, Marjah, Nad Ali and surrounding areas of Lashkar Gah and Kabul-Herat highway are a priority. And we put all our efforts in these places," he said.

Helmand governor Merza Khan Rahimi also played down the decision to withdraw from the two districts, which he said could be retaken at any time. "It is normal during fighting to move forward or retreat," he said. "We are not concerned about this."

The surprise withdrawals nonetheless leave the Taleban poised to move on the nearby Kajaki district, the site of a huge hydroelectric dam built with millions of dollars of US aid as part of a drive to provide power to Helmand and neighboring Kandahar provinces.

US Special Forces units have been in the region to help train the Afghan army and hundreds more American troops were sent to reinforce security for the training mission. US Army Col. Michael Lawhorn, a spokesman for NATO's Resolute Support mission in Kabul, said the Afghan army was "making a tactical decision to reposition forces to fight the Taliban more effectively". He added that the move would allow troops to be concentrated around fewer checkpoints, resulting in a more mobile force. — Agencies



NEW DELHI: Protestors of India's Jat agricultural community block a highway linking New Delhi to Rohtak at Bahadurgarh, Haryana state, yesterday.—AP

# DEAL REACHED TO END INDIAN CASTE PROTESTS

#### Delhi water crisis deepens as deadly protests hit key source

will be completed by evening." Thousands of

troops had been deployed to Haryana on

Saturday with orders to shoot on sight after

week-long protests by members of the caste

turned violent, with rioters setting fire to homes

Haryana's government agreed to the Jats'

demand for preferential access to sought-after

government jobs and university places under

The protests eased on Sunday after

and railway stations and blocking highways.

**NEW DELHI:** Members of a rural Indian caste reached a deal late yesterday to end their protests that paralysed the north Indian state of Haryana and cut water supplies to Delhi's 20 million residents, a protest leader and a police source said. A Jat community leader said protesters had reached an accord with state and federal leaders and would clear road blockades and end their agitation, in which 16 people have been killed and more than 150 injured.

"The government has promised to meet our demands and we have promised our full cooperation," Ramesh Dalal, convener of the Jat Arakshan Andolan (Jat Reservation Movement), told Reuters.

Dalal said he had appealed to the entire Jat community, which makes up around a quarter of the population of Haryana, to return home after staging state-wide protests to demand more government jobs and college places. A senior police officer said that state leaders had persuaded the Jats to call off their protests. "Our challenge is to keep the law and order situation under control," the officer said, requesting anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Days of rioting and looting by Jats had challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of better days for Indians who elected him in 2014 with the largest majority in three decades.

#### Rationing water

India's caste-based quota system.

A representative of the Jats, traditional farmers who make up the single largest community in the state with nearly eight million members, told AFP they had accepted the offer and would call off the protests completely. "We have called off the agitation since the government agreed to all our demands. We are satisfied now and have faith the government will do its part," said Yashpal Malik, head of a group of Jat organisations. India sets aside a proportion of jobs and university places for Dalits, known as "untouchables", and for other so-called "backward castes", under measures intended to remedy centuries of discrimina-

But the policy causes resentment among other communities such as the Jats, who say it freezes them out. The latest protests echo

caste violence that swept the western state of Gujarat last August, leaving several dead. That state saw weeks of protests by the Patidar or Patel caste, who demanded the same benefits offered to lower castes.

Haryana additional chief secretary P K Das said at least 19 people had died in the Haryana violence, which also forced the cancellation or diversion of hundreds of trains in the state after stations were set on fire. One of India's largest carmakers, Maruti Suzuki, suspended operations at its two Haryana plants after the supplies of components were disrupted. Das said most roads had now been reopened after being blocked by protesters and state authorities hoped to regain full control by the end of the day, although police reported some minor clashes yesterday.

Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted that the retaking of the canal was a "great relief" to the city. Around 80 percent of its 17 million residents normally receive piped water, according to the water board. Many said they had been forced to limit their use of water or buy bottled supplies. "We have been rationing water and have ordered additional bottles of water from the market to take care of our essential needs like drinking and cooking," bank worker Rajesh Mohan Bindlish told AFP. "We are also using buckets instead of regular showers." —Agencies

# INDIAN STUDENTS WANTED IN SEDITION CASE EMERGE FROM HIDING

**NEW DELHI:** Five students wanted in a controversial sedition case that has triggered some of India's biggest student protests for years emerged from hiding yesterday and said they were prepared to face justice. Police have been searching for the five since February 12, when they arrested student union leader Kanhaiya Kumar for sedition over a rally at which anti-India slogans were shouted.

The arrest raised fears over freedom of speech in the country's top universities. Kumar, who like the other five is from New Delhi's prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), says he was not among those shouting the slogans.

He was beaten by right-wing nationalists when he appeared in court last week in an apparently orchestrated attack that has been condemned by rights activists and scholars around the world.

One of the five students, Anant Prakash Narayan, said he had gone underground because he feared "mob fury" but was ready to face justice. "We are not scared of the police or the legal proceedings. We are ready to face everything because we have

not done anything that is wrong," he told the NDTV news channel from the JNU campus.

"We decided to come out in the open because the situation has cooled down now. We were scared of mob fury, not of anything else." The students' reappearance has presented police with a dilemma because officially they need permission from the university's vice-chancellor to enter the campus.

Police vehicles were lined up outside the university yesterday, with the vicechancellor locked in meetings to decide whether to allow them access. Students have accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi's right-wing nationalist government of misusing the British-era sedition law to stifle dissent. Modi has not directly commented on the row, but yesterday he addressed students at a major university in his northern constituency of Varanasi. Last week, as students around the country marched against what they say is a clampdown on dissent, his government ordered all public universities to fly the national flag on campus.—AFP



NEW DELHI: Indian student activist Umar Khalid walks on the campus of New Delhi's prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi yesterday.—AFP

#### Water crisis

Meanwhile, much of New Delhi's water supply was cut off yesterday after members of an influential Indian caste sabotaged a canal as part of protests seeking preferential treatment that have killed at least 19 people.

A representative of the Jat caste said they had called off their week-long protests which saw thousands of troops deployed in Haryana, after the government of the northern state accepted their demands. But the capital's water board was still striving to restore full supplies to the city of 17 million.

India sent troops to secure the canal in Haryana after Jat protesters-demanding a quota for their caste in public service jobs and higher education seized it on Saturday and diverted the water flow away from the capital. By yesterday morning the army had regained control and was assessing the damage. But with the water flow into the capital reduced by more than two-thirds, schools and many businesses remained shut and authorities urged people to ration water. Delhi's water board said it had been forced to limit supplies to the city, which receives little rain and has long struggled to provide enough water for its rapidly growing population

Just 240 million gallons was being produced after the attack compared to the usual 820 million gallons a day, it said. "There is extensive damage to the canal and it will take some time to fully restore the supply to Delhi," said water board spokeswoman Sanjam Cheema. "Engineers are working and hopefully the work

# BANGLADESH ARRESTS ISLAMISTS OVER HINDU PRIEST'S SLAYING

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh police have arrested three local Islamists over the decapitation of a top Hindu priest, the latest attack targeting religious minorities in the Muslim-majority nation, officers said yesterday.

The Islamic State (IS) group has claimed responsibility for the attack inside the temple complex on Sunday in the country's north, but local police said there was no evidence to suggest the jihadist group was involved.

"We've arrested three people for interrogation," said Babul Akhter, police chief of Debiganj area where the attack happened. Two members of banned militant group Jamayetul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and an activist with Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh's largest Islamist political party, were arrested overnight Sunday. Police did not give details of their alleged involvement in the attack.

"The IS group has previously claimed responsibility for attacks on minorities. But we haven't found any evidence confirming their link. Rather we have found JMB was behind these killings," Akhter told AFP.

Two unknown men armed with pistols and cleavers attacked Jogeswar Roy as he was

arranging prayers at the temple in Debiganj town, some 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of the capital Dhaka, police have said. Two devotees were also wounded in the attack, including one who was shot as he tried to save the priest, they have said.

US-based monitoring organization SITE has reported that the IS group said in a statement it is behind the murder. Bangladesh has seen an upsurge in attacks on minorities including Shiites, Sufis, Christians and Ahmadis by Islamist militant groups.

The government rejects the IS group's claims of responsibility for several of the attacks, including the shootings of two foreigners last year. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's secular government instead accuses the JMB, other local militant groups as well as the Islamist-allied political opposition of trying to destabilise the country.

A long-running political crisis has radicalised opponents of the government and analysts say Islamist extremists pose a growing danger. Hindus, the country's largest minority, make up nearly 10 percent of Bangladesh's 160 million people. — AFP

## TENSIONS RISING ON DMZ, SAYS NORTH KOREAN OFFICER

PANMUNJOM, North Korea: Tensions have increased significantly along the Demilitarized Zone since North Korea's recent nuclear test and rocket launch, a North Korean military official told The Associated Press yesterday, adding that while he could not comment on operational details, "the reality is that it is touch and go." Though parts of the world's most fortified border can seem like a tourist trap, drawing throngs of camera-happy visitors on both sides every year, to the military-trained eye the Cold War-style standoff along the 257-kilometer (160-mile) DMZ - established when the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty - is an incident waiting to happen.

That's now truer than ever, the North Korean officer said, as tensions are escalating between Pyongyang, Seoul and Washington.

Thousands of US troops are deployed in South Korea and units based around the DMZ have the motto "Be Ready to Fight Tonight."

"People come here and they think it's like a resort. But if you know it better, you know how dangerous it is," Lt Col Nam Dong Ho of the North Korean People's Army said in Panmunjom, the truce village where the armistice was signed. Nam said tensions have increased significantly since the nuclear test in January and rocket launch earlier this month. "Something could happen at any time," he said.

To stand on the North Korean side of the Demilitarized Zone is almost otherworldly. After crossing through military checkpoints and passing roadside concrete structures rigged o detonate and keep any vehicles from passing - defenses that are also common in the South - the air is peaceful and fresh, and birds can be heard chirping as they fly over a carefully manicured landscape dotted with rock monuments and meticulously maintained historical buildings. But closer to the Demarcation Line that marks the actual border, soldiers stand rigidly on guard, armed and intimidating, often just a few steps away from their South Korean counterparts.



Korean People's Army Lt Col Nam Dong Ho points to a map showing the line which separates the two Koreas in Panmunjom at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) yesterday. — AP

On Monday, the surreal feeling at the Demarcation Line was heightened by the absence of anyone - soldiers or civilians - visible on the South's side.

South Korea halted tours to its side of the DMZ the day after the Jan. 6 nuclear test, when it also announced it would resume cross-border propaganda broadcasts, which have in the past brought strong recriminations from North Korea. The tours have gradually resumed. A popular observatory where people can catch a glimpse into the North via binoculars was set to reopen today.

Outraging the North

Along with restarting the broadcasts, South Korean President Park Geun-hye responded to the

North's nuclear test and launch by shutting down a joint industrial park in Kaesong, a city just north of the DMZ, and telling the South Korean National Assembly that if North Korean leader Kim Jong Un doesn't change his ways his regime will surely collapse - predictably outraging the North.

North Korea reacted by putting the industrial park under military control, cutting off emergency hotlines with Seoul and - through its state-run media - accusing Park of being a traitor and a "senile granny." "I don't even want to utter her name," Nam said. "I'm just a soldier so I don't know how the situation has changed. But as the Kaesong industrial zone has been totally closed by South Korea, our people and army are get-

Nam said the broadcasts cannot be heard in Panmunjom during the day, which he suggested was because the South doesn't want them to be heard by South Korean tourists.

"But when it's quiet, late at night, you can hear them here," he said. North Korea says it is developing nuclear weapons for self-defense and has the sovereign right to launch satellites as part of a peaceful space program. But both are generally seen as violating longstanding United Nations resolutions. The UN. Security Council is still discussing its response, but the United States, Japan and South Korea have already announced new sanctions on the already-heavily sanctioned North.

The standoff is likely to get worse before it gets better. Keeping its own military profile high, the United States flew four stealth F-22 fighter jets over South Korea and reaffirmed it maintains an "ironclad commitment" to the defense of its ally after the rocket launch. Last month, it sent a nuclear-capable B-52 bomber over South Korea following the North's nuclear test. South Korea and the United States are expected to hold large-scale war games next month. South Korea's defense minister has said about 15,000 US troops will take part in the annual exercises, double the number Washington normally sends. The two countries have also begun preparatory talks to deploy a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense anti-missile system in South Korea.

That is strongly opposed by neighboring powers China and Russia, since the radar would allow Washington to reach well into their territory as well.

Nam, the North Korean officer, said he remains focused on his duties. But he added that, now that North Korea says it has an H-bomb - a claim disputed by some outside experts - the U.S. might be better advised to focus on negotiating a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War. "On the international stage, the US talks about peace," he said. "But it should not interfere in the affairs of other countries." — AP



BATAM: One of seven fishing boats is blown up by the Indonesian government in Batam, Kepulauan Riau province yesterday. — AFP

## INDONESIA SINKS 27 FOREIGN BOATS TO STOP ILLEGAL FISHING

JAKARTA: Indonesia sank 27 impounded foreign boats yesterday, a minister said, as the world's largest archipelago nation stepped up a campaign against illegal fishing in its waters. The empty vessels from the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Myanmar were blown up or scuttled at five separate locations across the country, said Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti.

The boats had been all caught fishing illegally in the archipelago of more than 17,000 islands. Four Indonesian boats were also sunk after they were caught fishing without proper documentation. "The gov-

ernment is taking stronger and firmer action to enforce regulations to keep our waters safe," Pudjiastuti, a key figure in the campaign against illegal fishing, told journalists.

Indonesia has sunk foreign boats on several occasions since the government launched the drive to combat illegal fishing, with President Joko Widodo claiming the practice costs the country's economy billions of dollars annually. However, the campaign has caused tensions with other countries in the region. China last year expressed concern after a Chinese boat was blown up. — AFP

#### SCARRED BY TRAFFICKING ABUSES, ROHINGYA STAY PUT IN CAMPS

**THET KEL PYIN, Myanmar:** After Husaina's 20-year-old son boarded a boat to escape poverty and discrimination in Myanmar's Rakhine State, she heard

nothing from him for seven months.

Then, in a shocking phone call, she was told the young Rohingya Muslim was in the hands of people smugglers in Thailand, and had fallen severely ill. The only way for him to be released was to somehow find the money to pay a ransom. "The man said: 'If you don't pay money, he will die ... I was so upset. How did he get into the hands of the brokers? How did he become so ill?" she said, sitting in her dank and crumbling one-room temporary home in Thet Kel Pyin displacement camp, a few kilometres from the Rakhine state capital of Sittwe.

They found an employer in Malaysia willing to pay about \$1,600 in exchange for Mamed Rohim's labour. That was over a year ago and Rohim is still working to repay the debt.

He only manages to send home about \$50 every two or three months, which the family uses to repay their own debts - run up since they fled communal violence and their home in Sittwe for the camp. Now barred from returning home, the family - seven other children and an asthmatic husband - is struggling to make ends meet. But Husaina says Rohim's plight continues to haunt her.

"Even though I want to send other children on the boat so they could find jobs, I'm really worried about the brokers so I dare not," she told Myanmar Now, an independent news service supported by the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Waves of Rohingya Muslims have fled sectarian violence and apartheid-like conditions in Myanmar in recent years, many of them swept up in trafficking rings, some of which hold men like Rohim for ransom, making threats to their impoverished families that their loved ones will be killed.

But human rights groups say there has been a dramatic drop in the number of Rohingya leaving Myanmar this year. They attribute this to a crackdown on human trafficking by countries such as Thailand and Malaysia and political changes at home following the National League for Democracy's landslide election win in November.

The Myanmar government does not recognise the 1.1 million Rohingya as citizens and has referred to them as "Bengalis", to suggest they are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The group cannot travel freely within Buddhistmajority Myanmar and faces restrictions

on access to education and healthcare.
Experiences such as Rohim's are common among the Rohingya, confined to the squalid displacement camps outside Sittwe. The stories are shared among residents, making many fearful of the multiday journey.

"There have been very few boats since the sailing season started in October and none at all this year, 2016," said Chris Lewa of the Arakan Project, a Rohingya advocacy group which tracks migration.

"The key reason is that smugglers have no option for disembarkation due to Thailand being virtually closed. Another is the situation in Malaysia (where) there are regular immigration raids."

Matthew Smith, executive director of Thailand-based human rights group Fortify Rights, agrees numbers leaving Rakhine have dropped, even though it is difficult to quantify the decrease in departures due to the clandestine nature of the voyages. —Reuters

# DEATH TOLL FROM FIJI CYCLONE RISES TO 21

VILLAGES FLATTENED, CROPS WIPED OUT AS HEALTH FEARS MOUNT

**SYDNEY:** Fiji began a massive cleanup yesterday after one of the most powerful storms recorded in the southern hemisphere tore through the Pacific island nation, killing 21 people, flattening remote villages and cutting off communications. Aid agencies warned of a widespread health crisis, particularly in low-lying areas where thousands of Fiji's 900,000 people live in tin shacks, after crops were wiped out and fresh water supplies blocked.

The Fiji Broadcasting Corp, quoting the country's National Disaster Management Office, said 21 people had died and four were still missing at sea. Almost 8,000 people remained hunkered down in hundreds of evacuation centres across Fiji where they had headed before tropical cyclone Winston hit late on Saturday with winds of up to 325 kph (200 mph).

"The death toll from Cyclone Winston continues to rise and reports of widespread damage are coming in from across Fiji," said New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully. "It is clear that Fiji faces a major cleanup and recovery operation." McCully said a New Zealand Defence Force C-130 would leave for the Fijian capital, Suva, later on Monday with relief supplies and an emergency response team. The majority of the fatalities were along the western coast and were caused mainly by flying debris and drowning in storm surges, authorities said. A 36-hour curfew was lifted early yesterday, allowing the Fijian military to ramp up efforts to reach the more remote parts of the archipelago of about 300 islands.

"The Fijians are desperately trying to repair severed lines of communication, but they hold grave fears that the news waiting for them will be dire," said Raijeli Nicole, Pacific regional director of aid group Oxfam. "Given the intensity of the storm and the images we have seen so far, there are strong concerns that the death toll won't stop climbing today and that hundreds of people will



SUVA: Vendors opening their businesses for the first time after Cyclone Winston in Fiji's capital Suva. The death toll from the super-cyclone that hit Fiji over the weekend has risen from six to 21, Care Australia said yesterday, citing Fijian government officials. — AFP

have seen their homes and livelihoods completely destroyed." Aerial footage of outlying islands taken by the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and posted on the Fiji government's official website, showed whole villages flattened and flooded.

Aid agencies were told at a meeting of Fiji's National Emergency Operations Centre on Monday of potential "catastrophic" damage to Koro Island, Fiji's seventh-largest island.

"The aerial survey suggested the runway looks OK so they are going to land on this later this afternoon with emergency personal and some supplies," said Anna Cowley of CARE Australia. Fiji also reopened its main airport at Nadi. Food and water supplies are a growing

concern, even for areas such as Suva that did not suffer as much damage as the more remote regions. The Consumer Council of Fiji has urged traders not to sell food and other perishable items that have gone bad due to the effects of the cyclone. The Council's chief executive Premila Kumar said supermarkets and other food stores should destroy such items.

Survivors spoke of the horror of the cyclone, while aid workers scrambled to help victims. "The noise was deafening. At one point, I turned to my partner and questioned whether we would actually survive," Sarah Bingham, an Australian on holiday on Tokoriki Island, told Reuters by telephone. — Reuters

# FILIPINO TORTURE VICTIMS VOW TO DERAIL MARCOS CAMPAIGN

**MANILA:** Angry victims of the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos vowed yesterday to derail his son's vice-presidential bid as they demanded long-delayed retribution.

Hundreds who endured torture and imprisonment during Marcos' two-decade reign gathered in Manila chanting "No More Marcos! Marcos Dictator!" as they announced plans to

dog Ferdinand Marcos Jnr's electoral effort.

"We will hound his campaign," the group's convenor, torture victim Bonifacio llagan told AFP. "He will redeem the family, rewrite history and bring back his father's abusive leadership framework." Human rights groups say tens of thousands of people were murdered, tortured

and imprisoned during Marcos' tumultuous rule.
The government estimates Marcos and his family stole \$10 billion from the already desperately-poor country during his rule. The group Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses to Malacanang or CARMMA, said Marcos Jnr was not the "guiltless son" that he claimed to be.

Opinion polls give Marcos Jnr-known as Bongbong-the lead in the vice-presidential race, three months before the May 9 general elections. The president and vice president are elected separately in the Philippines, each serving a single six-year term. The 58-year-old, an incumbent senator, denies his family stole from government coffers and insists his father's rule was one of peace and progress.

Victory in the elections will cement a remarkable political comeback for the Marcos family, who held mostly local positions in their home provinces until Bongbong won a seat in the national Senate in 2010. The family's flamboyant matriarch, former first lady Imelda Marcos-who

was famously found to have amassed hundreds of pairs of shoes while her husband was in power-has made no secret of her desire for her son to become president.

Marcos Jnr is trumpeting his father's infrastructure achievements to a young electorate

that has no firsthand experience of the brutality of martial law. In a glossy Internet video, he proclaims "I am not my past. We are the future". The Marcos family fled to exile in Hawaii after being ousted by a military-backed popular revolt in 1986. Marcos Snr died three years later. — AFP



MANILA: Filipino activists hold a slogan during a gathering of martial law victims and personalities who joined the anti-dictatorship struggle in suburban Quezon city, north of Manila, yesterday. — AP





Sea waves hit the world oldest port of Byblos as the Lebanese capital Beirut appears in the background yesterday. — AFP

## 5G KEY TO UNLOCKING INTERNET OF THINGS...BUT NOT YET

speed up the Internet and unlock the Internet of Things - making driverless cars and talking fridges a reality - but experts warn plenty of hurdles remain. The fifth generation of mobile networks should permit devices to connect over the Internet, allowing them talk to us, to applications - and each other. 5G is the term on everyone's lips at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona and a global race to develop it is under way.

"4G was an improvement on 3G, with more speed but it basically came from the same sphere, while 5G has aspirations to solve a whole range of uses which are outside that sphere," said Viktor Arvidsson, head of strategy for Ericsson France. In the future, 5G could have a whole range of applications underpinning the Internet of Things - the increasing inter-connection of everyday appliances - with uses as varied as transport, health or industrial machinery, for which 4G is completely unadapted.

Frederic Pujol, a technology expert at the IDATE consulting firm, said: "The network must adapt both to very high speeds and enormous

capacity and at the same time, to the billions of objects that do not communicate very often." Connection speeds will be slashed through the use of a wider bandwidth, and an ever-larger network of masts and aerials, but also thanks to the convergence of fixed and mobile networks. But 5G will require massive investment to create a truly global network.

#### '5G can Stop Car Quickly'

Merouane Debbah, the head of the Paris-based Mathematical and Algorithmic Sciences Lab of Chinese telecoms company Huawei, gave the example of a driverless car being controlled by the Internet with the connection speeds that 4G can manage, a vehicle travelling at 100 km per hour would travel another three metres before the brakes were applied. "With 5G, it will be just a few centimetres. But to get that, you would need 99.9 percent network coverage around the globe," Debbah said.

Such an exciting leap in technology is whetting appetites and in Europe, the METIS 2020 project is helping to prepare the continent for 5G by bringing together 30

European and global players in the sector. The next step will be taken by the European Commission-backed 5GPPP, or 5G Infrastructure Public Private Partnership, a consortium which will seek to develop technical solutions to the myriad of potential uses for 5G.

The EU is considering putting up to euro 700 million (\$772 million) into the 5GPPP alongside 3.0 billion euros of private sector funding. "For the European Union, financing this kind of project allows it to achieve a standardization that it can then push out across the world. If we can build a complete system with all of the eventualities identified, it would give us a head start," said Charbel Abdel Nour, a researcher at Telecom Bretagne, which is part of the 5GPPP consortium.

So a global race is on, and Asia is set to play a major role with large-scale tests due to take place in South Korea to coincide with the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics and then in Japan for the Summer Olympics in Tokyo two years later. Not to be outdone, US telecoms giants AT&T and Verizon announced plans this month to begin testing 5G networks. — AFP



BARCELONA: A technician explains to visitors 5G network operations at SK Telecom's stand at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona yesterday, on the first day of the worldis biggest mobile fair. — AFP

#### CABINET RAISES PENALTIES FOR VISA TRADING

Continued from Page 1

them jobs, a widespread phenomenon in Kuwait known as visa trading. Thousands of foreign laborers are recruited every year for expensive fees paid to the supposed employer but are not given the promised job when they arrive in the country.

The amendments also include closing the recruitment files of employers who recruit expat workers

against a fee and still fail to provide them with jobs. Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih said yesterday that the ministry has already scrapped the recruitment files of over 650 companies for violating recruitment rules, especially trafficking in workers.

The amendments also tackle non-payment of salaries or delaying the payments. It gives the court the right to add a one percent penalty each month if the wage is not paid on time.





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**ACCOUNTS** 

COMMERCIAL: 24835618
P.O.Box 1301 Safat,13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL:info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

: 24835619

Focus

# CAMERON FACING JOHNSON CHALLENGE IN BREXIT CAMPAIGN

By Florence Biedermann

British Prime Minister David Cameron has got off to a tough start in the EU referendum campaign, scoring a victory in Brussels but then seeing six ministers and dozens of his Conservative MPs including Mayor of London Boris Johnson back Brexit, experts said. The charismatic Johnson came out of his house in north London on Sunday and declared that he would be supporting a "Leave" vote in the June 23 referendum on EU membership, despite an appeal from Cameron to change his mind.

Anand Menon, a European politics professor at King's College London, told AFP that Johnson's endorsement would give the Brexit campaign "traction" but it was not yet clear how prominent his role would be. "We have to wait see what the tone is going to be. There are two ways this can fall: a disagreement and back together afterwards, or it can turn nasty" against Johnson, who is seen as a potential successor to Cameron.

Asked about the Conservative parliamentary split, he said: "If over 100 MPs are in favor of something the PM is explicitly against, it's hard not to describe that as a divided party." John Springford, a research fellow at the Centre for European Reform, said Cameron "did well politically" at last week's Brussels summit and has done "the best that he could" with Conservative eurosceptics.

Cameron has hailed the deal secured in Brussels, saying it will protect Britain's status as a non-eurozone member, exclude it from the political aim of "ever closer union" and curb some welfare benefits for EU workers in Britain. After the cabinet meeting on Saturday, six ministers said they would support vote "Leave" on the referendum question: "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the

European Union or leave the European Union?"
The decision of Justice Secretary Michael Gove, a close personal friend and ally of Cameron, to support "Leave" was also a blow but the endorsement of heavyweights like Home Secretary Theresa May, Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond and Defence Secretary Michael Fallon was seen as crucial.

#### 'Cameron's Standing' is Key

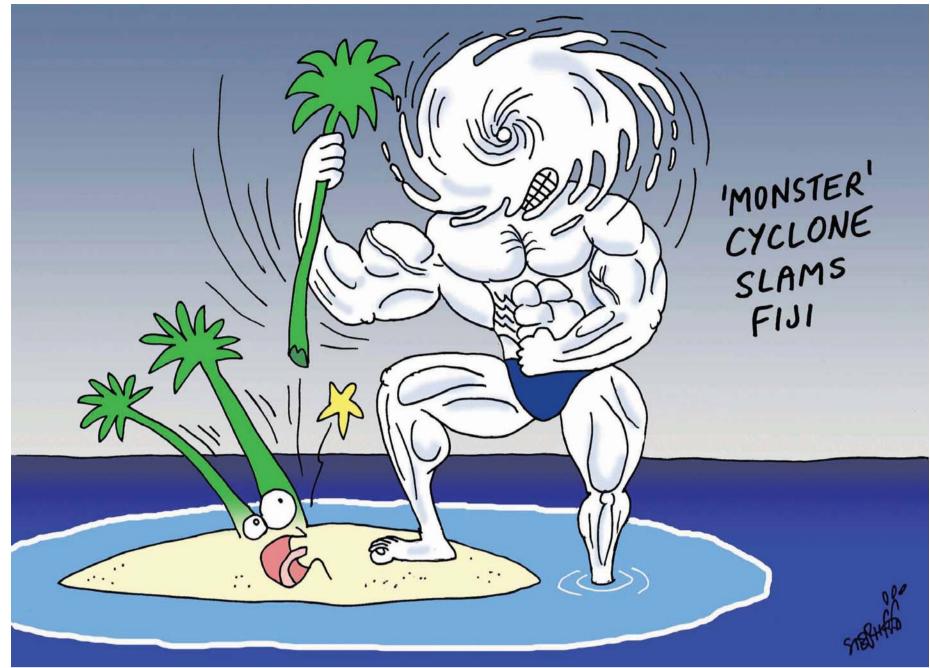
Whatever the arguments of the for and against camps, experts said it was unlikely the details of the EU deal would have much weight in a campaign that will hinge on larger issues about national prosperity and sovereignty. "The deal won't do that much to convince anybody," Springford said, adding that aside from the most ardent EU supporters and opponents "those in the middle will vote on the big arguments about economy and security".

Menon also said it was "unbelievable" that anyone would decide their vote based on the substance of the EU deal. "Come June 23, no one is going to be talking about the specifics of the deal," he told AFP. As the campaign gets underway, Cameron will also have the backing of the City of London, Europe's biggest financial hub, and the main centre-left opposition Labour Party.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has dismissed Cameron's EU negotiations as a "sideshow" but has said he will campaign for Britain to stay in the EU to protect investments, jobs and worker and consumer protection rights. The Economist weekly argued that the voters' decision will hinge largely on their views on Cameron, who does not want to go down in history as the prime minister who led Britain out of the European Union. "Nothing will matter as much as Mr Cameron's standing," it said, adding that his "personal appeal and abilities" would be key. If it currently looks like the 'In' campaign will prevail, that is because he remains relatively well-liked and respected (with the emphasis on relatively)," it said.

There is little scope for complacency though. Springford identified two more "risks" for Cameron that could turn public opinion against the European Union - a massive new influx of migrants into Europe and a fresh eurozone crisis as Greece prepares for an important debt repayment in June. —AFP

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## BREXIT, BRUSSELS AND THE ART OF DEAL-MAKING

**By Alastair Macdonald** 

he deal David Cameron has asked Britons to vote on to remain in what he calls a "reformed EU" has been years in the making - and its making says much about how today's European Union works. For EU chief executive Jean-Claude Juncker, speaking after Friday's agreement that Cameron said granted Britain "special status" in the group, a key moment came half a world away in the presence of koala bears, when he persuaded the British prime minister to stop seeking rapid revisions to treaties that voters elsewhere in Europe would not ratify.

Juncker urged Cameron at the G20 Brisbane summit in Nov 2014 to push for a binding agreement pledging to amend EU treaties in the future - what has become known as the "Danish solution" - instead of an outright treaty change. "I simply told him I would not play that game," Juncker said last week of the conversation in the lobby of the summit venue. "That helped convince him."

The story of the "Brexit-buster" deal illustrates how public disillusion with the EU, fueled by economic malaise and disquiet at migration and globalization, has both raised pressure for change and made it harder for governments to revamp the bloc. It shows, too, the degree of legal creativity - trickery to its detractors - that sits in the backrooms of Brussels and the willingness, or maybe desperation, of EU leaders to do whatever it takes to stop its second-ranked economy from leaving, potentially setting off an unstoppable rush for the exit.

Cameron had promised a referendum in 2013 thinking he could piggy-back his demands for safeguards for sterling and British sovereignty onto EU treaty amendments that Angela Merkel had told him she planned to stabilize the euro. But the German chancellor lost heart in early 2014, one of several negotiators and diplomats who spoke to Reuters said. "What changed was her failure ... and the fact it was obviously intractable inside the euro zone," one senior EU diplomat said. President François Hollande, not the most sympathetic to what many in the EU saw as a rash gamble by Cameron to hold his own party together, saw no chance of euro crisis-weary French voters ratifying anything they saw as coming out of Brussels. Success for the far-right, antiimmigrant French National Front and UK Independence Party at the European Parliament election of May 2014 raised both the pressure on Cameron to make good on his promises as he fought for re-election in 2015 and reduced the chance of Hollande and other leaders delivering it.

There would also be other critical moments, notably when two weeks after the Brisbane meeting Cameron made a pre-election pledge to cut welfare for EU migrant workers. That seemed hopelessly incompatible with treaty rights to free movement and non-discrimination of

European citizens. Yet the deal agreed unanimously on Friday includes a promise of EU legislation to that effect.

#### In From the Cold

The legally binding decision also grants Britain an explicit exemption from the founding goal of "ever closer union" and safeguards for the City of London financial centre. Cameron on Saturday set the date for a referendum for June 23. That a deal was done at all testifies to the creativity of Brussels lawyers, to the fear of EU leaders that a Brexit could wreck a Union deep in crisis and, the deal's architects say, to an evolution in Cameron's relations around the summit table. The prime minister has travelled from a lonely summit in late 2011, when he outraged fellow leaders by vetoing a plan to fix the euro crisis, to one before last Christmas, when a diplomatic tour de force won their blessing to bend EU rules and help him keep his promise to deter Europeans moving to Britain. "There was a very near moment of rupture in December 2011 and it could easily have lurched from there into exit," the senior EU diplomat said. "It's been an evolution. Cameron's fundamental thinking hasn't changed very much on the European Union. But .. he has changed the way he interacts with others."

Cameron was temporarily isolated at a June 2014 summit which made Juncker head of the European Commission. Hurt by British media headlines alleging he "drank cognac for breakfast", the Luxemburger could have blocked Cameron's quest for reform. But the pair quickly made up and Juncker handed the key banking portfolio in his team to Cameron ally Jonathan Hill. "That sealed an alliance," a senior EU official said. "Cameron knows he cannot get the 27 to support him if the Commission is against him. That was decisive."

Juncker was at the 1992 Edinburgh summit that devised a way to overcome Danish rejection of an EU treaty and he gave the prime minister an impassioned vision of how the same solution could work for Britain. "If Juncker and Cameron had not spoken about Edinburgh in Brisbane we would not have got here," the EU official said, describing the scene that morning when the pair talked while IMF chief Christine Lagarde, deep in conversation with Angela Merkel, petted a tame koala nearby.

#### Big Win

The whole idea of a referendum might have lapsed had Cameron lost in May 2015. In the event, he won big and, untrammelled by Europhile former coalition partners, he was free, perhaps even to his own surprise, to demand all he had promised. Quickly, both sides put together negotiating teams. Cameron mandated his Europe "sherpa", Tom Scholar, and Ivan Rogers, the British ambassador in Brussels. Juncker put a Commission veteran, British lawyer Jonathan

Faull, in charge of a task force. The president's chief-of-staff, German lawyer Martin Selmayr, led Commission negotiators, backed by the new Dutch head of the EU executive's administration, Alexander Italiener. Tusk, as president of the European Council, was the man who would have to broker a deal with the 27 other leaders. Acting for him were his chief-of-staff, fellow Pole Piotr Serafin, backed by the Council's French chief legal officer Hubert Legal and the head of its administration, Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen.

A graduate of the London School of Economics, Tranholm-Mikkelsen was until June Copenhagen's EU envoy. Familiar with Denmark's own sceptical relationship with Brussels, he was the patiently creative key force behind the deal, according to others involved in the months of backroom talks. The brief, from both London and Brussels, was to give Cameron "a chance to offer something he could win with", another official said. "If he didn't it would be terrible for everyone."

Cameron delivered demands to Tusk on Nov 10. There were no surprises for Brussels - both sides had worked to ensure that whatever he asked for would be just about feasible. But the request to discriminate and curb free movement was tricky. And officials and diplomats recall a wobble when London raised the pressure by warning it might yet press for full treaty change. "It would have wrecked the process," one of the senior EU officials said.

Though the legal experts were still unsure it could work, an EU offer to give Britain the right to deny benefits to newly arrived EU workers for their first four years to protect the welfare system - an "emergency brake" - was leaked to the press in a bid to staunch more talk of treaty change. At the December 17-18 summit, it was still not clear the idea would fly. But Cameron, who since his re-election had visited most European capitals including some that few if any of his predecessors had ever seen, delivered a bravura performance over dinner, asking leaders to help him solve his dilemmas. He won them over. "He convinced the others this was not just his internal problem but about the future of Europe," one participant said. "History was clearly present in the room," said another. There was plenty of haggling and brinkmanship to come. At last week's summit of late nights, one EU official likened the text to a painting by Belgian surrealist Rene Magritte - a work of art reconciling legal reality with political image.

While Cameron's critics, at home and abroad, dismiss the deal as "hollow" and a "repetition of tautologies" already found in EU law, its architects insisted its selective readings of existing jurisprudence will give Britain the protections Cameron had wanted - if he can win over voters on June 23. There is little more Brussels can do to help him now: "It's not my concern," a weary Juncker said. "That's his problem." —Reuters

## EU'S REAL BRAKE IS FRANCO-GERMAN IMPASSE

By Paul Taylor

orget Brexit. The real obstacle to deeper European integration is not the awkward British, whether they choose to stay in the European Union with a "special status" or leave. It is a long-running Franco-German impasse on how to make the euro zone stronger and more sustainable, reconciling two radically different economic and political cultures. Now that David Cameron has won a deal to enshrine formally Britain's semi-detached status in the 28-nation bloc - if his sceptical voters don't detach it completely - the onus will return to Europe's founding nations to work out a way forward.

European federalists such as Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel are fretting that the terms granted to Britain's embattled leader may whet others' appetite for opting out of EU policies and ultimately lead to a disintegration of the union. "We must not give the impression that Europe is a self-service," French President Francois Hollande said. "There can be differences but there cannot be a Europe where each country picks out what it wants."

The risk of a wider unravelling was highlighted by Austria's unilateral decision last week to impose migrant quotas at its borders, and the refusal of four central European states to take any share of the million migrants who entered the EU last year. But it is the breakdown of Franco-

German leadership in the euro zone - the economic core of the 60-year-old European project - that worries the architects of European integration. Paris and Berlin have long slept in the same bed with very different dreams.

bed with very different dreams.

In the heat of the euro zone debt crisis in 2010-12, they found just enough common ground: The euro zone tightened fiscal rules and created its own rescue fund, a partial banking union with a common supervisor and a mechanism for winding up failed banks with an embryonic common resolution fund. But since the European Central Bank averted a meltdown of the 19-nation currency zone by pledging in 2012 to do "whatever it takes" to preserve the euro, reforms to reinforce economic governance and mutualism risk have stalled.

#### Frustrated and Cheated

A 2012 blueprint entitled "Towards a Genuine Economic and Monetary Union" signed by the four presidents of the European Commission, the European Council, the ECB and euro zone finance ministers, led to the first steps in banking union but got stuck after that. The French refused to contemplate the principle of making binding contracts with Brussels to reform their rigid labor market or generous welfare system - issues that could trigger strikes and topple governments. The Germans and their allies balked at providing financial incentives for

countries to sign up to such reforms. Berlin brushed aside ideas for a central euro zone budget, common bank deposit insurance or any ioint debt issuance. A second report last year outlining a more modest three-stage plan for euro zone reform, adding the signature of the president of the European Parliament, got no more traction. Both main European powers are frustrated and feel cheated. The Germans think fiscal discipline is still not being properly enforced, notably on the French, while the French feel Berlin is still failing to show solidarity with weaker southern economies. And both have other pressing domestic concerns - a massive influx of refugees to Germany, in which Berlin feels abandoned by most EU partners, and a deadly security challenge from Islamist

The moment of truth has been postponed, at least until after national elections in France and Germany in 2017. Fear of splitting the left and losing another referendum on Europe after the 2005 defeat of the EU constitutional treaty has driven Hollande's timid European policy, insiders say. Whether a centre-right successor - or a second-term Hollande if the Socialist were re-elected against the odds - would be open to sharing more sovereignty remains to be seen. Meanwhile, the challenge of integrating a million refugees - a project on the scale of reunification with ex-Communist eastern Germany in the 1990s - is

likely to cramp the political attention span of Chancellor Angela Merkel or her successor.

#### Imbalance

A growing power imbalance between an economically successful Germany and a stagnant, reform-shy France has compounded underlying differences of national tradition. Germans dream of a rules-based Europe in which governments transfer sovereignty over national budget balances to a central authority with the power to fine or expel them, and economic reform commitments are made enforceable by EU courts. In such a union, Berlin might be willing to accept a limited common euro zone budget and common bank deposit insurance but probably never common debt issuance. A "transfer union" - redistributing wealth from industrious northerners to easygoing southerners - remains many Germans' nightmare. They see it as an open door to "moral hazard", a permanent reward for bad behaviour.

Many in France still dream of a smaller core euro zone with harmonized taxes at or close to their own high levels, a common minimum wage and unemployment insurance, and a sizeable common budget backed by joint public borrowing. But with rare exceptions, the French remain allergic to outside control or supervision of their public finances or economic policies.—Reuters



#### LEVERKUSEN COACH **FACES PUNISHMENT**

BERLIN: The German Football Association (DFB) has opened disciplinary proceedings against Bayer Leverkusen coach Roger Schmidt after he refused to leave the touchline during his side's 1-0 home loss to Borussia Dortmund on Sunday. "It is the normal procedure and there will certainly be a punishment although I can't say what," Anton Nachreiner, the president of the DFB's control committee, told television station Sport1. Schmidt became engaged in an angry exchange with referee Felix Zwayer following Pierre-Emerick

> Aubameyang's 64th-minute goal at the Bayrena that gave Dortmund victory. He was ordered to the stands but refused to leave the technical area, and Zwayer reacted by stopping play and walking off the pitch with his assistants. The match eventually restarted nine minutes later when Schmidt accepted the referee's decision. The 48-year-old was furious that Dortmund were allowed to take a quick free-kick in the build-up to Aubameyang's goal, but he later apologised. "I made a mistake that hurt my team," Schmidt said later, but Leverkusen sporting director Rudi Voeller hit out at the referee. —AFP

#### **BOLTON GIVEN REPRIEVE** IN FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL

LONDON: Bolton Wanderers, one of England's oldest soccer clubs, received a reprieve in their fight for survival at a High Court hearing yesterday. The Championship (second tier) club announced that they have been given a 14-day adjournment to conclude a takeover deal with the Sports Shield Consortium run by their former player, Dean Holdsworth. Bolton, one of the Football League's founders who have fallen on hard times and lie second-bottom of the Championship table, owe HM Revenue and Customs 2.2 million pounds (\$3.1 million), leading to tax officials asking for a winding-up order yesterday. But lawyers representing Bolton told the Court that efforts were being made to raise money and another hearing will now take place next month. The planned deal with the consortium, reported by British media to be worth 7.5 million pounds, could resurrect the ailing club. On Friday, it was announced the club's training ground had been sold to Wigan Athletic. "Whilst this continues to be a challenging time for everyone associated with the club, we are confident that this adjournment will give us the necessary time to conclude a transfer of ownership of the club, subject to approval from The Football League," Trevor Birch, adviser to the Bolton board, said on the club's website. —Reuters

#### PALACE CAN STILL HAVE THE **BEST PL SEASON: PARDEW**

**LONDON:** Manager Alan Pardew feels Crystal Palace have the chance to enjoy the most successful season in their recent history after they beat Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals. The last time the club reached this stage of the competition was in the 1994-95 season, when they were knocked out by Manchester United after a semifinal replay. Palace were fifth in the Premier League at the end of December but are now 13th after a run of nine games without a win. "I said to the players: 'Look, in recent weeks we've obviously been a bit down on ourselves and got a bit stressful in games, which I think is part of the reason we haven't had a result," Pardew told reporters after the win at Spurs. "The Cup's different though. We can still have the best season Crystal Palace have ever had in the Premier League. We can still come higher than 10th and we're in the quarter-finals of the (FA) Cup. "At the start of the season if you'd offered me that I'd have taken it." Palace's highest Premier League finish was 10th, which they achieved last season. — Reuters

#### IN TROPICAL SINGAPORE, SHORT TRACK SLIDES INTO FOCUS

**SINGAPORE:** Among the weekend bargain hunters on the third floor of a sleepy shopping mall, international short track speed skating returned to Singapore with the hope of finding the tropical Asian nation a first Winter Olympian.

The South East Asian Cup, which concluded on Sunday, was only the second international short track meet to have been staged in the hot and humid citystate, where ice is usually preserved for cooling drinks rather than providing a sporting

Sixty five junior and adult skaters from six countries took part in the two-day event in the western suburbs, scheduled early each day so the rink could be rented out to the mall's shoppers during the lucrative afternoon weekend rush.

The few early movie-goers and shoppers that stumbled across the event could be seen watching on inquisitively as the fast-paced, crash-filled, dramatic races took place. Some, though, were probably unsure what exactly they were watching.

"Pretty much all the time," Singapore skater Lucas Ng told Reuters when asked how often he had to explain his sport to his compatriots.

The 27-year-old part-time skate coach, who won the 500, 1,000 and 1,500 metres at the SEA Cup, is the shining light of Singapore's small speed skating fraternity and will head to South Korea next month to appear in his fifth world championships.

He finished 33rd in the 500m at last year's world championships, four seconds off the gold medal winning time. But Singapore simply sending a skater to compete regularly at the elite championships is a success in itself.

"From a young age I always wanted to take part in winter sports as it's really extreme for us being here in Singapore in a tropical country on this part of the earth where we have no winter at all," he said.

#### **OUTSIDE WEATHER**

Ng is trained by South Korea's four-times Olympic champion Chun Lee-kyung, her recent hiring part of a drive to help boost local interest in the sport and eventually lead to an Olympian of their own.

"We would like to see one as soon as possible," Singapore Ice Skating Association president Sonja Chong told Reuters.

"It depends on a number of factors, obviously you need the talent and fortunately you need to put into place the trainings, facility and coach."

Chun meet twice a week for training ahead of the March 11-15 meet in Seoul, but only when the mall closes. One session starts at 04:30 a.m. on Sundays.

Facilities are next on the agenda. Ng and

Helping the cause is the preliminary inclusion of ice sports for the first time in the biennial Southeast Asian Games, which will be staged in Kuala Lumpur next year.

But trying to convince inhabitants of a tiny island nation with little international sporting pedigree and permanent steamy temperatures that short track speed skating can deliver Winter Olympic pride will always be a tricky task.

"It's a challenge because there is only one rink in Singapore, theoretically it shouldn't be a challenge as it's an indoor winter sport which means we aren't really limited by the outside weather," Chung

"We can create as many ice rinks in Singapore technically, but of course we need to wait for more things (events and skaters) to come up so we can have skating in more parts of Singapore."—Reuters



Group picture of the handicapped team

## KUWAIT HANDICAPPED ATHLETICS TO HOLD TRAINING CAMP IN AL-AIN CITY

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait National Handicapped Athletics team left for Al-Ain city, UAE, to hold a training camp, for participation in Sharqa International Gathering and the Eighth Fazzaa Athletics Championship, as the two tournaments will be held in Sharqa and Dubai from 12/3 until 21/3.

Head of the Kuwait delegation, chairman of the board of Kuwait Handicapped Sports Club

Shafi Al-Hajiri said the Kuwait delegation has also Treasurer Saad Al-Azma along with technical, administrative and medical teams, Al-Hajiri said the team will participate with 16 athletes in the hammer, discuss and spear throwing, in addition to running on wheelchairs for various

He said Al-Ain camp will last two weeks durng which athletes will go through intense training mornings and evenings to ensure they will be fully ready.

He said the choice of Al-Ain city to hold training camp was because of the availability of outstanding facilities.

He said the players who will represent Kuwait are Abdallah Al-Hirz, Mohammad Nasser, Abdelaziz Al-Masoud, Dhari Al-Nassar, Abdallah Al-Saif, Nasser Al-Aradha, Mohammad Al-Mutairi. The throwing event will see the participation of female players Noura Al-Mutairi and Basma









# OOREDOO PARTICIPATES IN **EQUESTRIAN TOURNAMENT**

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of international Ooredoo Group, participated inone of the most exciting activities of Hala Febrayer, which was held on February 19th and 20 thin collaboration with Kuwait Riding

The tournament was organized by Kuwait Riding Centre, where participants had the chance to compete in 3 different categories, based on their level of experience and skills. The two-day program included intermediate tournament, horse dancing shows, beginners' tournaments, advanced tournaments, raffle draws and winners honouring.

Prizes were distributed to winners at the end of each day, first day winners of all three categories received a KD 500 cash prize each, while winners of the second day received KD 1,000 each, in addition to the grand draw prize which was a Hyundai 2016 model car.

The tournament is one of the key activities under Hala Febrayer Festival 2016 with Ooredoo, which included various activities that interest nationals and expats, locals and visitors of all age groups, the prominent festival included a camp, carnival, musical concerts, cultural and religious nights, shopping festival, graffiti competition, marathon and many other

events. Ooredoo's sponsorship of the festival stems from its belief in the importance of effectively taking part in national events and activities that bring the people of Kuwait together, and spreading the festive spirit.







BARCELONA: Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel drives at the Circuit de Catalunya yesterday in Montmelo on the outskirts of Barcelona on the first test day of the Formula One Grand Prix season. — AFP

## ETTEL FASTEST EARLY AS PRESEASON TESTING BEGINS

**BARCELONA:** In a good early sign for Ferrari races other than Hamilton and his Mercedes in its attempt to challenge Mercedes, Sebastian Vettel was faster than reigning champion Lewis Hamilton in Formula One preseason testing yesterday.

Hamilton was first out in the new Mercedes but it was Vettel who had the quickest time in the morning session at the Circuit de Barcelona. Hamilton was nearly half a second slower, and Valtteri Bottas of Williams was third, more than a second behind Vettel. Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull was fourth.

Although test times often can be misleading, especially this early, it was clearly a positive start for Vettel, who was third in the standings last year and was the only driver to win teammate Nico Rosberg.

Seven other drivers tried out their cars on the first of four days of testing in Barcelona. Rosberg will drive on Tuesday, as will two-time champion Fernando Alonso with McLaren, which last year endured dismal results under a renewed partnership with engine supplier Honda. Alonso's teammate, Jenson Button, had a promising first session for McLaren by running 35 laps and showing no apparent signs of the reliability issues that plagued the team last season. He was sixth fastest in the

Hamilton was the busiest driver in the morning session with 66 laps, 23 more than Bottas, and 30 more than Vettel. "It feels very much the same as last year's car, to be honest," Hamilton said. "It doesn't feel any different. That's a good thing, last year's car was good."

Newcomer Haas, the first American-led team in F1 since 1986, faced a mechanical issue in its first run when the front wing of the car driven by Romain Grosjean fell off, but the Frenchman was able to return to the pits without further incidents. Grosjean was eighth fastest in the morning after running 13 laps.

The first day of tests - nearly three months after the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix closed last season started on a damp track and under overcast skies, with most teams spending time running installation laps to check for possible problems. "It's just important to get a lot of mileage, to sign off all the reliability things, and to build a good understanding about your car and tires," said Force India driver Nico Hulkenberg, who will start testing on Wednesday. "That's the most important things in these early days."

Mercedes has dominated the last two F1 seasons, and with no major regulation changes this year, is expected to be the team to catch again. The test sessions in Barcelona should indicate if any of its rivals have made significant gains - or if, once again, the fight will be for second place.

"Teams have not changed the concepts of their cars, so I expect the grid to stay quite similar to last year's," Force India driver Sergio Perez said. "But you never know, once you get to Melbourne everything changes so quickly, so it will be quite interesting to see where everyone is." The final test sessions are scheduled for March 1-4, also in Barcelona. The first of 21 races is on March 20 in Australia. Most teams had already launched their new cars online and through social media, but some made their official presentation to the media on the pit lane, with drivers and team members posing for photos in front of cars before Monday tests got underway. Among them were Haas and Renault, which took over financially strapped Lotus. Mercedes and Force India also introduced their cars at the track. — AP



#### SPA SHOOTING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

By Abdellatif Sharaa & KUNA

KUWAIT: As HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Fifth International Shooting Grand Prix approaches, the Sports Public Authority (SPA) Shooting Tournament was concluded at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex. The tournament was in the Olympic shotgun events (skeet, trap and double trap) for men and women, and lasted three days.

The closing ceremony was attended by President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi, Secretary General Obaid Al-Osaimi, Assistant Treasurer Adnan Al-Ibrahim and board member Nidhal Al-

#### Results of the tournament are as follows:

Skeet men: Mohammad Al-Daihani, Mansour Al-Rashidi, Abdallah Al-Rashidi.

Trap men: Abdallah Al-Rashidi, Abdelrahman Al-Faihan, Talal Al-Rashidi. Double trap men: Hamad Al-Afasi, Saad Al-Mutairi, Ahmad

Al-Afasi Trap women: Sarah Al-Hawal, Shahad Al-Hawal, Hajar

Abdelmalek. Skeet juniors: Hamad Al-Khalidi, Hamad Al-Ablani, Yousuf

Al-Mutairi. Trap juniors: Nasser Al-Khalidi, Yousuf Al-Mutairi, Khalid Al-Murad.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti champion Ahmad Al-Afasi yesterday came fourth in double-trap competition held as part of Qatar's international shooting tournament.

The double-trap competition was won by the Italian, Marco Innocenti. Second came his fellow citizen, Daniele Di Spigno, while the Russian, Vasily Mosin, ranked third.

Innocenti, after the crowning, said in a press statement that the competition was very heated, lauding Qatar's successful organization of the international tournament.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti referee, Muath Al-Rashed, expressed satisfaction at the Kuwaiti performance in this category, facing world's top champions in the game and coming out among the top winners in a neck-and-neck

The nine-day championship got underway on Thursday. In addition to the Kuwaiti team of top shooters, there are 280 competitors involved in the contests, representing 37 Gulf, Arab and foreign countries.



#### HAMILTON **TESTS NEW MERCEDES**

BARCELONA: Defending champion Lewis Hamilton was the first driver out on the track yesterday as Formula One returned to action with preseason testing. Hamilton didn't waste time trying out the new Mercedes that he will attempt to guide to a third consecutive championship this year. He was one of 11 drivers scheduled to test their cars yesterday, the first of four days of testing at the Circuit de Barcelona.

Four-time champion Sebastian Vettel, who came third last year, also was on the track with Ferrari, as well as Jenson Button, who is hoping to find a muchimproved McLaren after dismal results in 2015.

Vettel and Hamilton exchanged the fastest times early in the session, with Valtteri Bottas of Williams in third. Hamilton was also the busiest, running more laps than any other driver in the morning session. Hamilton's teammate

Nico Rosberg will be driving for the first time on Tuesday, as will Button's teammate Fernando Alonso. "It's just important to get a lot of mileage, to sign off all the reliability things, and to build a good understanding about your car and tires," said Force India driver Nico Hulkenberg, who will start testing on Wednesday. "That's the most important things in these early days."

The first day of tests - nearly three months after the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in 2015 started on a damp track and under overcast skies, with most teams spending time running installation laps to check for possible problems.

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# WATSON WALKS TO HIS OWN BEAT-AND WINS

LOS ANGELES: For someone who says he gets nervous around big crowds, Bubba Watson loves to be in

big company. He started the week by taking his 3-year-old son to see Justin Bieber, and it ended with Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry sending him a text just a few minutes before Watson teed off in the final round of the Northern Trust Open.

"He said, 'Little man was getting lessons from Bieber, maybe I could show him how to shoot," Watson said. "I saw the text about 15 minutes before my tee time. I didn't want to text him. Then he would say, 'Quit texting me, you should have won.' But I ended up winning."

That he did, for the second time in two years at Riviera, and in a manner that was anything but boring. Two years ago, he closed with 64-64 without making a bogey. On Sunday, he went from a one-shot lead to three shots behind Adam Scott in seven holes. Once he caught back up, he fell two holes behind Jason Kokrak with four holes to play.

And then he closed with two birdies over the final three holes for a one-shot victory over both of them. First, Watson hit a tight draw to a tough pin on the par-3 16th to 5 feet for birdie to tie for the lead. And on the 582-yard 17th hole, Watson had both feet off the ground when he obliterated a drive that went 334 yards and left him only a 2-iron into the green.

"I don't know if you know, but the carry of that (fairway) bunker is 321 yards, by the way, with the adjustment," Watson said, brimming with the smile of someone who cares not what anyone thinks because he has a trophy. "So for me, I wanted to hit it as hard as I could. That was the key. And so it worked out. It went straight. Ping makes a good driver, the 'G' driver. I don't know if you've seen it. It's pink."

#### WINNING MOOD

Still smiling, he showed his winning mood when he added, "I love it when I win and can just make stuff up." It's not always happy times.

Just two weeks ago in Phoenix, Watson was quick to point out that he doesn't like the changes to the TPC Scottsdale course and was mainly playing because of sponsor ties to the community and because he lived for eight years in the area.

What he really didn't like were headlines he thought misconstrued his feelings, and the verbal abuse that was so severe that some players wondered why Watson would ever go back to the Phoenix Open.

"I'm not over it," he said. "It's heartbreaking that a city or community or local press would put a headline to spur on a bad image. So it's hurtful." Apparently, it inflicted more pain than passing a kidney stone, and Watson knows all about that. He said he passed one Monday when he arrived at Riviera, the second one in five years. And he said he kept it in a plastic bag this week. "Five years ago, he (the doctor) said there was one more in my system, and obviously it was this week. My baby came out, I guess," he said. "Again, no pain. And I'm already a head case, so ... I thought I was dying without pain."

#### IT'S A WORLD LIKE NO OTHER

It's a world like no other on the

PGA Tour. Watson hits the ball long, and while it might wind up in the fairway, it's rarely on a straight line. "I really enjoy watching Bubba play and warm up on the range," Scott said. "He really has his style of golf under control. I don't think you can teach it. He's just such a natural talent. Watching a guy hit 5-iron to four different greens on the range about 85 yards, 120, 170 and 240 is pretty fun to watch."

Scott was 5 under through six holes on Sunday, lost the lead with a three-putt double bogey on No. 8, and then fell out of a tie for the lead on the back nine by missing a pair of 4-foot par putts on successive holes. He also made a 10-foot birdie putt that kept alive his chances, and then chipped in for birdie on the 18th for a

That tied him for the lead long enough for Watson to make birdie on the 17th.

Kokrak closed with a 68 and made only one bogey - from the 15th fairway with a two-shot lead, which allowed Watson back in the game. Watson, who finished at 15-under 269, won for the ninth time on the PGA Tour and kept waffling on his pledge. He once said - it's hard to tell when he's joking - that he would retire when he reached 10 victories. When he won in The Bahamas in December, he said he would walk away if he ever reached No. 1 in the world.

He's a long way from that. Watson moved to No. 4, but he is nowhere close to Jordan Spieth. Besides, he might just set another goal. Watson doesn't plan to play golf forever, except for his lifetime exemption to the Masters, but he's still having fun. Especially when he wins. — AP

# YOUNG GREEK POLE VAULTER SCALING THE HEIGHTS

**ATHENS:** Teenaged Greek pole vaulter Emmanuel Karalis is determined to scale new heights despite the negative impact of the country's financial crisis on sport.

Fresh from breaking the world youth record, a mark which had stood for 12 years, this month, the 16-year-old is being hailed as a future star of Greek athletics.

With his leap of 5.53 metres at the national indoor championships in Piraeus, Karalis finished third behind Greek champion Kostas Filippidis, eclipsing the 2004 record of 5.51 set by Argentine German Chiaraviglio.

But rather than bask in the glory of 2.8 million in 2016, and athletes going to his feat, Karalis, who received his first pair of spikes from Filippidis, is not resting on his laurels.

'For a kid my age what I've achieved is huge, but to be honest I feel like now my career is starting; this is the platform I can use to train harder and improve," he told Reuters. Many of Greece's athletes, especially at youth level, are suffering from funding cuts made by the government due to the austerity measures prompted by the financial crisis.

The state's budget for the Greek athletics federation (SEGAS) has been slashed from 8.2 million euros in 2010 to

this year's Olympics in Rio will rely on the IOC's solidarity fund for support, just as they did in 2012.

"Look there's no hiding how difficult it is," said Karalis.

"The facilities at OAKA (Olympic Stadium) are not the best and many athletes struggle to get by, but I'm not here to complain," he said. "I decided to be philosophical about it. I'll work with whatever I have; if I had to train on the street then I'd do it without complaint."

#### **GREEK DECATHLETE**

Karalis, whose father Haris was a for-

former Ugandan long jumper, was seemingly destined for track and field from birth

"My parents took me to OAKA in the baby stroller while they trained so from the moment I was born athletics has been part of my life," said Karalis.

"I tried lots of sports when I was a kid, from swimming to basketball and taekwondo, but when I tried the decathlon and the first event I did was the pole vault, I just seemed to have a knack for it and loved it from the first moment-I haven't looked back since."

Now favourite for the European

mer Greek decathlete and mother Sara a Junior Outdoor Championships this summer in Tbilisi, Karalis, who cites Ukrainian pole vault great Sergey Bubka as his role model, is also targeting the 2020 Olympics.

"When we were at the world championships in Colombia last summer, he (Bubka) told me what a positive attitude I had and that I'll go very farlt's an amazing feeling to hear that from someone

"I think for every athlete it's a dream to go the Olympics and it's definitely one of mine. I don't know if I'll make it for 2020 but the Olympics is in my sights for sure." —Reuters

#### KENYAN OFFICIAL SUSPENDED AFTER BRIBERY ALLEGATIONS

**NAIROBI:** Kenya's top athletics official was provisionally suspended by the Ethics Board of the sport's world governing body yesterday "in the interests of the integrity of the sport".

Athletics Kenya (AK) Chief Executive Isaac Mwangi has been accused by two athletes who failed drugs tests of seeking bribes to reduce their doping suspensions. Joy Sakari and Francisca Koki Manunga say Mwangi asked each of them for \$24,000 to reduce the four-year bans.

Mwangi, who has denied any wrongdoing, told Reuters he would "respect the decision of the IAAF ethics commission" while an investigation is carried out. He is the fourth senior Kenyan official to be suspended since November by the International Association of Athletics Federations.

Earlier this month Mwangi volunteered to step aside from his role as AK chief executive for three weeks while Kenya's antidoping agency carried out a probe into the allegations. He said he wanted to have his name cleared. Kenya has been hugely successful in middle- and long-distance running for decades but the sport, which carries enormous prestige in this East African nation, has been overshadowed by doping allegations that have tainted athletics glob-

Kenya remains a global leader in endurance running both on the track and in big-city marathons, but about 40 of its athletes have been banned for doping in the last three years. The IAAF board said Mwangi was suspended for 180 days pending investigation of a complaint made against him in relation to "potential subversion of the anti-doping control process in Kenya".

In November, the IAAF Ethics Board suspended three other senior AK officials, including former AK president Isaiah Kiplagat, over corruption allegations. The spate of failed drugs cases by Kenyan athletes and corruption allegations against officials have stirred fears the East African nation could follow Russia and be banned from global athletics, with only months remaining until the start of the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in August. —Reuters



MINNEAPOLIS: Patrick Kane #88 of the Chicago Blackhawks trips up Erik Haula #56 of the Minnesota Wild during the third period at the TCF Bank Stadium during the 2016 Coors Light Stadium Series game yesterday in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Haula was awarded a goal on the play as the Blackhawks had pulled their goaltender. The Wild defeated the Blackhawks 6-1. — AFP

## DJOKOVIC KICKS OFF Dubai with runaway win

**DUBAI:** Novak Djokovic hammered Spain's Tommy Robredo 6-1, 6-2 at the Dubai Tennis Championships yesterday, winning the 699th match of his career.

The world number one now stands 13-0 this season as he bids for a third 2016 title after trophies in Doha and Melbourne. He last played in the final at Melbourne Park, beating Andy Murray.

The top seed will next face Tunisian wild card Malek Jaziri, who advanced over qualifier Mikhail Youzhny 6-4, 6-1.

"I may have looked calm from the outside, but there is a lot of intensity inside," Djokovic said after advancing in 65 minutes. "There are emotions, moments of confidence and doubts.

"It's important to remain positive. I came here a few days ago and trained hard to get ready. It's been three weeks since I've played a match. "I'm glad to be back with a solid win."

The 123rd-ranked Jaziri knows his chances against the best in the world will be extremely limited - but he's not totally without hope. "It should be a good match. I will try to enjoy it on court and I will play all my chances," said the 32-year-old North African. "Novak's playing his best tennis now, and he's beating everyone. But I will

be on court like all the matches. In tennis you never know. That's part of this beautiful game. Who knows? Maybe I'll wake up on a good day." Djokovic has played finals at his last 17 events, winning 13. Jaziri has plenty of previous time on court with Djokovic after practise sessions between the pair.

"In Doha (last January) I practised with him and in Australia. He's playing his best level, he's winning maybe most all tournaments," Jaziri said. "I have nothing to lose, you know. But first let's see him win his match and then we see."

Djokovic is playing Dubai for a tenth year in succession, now 35-5 in the emirate. He owns Dubai titles from 2009-2011 and 2013; he lost the final to Roger Federer last

South Korea's rising player Chung Hyeon made a winning Dubai debut, beating Andreas Seppi 6-3, 6-4 a day after the Italian turned 32. Canadian Vasek Pospisil defeated Frenchman Lucas Pouille 6-3, 5-7, 6-4. Marseille winner Nick Kyrgios was due in Dubai later after winning the first title of his career in France over Marin Cilic.

The 20-year-old Australian starts his campaign today night, facing Slovak Martin Klizan, winner of the Rotterdam event eight days ago. — AFP

## WILD ARE GREAT OUTDOORS, WITH 6-1 ROMP PAST BLACKHAWKS

MINNEAPOLIS: Jason Pominville and Erik Haula each had a goal and two assists, and the Minnesota Wild celebrated the first outdoor game in franchise history with a 6-1 victory on Sunday over the Chicago Blackhawks. In front of a crowd of 50,426 at TCF Bank Stadium on the University of Minnesota campus with an ideal faceoff temperature of just above freezing, the Wild turned the NHL's 17th edition of open-air hockey into a romp past their postseason nemesis and primary rival. The Blackhawks pulled goalie Corey Crawford for Scott Darling after 19 saves in two periods. Nino Niederreiter and Ryan Carter each added a goal and an assist, and Matt Dumba and Thomas Vanek also scored. Patrick Kane ended Devan Dubnyk's shutout pursuit with his Western Conference-leading 35th goal midway through the third period. Dubnyk stopped 31 shots.

#### **RANGERS 1, RED WINGS 0, OT**

Kevin Klein scored on a 2-on-1 break at 1:59 of overtime and New York spoiled a magnificent effort by Detroit goalie Jimmy Howard. Henrik Lundqvist made 22 saves in his fourth shutout and helped the Rangers win for the seventh time in nine games (7-1-1). Howard stopped 29 shots as the Red Wings lost their sixth straight road game, their longest skid since March 2012. He forced overtime with a save on a penalty shot by Jesper Fast with 5:25 left in regulation and then a sliding pad save on Fast in close with 3:45 to go.

#### **PENGUINS 4, SABRES 3**

Rookie Scott Wilson sparked a two-goal second period and extended his goal streak to three games in leading Pittsburgh over Buffalo. The Penguins beat Buffalo for the eighth straight time and also got goals from Patric Hornqvist, Phil Kessel and Matt Cullen, who scored on a short-handed breakaway in the third period. Kris Letang had three assists and Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 24 shots in returning after missing a game due to illness. Zach Bogosian scored twice, and added an assist, and Brian Gionta had a goal and assist for Buffalo, which had a 3-0-1 streak ended. Bogosian's second goal came with 22 seconds left and Buffalo's net empty.

#### **DUCKS 5, FLAMES 2**

Ryan Kesler had two goals and an assist, John Gibson made 22 saves and Anaheim returned from a long road trip to beat Calgary for its fifth consecutive victory. Anaheim captain Ryan Getzlaf extended his point streak to eight games with a third-period goal for the streaking Ducks, who have won 12 of 14 to improve to 19-4-2 since Christmas. Anaheim also trimmed Los Angeles' lead to two points atop the Pacific Division. Patrick Maroon and Kevin Bieksa also had powerplay goals as Anaheim beat the Flames at home for the 22nd consecutive time. Calgary captain Mark Giordano scored his career-best 15th goal and former Ducks goalie Jonas Hiller stopped 28 shots for the Flames, who have lost four of five. Mikael Backlund added a last -minute goal for Calgary, which hasn't won a regular-season game at Honda Center since Jan. 19, 2004.

#### **LIGHTNING 4, HURRICANES 2**

Stamkos had a goal and an assist to propel Tampa Bay past Carolina for its third straight win. Stamkos put the Lightning ahead 3-2 on a power play with 5:43 left, and Callahan added an empty-netter with less than 10 seconds remaining. Ben Bishop made 29 saves and improved to 6-1 in his career against Carolina. J.T. Brown also scored for the Lightning. Joakim Nordstrom and Michal Jordan scored for the Hurricanes.

**CANUCKS 5, AVALANCHE 1** Jannik Hansen scored twice, Ryan Miller

made 37 saves as Vancouver beat Colorado to Ryan Callahan scored twice and Steven end a four-game skid. Adam Cracknell, Radim Vrbata and Christopher Tanev also scored for Vancouver. Henrik Sedin had four assists and Daniel Sedin had three assists.

The Canucks were 0-5-1 over their last six at Rogers Arena. Semyon Varlamov stopped 23 shots, and the Avalanche ended a twogame winning streak. Matt Duchene scored with 42 seconds left for Colorado. The Avalanche won 3-2 Saturday night at Edmonton, but trailed 3-0 after two periods in this one. It might've been closer if not for Miller's stellar play. — AP

#### NHL results/standings

Vancouver 5, Colorado 1; NY Rangers 1, Detroit 0 (OT); Carolina 2, Tampa Bay 4; Anaheim 5, Calgary 2; Minnesota 6, Chicago 1; Buffalo 3, Pittsburgh 4.

		stern C Atlantic				Western Conference Pacific Division						
	W	L	ОТ	GF	GA	PTS	Chicago 38 19 5 176 148 81					
Florida	34	18	7	164	137	75	Dallas 37 17 6 194 169 80					
Tampa Bay	33	22	4	163	148	70	St. Louis 35 17 9 153 144 79					
Boston	32	21	6	181	163	70	Colorado 31 27 4 165 173 66					
Detroit	29	20	11	151	157	69	Nashville 27 21 11 154 154 65					
Ottawa	28	26	6	172	186	62	Minnesota 27 22 10 156 148 64					
MontrÈal	28	27	4	162	163	60	Winnipeg 25 29 4 149 171 54					
Buffalo	24	29	7	144	166	55	Central Division					
Toronto	20	27	10	140	172	50	Los Angeles 34 20 4 157 137 72					
	Met	ropoli	tan D	ivisio	n		Anaheim 31 19 8 146 141 70					
Washington	43	10	4	191	131	90						
NY Rangers	34	19	6	171	150	74	San Jose 31 21 5 168 154 67					
NY Islanders	31	19	7	164	144	69	Arizona 27 25 6 161 180 60					
Pittsburgh	30	20	8	154	151	68	Vancouver 23 24 12 142 168 58					
New Jersey	29	24	7	133	141	65	Calgary 26 29 3 160 180 55					
Carolina	27	23	10	148	160	64	Edmonton 22 32 6 150 184 50					
Philadelphia	26	21	11	144	158	63	Note: Overtime losses (OT) worth 1 pt and not include	ed				
Columbus	23	29	7	149	184	53	in loss column (L).					



DUBAI: Serbian Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Spanish Tommy Robredo during their ATP tennis match on the first round of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships yesterday. — AFP



CLERMONT-FERRAND: World record holder Renaud Lavillenie clears the bar at 6.02m altitude to win the first edition of the All-star pole vault competition in Clermont-Ferrand on Sunday. The Frenchman achieved his winning yault on his first attempt with Canada's Shawn Barber taking second with 5.91m. Lavillenie then tried and failed three times to beat his own world record of 6.16m. — AFP



## BANGLADESH LIFTS BAN ON UMPIRE NADIR SHAH

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh yesterday lifted the 10-year ban on former international cricket umpire Nadir Shah, allowing him to officiate domestic matches.

Shah was banned in March 2013 by the Bangladesh Cricket Board after a sting operation by an Indian TV channel found him apparently willing to fix matches for cash.

The private India TV channel aired footage in October 2015, showing that the 52-year-old Shah was willing to give LBW (leg before wicket) decisions on demand.

Shah, who has stood in 40 one-day internationals and three Twenty20 internationals, was one of six umpires caught in the undercover investigation,

including three from Sri Lanka and two from Pakistan. All six were subsequently suspended by their own cricket authorities but they have consistently refuted the allegations.

'We have found that the others umpires found guilty for the same offence had not been punished for more than three years," BCB president Nazmul Hassan told reporters.

"So we've decided to lift Nadir Shah's ban. There will be no bar on him to conduct domestic matches." Shah welcomed the BCB decision.

"I am over the moon now," he told AFP. "Also I am grateful to all who helped me getting the ban removed." Shah was among the umpires who conducted the inaugural Bangladesh Premier League last year, a copy-cat of India's high-octane IPL Twenty20 tournament.

The competition was marred by corruption allegations and ended up with former Bangladeshi captain Mohammad Ashraful and two other officials banned for different period. —AFP

## CLARKE IN TALKS WITH SIXERS OVER BIG BASH

**SYDNEY:** The Sydney Sixers yesterday said they have spoken to Michael Clarke about his comeback plans as the former Australia skipper weighs up a tilt at Australia's Twenty20 Big Bash League. Clarke, who returned to Sydney club cricket over the weekend with Western Suburbs, has been linked with the Sixers about reigniting a T20 career in next season's domestic com-

Sixers general manager Dominic Remond confirmed preliminary discussions had been held with the batsman, who retired in August after the disastrous Ashes series in England.

"We caught up with Michael a few weeks ago to chat about his interest in the Sixers and what he was looking to do moving forward," Remond told AFP. Clarke said before his comeback club match that he "missed the game", and wanted to have a crack at making his mark in T20s. "We only have a few positions available on our roster and we are just working through our review process from last season," added Remond. "With the World T20 and IPL coming up, no decisions on roster spots are likely to be made in the near future as we decide on what is going to work best for our club for BBL06 and beyond.

"It's a long off season so we will wait and see how things pan out in the coming

Clarke, 34, scored what he described as a "rusty" 48 in his comeback match for Western Suburbs on Saturday and followed up with a quick-fire 30 off 17 balls in the second innings on Sunday.

He has maintained that he was taking a wait-and-see approach to resuming his career elsewhere, but has also made it clear that his focus from now on would be on the T20 format.

That has been given more weight by the emergence of the approach to the Sixers. While Clarke played in 115 Tests and 245 one-day internationals, he only took part in 34 T20 internationals during his first-class career, giving it a low priority compared to Tests and ODIs. —AFP



CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand's Kane Williamson plays a shot during day three of the second cricket Test match between New Zealand and Australia at the Hagley Park in Christchurch yesterday. —AFP

### ENGLAND BATSMEN MUST PLAY PROPER SHOTS: BAYLISS

**CAPE TOWN:** England coach Trevor Bayliss has urged his batsmen to rein in their gung-ho approach ahead of the World Twenty20 in India starting next month.

England lost both Twenty20 matches at the end of their tour of South Africa, including losing seven wickets for 14 runs in the second match in Johannesburg on Sunday.

A feature of both games was way the batsmen looked to attack the bowling from ball one, but Bayliss believes they need to think more about playing more conventional strokes.

"Instead of trying to whack the ball for fours and sixes all the time we've got to play more cricket shots," Bayliss told reporters yesterday.

"In India the wickets and grounds are fairly quick so you have only got to play proper cricket shots and the ball will go for four and six.

"The last couple of games we have got into the habit of trying to hit the ball into team from the qualifiers that will be the top of the stand and ended up hitting Scotland, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan or

Bayliss was also scathing of his bowlers, who were carted for 172 from only 88 deliveries in Johannesburg. "We have to come up with better plans

and bowl to our field," he said. "If we have got more fielders on the off-side then there is no point bowling half-trackers down the leg-side. It is very simple stuff to be honest. Set a field and bowl to it."

England will return home before their World Twenty20 campaign that starts on March 16 against the West Indies.

Bayliss is hopeful the break will do his players good, some of whom have been in South Africa since mid-December. "We have played some good cricket and

will go home and probably recover mentally as much as physically and hopefully that freshens the boys up."

Also in England's group are South Africa, Sri Lanka and a as yet unknown balls straight at fielders. It comes down to Hong Kong. — Reuters

# MCCULLUM GONE FOR GOOD AS AUSSIES SCENT VICTORY

CHRISTCHURCH: Brendon McCullum drew the curtain on his illustrious batting career as a typically pugnacious but short-lived innings yesterday was unable to loosen Australia's firm grip on the second Test in Christchurch.

On an emotional day when players and fans marked the fifth anniversary of the devastating Christchurch earthquake, the captain's departure in his 101st and final Test left New Zealand staring down the barrel. At the end of the third day New Zealand were 121-4, needing a further 14 to make Australia bat again, but refusing to concede. "It's 1-0 in the series and we've got to go out there and try and win this Test match," BJ Watling said.

"We've just got to try and get a total on the board that we can win the game (with); that's the ultimate goal." McCullum arrived for his farewell innings at 72-3 but after 25 off 27 deliveries, the man who hit the fastest ever Test century in the first innings was out.

His second-to-last whack sent Josh Hazlewood for a record-extending 107th six over square leg. But when he danced down the wicket for a repeat performance off the next ball he was caught by David Warner. After Australian captain Steve Smith ran over to shake McCullum's hand and acknowledge the New Zealand captain's contribution to the game, he was gone for the last time.

It had been a memorable Test for McCullum with a rollicking 145 in the first innings, reaching his century in a record 54 balls, when he defied the accepted rules of cricket by lashing out on a seaming wicket. After that innings he said what mattered most was winning the Test, but that now seems unlikely.

A magical spell from James Pattinson to rip through New Zealand's top order gave Australia a sight of victory and a return to the number one world ranking. Kane Williamson was not out 45 at stumps with Corey Anderson on nine.

**MINUTE'S SILENCE** 

The Australians posted a formidable 505 in their first innings for a 135-run lead and New Zealand's attempt to fight back started disastrously when Martin Guptill was caught behind off Pattinson for nought. Pattinson and gloveman Peter Nevill combined again to dismiss Tom Latham with the young opener making a start but unable to kick on. Henry Nicholls made just two before he edged a full delivery from Pattinson to the safe hands of Smith at second A career-best six wickets for 106 by Neil

Wagner had helped engineer an abrupt end to the Australian innings after they reached 464-5

and lost their last five wickets for 41 in 12 overs. On a pitch offering little for the bowlers, Wagner fired up New Zealand when he removed

Australia's batting goliath Adam Voges in the second over after lunch.

Voges, backing up from a double century in the first innings, had looked in total control until his timing deserted him in an attempt to pull Wagner to the boundary and a leaping Latham grasped the ball at square leg. Voges, out for 60, had seen Australia to a sound position after being set up by Joe Burns (170) and Steve Smith

"We're in a great spot. To push on past 500 and then take four wickets and them still be behind us, we're in a good position," Voges said.

Fans and players, wearing black armbands, paused at 12:51 pm, the exact time the 2011 earthquake struck, for a minute's silence for the 185 victims of a disaster which destroyed much of Christchurch city centre. — AFP

#### **SCOREBOARD**

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand: Scoreboard at stumps on day three of the second Test between New Zealand and

Australia in Christchurch yesterday: New Zealand first innings 370 (B. McCullum 145, C. Anderson 72, B. Watling 58; N. Lyon 3-61) Australia 1st innings (overnight 363-4) D. Warner c Guptill b Boult J. Burns c Guptill b Wagner U. Khawaja c McCullum b Boult S. Smith c Guptill b Wagner A. Voges c Latham b Wagner N. Lyon c McCullum b Williamson M. Marsh c Nicholls b Wagner P. Nevill c Watling b Wagner J. Pattinson c Boult b Anderson J. Hazlewood c McCullum b Wagner J. Bird not out Extras (b9, lb10) Total (10 wickets, 153.1 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-25 (Warner), 2-67 (Khawaja), 3-356 (Burns), 4-357 (Smith), 5-438 (Lyon) 6-464 (Voges), 7-483

(Marsh), 8-484 (Pattinson), 9-496 (Nevill), 10-505

Bowling: Southee 25-4-85-0, Boult 31-5-108-2, Henry 32-8-101-0, Anderson 22-2-66-1, Wagner 32.1-6-106-6, Williamson 7-0-17-1, McCullum 4-2-3-0.

**New Zealand 2nd innings** T. Latham c Nevill b Pattinson 39 M. Guptill c Nevill b Pattinson 0 K. Williamson not out 45 H. Nicholls c Smith b Pattinson B. McCullum c Warner b Hazlewood C. Anderson not out Extras: (nb1) Total (4 wickets; 44 overs) 121 Fall of wicket: 1-8 (Guptill), 2-66 (Latham), 3-72 (Nicholls), 4-105 (McCullum) Bowling: Hazlewood 15-5-40-1, Pattinson 12-5-29-3,

Bird 7-1-26-0, Lyon 2-0-8-0, Marsh 8-2-18-0 (nb1).



FATULLAH: Sri Lanka cricketer Thisara Perera arrives for a training session at Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah yesterday.— AFP



FATULLAH: Indian cricketers Ravindra Jadeja (L), Pawan Negi (2L), Virat Kohli (2R) and Ajinkya Rahane play football with teammates during a training session at Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah yesterday. — AFP

## TURKISH REFEREE 'SHOWN RED CARD' IN STORMY TOP-FLIGHT CLASH

**ISTANBUL:** Turkish football faced new questions over the credibility of the game yesterday after an anarchic clash between Galatasaray and Trabzonspor ended with just seven footballers from the Black Sea side on the pitch and one of its players showing the referee the red card. The Sunday night Super Lig clash between Galatasaray of Istanbul and Trabzonspor of Trabzon-one of the most venemous rivalries in the Turkish gamewas marked by a litany of penalties, ill discipline and poor refereeing. Trabzonspor had already had two players sent off by referee Deniz Ates Bitnel when Belgian defender Luis Cavanda was deemed to have brought down Umut Bulut in the penalty box in the 86th minute and was himself dismissed. Trabzonspor players remonstrated with the referee and in the fracas Trabzonspor defender Salih Dursun pinched the referee's red card and brandished it in front of

Bitnel then recovered the card, using it to send Dursun off and Selcuk Inan stepped up to score the penalty, winning the game 2-1 to Galatasaray. "There are messages from all over Turkey, saying 'we are ashamed'" Trabzonspor chairman Muharrem Usta said after the game.

"Tonight, Salih Dursun showed the red region of Kocaeli lodged a criminal comcard to Turkish football. This is not a symbol of rebellion. It is a symbol of rebirth," he added. Galatasaray chairman Dursun Ozbek admitted Monday that the refereeing had not been up to scratch, the Dogan news agency reported. "There were decisions that were favourable for both sides, there were decisions that went against them."

#### 'SHARE THE DISAPPOINTMENT'

"A card that was 100 percent right." headlined the Fanatik sports daily above a picture of Dursun showing the red card and listing six major errors the referee made in the game.

Far from sanctioning their player, Trabzonspor announced the club started printing T-shirts showing Dursun make the already iconic gesture for sale in the official shop.

Hundreds of Trabzonspor's famously fanatical supporters marched through the centre of the city Monday, all brandishing red cards in support of the player, television pictures showed.

Local officials in the Macka district of Trabzon mulled erecting a statue in honour of the player's gesture while Trabzonspor supporters in the western plaint against the referee for "abuse of power" and "inciting hatred".

The head of Turkey's Central Referee's Commission, Kuddusi Muftuoglu, told reporters that Bitnel had made several mistakes and his performance was upset-

"We share the disappointment of Trabzonspor. We reward successful referees and take measures against unsuccessful ones," he said, raising the prospect Bitnel could now be "rested".

Turkish football has seen a huge influx of foreign talent in the last years and the game saw Netherlands star Wesley Sneijder and Germany's Lukas Podolski turning out for Galatasaray.

But the sport in Turkey remains shadowed by the sometimes appalling refereeing, low attendances, the shadow of a 2011 match-fixing scandal and the failure to make any impact in the Champions

Turkish media meanwhile noted Dursun's action had a precedent back in 1995 when English legend Paul Gascoigne, playing for Rangers, showed a yellow card to referee Dougie Smith, in a Scottish Premiership clash with Hibernian.—AFP



ISTANBUL: Trabzonspor's player Salih Dursun (R) shows a red card to referee Deniz Ates Bitnel (L) during Turkish Super Lig football match between Galatasaray and Trabzonspor on Feburary 21, 2016 at the TT Arena Stadium in Istanbul. Turkish football faced new questions over the credibility of the game after an anarchic clash between Galatasaray and Trabzonspor ended with just seven footballers from the Black Sea side on the pitch and one of its players showing the referee the red card. — AFP



HOUSTON: Members of the United States pose on the field after they beat Canada 2-0 during the Championship final of the 2016 CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying at BBVA Compass Stadium on Sunday in Houston, Texas. — AFP

## TOTTI AT CROSSROADS AS SPALLETTI WINS SPAT

MILAN: Roma legend Francesco Totti play. My injury is over, I'm doing fine and was yesterday left at a career crossroads if I'm not playing it's the coach's decision." after a highly-publicised spat with coach It was a risky move by the historic club Luciano Spalletti that divided Italian football and cast a shadow over his remarkable career.

Now in his 23rd season with the Serie A side, the 39-year-old Totti is expected to wind his career down at the end of this season or next.

But his decision was hastened by events on Sunday when Spalletti dramatically excluded Totti from his squad after the player demanded more "respect and clarity" in a scathing television interview.

While a barely half-full Stadio Olimpico resonated with songs dedicated to the long-serving 'Re di Roma' (King of Rome) as he sat in the stands on Sunday night, Spalletti put the controversy to one side to see Roma dismantle league rivals Palermo.

A 5-0 rout saw the 'Giallorossi' boost their Champions League hopes for next season, and gave Totti a stark reminder the team, despite a rollercoaster season so far, can and will do without him.

Grilled for hours by the media afterwards, Spalletti emerged with a small victory that simultaneously reinforced his position and left Totti looking petulant, insecure and expecting "special treatment". "The club appointed me to restore order in this squad, and I have to make decisions that are for the good of the club," Spalletti told La Domenica Sportiva programme. "I have to coach this squad and treat everyone the same. Totti is the captain but that doesn't mean he gets special treatment.

"I don't accept any of my players speaking out like that on the eve of a crucial game for us, especially when we're on a four-game winning run.

#### **BIGGEST PLAYER**

"He's Roma's biggest ever player, but it's my duty to make sure there is a balance in the dressing room." Despite winning only one league title with Roma, in 2001, Totti has been a virtual 'untouchable' at the club where he has spent his entire career.

But having fallen down the pecking order due to a troublesome injury that has restricted him to just five appearances so far this season, his influence is on the wane. Yet the drama, on paper, looked avoidable.

Totti had recently made a full recovery and Spalletti said Friday he could start on Sunday, only for Totti's interview-which aired on Saturday-to upset the apple cart. "After everything I've given to the club all these years I would hoped to be treated with more respect," slammed

"I'm still a footballer and I want to

captain. Now in his second spell at the club, Spalletti has done witout Totti and turned fortunes around since replacing sacked Frenchman Rudi Garcia last

But as might be expected, Spalletti copped most of the flak on Sunday. Totti's old coach Carlo Mazzone, told Romaforever.it: "What he's done has destroyed the reputation of an exceptional person - both in football and human terms. "Any coach with good sense and character wouldn't have done something like this. I'm very bitter and disappointed."

#### **DUST BEGINNING TO SETTLE**

The controversy dominated most of Sunday's sports coverage and the Italian sports press on Monday appeared divided. A headline in Rome-based Corriere dello Sport called Totti's exclusion an "Insult to History", while the front page headline on the pink-paged, Milan-based Gazzetta dello Sport screamed "The Exile of the King of Rome".

The fact Totti visited the team dressing room after the game, and his participation at training yesterday, suggests the dust is beginning to settle.

But Totti now has to decide whether to play on, or take up a coaching role that, reports say, he has already secured. Spalletti said Sunday he had offered

Totti various positions at the club, but it was now time to decide.

"I have already spoken to Totti about possible roles but it's up to him to decide, not me," said Spalletti.

Totti was offered an assistant manager's position like Manchester United great Ryan Giggs, as well as a more executive position like the one held by Pavel Nedved at Juventus.

"I asked him, do you want to be like Giggs? Do you want to be like Nedved?" But the 56-year-old added: "Do you want to stay a footballer? Okay fine, but you have to know you won't get any favours from me! —AFP



**UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE** 

Juventus v Bayern Munich 22:45 beIN SPORTS 2 HD **Arsenal v Barcelona** 22:45 beIN SPORTS 1 HD

# NINE-MAN LYON SLUMP TO DEFEAT AT LILLE

**PARIS:** Nine-man Lyon missed the chance to move into the third and final Champions League place in France as they lost 1-0 at Lille on Sunday, while Michy Batshuayi rescued a 1-1 draw for Marseille against Saint-Étienne.

Sofiane Boufal scored the only goal of the game at Lille in the 28th minute, as a desperately poor Lyon saw their run of three consecutive wins come to an end.

After Saint-Etienne's draw, Lyon knew three points would move them into the coveted third place, but they failed to take their chance. Boufal has been the only stand-out performer in a lifeless Lille attack this season, and he opened the scoring at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy with his eighth goal this term.

His free-kick from the left wing evaded everyone in the middle, including a leadenfooted Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes, as it bounced into the net. After scoring 10 goals in a run of three comprehensive victories, Bruno Genesio's Lyon would have been confident going into this encounter. But they created very little in a drab first half display and shortly after the restart they were lucky to see Lille striker Yassine Benzia drag a shot hopelessly wide when in on goal.

On the hour mark any fading hopes the visitors had of moving into the Champions League spots were all but ended, when right-back ristophe Jallet saw a second yellow card for holding back Eric Bautheac. Lille have the second-worst attack in the division but the secondbest defence, so perhaps it was no surprise that Lyon struggled to create chances. A miserable outing for Lyon was ended as Clement Grenier's elbow into the face of Florent Balmont left them with only nine men. At the Velodrome OM's Belgian forward Batshuayi had come off the bench 15 minutes from the end and headed home a Romain Alessandrini free-kick in the fifth minute of injury-time.

#### COURAGE

That was a 13th league goal of the season for Batshuayi, putting him behind only Zlatan Ibrahimovic in the Ligue 1 goalscoring charts. It was only five minutes from time that St Etienne thought they had scored the potentially winning goal that would have sent them above Nice into third place in Ligue 1.

Kevin Monnet-Paquet shot home left-footed from Romain Hamouma's pass. "Nothing we saw was new-we created chances, we were close to scoring, we got back into the match just



VILLENEUVE-D'ASCQ: Lille's French forward Yassine Benzia (R) vies with Lyon's French midfielder Clement Grenier (L) during the French L1 football match Lille versus Lyon Sunday, at Lille Pierre Mauroy stadium in Villeneuve-d'Ascq, northern France. — AFP

like against Lille (a 1-1 draw), we fought to the end and there was a lot of courage," said Marseille coach Michel. The draw barely helps either side as St Etienne stay behind Nice on goal difference, while Marseille are 10th and still five points behind in the tight race to qualify for Europe's premier club competition. Asked if he feared for his job, Michel said: "I don't think about that, never. I think about doing my job and going forwards." Caen ended a three-match losing streak, as a first goal in French football for Burundian midfielder Saidi Ntibazonkiza saw off Rennes. The 28-year-old has broken into the first team in recent weeks and took his chance with a fine second half finish, moving Caen above their opponents and to within two points of the top three. For Rennes though the pressure continues to build, they are now lower in the table than they were a month ago when they sacked former manager Philippe Montanier and brought in Rolland Courbis.

There was one positive for Courbis as midfielder Yoann Gourcuff made his first start since rejoining the club in the summer, being withdrawn in the 59th minute.

On Saturday, Paris Saint-Germain maintained their 24-point lead with a 4-1 victory over lowly Reims as Ibrahimovic scored a brace. They now need only three more wins and a draw from their final 11 matches to win the Ligue 1 title. Monaco remain second after a 3-1 win over rock-bottom Troyes sent them eight points clear of Nice, who drew 0-0 at Bordeaux on Friday. —AFP

#### ARGENTINA, CHILE FACE REMATCH AFTER COPA DRAW

**NEW YORK:** Lionel Messi and Argentina were given a chance for revenge on Sunday after being drawn against reigning Copa America champions Chile in the group stage for this summer's special centenary edition of the tournament. Argentina suffered an agonizing defeat to Chile in the climax of last June's tournament in Santiago as their major championship drought continued. However, Messi and his teammates have the opportunity to strike back at Chile after being drawn alongside their South American rivals in Group D here Sunday.

The Copa America Centenario is taking place outside South America for the first time this year to mark 100 years of the world's oldest international football tournament. Ten cities across the United States will host games from June 3-26 in the 16-team tournament, which features 10 sides from South America and six from the CONCACAF region. Argentina's clash with Chile was the standout fixture from Sunday's draw at New York's Hammerstein Ballroom in Manhattan. Panama and Bolivia complete Group D. Host United States will kick off the tournament against Colombia in the opening match on June 3 at Super Bowl venue Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. The match may carry a good omen for the United States, who beat Colombia in the 1994 World Cup group stages, a game made infamous by the own goal from Colombian defender Andres Escobar, who was later murdered in his homeland in an apparent reprisal.

#### KIND DRAW FOR BRAZIL?

The Americans' Group A is full of demanding challenges, with 2014 World Cup quarter-finalists Colombia and Costa Rica as well as 2015 Copa America semi-finalists Paraguay.

"It's a very difficult group, but it's doable, and

this is what a Copa America is about," US coach Haiti and Peru forming their opposition in Group Jurgen Klinsmann told Univision television.

'You want to measure yourself with the best teams from South America and also our region. So we can't wait to get it started."

Five-time world champions Brazil, however, were given what looked like a straightforward passage into the knockout rounds, with Ecuador,

B. Brazil will open their campaign against Ecuador at the Pasadena Rose Bowl scene of their 1994 World Cup final triumph-on June 4. Reigning CONCACAF Gold Cup champions

Mexico and Luis Suarez's Uruguay will be favored to proceed to the last eight from Group C ahead of Jamaica and Venezuela.— AFP



NEW YORK: (L-R) The national team coaches, Jurgen Klinsmann of the US; Paraguay's Ramon Diaz; Colombia's Jose Pekerman; and Costa Rica's Oscar Ramirez pose at the end of the official draw of the Copa America Centenario 2016 championship at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York on February 21, 2016. The Copa America Centenario, a once-in-a-lifetime soccer summer event, which honors 100 years of the Copa America tournament, will take place in the US from June 3-26, 2016. — AFP

**Vettel fastest** early as preseason testing begins



McCullum gone for good as Aussies scent victory



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Kenyan official suspended after bribery allegations

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AUBURN HILLS: New Orleans Pelicans forward Dante Cunningham (44) shoots around Detroit Pistons center Andre Drummond (0) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, in Auburn Hills, Mich. — AP

AUBURN HILLS: Anthony Davis scored a teamrecord 59 points and added 20 rebounds as the New Orleans Pelicans beat the Detroit Pistons 111-106 on Sunday. The previous club record was 50 points by Jamal Mashburn exactly 13 years earlier against the Grizzlies. Davis went 24 of 34 from the floor and made his only two 3-pointers. He added nine free throws in 10 tries. Davis also broke the scoring record for the Palace of Auburn Hills, set by LeBron James with 48 points in an Eastern Conference finals game on June 1, 2007. The star center joined Shaquille O'Neal and Chris Webber as the only NBA players with 50 points and 20 rebounds in a game since 1983. Jrue Holiday added 20 points for the Pelicans. He was the only other player to score in double figures for New Orleans. Reggie Jackson led the Pistons with 34 points.

#### **CAVALIERS 115, THUNDER 92**

Kevin Love scored 29 points to help the streaking Cavaliers to the road win. Love shot 9 of 18 from the field and 11 for 12 at the free-throw line to match his second-best scoring performance of the season. LeBron James had 25 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds for Cleveland, which earned its fifth straight victory. Tristan Thompson had 14 points and 14 rebounds. Kevin Durant scored 26 points and Russell Westbrook had 20 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds for Oklahoma City, which lost its second straight at home coming out of the All-Star break. It was the Thunder's most lopsided defeat of the season.

#### **SPURS 118, SUNS 111**

Patty Mills had 21 points, matching his career high with six 3-pointers, and the Spurs pulled away for the victory. Tony Parker scored 22 for San Antonio, including a spinning drive that made it a seven-point game with 1:03 to play. LaMarcus Aldridge added 19 points and 10 rebounds. The Spurs played without ailing All-Star Kawhi Leonard, who was sidelined by tightness in his left calf. Alex Len had a career-high 23 points and grabbed 13

rebounds for the Suns, who lost their 11th in a row and 26th in the last 28 games. The Spurs improved to 47-9, a franchise-best through 56 games.

#### **TRAIL BLAZERS 115, JAZZ 111**

C.J. McCollum scored 31 points, including two clinching free throws with 2.7 seconds left, and Portland earned its fifth consecutive win. Damian Lillard had 30 points and five assists for Portland, which has won 14 of 17 overall. Reserve Maurice Harkless scored 17 points. Lillard made a tiebreaking layup with 23.4 seconds left and McCollum hit two foul shots to give Portland a 113-109 lead. After Derrick Favors scored for Utah, McCollum made two more free throws to clinch the win for the Trail Blazers. Favors paced the Jazz with 22 points and eight rebounds. Gordon Hayward scored 21 points, and Rodney Hood had 18.

#### **RAPTORS 98, GRIZZLIES 85**

DeMar DeRozan scored 21 points, Kyle Lowry added 18 and Toronto beat Memphis for its eighth consecutive home win. Jonas Valanciunas had 10 points and 12 rebounds for his 13th double-double of the season. Cory Joseph scored 14 off the bench to help the Raptors rebound from consecutive losses at Minnesota and Chicago. It was the Raptors' first home game since a Jan. 30 victory over Detroit. Toronto hosted the NBA All-Star Game last weekend. Zach Randolph had 18 points and Mario Chalmers scored 17 for the Grizzlies. Vince Carter added 16 against his former team.

#### BULLS 126, LAKERS 115

Derrick Rose and E'Twaun Moore had 24 points apiece to lead the Bulls to the victory in Kobe Bryant's final game at the United Center. Pau Gasol had 21 points in Chicago's second straight win. Mike Dunleavy and Bobby Portis each scored 17. Bryant finished with 22 points on 8-for-20 shooting in 27 minutes. Julius Randle also had 22 points and Jordan Clarkson added 20 as Los Angeles dropped

#### **NBA** results/standings

New Orleans 111, Detroit 106; Cleveland 115, Oklahoma City 92; Boston 121, Denver 101; San Antonio 118, Phoenix 111; Charlotte 104, Brooklyn 96; Indiana 105, Orlando 102; Toronto 98, Memphis 85; Dallas 129, Philadelphia 103; Chicago 126, LA Lakers 115.

	Eastern Co Atlantic D				Western Conference Northwest Division						
	W	L	PCT	GB	Oklahoma City	40	16	.714	-		
Toronto	36	18	.667	-	Portland	29	27	.518	11		
Boston	33	24	.579	4.5	Utah	27	28	.491	12.5		
NY Knicks	24	33	.421	13.5	Denver	22	34	.393	18		
Brooklyn	15	41	.268	22	Minnesota	17	39	.304	23		
					P	Pacific Division					
	Central D	ivision	١	Golden State	49	5	.907	_			
Cleveland	40	14	.741	-	LA Clippers	36	19	.655	13.5		
Indiana	30	25	.545	10.5							
Chicago	29	26	.527	11.5	Sacramento	23	31	.426	26		
_					Phoenix	14	42	.250	36		
					LA Lakers	11	46	.193	39.5		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Toronto 36 18 .667 - Boston 33 24 .579 4.5 Brooklyn 15 41 .268 22 Philadelphia 8 47 .145 28.5 Central Division Cleveland 40 14 .741 - Indiana 30 25 .545 10.5 Chicago 29 26 .527 11.5 Detroit 27 29 .482 14 Milwaukee 23 33 .411 18  Southeast Division Miami 31 24 .564 - Atlanta 31 26 .544 1 Charlotte 29 26 .527 2 Washington 25 29 .463 5.5				Sou	ıthwest	Divisio	n			
Miami				_	San Antonio	47	9	.839	-		
Atlanta	31	26		1	Memphis	32	23	.582	14.5		
Charlotte	29	26	.527	2	Dallas	30	27	.526	17.5		
Washington	25	29	.463	5.5	Houston	28	28	.500	19		
Orlando	24	30	.444	6.5	New Orleans	22	33	.400	24.5		

its fifth in a row. The Bulls played a video tribute to Bryant during the introduction of the Lakers' starters. Rose referred to Bryant as his generation's Michael Jordan, and the salute ended with Gasol introducing his former teammate. Bryant received a standing ovation and the crowd broke into a "Kobe! Kobe!" chant.

#### **HORNETS 104, NETS 96**

Kemba Walker scored 28 points, Al Jefferson added 18 in his second game back from right knee surgery, and Charlotte extended its winning streak to a season-high five games. The Hornets also posted a season-best fourth straight win on the road, a winning streak they will bring to Eastern Conference-leading Cleveland on Wednesday. Nicolas Batum had 16 points, eight assists and seven rebounds for Charlotte, which improved to 6-1 in February. Joe Johnson scored 17 points for the Nets in their final game before a nine-game road trip. Brook Lopez had 16 points, including his first 3pointer to beat the third-quarter buzzer. He added 10 rebounds and six assists, his most in a game in nearly six years.

#### **MAVERICKS 129, 76ERS 103**

Wesley Matthews scored 21 points, Dirk Nowitzki had 18 and Dallas won for just the second time in its last seven games. Six Mavericks scored in double figures in Dallas' highest scoring game of the season. Jahlil Okafor scored a careerhigh 31 points for Philadelphia, which has lost eight of nine. Okafor's total was not only his highest as a pro, but one more than his high total during his one-and-done national championship season at Duke last year.

#### **CELTICS 121, NUGGETS 101**

Isaiah Thomas had 22 points and 12 assists, leading Boston to the road win. Avery Bradley had 20 points for the Celtics, who beat the Nuggets for a fourth time in a row. Evan Turner scored 17 points, and Jared Sullinger had 16 points and 11 rebounds. Denver had 24 turnovers in its third loss in four games. Nikola Jokic led the Nuggets with 23 points and 13 rebounds, and fellow rookie Emmanuel Mudiay added 18 points. Denver trailed by 15 at halftime, but it opened the third with a 13-3 run to close to 67-62 with 8:51 left in the quarter. The rally fizzled when the Celtics turned up their transition game, highlighted by a breakaway dunk by Jae Crowder following a Nuggets turnover that put

#### PACERS 105, MAGIC 102

Monta Ellis scored 21 points, Paul George had 20 and Indiana won for the fourth time in five games. CJ Miles and Ian Mahinmi had 14 points apiece for the Pacers. Jordan Hill added 13 points and 10 rebounds. Evan Fournier led Orlando with 23 points. Nikola Vucevic added 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Victor Oladipo had 17 points, eight assists and seven rebounds. The Magic had the ball with 9.3 seconds left, but the only shot they got was a forced 3-point attempt by Oladipo that wasn't close. Myles Turner rebounded and made two free throws for the final margin. — AP



CAPE TOWN: Gianni Infantino UEFA secretary general, center, listens as fellow FIFA candidate South African Tokyo Sexwale, left, speaks at a press briefing in Cape Town, South Africa, yesteday. Infantino expects more than half of Africa's 54 countries to back him in the FIFA presidential election on Friday. — AP

# FIFA CANDIDATE INFANTINO EXPECTS 'AFRICAN VOTES'

CAPE TOWN: Gianni Infantino expects more than half of Africa's 54 countries to back him in the FIFA presidential election on Friday, "I will make an impact (in Africa). I will have a majority of the African votes," the UEFA secretary general said in Cape Town on Monday on a short-notice visit to see

where Nelson Mandela was jailed during apartheid. Infantino's claim, if true, means most African countries will defy their continent's soccer leadership. The Confederation of African Football executive committee has formally endorsed Infantino's main opponent, Sheikh Salman of Bahrain.

Infantino said his belief came from private visits to Africa, FIFA's largest confederation by number of voting countries, and a crucial battleground for votes. "In the discussions I've had with many African (soccer) presidents, I can say I feel very confident," he said. Infanting visited Robben Island, the prison

where Mandela was jailed during apartheid, on the invitation of fellow FIFA candidate Tokyo Sexwale. South African businessman Sexwale, also a former political prisoner on the island, said he invited all four other candidates, but Sheikh Salman of Bahrain, Prince Ali of Jordan, and Frenchman Jerome Champagne couldn't find time in their schedules just four days before the election in Zurich. Infantino and Sheikh Salman have emerged as favorites to succeed Sepp Blatter in the vote forced by the corruption scandal at FIFA. Salman has the backing of Asia, while Infantino has the support of Europe. Appearing together at a news conference, Infantino and Sexwale called the South African visit symbolic, but the importance of Africa's votes to Infantino's chances was perhaps underlined by his decision to make the last-minute trip. Having received the invitation just a few days ago, the Swiss

arrived in South Africa from Geneva on Monday morning, and was making the 13-hour flight back to Switzerland on Monday night.

Sexwale has struggled to gain support in his campaign and, when his home African continent snubbed him in favor of Salman, he denied he will withdraw before the election.

For Infantino, appearing alongside Sexwale was bound to lead to speculation he was seeking an endorsement from one of his opponents.

But Infantino said there were no deals on the table yet. "I have nothing to hide," he said. Sexwale, however, said he was "a realist," and the time would come to talk to his opponents should, as expected,

he fail to gain significant support in the election. "Towards the finishing line there will be alliances," Sexwale said. "I am open to alliances, I am open to negotiations." — AP

# BUSINES JUSINES

Iran's ability to boost oil output faces hurdles

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**Nissan Al-Babtain takes Gold & Bronze medal** 

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**Kuwaitis eye opportunities** at Cityscape Turkey

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### FLYDUBAI OPERATES 26 EXTRA FLIGHTS BETWEEN KUWAIT AND DUBAI

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HONG KONG: People walk past a branch of HSBC bank in Hong Kong yesterday. HSBC warned of a "bumpier" global financial outlook thanks to China's slowing economy, as it reported yesterday that profit dipped slightly last year. Europe's biggest bank posted a net profit of \$13.5 billion for 2015, down 1.2 percent from the year before. — AP

#### 'SEISMIC' SHIFTS **GIANT GRAPPLES WITH**

#### HSBC 2015 results disappoint

HONG KONG: Global banking giant HSBC yesterday reported a shock pre-tax loss in the last quarter of 2015 with results for the year missing analysts' expectations, as it grapples with "seismic shifts" in the world economy. HSBC last year announced a radical overhaul of its business to cut costs that included shedding 50,000 jobs worldwide, exiting unprofitable businesses and focusing more on Asia.

Like many global banks, HSBC is combating turmoil in global financial markets that has seen stocks and commodities plunge, while stricter regulations have driven up costs.

Last week Europe's largest bank said it would keep its headquarters in London, despite concerns about growing regulation in Britain and an upcoming vote on whether it

could leave the European Union. Net profit for 2015 dropped 1.2 percent to \$13.52 billion from the previous year, HSBC said in a filing yesterday, while pre-tax profit of \$18.9 billion missed analysts' forecast of \$21.8 billion. Group chairman Douglas Flint described the performance as "broadly satisfactory" in a statement.

But shares slumped after the news, falling 2.19 percent by the close in Hong Kong. Analysts were troubled that the bank swung to a \$858 million pre-tax loss in the last guarter, compared to a \$1.95 billion profit forecast from a Bloomberg News survey. "We didn't expect they would report a (quarterly) loss," said financial analyst Jackson Wong of Simsen Securities.

In a press conference Monday, CEO Stuart Gulliver pointed to high loan impairment charges in the fourth quarter-up 32 percent to \$1.64 billion compared with the same quarter

in 2014. The bad-loan charges were partly driven up by the oil and gas sector, the company said. In a new blow, HSBC also revealed it is one of the banks being investigated by the US Securities and Exchange Commission in

relation to its hiring practices in Asia-Pacific. The investigation is looking at hiring practices of candidates "referred by or related to government officials or employees of stateowned enterprises in Asia-Pacific" the report said. HSBC said it was cooperating with the investigation. It comes as the bank tries to move beyond recent scandals, including the rigging of foreign exchange markets.

#### 'Bumpy environment'

Gulliver said in a statement that cost-cutting measures meant HSBC was now a "leaner business". But he admitted plans to sell HSBC's Turkey business, announced as part of the cuts, had been put on hold after the bank failed to find any buyers. "We have received a number of offers for our business in Turkey since June, none of which were deemed to be in the best interests of shareholders," Gulliver said. "We have therefore decided to retain and restructure our Turkish operations."

Flint said China's slower economic growth would create a "bumpier financial environment" in 2016, but the bank would continue to focus on the world's second-largest economy as it becomes more consumer orientated. HSBC earlier this month decided to keep its headquarters in London after a 10-month review, but Flint last week told the BBC it could shift 1,000 jobs to Paris if Britain votes to leave the EU in June.

During a results presentation yesterday

Flint said the bank supported Britain staying within the EU.

"Our own economic research is very clear that Britain is better positioned to be within a reformed Europe," he said in a conference call. The bank began its review of where to put its headquarters in April last year, two weeks before a British general election, amid growing calls for a crackdown on the financial sector seen by many voters as feckless.

It cited as a reason for the review the British bank levy introduced in 2010 — a tax based on the size of any British-based banks' global balance sheet, which has since been scaled down. Hong Kong was the main contender to become the new headquarters, but in its announcement of the decision to stay put, HSBC described London as "ideally positioned" to remain its home base. — AFP

# IMF CHIEF URGES GULF STATES TO BRING IN TAXES

**ABU DHABI:** The International Monetary Fund chief urged yesterday oil-exporting Gulf countries to introduce taxes, warning that low crude prices are likely to stay for an "extended period". Gulf economies "need to strengthen their fiscal frameworks and reengineer their tax systems by reducing their heavy reliance on oil revenues and by boosting non-hydrocarbon sources of revenues," Christine Lagarde told a forum in Abu Dhabi.

Lagarde, who was named to a new five-year term Friday at the global emergency lender, called for the introduction of value-added tax, "ideally a harmonized regional VAT".

"Even at a low single-digit rate, such a tax could raise up to 2 percent of GDP (gross domestic product)," she said. Lagarde also called for a "greater emphasis" on corporate income taxes, as well as property and excise taxes. The IMF chief pointed out that oil exporters in the Middle East and North Africa lost last year more than \$340 billion in oil revenue from their budgets, amounting to 20 percent of their combined GDP. "Not only have oil prices fallen by around two-thirds from their most recent peak, but supply and demand-side factors suggest that they are likely to stay low for an extended period," she warned. The price of oil has dropped from over \$100 a barrel in July 2014 to around \$30 today. The IMF is confident that Gulf Cooperation Council economies can make the large fiscal adjustments they need to cope with a period of low oil prices, Lagarde said.

She said oil exporters would have to reduce state spending and increase government revenues, but that they had shown the ability to adjust in the past and could do so again. She estimated that in the



International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde.

Middle East and North Africa as a whole, oil exporters lost more than \$340 billion of revenues last year because of low crude prices, equivalent to 20 percent of their combined gross domestic product. "The size and likely persistence of this external shock means that all oil exporters will have to adjust by reducing spending and increasing revenue," Lagarde said. She added, "Most GCC countries are now in a position where they can pace their adjustment over several years and thus limit the impact on growth." She did not specify which of the six GCC economies were not in that position. As oil prices have plunged, the IMF has played an increasing role advising GCC governments on reforms to shore up their finances, and its recommendations have provided some governments with political cover to make difficult decisions that could lower living standards of their citizens.

The International Energy Agency said yesterday that oil prices are unlikely to rise from current levels before 2017. All the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, which depend heavily on oil income, have reduced generous fuel, electricity and other subsidies to cut spending in the face of falling revenues. Rich GCC countries host millions of foreign workers who are attracted by personal incomes that

## BRACE FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF CHEAP OIL, WARNS IEA

**PARIS:** Oil prices will remain low at least until next year, the International Energy Agency (IEA) warned yesterday, saying any 2017 recovery will be slow as massive oil stocks feed into

the market. "We must say that today's oil market conditions do not suggest that prices can recover sharply in the immediate future-unless, of course, there is a major geopolitical event," the International Energy Agency said in its medi-

um-term report, which looks five years ahead. "Only in 2017 will we finally see oil supply and demand aligned but the enormous stocks being accumulated will act as a dampener on the pace of recovery in oil prices when the market, having balanced, then starts to draw down those stocks," it said. "While oil prices should start to rise gradually once the market begins rebalancing, the availability of resources that can be easily and quickly tapped will limit the scope of rallies," the report said.

The IEA acknowledged that predicting the oil market "is today a task of enormous complexity", saying experts were still grappling with the implications of a dramatic drop in the oil price from over \$100 per barrel in July 2014 to around \$30 today. A year ago, analysts predicted that oil oversupply would end by late 2015, "but that view has proved very wide of the mark", it admitted.

#### US shale production squeezed

The IEA's view is that supply will eventually be curtailed as investment cuts prompted by low prices translate into lower output. Spending on oil exploration and equipment is projected to drop by 17 percent this year after a 24-percent cut in 2015 "which would be the first time since 1986 that upstream investment has fallen for two consecutive years", the IEA noted. The low oil price is already squeezing profits at higher-cost producers, and the IEA said it expects the production of US light tight oil (LTO), also known as shale, to fall back by 600 million barrels per day (mb/d) and by a further 200 mb/d next year before a gradual recovery in oil prices pushes production up again. Worldwide demand for oil, meanwhile, will continue to increase, but at a weaker pace amid financial market turmoil and clear signs that "almost any economy you care to look at could see its GDP growth prospects downgraded". Global annual average demand growth over the next five years is expected at 1.2 mb/d, down from a 1.6 mb/d increase seen in 2015 when demand received an initial boost from oil price falls.

#### **Bottlenecks ahead**

But while the current supply/demand mix is keeping a lid on prices, the current slashing of investment in oil producing facilities may well hit the market with bottlenecks further down the road, possibly leading to abrupt price spikes, the IEA warned. Only Saudi Arabia and Iran have any spare production capacity left, and other countries are not investing enough even to keep current production going, let alone meet demand growth over coming years. "The risk of a sharp oil price rise towards the later part of our forecast (around 2021) arising from insufficient investment is as potentially de-stabilising as the sharp oil price fall has proved to be," the IEA warned. —AFP



## IRAN'S ABILITY TO BOOST OIL OUTPUT TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL HURDLES

#### Moody's Oil and Natural Gas Industry Report

ver the past year we have cited the prospect of oil supply from Iran returning to global markets as a major contributor to current low oil prices. We expect that Iran (unrated) could add more than 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) to global oil markets in 2016 in addition to the 1.2 million bpd Iran exported in 2015, based on existing capacity and the likely buyers of the crude. Moreover, we do not anticipate Iran significantly exceeding this level over the next 12 to 18 months through mid-2017 due to market demand for Iranian crude, the asset profile of Iran's oil fields, and remaining political risks to the nuclear agreement. The additional supply from Iran, which re-enters the world oil marketplace following the lifting of secondary economic sanctions by the US, will contribute heavily to a global oil oversupply that is already likely to outpace demand for at least the next few years. But Iran's difficulty securing additional customers, and the procurement needs of its current customers, will constrain its ability to sell additional crude in global markets.

On 16 January, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) verified that Iran had complied with its nuclear-related obligations as part of the July 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) framework. Iran had agreed to the JCPOA with the signatories of the P5+1 agreement-China, France, Germany, Russia, the UK, and the US. On "Implementation Day" of the accord, which followed two years of diplomacy, multilateral sanctions that had effectively targeted Iran's crude exports were lifted.

#### Iran seeks to regain customer base

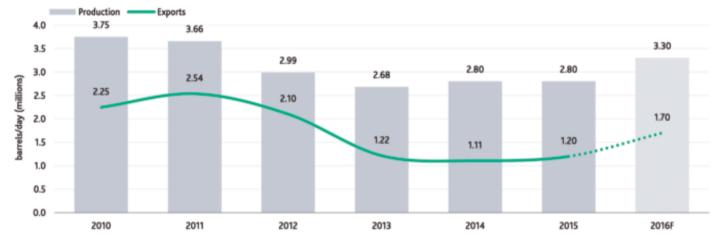
Increased global production continues to outpace growth in oil consumption, even with moderate consumption growth by major consumers such as the US, China and India.

World production now exceeds demand by about 2 million bpd, adding to already high global oil stocks. Meanwhile, OPEC and many non-OPEC oil producers battle for market share by continuing to produce at capacity. Iranian crude will likely replace a 500,000 bpd decline in US production in 2016 in global oil markets.

According to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), most Iranian crude is generally medium in sulfur content with an American Petroleum Institute (API) gravity between 29 degrees and 36degrees, a measure of the density of petroleum liquid compared with water. Iran Heavy and Iran Light account for more than 80% of the country's production capacity. Europe once imported 600,000 bpd of Iranian crude, including about 120,000 bpd to Greece, Iran's largest European oil customer, in 2011. The EU's 2012 ban on Iranian crude imports strongly benefited Russia, whose Urals benchmark export grade is similar to Iran's flagship blend; in 2015, Russia exported over 400,000 bpd to Iran's previous EU customers. With the lifting of sanctions, Iran is eager to recapture its previous customer base. Greece's largest refinery, Hellenic Petroleum (unrated), said on 22 January that it had agreed to buy oil from the National Iranian Oil Company (unrated).

Iran will likely look to regain market share among other customers of Russian oil, including refiners in Spain and Italy. Iran also has hopes to export more crude to Asia, especially China. While Saudi Arabia is China's largest crude supplier, China is Iran's biggest trade partner and continued to buy oil from Iran after December 2011, when the US tightened nuclear-related sanctions meant to constrain Iran's ability to export oil. But Iran's ability to sell additional crude in global markets depends on its ability to find additional customers, and on the needs of its current customers. Iran cannot depend on China alone. Amid heightened

Iranian Crude Production and Exports



Source: EIA; OPEC; Moody's Investors Service estimates.

geopolitical tensions and the regional rivalry between Saudi

Arabia and Iran, China will seek to maintain strong trade ties with both states and is not likely to make any major change in its crude import policies. China is unlikely to significantly step up crude imports from Iran in 2016, as its economy and growth in oil demand slow.

#### Iran grapples with mature oilfields

Iran presents a major opportunity for the major integrated oil and gas companies, without whose technology and expertise Iran cannot likely ramp up its production significantly beyond 500,000 bpd. France's Total S.A. and Norway's Statoil ASA have told the market they are interested in opportunities in Iran. Others, however, such as Royal Dutch Shell Plc have cautioned that it is too early to discuss any potential projects in Iran. While nuclear-related sanctions were lifted, the US still maintains unilateral primary sanctions on Iran related to terrorism and ballistic missile development which

prohibit US companies such as Exxon Mobil Corporation and Chevron Corporation from pursuing any projects in Iran.

Iran has the world's fourth-largest reserves of oil and one of the lowest marginal costs of production anywhere, an estimated \$15/ barrel. Decades of under-investment have stymied Iran's oil and gas sector, whose production has fallen substantially to 2.8 million bpd in 2015, down from 3.8 million bpd in 2010, according to EIA. Iran's primary energy consumption was 252 million tons of oil equivalent in 2014, almost 40% of it from petroleum products, according to the BP Statistical Review of Energy, marking a 52% increase from 2004 levels.

According to industry experts, Iran today needs roughly \$150 billion-\$200 billion of capital investment to modernize its aging oil sector, about half of it for the upstream sector alone. Iran's oil fields are mature, rapidly declining, and require a massive infrastructure overhaul, since about 80% of Iran's reserves were discovered before 1965. Sanctions have

squelched foreign investment in recent years, holding back Iran's technology and know-how just as the energy sector has made numerous technological advances in drilling and completion techniques.

Meanwhile, the integrated oil companies seem highly unlikely to begin projects in Iran in today's market climate because low oil prices have constrained their ability to invest in new projects. Persistently weak oil prices will keep earnings flat or lower in 2016 for the integrated oil companies. These weak earnings will aggravate the industry's negative free cash flow, which we estimate at about \$60 billion for 2016, 80% of it stemming from dividends the integrated oil companies intend to pay shareholders. Consequently, the integrated oil companies will need to make steep cuts in their capital budgets. The integrated companies made no new final investment decisions in 2015, a trend that is likely to persist through 2016.

Finally, the Iranian government's current contract structure does not encourage for-

eign investment. In November 2015, oil minister Bijan Zanganeh unveiled the new Iran Petroleum Contract (IPC) with contract terms of 15-20 years. The IPC would replace Iran's current shorter-term buy-back contracts, in which a foreign oil company gave up the opportunity to generate earnings in excess of a pre-specified price ceiling, but could still incur heavy losses. Moreover, Iran is keen to maintain control of its oil fields by banning foreign ownership. This prevents the major integrated oil and gas companies from owning the reserves and therefore booking the reserves for financial reporting purposes. While the Iranian government had intended to present more details of the IPC at the February 2016 conference in London, Iran had to cancel the summit because of visa and travel issues.

#### Additional political risks

The key credit risk remains political, and in particular whether Iran will choose to meet its obligations under the recent nuclear agreement, and whether other countries accept that it has done so. Iran's failure to comply with the terms of the P5+1 nuclear agreement could lead to reinstatement of sanctions under the agreement's "snap-back" provision. Moreover, Iran's upcoming parliamentary elections, scheduled for 26 February, will determine whether hardline conservatives or reformists set Iran's legislative priorities for the next four years. The elections will also determine the composition of the theocratic body, the Assembly of Experts, which will appoint the next supreme leader, who has the final say over policy decisions in Iran.

These political risks cast further uncertainty over Iran's ability to ramp up its production and upgrade its role in global oil markets, and imply large risks for any oil companies that would sign long-term IPC contracts with Iran.

#### AS US SHALE SINKS, PIPELINE FIGHT SENDS WOES DOWNSTREAM

**WILMINGTON, Delaware:** Within weeks, two low-profile legal disputes may determine whether an unprecedented wave of bankruptcies expected to hit US oil and gas producers this year will imperil the \$500 billion pipeline sector as well.

In the two court fights, US energy producers are trying to use Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection to shed long-term contracts with the pipeline operators that gather and process shale gas before it is delivered to consumer markets.

The attempts to shed the contracts by Sabine Oil & Gas and Quicksilver Resources are viewed by executives and lawyers as a litmus test for deals worth billions of dollars annually for the so-called midstream sector. Pipeline operators have argued the contracts are secure, but restructuring experts say that if the two producers manage to tear up or renegotiate their deals, others will follow. That could add a new element of risk for already hard-hit investors in midstream companies, which have plowed up to \$30 billion a year into infrastructure to serve the US fracking boom.

"It's a hellacious problem," said Hugh Ray, a bankruptcy lawyer with McKool Smith in Houston. "It will end with even more bankruptcies." A judge on New York's influential bankruptcy court said on Feb. 2 she was inclined to allow Houston-based Sabine to end its pipeline contract, which guaranteed it would ship a minimum volume of gas through a system built by a Cheniere Energy subsidiary until 2024. Sabine's lawyers argued they could save \$35 million by ending the Cheniere contract, and then save millions more by building an entirely new system.

Fort Worth, Texas-based Quicksilver's request to shed a contract with another midstream operator, Crestwood Equity Partners, is

**WILMINGTON, Delaware:** Within weeks, two low-profile legal disputes may determine whether an unprecedented wave of bankrupt-

Last week, executives from Williams Companies Inc and Enbridge Inc, two of the world's largest pipeline operators, sought to allay growing investor fears, saying they were reviewing contracts or securing additional credit guarantees to minimize the impact of the biggest oil bust in a generation.

#### MORE VULNERABLE THAN THOUGHT

So far, relatively few oil and gas producers have entered bankruptcy, and most were smaller firms. But with oil prices down 70 percent since mid-2014 and natural gas prices in a prolonged slump, up to a third of them are at risk of bankruptcy this year, consultancy Deloitte said in a Feb. 16 report.

Midstream operators have been considered relatively secure as investors and analysts focus on risks to the hundreds of billions of dollars in equity and debt of firms most directly exposed to commodity prices. That's because firms such as Enterprise Products, Kinder Morgan and Plains All American relied upon multi-year contracts-the kind targeted in the two bankruptcies-that guarantee pipeline operators fixed fees to transport minimum volumes of oil or gas.

Now, with US oil output shrinking and gas production stalling, many of the cash-strapped producers entering bankruptcy will be seeking to rid themselves of pricey agreements, particularly those with so-called minimum volume commitments that require paying for space even if it is not used.

"They will be probably among the first things thrown out," said Michael Grande, director for U.S. midstream energy and infrastructure at Moody's.

#### **RUN WITH THE LAND**

In bankruptcy court, Sabine's lawyers argued for undoing a pipeline and gathering contract with Cheniere unit Nordheim Eagle Ford Gathering that is worth tens of millions of dollars in coming years.

Instead, a different midstream operator would be hired to build a new system that Sabine's lawyer told the bankruptcy court would literally "wrap around" Nordheim's existing infrastructure.

If Sabine gets the ruling it wants, it would immediately save the \$35 million owed to Cheniere as a "deficiency fee" for failing to meet minimal volume commitments since the gathering system went into effect in September 2014. Ryan Bennett, a Kirkland & Ellis attorney representing Sabine, told Bankruptcy Judge Shelley Chapman at a Feb. 2 hearing that Sabine had plenty of options once it shed the Cheniere contract. "Maybe we do renegotiate with Nordheim. Maybe we buy their gathering system after this is all over," he told Chapman.

Nordheim, like many midstream operators, has long considered its gas gathering and transportation agreements to be nearly bankruptcyproof. The Cheniere affiliate argued the contracts with Sabine went beyond a typical commercial agreement and transferred to Nordheim Sabine's ownership right to collect and transport the gas collected within a certain

The midstream operator's lawyer compared it to a property deed restriction that forever limited the height of building. Such restrictions are said to "run with the land," and generally cannot be rejected in bankruptcy. Sabine's lawyers seemed to sway the judge when they countered that the contract language never transferred ownership rights, and if it did, it applied to mineral rights, not land rights. Judge

Chapman did not say when she would rule but told the hearing she was "inclining" toward ruling in Sabine's favor. She encouraged the parties to reach a deal.

#### ALL IN THE FAMILY NO MORE

Lawyers told Reuters some gathering agreements did not appear well protected against bankruptcy, in part because the contracts were written when one company owned both energy production and midstream operations. In recent years, the industry has undergone significant reshuffling and many energy producers spun off gathering systems.

For example, the Quicksilver agreement was struck when the midstream operator was part of the Quicksilver corporate family. In October 2010, Quicksilver sold its gas gathering and processing operations in Texas to a master limited partnership-a once-popular type of tax-advantaged corporate structure- affiliated with Crestwood Equity Partners for \$700 million. The gathering operations included a pipeline agreement with Ouicksilver that expired in 2020.

Earlier this month, Quicksilver asked US Bankruptcy Judge Laurie Silverstein to end that deal in order to save the sale of its US assets to BlueStone Natural Resources for \$245 million. If Quicksilver fails to break the pipeline agreement, it would have to settle for a lesser bid that includes just \$93 million in cash, according to court documents.

#### PAIN SPREADING

The infrastructure that midstream firms have built remains in high use so far, including the more than 12,000 miles of new pipelines commissioned since 2010. US oil production is expected to fall only modestly, and most analysts expect prices to rebound somewhat in coming years.— Reuters

#### **EXCHANGE RATES**

#### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

**GCC COUNTRIES** 

**ARAB COUNTRIES** 

<b>ASIAN COUNTRIES</b>
2.663
4.391
2.862
2.083
2.732
214.610
38.554
3.818
6.302
8.436

# Saudi Riyal 79.963 Qatari Riyal 82.369 Omani Riyal 778.846 Bahraini Dinar 796.330 UAE Dirham 81.667

#### Egyptian Pound - Cash 35.950 Egyptian Pound - Transfer 38.340 Yemen Riyal/for 1000 1.399 Tunisian Dinai 148.730 Jordanian Dinai 422.620 Lebanese Lira/for 1000 1.998 2.137 Syrian Lira Morocco Dirham 31.154

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	299.700
Euro	336.710
Sterling Pound	434.860
Canadian dollar	219.400
Turkish lira	102.290
Swiss Franc	305.660
Australian Dollar	217.210
US Dollar Buying	298.500

 GOLD

 20 Gram
 245.950

 10 Gram
 125.890

 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	300,200
Canadian Dollar	219.885
Sterling Pound	433.600
Euro	335.310
Swiss Frank	298.195
Bahrain Dinar	794.175
UAE Dirhams	81.975
Qatari Riyals	83.180

Jordanian Dinar         422.885           Egyptian Pound         38.227           Sri Lankan Rupees         2.087           Indian Rupees         4.373           Pakistani Rupees         2.860           Bangladesh Taka         3.818           Philippines Pesso         6.293           Cyprus pound         571.775           Japanese Yen         3.660           Syrian Pound         2.365           Nepalese Rupees         3.730           Malaysian Ringgit         72.070           Chinese Yuan Renminbi         46.390           Thai Bhat         9.375           Turkish Lira         101.925	Saudi Riyals	80.730
Sri Lankan Rupees       2.087         Indian Rupees       4.373         Pakistani Rupees       2.860         Bangladesh Taka       3.818         Philippines Pesso       6.293         Cyprus pound       571.775         Japanese Yen       3.660         Syrian Pound       2.365         Nepalese Rupees       3.730         Malaysian Ringgit       72.070         Chinese Yuan Renminbi       46.390         Thai Bhat       9.375	Jordanian Dinar	422.885
Indian Rupees       4.373         Pakistani Rupees       2.860         Bangladesh Taka       3.818         Philippines Pesso       6.293         Cyprus pound       571.775         Japanese Yen       3.660         Syrian Pound       2.365         Nepalese Rupees       3.730         Malaysian Ringgit       72.070         Chinese Yuan Renminbi       46.390         Thai Bhat       9.375	Egyptian Pound	38.227
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Bangladesh Taka       3.818         Philippines Pesso       6.293         Cyprus pound       571.775         Japanese Yen       3.660         Syrian Pound       2.365         Nepalese Rupees       3.730         Malaysian Ringgit       72.070         Chinese Yuan Renminbi       46.390         Thai Bhat       9.375	Indian Rupees	4.373
Philippines Pesso       6.293         Cyprus pound       571.775         Japanese Yen       3.660         Syrian Pound       2.365         Nepalese Rupees       3.730         Malaysian Ringgit       72.070         Chinese Yuan Renminbi       46.390         Thai Bhat       9.375	Pakistani Rupees	2.860
Cyprus pound     571.775       Japanese Yen     3.660       Syrian Pound     2.365       Nepalese Rupees     3.730       Malaysian Ringgit     72.070       Chinese Yuan Renminbi     46.390       Thai Bhat     9.375	Bangladesh Taka	3.818
Japanese Yen       3.660         Syrian Pound       2.365         Nepalese Rupees       3.730         Malaysian Ringgit       72.070         Chinese Yuan Renminbi       46.390         Thai Bhat       9.375	Philippines Pesso	6.293
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Nepalese Rupees3.730Malaysian Ringgit72.070Chinese Yuan Renminbi46.390Thai Bhat9.375	Japanese Yen	3.660
Malaysian Ringgit 72.070 Chinese Yuan Renminbi 46.390 Thai Bhat 9.375	Syrian Pound	2.365
Chinese Yuan Renminbi 46.390 Thai Bhat 9.375	Nepalese Rupees	3.730
Thai Bhat 9.375	Malaysian Ringgit	72.070
	Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.390
Turkish Lira 101.925	Thai Bhat	9.375
	Turkish Lira	101.925

**CURRENCY** 

**US Dollars Mint** 

#### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

**SELL** 

0.300100

BUY

Europe		
British Pound	0.425308	0.434308
Czech Korune	0.004335	0.016335
Danish Krone	0.040633	0.045633
Euro	0.328834	0.336834
Norwegian Krone	0.030971	0.036171
Romanian Leu	0.085969	0.085969
Slovakia	0.008861	0.018881
Swedish Krona	0.031505	0.036505
Swiss Franc	0.296785	0.306985
Turkish Lira	0.095556	0.105856
	Austra	lasia
Australian Dollar	0.206383	0.217883
New Zealand Dollar	0.192985	0.202485
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.212534	0.221034
US Dollars	0.295600	0.300100

0.296100

	Asi	ia
Bangladesh Taka	0.003432	0.004032
Chinese Yuan	0.044500	0.048000
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036568	0.039318
ndian Rupee	0.004170	0.004560
ndonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
apanese Yen	0.002583	0.002763
Kenyan Shilling	0.003000	0.003000
Korean Won	0.000233	0.000248
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067531	0.073531
Nepalese Rupee	0.002840	0.003010
Pakistan Rupee	0.002708	0.002988
Philippine Peso	0.006221	0.006501
Sierra Leone	0.000066	0.000072
Singapore Dollar	0.210282	0.216282
South African Rand	0.013488	0.021988
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001731	0.002311
「aiwan	0.008941	0.009121
「hai Baht	0.008099	0.008649

	Ara	ıb
Bahraini Dinar	0.788076	0.796078
Egyptian Pound	0.033683	0.038019
Iranian Riyal	0.000083	0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000197	0.000257
Jordanian Dinar	0.418683	0.426183
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000149	0.000249
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020324	0.044324
Nigerian Naira	0.001230	0.001865
Omani Riyal	0.772023	0.777703
Qatar Riyal	0.081609	0.082822
Saudi Riyal	0.079033	0.079983
Syrian Pound	0.001269	0.001489
Tunisian Dinar	0.145440	0.153440
Turkish Lira	0.095556	0.105856
UAE Dirhams	0.080616	0.081765
Yemeni Riyal	0.001354	0.001434





ISTANBUL: Kuwaiti investors attend the Cityscape Turkey exhibition at Istanbul Congress Center.

## KUWAITIS EYE OPPORTUNITIES AT CITYSCAPE TURKEY

#### Real estate transactions by Kuwaiti residents more than double in 2 years

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti investors will have a unique opportunity to discover Turkey's diverse real estate landscape and meet with leading local and international developers and market experts at next month's inaugural Cityscape Turkey exhibition, which will be held from 24-26 March, 2016 at the Istanbul Congress

The latest addition to the Cityscape portfolio of global events, the new destination showcase follows on the back of the success of the Turkey pavilion at Cityscape Global 2015, with a surge in investor interest prompting the launch of a dedicated in-country exhibition.

In 2015, over 500,000 GCC residents visited Turkey with investments from the Gulf accounting for almost 30 percent of total transactions. According to Turkey's Ministry of Land Registry, 2,130 Kuwaiti citizens purchased property in 2015 amounting to 675,000 square metres. Investment from the GCC state has more than doubled in the last 24 months, and doubled again in terms of total square meterage.

'Turkey appeals to the Kuwaiti investor on multiple levels from the comfort factor of cultural similarities such as halal food and plentiful mosques, through to the cosmopolitan positioning of a city like Istanbul, or the upscale resort communities found on the various coasts, an abundance of quality retail locations and growing presence from renowned international hotel chains. Couple this with steady high returns and a wealth of prime developments that meet stringent international construction standards, and you have a formula for investment success," said Wouter Molman, Director, Cityscape Global.

current GDP in excess of \$800 billion, Turkey is term. Infrastructure development is also being



sixth most popular tourism destination, attracting 37 million international visitors in 2014. The country's real estate sector continues to attract significant levels of foreign direct investment, reaching almost \$5 billion in the first nine months of 2015, according to Gyoder, the country's association of real estate investment companies.

FDI inflow to the real estate and construction sector totalled \$4.8 billion in 2015 and is The sixth largest European economy with expected to top \$10 billion in the medium prioritised, with a third Istanbul airport in the pipeline, and with the introduction of the urban regeneration law, which will see \$4400 billion invested into housing projects over the next 20 years, the Turkish government is putting real estate development at the top of its economic agenda.

The Turkey event will bring together over 50 high profile exhibitors across 7,000 square metres of exhibition floor space, with more than 5,000 regional and international visitors expected to attend. In a unique and innovative move, the Cityscape Turkey team will also invite a select number of prospective Kuwaiti investors to attend through its exclusive invitation-only hosted buyer program. "We want to connect serious investors with participating developers and reputable brokers directly and, under this program, we will bear the cost of their five-star hotel accommodation and airport transfers and arrange a series of pre-qualified one-on-one meetings to fast track the experience and showcase a tailored collection of quality projects and existing developments that meet clients' exacting requirements," remarked Molman.

In addition, hosted buyers will be accorded VIP status and also receive an invitation to attend the official Cityscape Turkey Networking Reception.

Current investment hotspots for Kuwaiti nationals are Turkey's capital, Istanbul, as well as Trabzon on the Black Sea coastline, and Yalova and Bursa in the northwest of the coun-

"As of 2016, Kuwait now ranks in the top 10 of inward real estate investment and is the third largest foreign purchaser of property in the country, which confirms the attraction of



Skyscrapers adorn the Istanbul skyline.

and a destination that delivers on quality, backed by a stable economy and acknowledged regulatory transparency, both of which are also key to ensuring investor confidence," said Ali Agaoglu

The 2012 amendment to Turkey's reciprocity law, which made it easier for foreigners to invest in the market, and purchase a maximum of 60 hectares - increased from the original 2.5 hectares - has also boosted demand from Kuwaiti investors.

Steady growth in terms of house prices has been recorded over the last three years, with residential rental rates in key cities also rising by 20 per cent over the last 24 months, as per Turkey as a secure investment environment Gyoder. According to Reidin, the online real

estate information service, Istanbul, Antalya and Bursa have demonstrated the highest monthly return on residential investment at 0.49 percent. Key exhibitors at the inaugural showcase

include Agaoglu, DAMAC Properties, DKY Insaat, EGE Yapi, Green Valley Real Estate, Kuzu Group, Metropol Istanbul, Ofton, Piyalepasa, Polatyol, Quasar Istanbul, Sinpas and Suryapi. Cityscape Turkey 2016 is supported by Gyoder and Konutder.

Prospective investors are invited to register their interest in attending Cityscape Turkey by the following http://www.cityscapeturkey.com/forms/visitorpre-registration-form/

#### CHINA'S INDUSTRIAL OVERCAPACITY DAMAGING GLOBAL ECONOMY: STUDY

**BEIJING:** China's overcapacity in heavy industries is wreaking "far-reaching" damage on the global economy, with steel production "completely untethered" from market demand, the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said yesterday. The Asian giant's steel industry manufactures more than the next four largest producers combined-Japan, India, the US, and Russia-the chamber said in a report, warning that more than 60 percent of China's aluminium industry has nega-

tive cash flow. And in just two years, its cement production equalled the amount produced in the United States during the entire 20th Century. "China has not followed through on the attempts it has made over the last decade to address overcapacity," chamber president Joerg Wuttke said in a state-

Brussels has launched new anti-dumping probes into Chinese steel imports, as producers in both Europe and Asia struggle with global prices that have plummeted in the face of oversupply.

"Overcapacity has been a blight on China's industrial landscape for many years now, affecting dozens of industries and wreaking far-reaching damage on the global economy in general, and China's economic growth in particular," the chamber's report said.

The issue has led to trade tensions between the world's second-largest economy and developed countries that accuse it of dumping in their markets. China accounts for half of global steel production but internal demand has slowed sharply along with economic growth, forcing it to look overseas. Its steel exports soared 20 percent in 2015, according to Chinese Customs data.

The EU launched probes this month into imports of Chinese steel, with trade commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem warning: "We cannot allow unfair competition from artificially cheap imports to threaten our industry." This month, Luxembourgbased world leader in steelmaking ArcelorMittal blamed China for a colossal \$8 billion loss in 2015, at a time when thousands of jobs are being cut across the industry.

But many Chinese steel firms are also losing money, and Beijing has announced plans to cut production by as much as 150 million tons over the next five years.

#### **Protectionism**

Despite authorities' vows to tackle excess production, the EU chamber report said Beijing's prioritization of industrial policies over consumption meant "the Chinese government's current role in the economy is part of the problem". To achieve change, it said the government needed "a willingness to change itself".

Chamber president Wuttke told reporters: "We are now in a far more worse position than we were before. "Beijing increasingly has the same problems as Brussels: making things happen. That was not the case 10 or 15 years ago. Local protectionism is very strong."

Beijing hopes to soak up overcapacity by selling its excess production to markets in Central Asia and the Middle East as part of President Xi Jinping's One Belt One Road plan, which has been touted as a revival of ancient Silk Road trade routes. But those markets were not big enough to absorb China's overcapacity, Wuttke said. It "is a complete mismatch, it will not put even a minor dent in the overcapacities in China", he said. —AFP

# FORD CEO EYES AUTONOMOUS CARS AND SHARING ECONOMY

BARCELONA: Ford CEO Mark Fields says the 112-yearold company is tripling its investment in new technologies that will ultimately lead to self-driving vehicles - but will make sure to keep making cars for drivers who want to keep their hands on the wheel. Fields said it was no coincidence that Ford chose the Mobile World Congress, a massive technology trade show in Barcelona, to unveil its new Kuga SUV, which features its latest connectivity and driver-assisted technology.

"We are really emphasizing our transition from an auto company to an auto and mobility company," Fields told The Associated Press in an interview yesterday at Ford's stand, which stood out in a sea of smartphone and gadget makers. "This is a really good audience to reach some new folks."

The Kuga includes the latest version of Ford's connectivity technology, SYNC 3, which the company says includes improved voice commands and makes it easier to access applications on a driver's smartphone. It has a new 1.5-liter diesel engine, among other features.

Fields said that over the next five years investment will increase threefold in autonomous driving technologies, such as one-button parking assistance and guidance to keep a car in its lane and help braking in heavy traffic, with the ultimate goal of a fully autonomous car. He declined to provide financial figures.

Don Butler, Ford's executive director of connected vehicle and services, told the AP "we like to think about it as the transition from just a hardware company to a software and mobility services company as well." "Mobility" is a buzzword at the wireless show. For Ford customers, it means a wide range of innovations from further integration of the Internet in cars, to ride-sharing and even the use of other modes of transport in conjunction with cars, like bicycles. Fields said Ford is aware it will have to be careful to keep a hold on the traditional car driver, by protecting - especially in the United States - the aura of personal freedom that automakers have always cast over their products.

Ford is taking a "dual path" in developing the connected car, said Fields. One for those who want to be



BARCELONA: Ford CEO Mark Fields talks during an interview next to the new Kuga SUV car, which features its latest connectivity and driver-assisted technology, during the Mobile World Congress Wireless show, the world's largest mobile phone trade show, in Barcelona, Spain, yesterday. —AP

assisted by the car or eventually have the vehicle take over, and another for drivers who want to keep control of the wheel.

While going forward with developing semi- and fully autonomous cars, Fields said "clearly there will be a part of the population that will always want to drive and have that driving pleasure, and we are obviously going to provide them great products for that."

With ride-sharing platforms like Uber reshaping driving for many young would-be consumers, Ford is also staking part of its future on getting a piece of the socalled sharing economy by pushing into car- and ride-

"Across the world when you see growth of these megacities, with 10 million or more folks, people want mobility solutions, they want options, whether it's carsharing, ride-sharing, what we call multi-modal modes of transportation where you are taking a car for a portion of a journey or a train and then maybe a bike," said

## AB FOODS HAILS TURNING POINT FOR SUGAR BUSINESS

**LONDON:** The outlook for Associated British Foods' troubled sugar business has reached a turning point as prices improve, the firm said yesterday.

Weak prices have depressed profit in the group's sugar division, including a 77 percent slump in 2014-15. However, it expects greater stability in its current year and analysts are forecasting a return to profit growth in the fol-

lowing year. "We've had three years of declining profits for our sugar business. We really are calling a turning point in that. That is why the outlook here is certainly a brighter one," Finance Director John Bason told Reuters. Bason was speaking after AB Foods edged up its full-year earnings guidance, thanks to recent currency moves and improved trading at its Primark clothing chain, sending its shares up to 2 percent

Bason said that while world sugar prices remain low, a tightening of EU and Chinese stock levels has resulted in a strengthening of domestic prices in those markets. But he noted that with most of British Sugar's contracts for 2015-16 already agreed, there will be no material impact on its

profit from the improvement in pricing until 2016-17.

Primark and sugar account for over half of group revenue. Primark alone accounts for over half of group profit. The firm, which also has grocery, agriculture and ingredients businesses, is now forecasting only a marginal decline in adjusted EPS in 2015-16 from the 102 pence made in

2014-15, having previously indicated a modest decline. Its financial year runs until mid-September.

Prior to the update analysts were on average forecasting 100 pence, according to Reuters data. Analysts at Shore Capital said they expected consensus expectations to nudge-up 1-2 percent.

Consensus EPS forecasts rise to 117.4 pence for 2016-17. "People are certainly factoring in an improvement in profitability for sugar for 2017," said Bason. —AFP



# GLOBAL SHARES RISE, POUND FALLS ON BREXIT FEARS

MILAN: World stocks rose yesterday as firmer after an uptick in China's steel industry sparked mining company shares helped to offset concerns about Britain's potential exit from the European Union and a fall in HSBC's shares.

The pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 index gained 1.4 percent by the middle of the trading session, though it is still down nearly 10 percent since the start of 2016 due to concerns about a global economic slowdown. Britain's FTSE 100 was up 1.2 percent, while Germany's DAX gained 1.9 percent and France's CAC rose 1.7 percent. Mining stocks were among the best performers, with Anglo American rising 7.3 percent, as the price of copper reached a two-week high. Metals prices were boosted

hope for a revival in metals demand, given China's role as the world's biggest consumer of metals.

Shares in Telecom Italia also advanced after Vivendi increased its stake in Telecom Italia to 22.8 percent, strengthening its position as the top shareholder.

However, shares in HSBC fell 2.9 percent after Europe's biggest bank reported a surprise pre-tax loss of \$858 million and predicted a 'bumpier' financial environment ahead.

Analysts also cited uncertainty over the outcome of Britain's referendum on whether to leave the European Union - dubbed "Brexit" - as being partly responsible for the FTSE gaining less than the DAX and CAC. The vote is set for June 23.

Currency traders hit sterling, homing in on narrowing bookmaker odds on a Brexit. The scale of the reaction on sterling, an almost 2 percent fall driven chiefly by the decision of London Mayor Boris Johnson to join the "out" camp on Sunday, also sent British government bond prices spiralling lower.

"A Brexit would be worse for the UK than for Europe," said Andrea Williams, European equities fund manager at Royal London Asset Management. However, analysts at Societe Generale said any decision by Britain to leave would be just as harmful for the rest of as fears the world economy is stalling the EU as it would be for Britain.

"Our own view falls in the very negative camp, with an estimated loss of 0.5-1.0 percentage points per annum to the UK and 0.125-0.25 percentage points for the euro area over a decade. Given that potential growth is estimated at only 1.2 percentage points, a Brexit would be a significant shock to the euro area economy!" SocGen wrote in a note.

#### Asian shares extend rally

Asian shares swept higher yesterday, with Shanghai leading the charge after China replaced its securities regulator, while a rise in oil prices cheered investors across the region. Equities extended last week's sharp rally, notching gains almost across the board after news that Russia and Saudi Arabia may freeze production sent crude higher.

Chinese shares closed up more than two percent after the head of the securities regulatory body who was in place during last year's market rout was dismissed, while Japan's exporters gained on a weaker yen. But traders remained cautious after a rollercoaster start to the year. The pound sank after London's popular mayor said he would campaign for Britain to leave the EU in a June referendum.

"People are willing to take risk again," Karl Goody, a private wealth manager at Shaw and Partners in Sydney, told Bloomberg News. "People are looking at the sell-off this year and saying: enough is enough, there's been enough pain now."

Financial markets have been on edge

have sent stocks and commodities tumbling and hammered oil prices, already weighed down by a global supply glut.

Crude flirted with 13-year lows this month, diving below \$30 a barrel, but news that major producers Saudi Arabia and Russia plan to cap production has eased some concerns the market will be oversupplied for years. At around 0845 GMT Monday, US benchmark WTI for delivery in March was up 84 cents at \$30.48. Brent, for April, advanced 75 cents to \$33.75 a barrel.

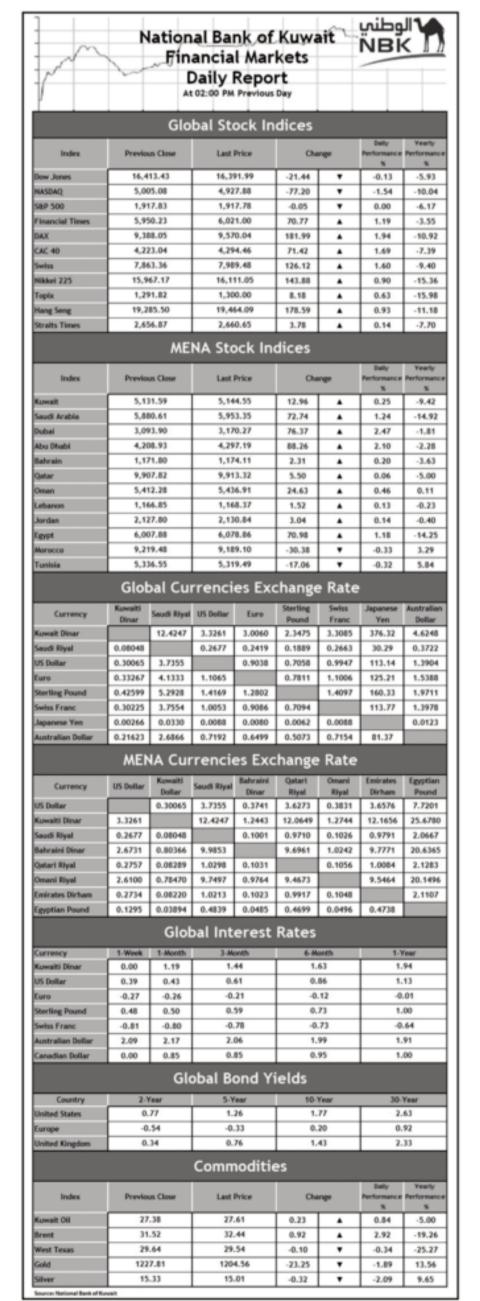
#### China fires regulator head

Chinese shares jumped after state media reportChinese shares jumped after state media reported Saturday that the head of the country's securities regulator, Xiao Gang, would be replaced by Liu Shiyu, chairman of the Agricultural Bank of China.

China has been struggling to reassure investors it has a grip on its financial markets after a rout last summer wiped trillions off equities, prompting the government to step in and tighten regulations.

Shanghai fell 23 percent in January, the world's worst-performing major market. Its benchmark index closed Monday up 2.35 percent, while Hong Kong ended 0.93 percent higher. Tokyo added 0.90 percent and European stocks rose at the open. In currency markets, the pound fell the most against the dollar in a month as campaigning over a potential "Brexit" from the European Union began in earnest. — Agencies

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# NISSAN AL-BABTAIN TAKES GOLD & BRONZE MEDAL

2015 NISSAN REGIONAL SKILLS CONTESTS

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the exclusive agent of Nissan in the State of Kuwait, is proud to announce that Nissan Al-Babtain Sales Executive Mohammed Dayane has received first place award during the annual Regional Nissan Sales Executive Excellence Competency (NISEC) contest, & Service Technician Tiljo Varkey received the bronze medal for the Nissan Service Technician Excellence Competency Award contest (NISTEC), held early this month.

Top sales force and service technicians from across the region came together to compete in the Regional Skills Contests held in Dubai. Nissan Middle East conducted the contests in four different languages with 11 countries competing in four categories. Nissan Al-Babtain was conferred the following awards:

\* Nissan Sales Executive Excellence Competency Award (NISEC) - GOLD medal winner: Mohamed Samir Dayane, as well as receiving Best performance in Vehicle Presentation category.

\* Nissan Service Technician Excellence Competency Award (NISTEC) - BRONZE medal winner: Tilio Varkey

Saleh Al-Babtain, CEO - Al-Babtain Group congratulated the winners and thanked the



supporting team for their hard work and dedication. As a token of appreciation, he announced the management's decision to

reward both winners.

The Regional Skills Contests, which are held annually, comprise of four competitions

for Technicians, Service Advisors, Sales and Parts. Contestants are tested against NISSAN's global selling standards with the objective of realizing their capabilities, advancing their skills and bring them up to the Nissan standards thus ensuring customer

service excellence in the Sales & Service process.

The awards span every aspect of the business - from knowledge of Nissan genuine parts to service advice to sales acumen to technical expertise. The Japanese automaker

invests heavily in customer care and focuses on providing the highest standards of sales and after-sales service.

Mohammed Shalaby, COO - Al-Babtain Group said "We (AABC) are extremely proud of the winners' efforts, dedication and skills during this competition." Adding, "The contest is not just to choose a champion only, it is a way to show the advancement of the skills of all the participants and an acknowledgment of their hard work. Keeping knowledge and skills up to date enables our staff to deliver high quality service that meets the expectations of customers and safeguards the reputation of our organization. Nissan Al-Babtain owes its success on quality customer service and a dedicated workforce.

Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, GM - HR & Administration - Al Babtain Group stated" Al Babtain Group is keen on developing the skills, capabilities and talents of its staff by continuous learning process. The skills contests are a way to motivate our people and give them an opportunity to showcase their talents."

Nissan Al-Babtain holds the annual Nissan Skills contests locally each year, to select the best Technician, Service Advisor, Parts Executive and Sales Executive to see represent AABC at the regional contests in Dubai.



PARIS: French housing minister Emmanuelle Cosse, Agriculture minister and Government spokesperson Stephane Le Foll (left) and Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron (center) arrive for the opening of the wood sector strategic committee (CSF) at the Economy ministry in Paris yesterday. —AFP

# US, EU OPEN FREE-TRADE TALKS IN BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS: Top negotiators on a huge transatlantic trade treaty between the EU and US opened new talks yesterday with the aim to tackle one of the deal's most controversial aspects. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), under negotiation since July 2013, would create the world's biggest free trade zone, removing tariffs and harmonizing regulation between the Europe Union and the United States.

EU sources said the negotiators would for the first time discuss in detail a divisive proposal to create an investment protection system that would allow companies to sue governments when they believe their interests have been harmed. This idea has drawn fierce criticism in Europe, especially in Germany, where hundreds of thousands of people rallied in October to oppose the massive free-trade accord.

The European Commission, which handles trade talks for the EU's 28 member states, will offer the US an alternative proposal that would involve

setting up a special court.

Opponents say TTIP is undemocratic and

would lead to reckless deregulation at the expense of ordinary citizens. The two sides aim to conclude TTIP this year, before the end of the Obama administration in the US. President Barack Obama travels to Germany in April to discuss the deal with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Washington and Brussels are thought to be close to agreement on eliminating tariffs and barriers on 97 percent of trade between the two sides. But a raft of thorny issues remain to be discussed, in particular European fears about accepting genetically modified crops from America and concerns about limits on data-sharing by global Internet firms.

"The most sensitive issues have not been treated and we are a long way from an accord," said Gerard Araud, France's ambassador to Washington in a tweet.

"There won't be an agreement before the end of the Obama administration, which means nothing before 2017/2018 at best," he predicted. This week's talks in Brussels are the 12th round of TTIP negotiations.—AFP

# US DOMINATES ARMS TRADE AS ASIA, MID-EAST BOOST IMPORTS

**STOCKHOLM:** The global transfer of major arms has risen in recent years, with the United States increasing its dominance of the trade while the flow of weaponry to Africa, Asia and the Middle East has increased, a new study published yesterday showed. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, the volume of international transfers of major weapons-including sales and donationswas 14 percent higher in 2011-2015 than over the five previous years, with the US and Russia doing most of the exporting.

The biggest importers were India, Saudi Arabia, China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The authors of the report singled out the conflict in Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is backing the government against Iran-supported Shiite Huthi rebels. "A coalition of Arab states is putting mainly US- and European-sourced advanced arms into use in Yemen," senior SIPRI researcher Pieter Wezeman said in the report.

'US arms went to 96 states'

The United States has sold or donated major arms to a diverse range of recipients across the globe, the report said. "As regional conflicts and tensions continue to mount, the USA remains the leading global arms supplier by a significant margin," said Aude Fleurant, director of the SIPRI Arms and Military Expenditure Program.

"The USA has sold or donated major arms to at least 96 states in the past five years, and the US arms industry has large outstanding export orders," including for over 600 F-35 combat aircraft, said Fleurant. The biggest chunk of US major arms, 41 percent, went into Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Middle East.

"Despite low oil prices, large deliveries of arms to the Middle East are scheduled to continue as part of contracts signed in the past five years," Wezeman added.

Russia remains in second place on the SIPRI exporters list, with its share of the total up three points to 25 percent, though the levels dropped in

2014 and 2015 — coinciding with Western sanctions against Moscow over the Ukraine conflict.

India took the largest chunk of Russian weaponry and SIPRI also listed pro-Moscow rebels in Ukraine among the recipients. While the flows of weapons to Africa, Asia and Oceania and the Middle East all increased between 2006-10 and 2011-15, there had been a sharp fall in the flow to Europe and a minor decrease in the volume heading to the Americas, according to SIPRI.

The overall transfer of arms has been upwards this century after a relative drop in the previous 20 years. China leapfrogged both France and Germany over the past five years to become the third-largest source of major arms globally, with an 88-percent rise in exports.

Most of the Chinese weapons went to other Asian countries, with Pakistan the main recipient. India remains by far the biggest importer of major arms, accounting for 14 percent of the total; twice as much as second-placed Saudi Arabia and three times as much as China. —AFP

## GOLD DIPS 2% ON STRONGER DOLLAR, SHARES

**LONDON:** Gold fell as much as 2 percent yesterday as the dollar strengthened and investor appetite for risk increased, but the metal remained above \$1,200 an ounce after a rally that pushed prices to one-year highs this month.

Concern over financial instability and the repricing of expectations for US interest rate rises, has helped the metal outperform most assets so far this year with a 15 percent

Spot gold, which posted small losses last week on profit-taking after rallying to \$1,260.60 on Feb. 11, was down 1.3 percent at \$1,211.91 by 1341 GMT. It had earlier fallen 2.2 percent to a session low of \$1,201.63. "Despite the move lower, the contagion of negative

interest rates elsewhere signal that gold is not suddenly going to retrace its way back to its lows," Citi strategist David Wilson said.

The dollar rose 0.9 percent against a basket of leading currencies, supported by strong US data on Friday, and European shares jumped to multi-month highs. "The dollar weakness seems to have run its course and is not providing the support that we saw earlier this month ... in the short term I would favour a move towards \$1,168," Saxo Bank senior manager Ole Hansen said.

"Gold has had such a strong build in a relatively short period of time that if there is a bit of a change in the surrounding markets, gold will be exposed," Hansen said. But investor sentiment remained largely bullish and was evident in fund flows. SPDR Gold Trust, the world's top gold exchange-traded fund, on Friday recorded the biggest single-day inflow since August 2011. The fund's inflows since the beginning of the year have already surpassed the outflows for the whole of 2015.

**ETF INFLOWS** 

Other data showed that speculators increased their bullish bet in COMEX gold futures and options to their highest in nearly four months in the week to Feb. 16. Bank of America Merrill Lynch said on Friday investors shovelled \$3.2 billion into gold, the biggest two-week gold

inflow since May 2010.

"Increases in ETF (exchange-traded fund) holdings continue to support gold higher, while we have seen some of this buying momentum offset by reductions in TOCOM positioning and recent selling in China," said MKS Group trader Sam Laughlin, referring to the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Top consumer China has been selling gold since its return from a week-long holiday last Monday, a sign Chinese investors do not expect prices to go much higher and cannot be counted on to support the market. Silver fell 1.4 percent to \$15.11 an ounce, while spot platinum fell 1.4 percent to \$925.80 and palladium slipped by 0.4 percent to \$497.22.—Reuters

# FLYDUBAI OPERATES 26 EXTRA FLIGHTS BETWEEN KUWAIT, DUBAI

#### 55TH NATIONAL AND 25TH LIBERATION DAY HOLIDAYS

KUWAIT: Dubai-based flydubai will operate up to 17 flights a day between Kuwait and Dubai between 23 and 29 February. The 26 extra flights added to the schedule will accommodate the increase in passenger numbers between the two cities during Kuwait's 55th National and 25th Liberation Day Holidays.

The carrier, which has been operating from the convenient Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Terminal in Kuwait since 2013, offers Kuwaiti citizens and well-wishers from the UAE a very flexible flight schedule to join the country's celebrations and a choice to choose to fly either from Dubai International Airport (DXB) in the heart of the city or from the newest gateway to Dubai, Al-Maktoum International Airport (DWC).

Ghaith Al-Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer of flydubai, said: "We congratulate our brothers in Kuwait on the occasion of the country's National and Liberation Day, a very dear occasion to our hearts and celebrated by everyone in the GCC and the region and not only in Kuwait. Our heartfelt wishes to the leadership and the people of the country for more progress, peace and pros-

flydubai's operations from the dedicated Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Terminal



**Sudhir Sreedharan** 

offers passengers faster check-in services, shortened queuing time at the immigration desks and a more personalised flying experience. Passengers are advised to factor in ample time to reach the airport and complete their check-in procedure to avoid the last minute rush as thousands of people gear up to travel ahead of one of the busiest weekends for travel. Passengers are also reminded to book their baggage allowances in advance when travelling in Economy.

Sudhir Sreedharan, Senior Vice President, Commercial (GCC, Subcontinent and Africa) for flydubai, said: "Kuwait is an important market for flydubai and we remain dedicated to offering passengers from Kuwait more options to travel between the two countries whether in Business or Economy Class. Our high-quality service, convenient travel schedule, great value for money and the option to choose to fly to two airports in Dubai continues to be popular with our pas-

flydubai is offering special fares on select flights during this period. Booking is now open on all flydubai booking channels.

Flights between Dubai and Kuwait can be purchased from flydubai's website (www.flydubai.com), through its local office (+965 22 41 44 00) and accredited travel agents. flydubai also offers visa facilitation services to passengers travelling to the UAE. Details of the carrier's car rental, insurance and other third party services are also available on its website.



flydubai starting fares from 23-29

February Kuwait to Dubai (DXB) **Business from KWD 181** Economy from KWD 46 Kuwait to Dubai (DWC) **Business from KWD 176**  Economy from KWD 35

KUWAIT: Joyalukkas, the world's favourite

jeweller, joins the leaders and people of

Kuwait in celebration of the nation's 55th

National Day and 25th Liberation Day on

February 25th and 26th respectively. The

landmark two-day holiday is to be marked

with spectacular events and activities, as

well as a sparkling surprise from

tions to the rulers of Kuwait, whose vision-

ary leadership has built a strong nation of

prosperity and success," says Joy Alukkas,

Chairman & MD, Joyalukkas Group. "And in

appreciation of the Kuwait residents who

have supported us from the opening of our

first shop to the launch of the biggest

Jewellery showroom in the country, we are

giving away a special gift in honor of Kuwait's National Day and Liberation Day".

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank held its weekly

draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program

on February 17, 2016. This program offers

the biggest prize amount to the largest

number of winners. The prize program suc-

ceeded in becoming the first and only prize

account in Kuwait compliant with the

Islamic Sharia principles. The program has

been developed to fulfil the needs of the

Bank customers and increase their opportu-

nities in winning sizeable and attractive

prizes in addition to enjoying the latest

banking advantages that Ahli United Bank

On this occasion, the bank issued the fol-

lowing press release: Al Hassad Islamic

Saving program offers the highest amounts

of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 Million

per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly

prizes, with the highest number of weekly

winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account

may be opened by the lowest amount to

the amount of KD 25,000 is: MNAHI AL

GHLOOM A/RASOOL ABDULLA, YASER

AHMAD AL MULIGY, JAMAL GHANIM AL

GHANIM, MOHAMMAD AHMAD MOHAM-

MAD, LILLIAN GERGES ASHAM, ABDUL-

RAOUF ABDULJABBAR THEEB, HMOUD

The winner of the weekly grand prize in

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each:

open an account, which is KD 100.

"We extend our warmest congratula-

Joyalukkas.

Maktoum International Airport (DWC), Dubai's second airport, opened its doors to passengers on 27 October 2013. Once completed, this airport will be the world's largest global gateway with capacity for more than 160 million

JOYALUKKAS CELEBRATES NATIONAL DAY AND LIBERATION DAY WITH DAZZLING GIFTS FOR CUSTOMERS

AHLI UNITED BANK ANNOUNCES

WINNERS IN ITS WEEKLY DRAW

passengers per year. DWC welcomed the launch of flydubai's operations with the arrival of their first flight on 25 October 2015. The airline operates services to a number of destinations from DWC, including Kuwait, as it continues its operations from Dubai International.

Customers can have their choice from

thousands of stunning contemporary and

traditional Jewellery designs in Gold,

Diamond, Polki, Precious stones and Pearls,

and receive a special gift. The offer is avail-

able till February 29, 2016, across

Joyalukkas Group is a multi-billion dollar

global conglomerate, with varied business

interests. The group operates its various

business operations across UAE, Saudi

Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar.

Singapore, Malaysia, London and India. The

group businesses include Jewellery, money

exchange, fashion & textiles, luxury air

charters, malls and realty. Joyalukkas

employs over 7,000 professionals across

the world, and is one of the most awarded and recognized Jewellery retail chains in

HAJJI AL DAHOUM, SALMAN MOHAMMAD

AL MANSOUR, WAFAA MOHAMMAD AL

GHAREEB, MOHAMMAD ABD ALRAZZAK AL

KHALED, QADREYA KHALIFAH AL SHALLAL,

FATEMAH SAMI AL KEELANI, ABDULLAH TLAYYAN ALI, ANWAR HAMAD AL RUGHIB,

ALI HUSSAIN AL ENEZI, SHAIKHA ADEL

ALHAJRI, ALI HUSSAIN ABDULRAZZAQ,

ABDULRAHEEM SHAMEKH AL RASHIDI,

JASEM YOUSSEFAL KANDAR, FALEH NAFEL

AL AZMI, ALMAN ABDULLA HUSSAIN,

ZAINAB ALI MAKK, KALTHOOM MOHAMED

AMEEN, MOHAMMED ALI AHMED, ABDUL-

Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a

weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000 in

addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of

KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000

saving program from Ahli United Bank offer

4 quarterly grand prizes announced in guar-

terly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize

offer innovative tools and means to meet

the needs of its customers to match the

Bank's long history of distinctive services

which extend over 73 years during which

the Bank managed to take the lead among

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to

In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic

The Prize program of "Al Hassad Islamic

RAHIM ABDULAZEEZ ABDULRAHIM.

for each winner.

local banks.

which is worth KD 250,000.

Joyalukkas' showrooms in Kuwait.



## CADILLAC ALGHANIM INVITES KUWAIT CADILLAC GROUP TO SPECIAL GATHERING

**KUWAIT:** In a move that demonstrates the sincere appreciation the company holds toward its fans, Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, invited the Kuwait Cadillac Group (KCG), on Thursday, February 11th, 2016, to a special gathering at the Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Service Facility in Shuwaikh, where the members were individually thanked for their never-ending loyalty and support toward their favorite luxury car brand. Also as a thank-you, KCG members received an exclusive 40 percent discount on any repair job performed at the service facility, thereby ensuring their safety and peace on mind as they continue their luxurious journey with Cadillac.

KCG is comprised of passionate Kuwaiti fans that truly appreciate Cadillac's rich history and commitment in manufacturing forwarded-thinking luxury vehicles in terms of design, performance and technology. The group is also famous for carrying out annual Cadillac convoys on Gulf Road, which are officially sponsored by Cadillac Alghanim and supervised by the Ministry of

One of the ways that Cadillac Alghanim expresses its appreciation to the best group of passionate fans a company can ask for is to offer the best service facility that exclusively caters to all their needs and desires. Indeed, by elevating its customer relations and car sales and services to new levels, the Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Service Facility aims to offer a completely satisfying experience from the moment customers step in until the day they drive off to a thrilling destination. Performed by professionally trained service advisors, customers can expect a profesough inspection on all aspects related to car safety such as wipers, brakes, engine and oil at no additional cost. Once the checkup has been performed, customers will receive an exhaustive report detailing the condition of the car, the required maintenance and pricing. Not to mention the customer-friendly service contracts that avail to customers a variety of flexible payment options and plans, as well as plenty of service benefits and perks all year long.

Furthermore, as the official agent of GM genuine spare parts in Kuwait, Alghanim Automotive provides its customers with worldrenowned, genuine spare parts that enhance customers' safety and vehicles' performance as well as prolong a vehicle's lifespan. Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive facility is equipped with a modern and air-conditioned warehouse that stocks all the required parts using the latest global systems and processes, which include making deliveries twice a day of spare parts to all locations in Kuwait. The service center is ranked very highly in the region by General Motors for parts inventory management practices and retail standards.

The Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Service Facility in Shuwaikh is considered the biggest and most advanced automotive service center in the world with 73,000 sq m of built up area, servicing 1,000 vehicles every day. Throughout the facility, advanced technology is harnessed to provide customers high-quality and efficient service, including a team of highly trained technicians whose goal is to provide necessary advice and support as well as reliable and cost-effective operation of customers' vehicles. The facility also

sional, detailed checkup that includes a thor- includes a state-of-the-art paint and body shop that provides factory finish gloss and quality when it comes to refinishing customers' vehicles. Supported by body-and-paint specialists and modern equipment, the shop offers a variety of services that includes paint-less dent removal, custom paint and customization, sunroof installations, upholstery repairs and replacement, and many more.

#### **Premium Care Program**

Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive's showcases the company's commitment to enhance customers' unique Cadillac experience by offering customers peace of mind with a comprehensive insurance program. In addition, all Cadillac owners will enjoy service and maintenance for four years or 100,000 km, warranty for 4 years or 100,000 km, 24-hour roadside assistance anywhere in the Middle East for four years (unlimited miles) plus a courtesy transportation

Adding to the luxury experience, Cadillac offers its customers in Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim the highest quality of services. The service center is equipped with a large variety of the most advanced equipment operated by a team of skilled professionals and effective consultants who ensure timely service. Visit Cadillac's showroom in Safat Alghanim in Alrai today and do not pass up this opportunity to book an appointment or purchase your favorite Cadillac vehicle.

To catch on the latest offers and announce-(@Cadillac\_Kw).

and a replacement vehicle upon availability.

ments, make sure to follow the Alghanim Automotive account on Instagram (@AlghanimAuto) and Cadillac Group in Kuwait

#### AHLI BANK AWARDED DEBUT RATING BY MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE

**KUWAIT:** Ahli Bank QSC (Ahlibank) is delighted to announce that Moody's has assigned an A2/Prime-1 deposit ratings and a baa3 baseline credit assessment.

Moody's Investors Service has assigned long- and short-term, local- and foreign currency deposit ratings of A2/Prime-1 to Ahlibank and a Baseline Credit Assessment



Sheikh Faisal Bin AbdulAziz Bin Jassem Al-Thani, Chairman and **Managing Director** 

(BCA) of baa3. The long-term deposit ratings carry a stable outlook. Moody's has also assigned Counterparty Risk Assessments (CR Assessments) of A1(cr)/Prime-1(cr).

Sheikh Faisal Bin AbdulAziz Bin Jassem Al-Thani, the Chairman and Managing Director of Ahlibank stated: "We are delighted to receive this rating from Moody's, reflecting Ahlibank's strong performance, which is underpinned by strong Risk and Capital Management disciplines. The Bank is well capitalised and has solid asset quality reflecting a low level risk model. We believe that the continued support of our shareholders and the local community underpins our continued growth within the context of the Qatar growth story. We are proud of this rating as it reflects another notable milestone in the history of Ahlibank, and which positons the Bank as a top-tier, top-of-mind bank locally and a well-established and trustworthy bank internationally".

Sheikh Faisal added: "The Moody's rating is a great vote of confidence and complements the rating awarded by Fitch Ratings".

Ahli Bank QSC is a Qatari-owned financial institution that serves individual consumers, small businesses and corporate customers with a range of Corporate Banking, Treasury & Investments, Retail Banking, International Banking, Private Banking and Brokerage Services. Ahli Bank QSC aims to deliver unmatched convenience and personal, simple banking experiences that highlight its tagline, "With You".

Founded in 1983, Ahli Bank QSC has grown its client base rapidly, and boasts an integrated network of 16 branches in Qatar.

The Bank has a credit rating of (A2) from Moody's, (A+) from Fitch Ratings and (A) from Capital Intelligence and is listed on the Qatar Exchange (ABQK). More information can be found on the bank's website, ahlibank.com.ga

# MARKAZ NAMED 'MOST INNOVATIVE Investment Bank in Middle East'

#### Markaz also 'Best Investment Bank in Kuwait': Global Finance

KUWAIT: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" announced winning the "Most Innovative Investment Bank in the Middle East" by Global Finance magazine, a specialized finance and investment magazine. Markaz also won the "Best Investment Bank in Kuwait" in 2016 award for the fourth time. The awards will be presented to Markaz at an awards ceremony conducted the morning of October 8th during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington, DC.

Global Finance editors, with input from industry experts, used a series of criteria to select the winners including market share, number and size of deals, service and advice, structuring capabilities, distribution network, efforts to address market conditions, innovation, pricing, after-



Ali H Khalil, COO of Markaz market performance of underwrit-

ings and market reputation. In light of this achievement, Ali

Hassan Khalil, Chief Operating Officer at Markaz, thanked Global Finance for extending these awards to his company saying: "We're honored to be named as the 'Most Innovative Investment Bank in the Middle East' and the 'Best Investment Bank in Kuwait' for 2016 by Global Finance. These awards are the recognition by our industry of the core strengths we bring to our clients in any mandate: high quality of service, prompt delivery, intense energy, integrity, and a high level of creativity and innovation."

Khalil added: "These awards are the result of Markaz completing several successful transactions over the past year across a wide number of activities, including M&A transactions, restructurings, and general

advisory transactions. During 2015, Markaz successfully completed 12 mandates for its clients, of which three were M&A transactions, including the flagship tender offer in Kuwait by Al Ahleia Insurance for Kuwait Reinsurance completed in the third quarter. We have entered 2016 with a very strong pipeline."

Markaz's performance continues to attract recognition from experts in the region's financial industry. Markaz was recognized twice in 2015 as "Best Investment Bank in Kuwait" by Global Finance and EMEA Finance and was awarded "Best Equity Manager in Kuwait" by Global Investor for the sixths consecutive year and "Best Asset Manager in Kuwait" from EMEA

## KOREAN GIANTS LAUNCH NEW SMARTPHONE IN SLOWING MARKET

**BARCELONA:** South Korean tech giants Samsung Electronics and LG showed off their new flagship smartphones on Sunday as they fight for consumer affections with new features at a time of slowing global smartphone

Samsung launched two versions of its new premium phone, flat screen Galaxy S7 and the curved screen Galaxy S7 edge, in Barcelona where the industry is gathered for the start of the Mobile World Congress on Monday, in its latest attempt to remain ahead of Apple.

While the new models included a better battery and a card slot to expand memory for pictures and other media, analysts said the upgrades may not be enough to revive sales.

Forrester consumer mobile analyst Thomas Husson said the new Galaxy devices "offer mostly incremental value to consumers via more advanced technology specifica-

Rival South Korean tech firm LG sought to steal Samsung's thunder by unveiling its new premium handset, the G5, its first modular smartphone which is made using different components that can be independently or replaced such as a removable battery.

The G5 comes with several accessories

such as a sound system developed by Danish firm Bang & Olufsen and a virtal reality headset which will allow it to compete with a the headset launched by Samsung late last year, the Gear VR.

"With its modular design, to change batteries and add accessories, LG's new flagship smartphone is renewing LG's portfolio and a smart attempt to challenge its eternal Korean rival," said Forrester analyst Thomas Husson.

The product launches at this year's congress come as the industry finds itself in an uncomfortable position: Samsung was only able to boost its market share moderately and Apple saw iPhone sales fall for the first time on an annual basis in the final quarter of last year, according to Gartner.

The market research firm said that the 9.7 percent increase in smartphone sales in the final quarter of last year over the same period in 2014 takes the industry all the way back to 2008 when the global economy was in crisis.

LG's parent company LG Electronics' net profit halved last year on the back of a global economic slowdown and increased competition in the mobile sector but LG CEO Juno Cho remained optimistic. "We think smartphones' best days are still ahead," he said at the presentation of the new phone.



BARCELONA: A woman reacts as she uses a new Samsung Gear 360, a 360degree camera, at the Mobile World Congress wireless show, in Barcelona, Spain, yesterday. —AP

#### **NO MAJOR INNOVATION**

Analysts said handset makers face a tough choice. Focus on the low-price segment, where sales volumes are large but margins become thin. Or focus on features which can differenti-

ate their phones. "We are moving towards a logic of segmentation and improvement, with a better camera or more autonomy for example. maybe some advances in virtual reality, but there will unlikely be any major innovation,"

said Thomas Husson, an anlyst at Forrester.

Chinese electronics giant surprised by unveiling its first personal computer, a convertible tablet that will compete with Apple's iPad Pro, instead of a new flagship phone.

While Apple will not be present at Barcelona, as usual, it is likely nevertheless to dominate discussion given the company is in the limelight over the tricky industry questions of encryption and client confidentiality.

Apple is challenging a court order to unlock an iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino killers, putting the interests of client privacy ahead of helping US authorities investigate a deadly domestic terrorism case.

Since whistleblower Edward Snowden revealed in 2013 the extent of secret US surveillance of phone and Internet communications the technology industry has been walking a high wire between protecting the privacy of uses and the demands of authorities to be able to trace communications.

The Mobile World Congress will also be another opportunity for European telecom companies to size up one another amid continuing consolidation in the region, while the annual gathering is always a frenzy of product launches and a hunt for the next feature or application that will drive sales. —AFP

#### FORD CEO SAYS FUTURE IS CONNECTIVITY, NOT JUST CARS

BARCELONA: Ford CEO Mark Fields says such as one-button parking assistance the 112-year-old company is tripling its investment in new technologies that will ultimately lead to self-driving vehicles but will make sure to keep making cars for drivers who want to keep their hands on the wheel. Fields said it was no coincidence that Ford chose the Mobile World Congress, a massive technology trade show in Barcelona, to unveil its new Kuga SUV, which features its latest connectivity and driver-assisted technology.

"We are really emphasizing our transition from an auto company to an auto and mobility company," Fields told The Associated Press in an interview Monday at Ford's stand, which stood out in a sea of smartphone and gadget makers.

"This is a really good audience to reach some new folks." The Kuga includes the latest version of Ford's connectivity technology, SYNC 3, which the company says includes improved voice commands and makes it easier to access applications on a driver's smartphone. It has a new 1.5-liter diesel engine, among other features

Fields said that over the next five years investment will increase threefold in autonomous driving technologies, and guidance to keep a car in its lane and help braking in heavy traffic, with the ultimate goal of a fully autonomous car. He declined to provide financial figures.

Don Butler, Ford's executive director of connected vehicle and services, told the AP "we like to think about it as the transition from just a hardware company to a software and mobility services company as well."

"Mobility" is a buzzword at the wireless show. For Ford customers, it means a wide range of innovations from further integration of the Internet in cars, to ridesharing and even the use of other modes of transport in conjunction with cars, like bicycles.

Fields said Ford is aware it will have to be careful to keep a hold on the traditional car driver, by protecting - especially in the United States - the aura of personal freedom that automakers have always cast over their products.

Ford is taking a "dual path" in developing the connected car, said Fields. One for those who want to be assisted by the car or eventually have the vehicle take over, and another for drivers who want to keep control of the wheel. —AP

## EYES ON ZUCKERBERG AT BARCELONA FAIR AS SECURITY DEBATE RAGES

**BARCELONA:** Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg takes to the stage yesterday at the world's biggest mobile fair in Barcelona just as US tech giants clash with authorities in the latest debate pitting privacy against security.

The controversy emerged earlier this month when Apple refused to help the FBI break into an iPhone belonging to the late Syed Farook, who along with his wife went on a deadly shooting rampage in California's San Bernardino in December. Apple claims that cooperating with the probe would undermine security for its devices, while the US government counters it is a one-time request that will aid an important investigation.

Zuckerberg, who will give a keynote speech at the Mobile World Congress at 6:00 pm (1700 GMT), has been at pains to plug privacy features on Facebook in recent years.

The 31-year-old has not yet spoken publicly about the spat but last week Facebook issued a statement in support of Apple. The social media giant said that while it condemned extremism it would "continue to fight aggressively against requirements for companies to weaken the security of their systems." "These demands would create a chilling precedent and obstruct companies' efforts to secure their products," it added.

Apple has vowed to fight a judge's order that it should create an operating system that would



**Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg** 

allow the FBI to brute force its way into the iPhone. Just like Facebook, Apple CEO Tim Cook warned last week that complying with the order would set a dangerous precedent and open the door for governments and even criminals to access sensitive data in the future.

#### **FACEBOOK AND PRIVACY**

Apple's dispute with the US government is just the latest clash between a tech firm and authorities, and many of the sector's biggest names have sided with the iPhone maker.

Richard Yu, consumer devices chief for Chinese electronics giant Huawei, said Sunday in Barcelona that privacy was "the most important thing to the consumer."

"We should really protect the consumer's pri-

vacy and security. Personally, I support Apple's, Tim Cook's idea," Bloomberg quoted him as saying on the sidelines of the presentation of Huawei's first laptop.

Zuckerberg's address in Barcelona will also be watched closely for any comment on concerns in Europe over how the world's largest social network handles personal data. Facebook was long accused of brushing aside users' privacy concerns, and while Zuckerberg has strived to win back trust with a flurry of features, the social network is still in the eye of the storm. Earlier this month, it was given three months by France's CNIL privacy watchdog to stop storing data on people who do not have an account with the social network.

The decision comes after Facebook lost a similar fight with Belgium's privacy watchdog in November when a court ordered it to stop storing personal data from non-users.

On a regional level, the European Union's 28 privacy watchdogs have been coordinating probes into possible violations of EU law by Facebook's policy for handling personal photos and data. Ahead of the speech, though, Zuckerberg appeared relaxed, posting photos of himself jogging in Barcelona on his Facebook page. He also made a surprise appearance at Samsung's press conference late on Sunday to unveil its new flagship smartphones. —AFP





# EASA HUSAIN AL-YOUSIFI & SONS INTRODUCES SHARP SMART TV AQUOS WITH 8K RESOLUTION

#### The highest resolution TV powered by Android TV in Kuwait market

**KUWAIT:** Easa Husain Al Yousifi & Sons Company and SHARP Corporation, announced the launch of its newest model from its AQU-OS Super Premium XU Series with 8K resolution, offering the highest resolution among its whole AQUOS TV line up, Powered by Android TV in Kuwait at an event hosted at the Radisson Blue Hotel, and was attended by a number of customers and guests of Al-Yousifi Company in addition to the directors and management of Easa Husain Al-Yousifi and SHARP with presence of press and media fig-

The growing use of Smartphone and increasingly skyrocketing prestige of Android operating system encouraged SHARP to continue creating variety of technological innovations. In order to satisfy the need of loyal customers in the region, SHARP launches its latest flagship TV that has been integrated with Android technology, so that the favourite entertainments of people which previously could only be found on Smartphone can now be enjoyed through TV that bring larger screen for more comfortable watching experience with the whole Family.

Android TV from SHARP will be a new way for families to enjoy Android content. For image quality, SHARP certainly can't be doubted. The latest TV is equipped in 4K technology with pixel resolution of 3,840 x 2,160 or four times the pixel resolution of Full High-Definition TV, the colour reproduction is richer especially in red and green color thanks to the rich colour feature, and 4K Master Engine Pro, a resolution converter only from SHARP to produce more vivid images so the customers

can enjoy the perfectly precise detail. The product is targeting tech-sawy, 30-40s family in upper-middle class. However, we still need strong trigger to lead any purchasing action. Our strategy is by creating products with features that are favourable for this group, but with very logical price for them.

With its Smart Remote, a dream to 'talk' with Television will come true. Customers simply press the microphone button on Smart Remote, and this Smart TV will follow the instructions given, such as searching information on Google, searching for videos or movies on YouTube, finding favourite applications on Google Play, and so on. No need to worry about undetected language because Google Voice Search on this TV has been supported by significant number of languages of the world with an amazing degree of accuracy. Besides



being able to 'understand' sentences, Smart Remote is also able to detect various regional dialects worldwide. No other platform in

Smart TV has this capability, language support, and level of accuracy.

Not only translate the voice commands,

AQUOS 4K UHD powered by Android TV will make the watching experience with family more enjoyable thanks to the recommendation feature. This feature will automatically appear on the home screen and display recommended video, music, games, and other entertainment that is personalized based on Customer's viewing history so customer can spend less time browsing and more time

In addition, AQUOS 4K powered by Android TV will also satisfy Gamers because it can be enjoyed for a gamepad. A total of four controllers can be connected to the TV, so this allows customers to play interactive games with Family members and Friends on a large TV screen, with graphics quality that far surpasses other Smart TV. No need to fear running out of games because Customers can enjoy hundreds of Games and other Applications in Google Play with limitless expansion and picture quality that has been customized for Android TV.

SHARP launches 4K UHD powered by Android TV (UE63OX series) for the region in September 2016. 4K UHD powered by Android TV would be released in 3 Sizes variations: 50 inch, 58 inch, and 65 inch.



CARACAS: A man wipes the nose of his son as they wait to see a doctor at a medical center near Petare neighborhood. — AP

## VENEZUELA TAKES ON ZIKA AMID SHORTAGE, INFORMATION BLACKOUT

#### ECONOMY IN SHAMBLES AS POLITICAL CRISIS DEEPENS

like in Venezuela, a country whose medical system has teetered for months on the brink of collapse: There's a lack of bug spray to prevent mosquito bites, scant contraceptives to avert pregnancies, little medicine to treat Zika-linked maladies. There has been no effective public health campaign to inform the public about the disease - and nobody really knows how many infections there have been.

"It's just terrible what we are living," said Carla Natera, a 50-year-old local government worker who contracted Zika and spent three days searching pharmacies for an ointment to calm the angry rash that broke out on her face and

William Barrientos, a doctor and opposition lawmaker, says the socialist government is not equipped to confront a health crisis in a country where food and medicine shortages are acute, the economy is a shambles and a political crisis deepens by the day. "There is no education and information campaign among the population here," and no tracking of the mosquitoes that carry the virus, he said.

#### Scale unclear

The scale of what Venezuela is going through is unclear. Officials alerted the World Health Organization to the first case of Zika here in November but did not release statistics or reach out to the public until two months later. The Health Ministry is now reporting more than 5,000 suspected Zika cases and three related deaths.

But a network of independent physicians allied with the opposition - the Venezuelan Society of Public Health - says that's likely a dramatic underestimate. It says a polling of local health officials found a rise in acute fevers that could correspond to 400,000 Zika cases, and the outbreak will likely reach its peak around the end of March. Neighboring Colombia, by con-

trast, has reported more than 30,000 cases. It's been a year since the government pub-

CARACAS: This is what the Zika outbreak looks lished up-to-date epidemiological data and reaching the Health Ministry for information is frustrating. The main line for hits "Zika situation room" was out of order Tuesday and the person answering another number for the room hung up twice on a reporter. To compensate for the lack of official figures, doctors have been turning to informal surveys, social media and even Google analytics to try to get a handle on the scope of the outbreak.

The virus has been linked to a spike in Guillain-Barre, a rare disorder in which the immune system attacks the nervous system, causing temporary paralysis that can be fatal. Health officials say the country has seen 255 cases of the Guillain-Barre syndrome since the Zika outbreak began - a much higher incidence than reported in other countries grappling with the

"Normally, we'd expect 30 or 40 cases of Guillain-Barre a month," said former health minister Jose Felix Oletta. "What this shows is that the minister has the total number of Zika cases wrong. It's much higher." Venezuela's medical shortages could easily boost the mortality rate for Guillia-Barre, which is about 5 percent in developed countries. Nancy Pino, a 68-year-old retired school administrator, died last month of Guillain-Barre that developed after she fell ill over Christmas with symptoms of Zika.

Doctors said the woman from the lowland state of Anzoategui needed intravenous immunoglobulin therapy, and sent her three children on a frantic two-week search for the medicine after they rushed her to Caracas. As the family begged for immunoglobulin at state agencies, on local television channels and even at the presidential palace, their mother lost the ability to walk, speak, open her eyes and, finally,

#### 'Economic war'

"They shut the doors on us. There's just not medicine here," daughter Nehara Ramos said. The country's private, opposition-leaning pharmaceutical association says Venezuela only has 20 percent of the medications it requires, a result of currency and price controls. The government blames the shortages on "economic war" waged by its right-wing opponents.

Earlier this month, Health Minister Luisana Melo invited sick Venezuelans to email requests for medicine to a state-run Gmail account. Last week, President Nicolas Maduro said the country had received a special shipment of drugs that will be sufficient to combat Zika, but did not specify what the shipment included.

The Health Ministry is advising the public to use bug spray, an item all but impossible to come by in Venezuela these days, and to clean out their tubs of standing water once a week. That is a lot to ask, however, of the many Venezuelans keep tubs in their homes full of water to deal with chronic shortages. Meanwhile, state media have been broadcasting a steady stream of footage of health officials accompanying workers on mosquito fumigation and immunoglobulin distribution mis-

What they haven't been doing with any regularity is offering the public advice on how to behave. Venezuelan officials say the country has not yet seen any cases of birth defects associated with Zika, as have been reported in Brazil. Other countries have advised women to postpone pregnancy until the Zika epidemic has slowed. But in Venezuela, condoms and birth control pills are in extremely short supply, making it complicated for women to avoid pregnancy.

In the western state of Zulia, a focal point of the epidemic, local health authorities say 25 pregnant women have contracted Zika and are under medical observation. Doctors are also complaining that laboratories have been unable to obtain the chemical needed to diagnose Zika by identifying the DNA of the virus. Doctors have to rely on a clinical diagnosis based only on symptoms. "It's like flying by instruments," pediatrician Carolina Mirabal said. — AP

#### NO KANGAROOS: SERVICE-ANIMAL **IMPOSTORS FACING CRACKDOWN**

**AUGUSTA:** People who falsely pass off their pets as service animals - think of the woman in Wisconsin last year who claimed the right to bring her kangaroo into McDonald's - have frustrated people with legitimate needs to such an extent that legislators in several states are considering laws to restore the animals' credibility.

Legislatures in Maine, Virginia, Arizona, Hawaii, New York, and Puerto Rico are considering bills that would either establish such a program or penalize people who fraudulently claim to have service dogs. In Maine, a task force this month issued a report that says well-meaning federal laws designed to protect people with disabilities have instead opened the door to

"The abuse and confusion are harming everybody," said Barbara Archer Hirsch, an attorney with the Maine Human Rights Commission and member of the task force. "It's harming the landlords, and it's harming the individuals who need their animals." Here's the dilemma: Under federal law, no papers are required for service dogs in public places. If people want to sneak their pampered Chihuahua into a restaurant, they can simply lie and say it's a service dog trained to help them with their disability.

#### Fraudulent services

Sean McDonough, 51, has a brain injury from a car accident and said he's noticed people are increasingly skeptical that his 5year-old goldendoodle, Bruno, is a service dog. Bruno is trained to distract McDonough from stress triggers by pressing against him. Security officers at a courthouse tried to block Bruno at the door recently because of their encounter with a fraudulent service dog, said McDonough, of Lyman, Maine.

"The court people treated me badly because of what other people had done," he said. Impostors pose a problem for businesses and landlords because they fear legal action if they clamp down, said Donna Hodges, who owns 100 apartment units in central Maine. She recalled a prospective tenant who claimed his rambunctious pit bull was a service dog.

The dog was leaning out a car window and barking at her while its owner waved a framed, official-looking certificate identifying the dog as a service animal. She knew the certificate was a fake, she said, because federal law stipulates that service dogs don't need documentation. And she knew the dog was a fake, she said, because it was badly behaved.

Federal law applies a different standard for housing. A landlord may ask for a doctor's letter if a person has a disability and needs to live with an animal. Those animals can include service dogs, as well as emotional support animals - pets that provide comfort but lack the training of a service dog. An emotional support animal can be any kind of pet approved by a doctor, and public establishments do not have to accommodate them. However, businesses must accommodate people with service dogs.

#### 'Public is confused'

In rare cases, a miniature horse may substitute for a service dog - they can be trained to guide the blind and live longer than dogs. But that's it. The baby kangaroo that a woman carried into the McDonald's, claiming it was a service animal, does not qualify. People have also asserted service animal status for pigs, cats, rabbits, turkeys, lamas, snakes and turtles, said Jeanine Konopelski, spokeswoman for Canine Companions for Independence, a nonprofit based in California that supplies disabled people with trained service dogs.

In many of those cases, she said, people aren't lying about their animals but misunderstand the difference between a service animal and an emotional support animal. 'The public is confused," she said. Florida last year took a hard line on the issue, passing a law that makes misrepresenting a service animal a crime punishable by up to 60 days in jail.

Maine's task force recommends that the state launch a public information campaign on the issue. Donald Marean, a Republican lawmaker, also supports creating a voluntary certification program for service dogs. He said lawmakers could weed out fakers by allowing the disabled to obtain a stateissued card that verifies their animal is a service dog or an official patch that can be affixed to their animal's vest. His proposal is modeled after a Michigan law that went into effect in January. "I'd like us to do anything we can," Marean said, "to help people get full use of their dogs." — AP



PORTLAND: In this Monday, Feb 8, 2016 photo, Sean McDonough eats lunch at the Macaroni Grill with his service dog Bruno at his side. — AP

## PAKISTAN APPROVED TO IMPORT **IMPROVED HEPATITIS-C DRUG**

of an expensive Hepatitis-C drug from the United States to improve treatment for the estimated eight million people carrying the blood infection, officials said yesterday.

Hailed by experts as a game-changer, Sovaldi, which has been on the market since 2013, costs around \$1,000 per pill in the US or \$84,000 for a single course of treatment, according to a US Senate report released last December. The drug is now being sold nationally in a Pakistani pharmacy chain for around \$314 per 28 tablets, while the government is urging local manufacturers to produce generic copies on an urgent basis.

"It is estimated that some eight million people are suffering from Hepatitis-C in Pakistan and each year about 80,000 people will die," a senior health ministry official said. "These deaths are caused by advanced liver disease spanning over a period of 20-30 years," he added. "The government had to act urgently and even before the

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has authorized the import formal registration of the drug in the country, it gave special permission to import Sovaldi tablets from the US."

Another official at the drug registration authority said the government was exploring the option of cheaper alternatives. "We are encouraging local manufacturers to produce generic drugs on a priority basis which are safe, efficacious and affordable," the official said.

Last October Pakistan's drug authority received 61 applications from pharmaceutical firms to produce Sofosbuvir tablets, the generic name of the drug, of which 14 manufacturers were finally approved. Gilead Sciences, which makes Sovaldi, has been criticized in the US for the drug's cost. The lofty price, set by Gilead, placed Sovaldi and its follow-up drug Harvoni out of reach of many consumers, the US Senate report said. Hepatitis-C is a blood infection transmitted via contaminated needles, sexual intercourse, and from pregnant mothers to their unborn children. — AFP

## CAMBODIA PROBES NEW VILLAGE HIV OUTBREAK

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia health officials yesterday were screening hundreds of villagers for HIV after 14 locals tested positive for the virus, sparking fears of a fresh outbreak. Nervous villagers from Peam, an hour north of the capital Phnom Penh, have flocked to a house where a team of health officials were taking blood samples.

Ly Peng Sun, the director of the National Centre for HIV, said moves to test the entire village were made after 14 people screened positive earlier this month. "More than 140 people have come for testing (today) and the results so far show around 50 people are HIV-negative," he added.

HIV rates are high in impoverished Cambodia but the country has made significant gains against the virus in recent years. However fears are running high after a recent outbreak in another village left more than 200 infected. That outbreak was traced to an unlicensed doctor reusing dirty needles who has since been jailed.

Some of those testing positive in Peam believe they may have been infected by a doctor, locals said. "The villagers are nervous now. They suspect the doctor might have spread HIV," Phy Sobin, 33, told AFP by telephone after she tested negative. "I used to get many injections from the doctor. I and my two kids tested negative for HIV, but my husband has not tested yet," she said, adding that her 67-year old aunt had been confirmed HIV-positive.

However Ly Peng Sun said it was too early to say what caused the latest outbreak. The doctor at the centre of the previous outbreak in the western province of Battambang was jailed for 25 years, partly because some of his patients died after being infected. The case shone a spotlight on the chronically underfunded healthcare system in the impoverished nation. World Bank figures say Cambodia, one of Asia's poorest nations, has just 0.2 doctors for every 100,000 people, on a par with Afghanistan. — AFP

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST MAY BECOME **HUB FOR METHANOL PRODUCTION**

**SEATTLE:** The Pacific Northwest could become a major hub for methanol production if three proposed refineries are built along the Columbia River and Puget Sound. A China-backed consortium, Northwest Innovation Works, has proposed two plants in Washington state and a third in Oregon to convert natural gas to methanol, which would be shipped to China to make plastics and other consumer goods.

But those plans are running into opposition. On Friday, the company temporarily put its project in Tacoma on hold, saying it has been "surprised by the tone and substance of vocal opposition." Washington state Gov Jay Inslee has embraced the projects as a boost to the state's clean energy future.

He has said the investments - about \$7 billion for the three plants - would be one of the largest foreign investments in the US by a Chinese company. Supporters say the projects would create hundreds of jobs and infuse billions to the region. Opponents are concerned about environmental and health impacts.

More than 1,000 people attended a hearing this month on the Tacoma project, which would produce 20,000 metric tons a day and dwarf other methanol plants planned or being built in the US. A citizens group is sponsoring an initiative to require voter approval for water permits exceeding one million gallons (3.8 million liters) a day. The city of Federal Way passed a resolution opposing the project.

"We're talking about building enormous petrochemical refineries on the shorelines of our most important water bodies. That's dangerous," said Eric de Place, policy director for Sightline Institute, a progressive think tank. Company president Murray Godley said in a statement Friday that the project "provides an exciting opportunity for Washington and Oregon to become world leaders in addressing climate change through innovation by producing methanol and the products we use every day in more environmentally responsible way." But he said the company would take the next few months to engage the Tacoma community in more dialogue

#### **Prices dropping**

Methanol, a wood alcohol, is used to make olefins, a component in everyday products such as eyeglasses, insulin pumps and fleece jackets, said Mandy Putney, a company spokeswoman. Most methanol in China is produced using coal,

but the Northwest plants would use natural gas,

which is cleaner, she said. As prices have dropped, natural gas has attracted industrial consumers who use methanol as a feedstock, said Katie Teller, an economist with the US Energy Information Administration. Several methanol plants have been proposed recently, a few have come on line and more are expected in the next few years, she said.

In the US Northwest, the largest of three refineries will be built on the site of a former aluminum smelter in Tacoma. Other plants are proposed for Kalama in southwest Washington state, and at Port Westward in Oregon, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Portland. The Kalama project is the furthest along in its environmental review. A draft is expected next month, and construction could begin by early 2017. Inslee said last month there are questions about water, pollution and other issues. But there are upsides, including that the plant would use natural gas rather than coal, Inslee said. "I do think there's a legitimate interest in Washington to look at technologies that can give us products that we use here in a way that reduces pollution," Inslee said.—AF



TACOMA, Washington: Protestors hold a sign that reads "No Methanol," as they protest. — AP

# HEALTH & SCIENCE

#### PEOPLE WITH EATING DISORDERS ARE OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD - AND SILENT

IOWA: Millions suffer silently from a disease that often is misunderstood and even more often made into a punchline. An estimated 20 million women and 10 million men nationwide will suffer from an eating disorder - including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and binge eating disorder - some time in their lives, according to the National Eating Disorder Association.

That's higher than the number of American adults diagnosed with heart disease - 26.6 million - the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported last year. And with them can come severe health problems - tooth decay, slow heart rate and low blood pressure from electrolyte imbalances, dehydration that can lead to kidney failure, and muscle loss.

What's more, anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any mental illness, with 4 percent of anorexic individuals dying from complications of the disease. The mental illness is isolating, experts said, and those struggling with them often keep it a secret or are hesitant to ask for help due to the shame and social stigma associated with starving oneself or making oneself throw up.

#### Out-of-control

People label those with eating disorders as vain, selfish and out-of-control, said Richelle Derfus, a Cedar Rapids-based therapist who works with individuals with eating disorders. "With other mental illnesses, people don't see the behavior associated with it," she said. "People can't wrap their heads around (eating disorders). They think, 'why don't you just eat?' or 'just don't brown ""

But eating disorders are far more than a quick way to lose weight. They're coping mechanisms, security blankets and ways to deal with stress, life's pressures and problems, or past traumas. And they're complicated to treat.

That's because unlike overcoming an alcohol or drug addiction - in which the individual can cut out the substance - someone recovering from an eating disorder can't eliminate food. "I help them become competent eaters," said Sue Clarahan, a registered dietitian who specializes in eating disorders. "Their bodies have become such an enemy, they need to learn to trust themselves."

That can be a process, she said, because eating disorders are inherently negative. A person dealing with such a disorder doesn't believe he or she should be taken care of, she added. "You say awful things to yourself. Things you would never say to another person," Clarahan said. Clarahan regularly tells her clients that practice makes permanent, and the man or woman recovering from an eating disorder has to relearn what fullness feels like and how to respond to hunger cues - things he or she has taught the body to ignore. "It's a tremendous amount of work recovering from this disorder," she said. "You have to have self-compassion and self-grace."

Clarahan said she works through how foods can help the body and the systems that have trouble when not adequately fueled - from maintaining a normal body temperature to harming the reproductive system. "For instance, your reproductive cycle can dive bomb. You need estrogen to form strong bones," she said. "I have a client that is 25 years old and has full-blown osteoporosis. Things multitask in the body."

But recovering from an eating disorder is more than just reaching a "healthy" body

weight or correcting eating habits. It's working through emotional issues, including past traumas such as sexual abuse or domestic violence, and learning healthy ways to manage stress, said Derfus. "A lot of people don't have coping skills," she said. "And they think 'if this works, why change it?""

#### Disorder as identity

Relapse is real threat, experts said, because old patterns are easy to fall back into when something goes wrong, to deal with a stressful day, a divorce or a sick parent. The eating disorder becomes their identity, Derfus said, and the person with anorexia or bulimia doesn't want to give up that part of themselves. Julie - not her real name - has battled anorexia her entire adult life. She was diagnosed in 1998 but said that she struggled with it for years before her diagnosis.

Julie has asked not to be identified by her real name due to the stigma association with eating disorders. "I wouldn't allow myself to get above 100 pounds," she said. When Julie became pregnant, her focus moved from maintaining her weight and onto being "the perfect" mother, she said. And so her weight climbed, and before she knew it she reached 140 pounds - the most she had ever weighed.

"What really set me off," she recalled, "was one day when I was at a function with a lot of people who I knew. Someone came up to me and asked when the baby was due." This was several years after Julie had given birth and she was not expecting. For the rest of the party, Julie couldn't focus on anything other than that comment. She was determined to lose weight. So she lost 20 pounds. "It was a huge victory for me," she said. "So many people complimented me. But that fueled the fire."

She kept losing weight. She couldn't stop. She weighed 88 pounds. Losing weight "consumed my whole life. I became its prisoner," she said. Julie's husband became concerned and had her see their family doctor. But he didn't understand what was wrong with her. She eventually was admitted into the hospital, where she had feeding tubes inserted into her stomach. But the only thing Julie could think about was losing whatever weight she gained during that hospital stay. "I wanted free of it," she said. "But I couldn't do it."

She became depressed, and even had suicidal thoughts. It wasn't until she began seeing Cathy Keys-Andrys, an advanced practice nurse and counselor at UnityPoint-Health St Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, that she began to work through her problems. Keys-Andrys works with a team, including a dietitian and family therapist. The team does an initial assessment, she explained, and then puts together recommendations for treatment

"A lot of people think it's all about food, but it's not," Julie said. "It's something emotional, things from your past, abuse - verbal or physical - low self-esteem. You need to work through them - to know you're worthy of love." Julie doesn't believe you can ever fully recover from an eating disorder. But she does have hers under control. She sees Keys-Andrys every month. It's important, she said, to have a team in place to help. But she knows how difficult it can be for someone to admit that they have a problem and it can be even harder to ask for help. "There is hope," she said. "You need to find someone who can help because you can't do it alone." — AP



YAOUNDE: A picture taken on February 1st, 2016 shows piles of plastic waste. — AFP photos

# CAMEROON FOOTBALL GREAT MILLA GIVES PLASTIC WASTE THE RED CARD

ON A MISSION TO SOLVE NATION'S WASTE PROBLEM

YAOUND: Cameroonian football hero Roger Milla, the oldest goal scorer in World Cup history, is taking on an even bigger challenge in a very different field-turning plastic waste into building materials. The man named the best African player of the 20th century last year embarked on a quest to resolve Cameroon's massive plastic waste problem.

With plastic bags and bottles routinely cast away in the central African country, the waste clogs up rivers, litters roads and blocks gutters. "We launched this project to fight pollution and create jobs for unemployed youngsters," Milla, who is now 63 said.

The problem has become so bad that in 2014 the government banned "the making, importing, selling or distribution of non-biodegradable plastic packaging". But some producers resisted, and earlier this month 100 tons of plastic packaging were illegally produced and seized in Cameroon's largest city Douala.

Milla, who rose to international fame in the late eighties and early nineties for his trademark goal celebration of a dance by the corner flag, is now creating a new band of followers. He is forming what he hopes will be a 2,500-strong team of youths to collect and sort plastic waste, the raw materials for his modern alchemy. The project is being carried out under the banner of Milla's Coeur d'Afrique (The Heart of Africa) association for children, and its new off-shoot focusing on the environment and sustainable development.

#### Raising awareness

"We have selected a first 25 youngsters and have given them comprehensive training" so they can in turn become trainers and induct others, said Pancrace Fegue, the association's executive secretary. The pioneer group has already produced thousands of paving stones, used notably for the renovation of the Cameroon handball federation's premises.

In November, Milla's association raised awareness in two Yaounde schools, inviting students to pick up plastic waste in their areas. Within a week the school-children had collected three tons of waste. "We want the pupils and the households to understand that plastic has a new destination," beyond the rubbish bin or the street, said Fegue.

"When we get all the recovered waste back to the warehouses, we start sorting through it," explained Pierre Kamssouloum, the project's technical director. Not all plastic is suitable. Anything containing chlorine, for example, is sifted out.

Once they've identified the usable plastic, the industrial magic starts. "The plastic serves as a binder and replaces cement," in the production of concrete slabs, Fegue explains. The plastic is melted down in a large tank placed over a wood fire.

Sand is then added to the molten plastic and the hot mixture poured into moulds. The process doesn't need water and the product sets and dries at room temperature within 15 minutes,

#### Helping street children

Labogenie, a national laboratory tasked with testing construction materials, said the slabs showed "encouraging results", but that further testing was needed. "The results we've obtained on the issue of these paving stones' capacity to absorb water are interesting," said Paul Mallo Nkongo, Labogenie's chief analyst.

"The idea of recycling plastic waste is beautiful (and) this initiative would allow us to get rid of some waste material," he added. Milla hopes the project will also help street children re-enter society. "This project can help me cope better," said Elvis Kake, one



YAOUNDE: Cameroonian men pave the soil with recycled cobblestones made of plastic waste.

according to Kamssouloum, as opposed to the 24 hours for the normal sand and cement based product. Nor do the advantages stop there. "Our paving stones are cheaper," Kamssouloum said. They cost 3,500 CFA francs (five Euros, \$5.40) for a square meter that is five centimeters thick, while the usual cost is 5,000 CFA francs. The new slabs are waterproof and can be used in marshy areas or even to build septic tanks, he added.

of the children involved. While the environment ministry has pledged it would help by handing over waste non-biodegradable plastic packaging, the project still faces several obstacles before it can take off. Vehicles to collect rubbish and funds to train the youngsters are still needed, Feugue says. The city has offered the group a temporary production site, but further down the line the project will need a more permanent home. — AFP



Kuwait 248 33 199















## FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL EXHIBITION IN AHMADI

hmadi governor Sheikh Fawwaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah recently launched the first environmental exhibition in the Governorate at Ateka Bint Abdulmuttaleb School for girls in Jabber Al-Ali area. He also launched a project to plant the moringa trees in the school. The project was launched in collaboration with the Kuwaiti Governorates' Environmental Committee at the geography Society under the supervision of a Kuwaiti farmer Nasser Al-Azmi.





## NBK organizes its annual carnival at Bayt Abdullah

ational Bank of Kuwait (NBK) organized a carnival at the Children's Hospice Project Bayt Abdullah. Dr Hilal Al Sayer, Former Minister of Health and President of Bayt Abdullah Children Hospice (BACCH), Nasser Al Sayer, NBK's Chairman and NBK's family shared happy moments with children. "NBK has always considered supporting the children as an essential part of its social and philanthropic outreach," said Manal Al Mattar, NBK Public Relations Executive Manager. "We take great pride in celebrating with our children at Bayt Abdullah."

Al Mattar added: "Since its establishment, NBK has been at the forefront of supporting Kuwait's community through a range of education, health, sports and social initiatives. NBK's Children Hospital at Al Sabah Medical Area stands as one of many NBK initiatives for children. Also, NBK continues building the first of its kind in Kuwait, the independent marrow transplant center at

NBK's Children Hospital, in order to expand the hospital's capability to treat children with cancer and blood diseases." Children enjoyed many fun activities. Towards the end of the evening, each child was given a special gift from NBK.

NBK has undertaken several initiatives to support the healthcare sector in Kuwait, including the medical care provided at NBK Children Hospital to underprivileged children. The hospital houses a number of clinics specialized in leukemia treatments, neurology, psychiatry and pediatrics as well as surgeries and operating theatres. Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice was designed to accommodate the needs of children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions and their families, in Kuwait. The hospice is part of a continuum of care that offers children and their families the maximum freedom of choice without compromising the quality of that care, whether at home in hospital or within the hospice itself.



# LIC HFL TO HOLD PROPERTY EXHIBITION ON MARCH 4, 5

IC HFLmanager Rajeev Sakhuja called on Indian ambassador HE Sunil Jain last week to apprise him of the upcoming LIC HFLorganized property exhibition on 4 and 5 March at the Holiday Inn, Salmiya. Sakhuja briefed Indian ambassador on the value added to customers in terms of seminars on property, as well as budget highlights and the investment scenario, which will be disseminated during the exhibition. LIC Housing Finance being a household name in India will be hosting builders of repute from southern India enabling Indians to take advantage of the opportunity to meet the most reputed builders from the region. The event is being presented by New Indian Express, as well as Warba Insurance being the Chief Agents of LIC HFL for Kuwait.









## ICSK ORGANIZES SUPER KID AWARD CEREMONY

he Indian Community School Kuwait, Junior conducted the super kid award ceremony on Thursday 4th February 2016. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Dr Raj Raghupathy, Professor of Immunology at the Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait University. Honorary Secretary to the Board of Trustees of ICSK Vijay Karayil also graced the occasion. Parent Representative to the Board of Trustees from ICSK Junior KP Suresh, PAC member Biju P Abraham and parents of the awardees were present for the solemn ceremony.

The ceremony began as the special invitees along with the Principalin-charge Sherly Dennis and Vice-Principal Gomathy Murthy lit the serene lamp. Sherly Dennis officially welcomed the gathering and briefly defined the objective of the one week activities

planned and executed for the Super Kid event. Honorary Secretary to the Board Vijay Karayil, in his felicitation address, applauded the presence of Dr Raj Raghupathy. He also whole-heartedly appreciated the Kindergarten teachers for their dedication, the involvement of young parents and the admirable talents of the tiny tots.

He further added that a school is a place where "future" takes its birth. Esteemed Chief Guest Dr Raj Raghupathy, a Professor, a scientist, a genius and a passionate lover of fine arts also addressed the audience. He concluded that 'Super-Kid' is all about destination of learning and discovery in the kindergarten section, talent search and reward is the core objective of the competitions. He concluded his address by declaring that at

present ICSK is one of the best schools in Kuwait!

The Super Kids, the first and the second runner up from each class were awarded as they were called on stage along with their parents and the teacher incharges. The Super Kids were adorned with crowns, sash and memento along with certificates. To add color and variety to the ceremony some of our blooming buds were given a platform to showcase their talent in dance, oration and show and tell performance with utmost confidence. The finale of the event was a heartiest vote of thanks delivered by the Vice-Principal Gomathy Murthy. Her inert message that 'good things do not end in ICSK Junior, they make a new beginning'. She further extended her deepest gratitude to all the guests present for the ceremony.







Under the auspices of Mangaf Mayor, the 25 Social Center recently organized its February Festival 2016 to celebrate the National and Liberation Days' anniversaries. Speaking on the occasion, the center president, Talal Abdullah Al-Fadhli said that the center is always keen on promoting patriotism.





The Redeemed Christian Church of God, friends and well-wishers gathered at the Olympic Council Building on Saturday for a send-forth party for one their amiable pastors Akinyemi Familusi who is leaving for good to Canada. The event attracted lots of dignitaries including staff of Citi Bank - where he worked for more than a decade. "May the Almighty God continue to bless, protect you (Pastor Akinyemi) and crown your efforts with success Amen"



## ACK AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO HIGH-ACHIEVERS

he Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) has awarded scholarships to high-achieving Bachelor's Degree and Diploma students with full-tuition for a single semester. ACK extends the merit scholarship award to new and existing Bachelor's Degree and Diploma students with outstanding academic qualifications in recognition of their hard work, efforts and perse-

verance.

Scholarship recipients Ali El Rahim, Mehran Seraidarian, Youssef Abdalla, Abdulrahman Mohamed, Mahsa Rahimi, Elissar Chami and Waseem Abdul-Kareem obtained their award in a ceremony held at the College in the presence of ACK's Chairman Mr. Abdullah Al-Sharhan, President Professor Mohamed Terro and ACK's Dean, Dr Gad Elbeheri, and other executive members.

In announcing the scholarship recipients, Mr. Abdullah congratulated the students and encouraged them to maintain their dedication to their studies in preparation for their future careers.

From his end, Dr Elbeheri commented: "The Australian College of Kuwait is proud to announce the awarding of internal Scholarships to these outstanding students: This Semester, the standard of applications was exceptionally high, therefore the recipients' should be especially proud that they were selected to receive this honor from the College." ACK Academic Scholarships are available for existing and new students enrolled in Bachelor's Degree and Diploma

level courses at the College. Each semester, the College invites high achieving students to apply for the Academic Scholarship whereby recipients are selected by the "ACK Scholarship Committee". For more information, students may contact the Manager of the Registration Unit and find out more about ACK Scholarships on the College's website: www.ack.edu.kw.





#### MILLENNIUM HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE KUWAIT FIGHTS CANCER WITH 'PINK STEPS'

illennium Hotel & Convention Centre Kuwait took the fight against cancer to the streets on Saturday, February 6th by participating in the 'Pink Steps' Walkathon for ladies organized by Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) at Al Waha sports alley in Mishref. Dozens of hotel employees walked side-by-side to represent the hotel's corporate social responsibility (CSR)

vision in their bid to raisefurther awareness of cancer. The participation comes as part of the Millennium & Copthorne Group's global pledge to support the communities in which it operates through a variety of policies and activities. "Our participation in 'Pink Steps' highlights the vital role all organizations should play in raising awareness about this disease," explained Dani

Saleh, Area General Manager of Millennium

&Copthorne Hotels Kuwait.

"Socially responsible behavior is a central aspect of our business philosophy, which takes place externally through active participation in events such as 'Pink Steps', and internally by ensuring that ethical behavior is practiced in every Millennium & Copthorneproperty

worldwide." Saleh extended his gratitude towards all those who participated, and commended members of the (CAN) team for their distinguished year-round contribution towards the fight against cancer. Pink Steps Walkathon for Ladies falls under the activities of the first Gulf Cancer Awareness Week in Kuwait, which takes place every year during the month of February.

# BANGLADESH EMBASSY OBSERVES MARTYRS AND INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

he Martyrs and International Mother Language Day is observed at the Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait on 21 February 2016 in a befitting manner. To celebrate the day, the Mission drew up elaborate programs, which included National Flag Hoisting at half mast a the Chancery and Bangladesh House, recitation from the Holy Quran, reading out of messages and discussion with participation of community members.

The program of the Day began with ceremonial hoisting of the National Flag at halfmast. SM Mahbubul Alam, Charge' d'affaires hoisted the National Flag at half mast in presence of Embassy officials, officers of the Bangladesh Military Contingent to Kuwait, Bangladesh Biman and members of the Bangladesh community. Messages given by the Honourable President, Honorable Prime Minister, Honorable Foreign Minister and Honorable State Minister for Foreign Affairs, were read out by officers of the Mission. A documentary film on the Martyrs and International Mother Language Day was also displayed at the program. A big number of Bangladesh community people from all strata of lives participated at the program. Mohammad Anisuzzaman, First Secretary anchored the program.

The discussion program began with recitation from the Holy Quran. Deep homage was

paid for the Martyrs of the Language Movement and freedom fighters who laid down their valuable lives for the causes of mother tongue and independence of the country. One minute silence was observed in honor of the martyrs of the Language Movement in 1952. In the Discussion session, the speakers highlighted the history and significance of the day. They also emphasized on role of all to uphold our image and flourish achievements. They expressed their deep aspiration for continued peace and progress of the country and for wellbeing of Bangladesh community in overseas.

In his speech, the Charge' d'affaires S M Mahbubul Adam paid his deep homage to the martyrs of the Language movement 1952 and the War of Liberation in 1971. He also paid deep homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In his speech he highlighted the significance of the day mentioning that in 1999, the UNESCO has declared 21 February as the 'International Mother Language Day' and since 2000 the day has been observed as the "International Mother Language Day' in 193 countries around the world. He convicted that mother tongue is akin to the root of a nation and literature, culture, and self identity of a nation flourish through language, and therefore, forgetting mother language means losing one's own identity.

"International Mother Language Day' signifies the multiculturalism and multilingualism around the globe, which at the same time glorify the history of language movement for Bangla in 1952. He said that Language Movement was the foundation of so many socio-political events and achievements including independence of Bangladesh under the leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He reiterated that as a nation we would not forget the supreme sacrifice of the Language martyrs and we all should love our beloved motherland and mother tongue with an unquestionable patriotism and without any prejudice.

He urged the community members in Kuwait to get inspirations from the sacrifice of our great martyrs and to devote themselves to buildup the country through their patriotism and hard work. He also requested the commu nity people to take care of their children so that they learn and practice pure Bangla. He categorically depicted the initiatives taken by the Government of Bangladesh to recognize Bangla as an Official Language of the United Nations. Finally he thanked all the participants at the program and requested all to ensure a peaceful co-existence of all Bangladesh nationals in Kuwait and to increase the image of own motherland overseas being imbued with pure patriotism and love for Bangladesh.





Kuwait Zimes

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# TV PROGRAMS

annabella SCIORRA

and william HURT

matt DILLON

mary-louise PARKER

## амс

- 01:05 The Birdcage Lords Of Dogtown 04:50 Music Of The Heart Robinson Crusoe 06:55 Death Rides A Horse
- Adventures Of Hercules 11:50 Duplex The Beautiful Country
- 15:20 Eight Men Out 17:20 Jakob The Liar Groundhog Day 21:00 Breaking Bad

The Birdcage

22:00

- 00:50 River Monsters Swamp Brothers 01:45 02:15 Swamp Brothers 02:40 Dog Rescuers 03:35
- Africa's Outsiders 04:25 Gator Boys Treehouse Masters 06.49Dog Rescuers Swamp Brothers
- Swamp Brothers Bad Dog 08:25 Dog Rescuers Treehouse Masters 11:05 Tanked
- 12:00 Bad Dog Bondi Vet 13:50 Dog Rescuers Gator Boys Treehouse Masters 16:35 Tanked
- Africa's Outsiders River Monsters Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet 19:20 Tanked
- Cheetah: Race To Rule Treehouse Masters
- Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet

#### BBC entertainment

- 00:20 Eastenders Call The Midwife 00:50 01:45 Call The Midwife 02:40 Ripper Street Doctors 04:00 Eastenders 04:30 Starlings Starlings 06:00 The Cafe 06:25 The Cafe
- **Doctors** 07:20 Eastenders 07:50 Stella Call The Midwife 09:25 Doctor Who 10:15 Doctors
- Eastenders 11:15 Death In Paradise Stella 12:10 Call The Midwife 13:45 Doctor Who 14:35 Doctors Eastenders 15:35 Stella
- 16:25 Dickensian Doctor Who 18:00 **Doctors** 18:30 Eastenders Death In Paradise 20:00 Holby City Stella 21:00 Ripper Street
- 22.45 Death In Paradise 23:40 Doctors 00:20 Eastenders 00:50 Call The Midwife Call The Midwife 01:45 Ripper Street 03:30 Doctors

Eastenders

Starlings Starlings The Cafe 06:00 The Cafe 06:50 **Doctors** 07:20 Eastenders

04:00

- Call The Midwife 09:25 Doctor Who
- BOOKIES. JUNKIES GANGSTERS

ALL IN A WEEK'S WORK.

SNITCHES

Doctors 18:30 Fastenders 19:05 Death In Paradise 20:00 Holby City 21:00 Stella 21:45 Ripper Street Death In Paradise 22:45 23:40 Doctors 00:20 Eastenders Call The Midwife 01:45 Call The Midwife 02:40 Ripper Street 03:30 Doctors 04:00 Eastenders 04:30 Starlings Starlings 05:15 06:00 The Cafe 06:25 The Cafe 06:50 Doctors 07:20 Fastenders 07:50 Stella Call The Midwife 08:40 09:25 Doctor Who 10:15 Doctors 10:45 Eastenders 11:15 Death In Paradise 12:10 Stella Call The Midwife 13:45 Doctor Who 14:35 **Doctors** 

Stella

Doctors

Stella

16:25 Dickensian

Call The Midwife

Doctor Who

Eastenders

Doctor Who

13:00

13:45

14:35

15:05

15:35

17:10

#### 22:45 Death In Paradise Bloomberg TELEVISION

Eastenders

Dickensian

Doctor Who

Eastenders

Ripper Street

Death In Paradise

Stella

18:00 Doctors

20:00 Holby City

Stella

15:05

15:35

16:25

17:10

18:30

19:05

21:00

00:00 What'd You Miss? 01:00 Charlie Rose First Up With Angie Lau First Up With Angie Lau 04:00 Trending Business 05:00 Trending Business Asia Edge 07:00 Bloomberg West Charlie Rose Countdown 10:00 Countdown On The Move 10:30

On The Move 12:00 The Pulse Bloomberg Surveillance Bloomberg Go Bloomberg Markets 18:00 19:00 Bloomberg Markets:

European Close 20:00 Bloomberg Markets 23:00 Bloomberg Markets



00:00 News Update 00:30 Dialogue News Update 01:00 China 24 02:00 The Heat 02:30 **News Update** Global Business News Undate 04:00 05:00 **News Update** Dialogue

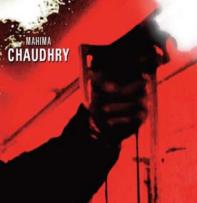
07:00 News Hour 08:00 Global Business **News Update** 10:30 Sports Scene Global Business News Update 12:30 Culture Express

13:00 Africa Live News Update Dialogue News Update China 24 Global Business

16:15 17:00 News Update 17:15 World InSight Asia Today 18:00 Culture Express

14:30 15:00 16:00 News Update

16:45 Zahn 17:35 Murder Shift 18:25



## SUPERFAST ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

A FILM BY ASSAD RAJA

10:15 Doctors 10:45 Eastenders 11:15 Death In Paradise 12:10 Stella Call The Midwife 13:00 13:45 Doctor Who 14:35 Doctors Eastenders 15:35 Stella 16:25 Dickensian

Doctor Who 18:00 **Doctors** 18:30 Eastenders Death In Paradise 20:00 Holby City 21:00 Stella

Ripper Street Death In Paradise 23:40 Doctors

> BBC **FIRST**

Eastenders Call The Midwife 00:20 00:50 Call The Midwife 02:40 Ripper Street 03:30 Doctors Eastenders Starlings 04:30

05:15 Starlings The Cafe 06:00 06:25 The Cafe Doctors

06:50 Eastenders 07:50 Stella Call The Midwife 08:40 Doctor Who 10:15

Doctors 10:45 Eastenders 11:15 Death In Paradise

19:00 News Update 19:30 The Heat Africa Live Global Business 21:30 Dialogue 22:00 News Update China 24 23:00 News Undate World InSight

CNBC The Edge Tech Transformers: Davos 01:00 01:30 02:00 U.S. Squawk Alley

03:00 Asia Squawk Box 05:00 Asia Street Signs 07:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report Capital Connection 09:00 Squawk Box Europe 12:00 Europe Street Signs Worldwide Exchange U.S. Squawk Box

14:00 17:00 Squawk On The Street 19:00 U.S. Squawk Alley 20:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report

U.S. Power Lunch

crime &investigation

The Haunting Of. The Ghost Inside My Child My Haunted House

Deadly Affairs True Crime With Aphrodite Jones

California Investigator 22:10 22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry? Who On Earth Did I Marry? 23:00 Deadly Affairs Swamp Murders

DISCOVERY

00:35 Weird Or What? How It's Made 01:20 How It's Made 02:08

Invent It Rich 02:55 Space Pioneer 03:42 Mythbusters Weird Or What? 04:29 05:16 Invent It Rich 06:03 Space Pioneer Prototype This How Do They Do It? How Do They Do It? 06:50 07:37

08:00 08:23 Weird Or What? 09:08 Mythbusters Prototype This 09:53 10:38 How It's Made 11:00 How It's Made Food Factory 11:45 Food Factory Space Pionee

12:08 Prototype This 13:38 Weird Or What? How It's Made 14:23 How It's Made 15:10 Mythbusters 15:57 Food Factory Food Factory Space Pioneer

Big Giant Swords 13:05 Storage Hunters 13:30 The Liquidator 13:55 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition Flying Wild Alaska Kings Of Crash 14:20 Fast N' Loud How It's Made: Dream Cars

15:10 16:50 17:15 How Do They Do It? 17:40 What On Earth? 18:30 Unearthed 19:20 Deception With Keith Barry The Liquidator 20:35 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition

03:00 Crime Stories

Nightmare In Suburbia

The Haunting Of..

The FBI Files

The FBI Files

Private Crimes

Frenemies

Fatal Vows

Frenemies

Private Crimes

The FBI Files

Crime Stories

Frenemies

Private Crimes

Fast N' Loud

Mythbusters

The Weapon Hunter

How Do They Do It?

Flying Wild Alaska

Highway To Sell

Storage Hunters

The Liquidator

Fast N' Loud

Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop

How It's Made: Dream Cars

Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop

How It's Made: Dream Cars

How Do They Do It?

Mythbusters
The Weapon Hunter

Big Giant Swords

Storage Hunters

The Liquidator

Crime Stories

The Ghost Inside My Child

Crimes That Shook Britain

Crimes That Shook Britain

Beyond Scared Straight

Nightmare In Suburbia

Crimes That Shook Britain

50 Ways To Kill Your Lover

CHANNEL

Discovery

Nightmare In Suburbia

Beyond Scared Straight

04:00

06:00

07:00

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21:00 What On Earth? 21:50 Unearthed Kings Of The Wild 22:40 Kings Of Crash

DISCOVERY

00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry? Who On Earth Did I Marry? The Haunted 01:30 02:20 Ghost Lab Scorned: Crimes Of Passion 04:00 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall

Who On Earth Did I Marry? 05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry? The Haunted 05:30 Fatal Encounters

07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones Dr G: Medical Examiner On The Case With Paula 08:50 Zahn

10:30 Murder Shift 11:20 Deadly Affairs True Crime With Aphrodite Jones The Will 13:00

I Almost Got Away With It California Investigator Dr G: Medical Examiner 14:40 15:05 Fatal Encounters On The Case With Paula

I Almost Got Away With It The Will



17:31 Unchained Reaction

Mythbusters

Weird Or What?

Mega Builders

Space Pioneer

18:18

19:50

20:40

Codes And Conspiracies 01:30 America: Facts vs. Fiction 02:45 America: Facts vs. Fiction Dinosaurs: Return To Life 03:05 Solved

04:35 Extreme Engineering 05:20 **Deadliest Catch** Bizarre Foods 06:50 Alps From Above 07:35 Origins Deadliest Catch Commander In Chief 08:50

Alps From Above 09:40 Bizarre Foods 11:20 Extreme Engineering 12:10 Deadliest Catch Treasures Of The Royal Captain 13:50 Bizarre Foods

Extreme Engineering
Codes And Conspiracies
100 Miles From Nowhere 14:40 15:30 16:20 Deadliest Catch Dinosaurs: Return To Life 18:00 Bizarre Foods 18:50 Codes And Conspiracies

19:40 American Guns Prehistoric Elephant 20:30 21:20 Extreme Engineering 23:00 American Guns Prehistoric Elephant

00:00 Violetta The Hive 00:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 01:40 Hank Zipzer 02:05

Binny And The Ghost Violetta 02:30 03:15 The Hive 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch Sabrina Secrets Of A 03:45 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 Shake It Up 08:05 08:30 Shake It Up 08:55 That's So Raven 09:20 That's So Bayen Austin & Ally 10:10 Austin & Ally

A.N.T. Farm 10:35 11:00 A.N.T. Farm 11:25 Jessie 11:50 Jessie 12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir 12:45 Fish Hooks Fish Hooks 13:10 Good Luck Charlie 13:35 I Didn't Do It

14:00 Dog With A Blog 14:30 H2Ŏ Girl Meets World 14:55 15:20 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 | Didn't Do It

19:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir Violetta 19:30 20:20 The Next Step Good Luck Charlie 21:10 Good Luck Charlie

21:35 H2O: Just Add Water 22:00 Binny And The Ghost 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A

Ar. Wonderful

Teenage Witch Hank Zipzer 23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:20 Calimero Zou Loopdidoo 00:50 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 Calimero

03:20 Zou 03:30 Loopdidoo Art Áttack 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster 04:20 Calimero

04:35 Zou Loopdidoo 04:45 Art Attack 05:00 Henry Hugglemonster 05:35 Calimero 05:50 Zou

06:00 Loopdidoo 06:15 Art Attack Henry Hugglemonster 06:35 06:50 Calimero Zou

07:00 07:20 Loopdidoo Art Attack 08:00 Calimero 08:10 Zou Loopdidoo Miles From Tomorrow

08:40 Sofia The First 09:05 Goldie & Bear 09:45 Jake And The Never Land **Pirates** Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Doc McStuffins 10:10 10:35

Sofia The First 11:00 11:30 Goldie & Bear 12:00 Miles From Tomorrow 12:25 Special Agent Oso The Hive Handy Manny 12:40 12:50 13:15 Jungle Junction Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Sofia The First 13:30 14:00 14:25 Goldie & Bear

14:50 Doc McStuffins 15:15 Zou 15:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Loopdidoo Miles From Tomorrow 16:10 Jake And The Never Land 16:35

17:00 Sofia The First Jungle Cubs Aladdin 17:25 17:50 Gummi Bears 18:15 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 Sofia The First 21:30 22:00 Jungle Cubs 22:25 Aladdin Gummi Bears 22:50 23:20 Lilo And Stitch 23:45 Cars Toons



23:50 Zou

09:30

10:00

11:00

11:30

12:00

00:00 Diners. Drive-Ins And Dives 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives Chopped All Star Academy 01:00 02:00 03:00 Man Fire Food Man Fire Food Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 03:30 04:00 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 Barefoot Contessa 09:00

The Kitchen

Chopped

Barefoot Contessa The Pioneer Woman The Pioneer Woman

MR. WONDERFUL ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

Guy's Big Bite Guy's Big Bite 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 15:00 Man Fire Food Man Fire Food 16:00 Chopped The Kitchen 17:00 The Pioneer Woman

18:30 The Pioneer Woman Chopped 19:00 Iron Chef America 21:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers Rev Run's Sunday Suppers Dinner At Tiffani's

21:30 Dinner At Tiffani's 23:00 Siba's Table

00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show 01:25 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons 02:20 Fashion Police

03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills 04:10 E! Entertainment Special Pop Innovators 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 06:55 Keeping Up With The

Kardashians 07:50 Style Star 08:20 Beyond Candid With Giuliana 09:15 Giuliana & Bill 10:15 Giuliana & Bill

#RichKids Of Beverly Hills 11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills 12:05 WAGs 13:05 14:05 Botched 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 17:00 Fashion Bloggers 17:30 Fashion Bloggers E! News 18:00 Fashion Police

Kardashians

22:00 E! News

NAT GEO people

00:10 Street Food Around The

EMMA WATSON

02:00 Rosewood Allegiance 04:00 06:00 20:00 Keeping Up With The Backstrom 08·00 21:00 Dash Dolls

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY MAGGIE STIEFVATER

Good Morning America The Ellen DeGeneres Show The Player
The Ellen DeGeneres Show 09:00 Quantico 11:00 Backstrom Coronation Street 12:00 Coronation Street

Chicago Fire

Quantico

13:00 The Player 14:00

The Ellen DeGeneres Show Live Good Morning America 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 18:00 The Player

ALEX TURNER

Supergirl The X-Files **OM** MOVIES **ACTION** 

Complications

The Night Shift

The Night Shift

00:00 Pusher Superfast 02:00 Jack The Giant Killer 06:00 Need For Speed Forget And Forgive Superfast 12:00 The Assault

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:00

18:00

Street Food Around The

Valentine Warner Eats

03:05 Charlie Luxton's Homes By

03:55 Food Lover's Guide To The

David Rocco's Dolce Vita

Street Food Around The

A Marriage Of Flavours

Miguel's Feasts

Dream Cruises

Bangkok Airport

08:55 Charlie Luxton's Homes By

09:45 Food Lover's Guide To The

David Rocco's Dolce Vita Street Food Around The

A Marriage Of Flavours

Cradle Of Mandopop

14:55 Charlie Luxton's Homes By

15:50 Food Lover's Guide To The

David Rocco's Dolce Vita

David Rocco's Dolce Vita

Street Food Around The

**Dream Cruises** 

Weird Loners

Big Time In Hollywood FI

01:30 Brickleberry

New Girl

05:30 Modern Family

New Girl

03:30 Playing House 04:00 I Hate My Teenage

04:30 The Tonight Show Starring

\$#\*! My Dad Says

I Hate My Teenage

Hot In Cleveland

11:00 The Tonight Show Starring

\$#\*! My Dad Says

Community

12:30 I Hate My Teenage

Playing House

Weird Loners

New Girl

Hot In Cleveland

The Last Man On Earth

16:30 \$#\*! My Dad Says 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

Playing House Kevin From Work

19:35 Hot In Cleveland20:00 The Tonight Show Starring

21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry

Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll

OS FIRST HD

Weird Loners

22:00 Web Therapy

The Nightly Show With Larry

13:30 Community

The Last Man On Earth

Community
Late Night With Seth Meyers

Miguel's Feasts

Dream Cruises

13:35 Valentine Warner Eats

07:40 Valentine Warner Eats

Bangkok Airport

00:35

World

01:00

01:50

Planet

04:45

05:10

05:35

06:25

Planet

10:10

10:35

11:00

11:25

12:15

12:40

Scandinavia

The Sea

Planet

16:20

16:45

17:15

17:40

18:35

19:05

20:00

20:25

21:40

00:30

01:00

02:30

03:00

Daughter

07:00

08:00

09:00

09:30

10:00

Jimmy Fallon

08:30 Cristela

Jimmy Fallon

Daughter

13:00

14:00

15:30

18:00

18:30

Jimmy Fallon

Wilmore

22:30

00:00

01:00

The Sea

14:00 Eat Street

14:30 Eat Street

Sometimes love

And sometimes

you've known all

is a stranger.

it's someone

your life.

Scandinavia

08:05 Eat Street

08:30 Eat Street

Scandinavia

02:15 Eat Street

02:40 Fat Street

**OM** MOVIES HD

**Need For Speed** 

Forget And Forgive

Battle Of The Damned X-Men: Days Of Future Past

COMEDY 00:00 We'll Never Have Paris When In Rome The Devil Wears Prada Mr. Wonderful

How To Lose A Guy In 10 08:00 Days The Devil Wears Prada When In Rome Garfield's Fun Fest How To Lose A Guy In 10 16:00

18:00 Pitch Perfect 20:00 Textuality No Way Jose MOVIES MOVIES

**Dream Cruises** A Marriage Of Flavours Charlie Luxton's Homes By 00:45 A Passage To India At Any Price Food Lover's Guide To The 05:15

Sleepless In Seattle Jodorowsky's Dune 07:15 David Rocco's Dolce Vita Memories David Rocco's Dolce Vita Sleepless In Seattle Street Food Around The 13:00 Heaven's Door

White Bird In A Blizzard 23:00 Donnie Brasco OM FIRST HD COMEDY **OM** MOVIES HID

01:00 Shiver The Nightly Show With Larry 03:00 The Giver Stonehearst Asylum 05:00 **Bad Parents** Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll

21:00

04:00

19:00

09:00 Get On Up 11:15 Oggy & The Cockroaches: The Movie 13:00 Step Up Revolution 14:45 Divergent 17:00 Imogene

Seventh Son

The Bronx Bull

Memories

Frankie & Alice

Deliver Us From Evil OM SPORTS 1 HD

01:00 Asian Tour Highlights PGA Tour Highlights 03:00 PGA European Tour Highlights

05:00 Golfing World 06:00 Live PGA European Tour Inside The PGA Tour European Tour Weekly 08:30 Golfing World Live PGA European Tour

Trans World Sport

13:00 Inside The PGA Tour 20:00 Golfing World

21:00 LPGA Tour Highlights 22:00 Live Welsh Open Snooker

ON SPORTS 2 HD

00:00 Super League 02:00 Welsh Open Snooker 05:00 NRL All-Star Match Golfing World

WWE Afterburn This Week In WWF 09:00 Gillette World Sport 10:00 AFL Premiership Highlights 11:00 Live AFL NAB Challenge 14:00 Porsche GT3 Cup Middle

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

WWE Smackdown

22:00 Europro Tour

OF SPORTS 3 HD

02:30 Trans World Sport 03:30 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Highlights

04:00 Asian Tour Highlights 05:00 The World Sailing Show Inside Sailing
World Pool Masters 05:30 06:00 07:00 Welsh Open Snooke Europro Tour 10:00

The Weber Cup 13:00 LPGA Tour Highlights14:00 The World Sailing Show Inside Sailing 15:00 Asian Tour Highlights16:00 HSBC World Rugby Sevens

16:30 World Rugby 17:00 LPGA Tour Highlights The Weber Cup 19:00 Europro Tour21:00 Trans World Sport

OM SPORTS 4 HD 01:00 FIA Asia Cup Championship 01:30 Aquabike World Championship Mobil 1 The Grid

02:30 Extreme Sailing Highlights 03:00 Mass Participation U.K 03:30 F1 H2O World Championship Highlights 04:00 Triathlon UK 04:30 UIM XCATS Power Boat

World Series 05:00 TCR International Series TCR International Series 06:00 Aquabike World Championship Mobil 1 The Grid

07:00 Pro Kabaddi 08:00 Mobil 1 The Grid World Match Racing Tour Highlights The World's Strongest Man 09:00 FIA Asia Cup Championship

FIH Hockey World WWE Vintage This Week In WWE

WWE Raw Live Pro Kabaddi Live Pro Kabaddi NHL

WWE Smackdown



SHIVER ON OSN MOVIES HD



# CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016



# Kuwait CINEMA

## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (18/02/2016 TO 24/02/2016)

SHARQIA-1			SYNCHRONICITY	3:30 PM		ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: H	E DOAD CLUD	3:15 PM	HAIL, CAESAR!	10:00 PM	
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	11:45 AM		SYNCHRONICITY	5:45 PM		ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: H		5:30 PM	THE FINEST HOURS	10:00 PM 12:05 AM	
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	1:45 PM		THE FINEST HOURS	7:45 PM		ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: H		7:45 PM	THE TIMEST FIGURE	12.03744	
THE FINEST HOURS	3:45 PM		SYNCHRONICITY	10:15 PM		VERY BIG SHOT	10:00 PM		AL-KOUT.3		
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES THE FINEST HOURS	6:15 PM 8:15 PM		SYNCHRONICITY	12:15 AM		THE REVENANT	12:15 AM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:30 PM 2:45 PM	
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	10:45 PM		FANAR-3			AVENUES-3			THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	5:00 PM	
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:45 AM		THE FINEST HOURS	11:30 AM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	11:45 AM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	7:15 PM	
			FITOOR - Hindi	2:00 PM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	2:00 PM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	9:30 PM	
SHARQIA-2 HAIL, CAESAR!	12:45 PM		ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE FITOOR - Hindi	6:45 PM	4:45 PM	THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	4:30 PM 7:00 PM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	11:45 PM	
HAIL, CAESAR!	2:45 PM		THE FINEST HOURS	9:30 PM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	9:30 PM		AL-KOUT.4		
HAIL, CAESAR!	4:45 PM		THE FINEST HOURS	12:05 AM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:05 AM		SYNCHRONICITY	1:00 PM	
SHAKET DABOUS	6:45 PM		FANAD 4			AVENUES 4			NO FRI+SAT	IE DOAD CLUD	1.45 DM
HAIL, CAESAR! SHAKET DABOUS	8:30 PM 10:30 PM		FANAR-4 CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	1:00 PM		<b>AVENUES-4</b> HAIL, CAESAR!	12:45 PM		ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: H FRI+SAT	IE ROAD CHIP	1:45 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	12:15 AM		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	3:00 PM		FITOOR - Hindi	3:00 PM		ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: H	IE ROAD CHIP	3:45 PM
			CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	5:00 PM		HAIL, CAESAR!	6:00 PM		FRI+SAT		
SHARQIA-3 THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	1:00 PM		SHAKET DABOUS SHAKET DABOUS	7:00 PM 9:00 PM		Special Show "ALVIN AND THE CHIP"	E CHIPMUNKS: T 6:00 PM	HE ROAD	THE FINEST HOURS NO FRI+SAT	3:15 PM	
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	3:15 PM		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	10:45 PM		HAIL, CAESAR!	8:15 PM		SYNCHRONICITY	5:45 PM	
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THI		5:30 PM	CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:45 AM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	10:30 PM		THE FINEST HOURS	7:45 PM	
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	7:30 PM					THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	1:00 AM		SYNCHRONICITY	10:15 PM	
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	9:45 PM 12:05 AM		FANAR-5 THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:30 PM		360° 1			SYNCHRONICITY	12:30 AM	
THE HOUSE ON THE STREET	12.037411		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	2:45 PM		THE FINEST HOURS	12:00 PM		BAIRAQ-1		
MUHALAB-1			THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	5:00 PM		THE FINEST HOURS	2:30 PM		THE FINEST HOURS	1:00 PM	
HAIL, CAESAR! HAIL, CAESAR!	11:45 AM 1:45 PM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	7:15 PM 9:30 PM		THE FINEST HOURS THE FINEST HOURS	5:00 PM 7:30 PM		NO FRI+SAT ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: H	IE DOAD CHID	1:30 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	3:45 PM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	11:45 PM		THE FINEST HOURS	10:00 PM		FRI+SAT	IE ROAD CHIP	1:50 PW
SYNCHRONICITY	5:45 PM					THE FINEST HOURS	12:30 AM		HAIL, CAESAR!	3:30 PM	
HAIL, CAESAR!	7:45 PM		MARINA-1	44 45 444		2400 2			ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: H		5:30 PM
SYNCHRONICITY HAIL, CAESAR!	9:45 PM 11:45 PM		HAIL, CAESAR! HAIL, CAESAR!	11:45 AM 1:45 PM		360°- 2 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE	HE ROAD CHIP	11:45	HAIL, CAESAR! THE FINEST HOURS	7:30 PM 9:30 PM	
TIAL, CALSAN:	11.45110		HAIL, CAESAR!	3:45 PM		AM	TIE NOAD CI III	11.43	HAIL, CAESAR!	12:05 AM	
MUHALAB-2			HAIL, CAESAR!	5:45 PM		ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: TH		2:00 PM			
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:15 PM 2:45 PM		SYNCHRONICITY HAIL, CAESAR!	7:45 PM 9:45 PM		ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE		4:15 PM 6:30 PM	BAIRAQ-2 HAIL, CAESAR!	11:45 AM	
FITOOR - Hindi	5:00 PM		SYNCHRONICITY	11:45 PM		ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: TH		8:45 PM	HAIL, CAESAR!	1:45 PM	
KRISHNASHTAMI - Telugu	5:00 PM					THE REVENANT	11:00 PM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	3:45 PM	
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	8:00 PM 10:30 PM		MARINA-2 THE FINEST HOURS	12:45 PM		360°-3			HAIL, CAESAR!	6:00 PM 8:00 PM	
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	10:30 PM 12:45 AM		THE FINEST HOURS THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	3:15 PM		SHAKET DABOUS	11:30 AM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	10:15 PM	
THE THOUSE OF THE STREET	12.137.111		THE FINEST HOURS	5:30 PM		SHAKET DABOUS	1:45 PM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:30 AM	
MUHALAB-3	10.00.011		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	8:00 PM		SHAKET DABOUS	3:45 PM				
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:30 PM 2:30 PM		THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	10:15 PM 12:30 AM		SHAKET DABOUS SHAKET DABOUS	5:45 PM 7:45 PM		BAIRAQ-3 FITOOR - Hindi	12:15 PM	
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	4:30 PM		THE HOOSE ON TIME STREET	12.50 /111		SHAKET DABOUS	9:45 PM		ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: H		3:00 PM
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	6:30 PM		MARINA-3			SHAKET DABOUS	11:45 PM		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	5:00 PM	
SHAKET DABOUS CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	8:30 PM 10:15 PM		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:15 PM 2:15 PM		AL-KOUT.1			FITOOR - Hindi CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	7:00 PM 9:45 PM	
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES  CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	10:15 PM 12:15 AM		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES  CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	4:15 PM		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:15 PM		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES  CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	11:45 PM	
			CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	6:15 PM		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	2:30 PM				
FANAR-1	42.20 DM		SHAKET DABOUS	8:15 PM		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	4:30 PM		PLAZA	2 20 014	
HAIL, CAESAR! HAIL, CAESAR!	12:30 PM 2:30 PM		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	10:00 PM 12:05 AM		SHAKET DABOUS CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	6:30 PM 8:30 PM		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES MONSOON MANGOES -Malaya	3:30 PM	5:30 PM
HAIL, CAESAR!	4:30 PM		CHIVIII VIE I CHIVILES	12.0571111		SHAKET DABOUS	10:30 PM		THE FINEST HOURS	8:15 PM	3.301111
HAIL, CAESAR!	6:30 PM		AVENUES-1	4.45.5		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:15 AM		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	10:45 PM	
HAIL, CAESAR! HAIL, CAESAR!	8:30 PM 10:30 PM		JANE GOT A GUN FITOOR - Hindi	1:15 PM 3:30 PM		AL-KOUT.2			LAILA		
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:30 AM		BROOKLYN	6:15 PM		HAIL, CAESAR!	12:00 PM		HAIL, CAESAR!	4:00 PM	
			FITOOR - Hindi	8:30 PM		HAIL, CAESAR!	2:00 PM		THE FINEST HOURS	6:00 PM	
FANAR-2 SYNCHRONICITY	11:30 AM		JANE GOT A GUN AVENUES-2	11:30 PM		HAIL, CAESAR!	4:00 PM		NOTHU+FRI	0.20 014	
SYNCHRONICITY	11:30 AM 1:30 PM		AVENUES-2 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE	ROAD CHIP	1:00 PM	HAIL, CAESAR! HAIL, CAESAR!	6:00 PM 8:00 PM		CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES NOTHU+FRI	8:30 PM	
							2.00				

# REQUIRED SENIOR CAKES CHFF

- 10 years experience
- Quality control
- Time management
- Can come up with new ideas
- Very good experience in fondant work
- Work under pressure

# 90955878

#### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Syed Mohamed Mohideen Kaleel, S/o Mohamed Mohideen, holder of Passport No. G3449357, residing at No: 2, Samayana Sheik Mohamed Moopan Street, Melapalayam, Tirunelveli Dist. Pin: 627005, shall henceforth be known as Kaleel Rahman. (C 5136) 22-2-2016

**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



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shall be known by the name PIEDADE DA CRUZ. **(C 5134) 21-2-2016** 





## Flight Schedule

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

Authors   File   Route   Time   SAA   500   Infrich   14:50   Authors   File   Route   Time   ICC   673   Dubal   15:50   SAS   SA		Arri	val Flights on Tuesday 23/2/201	6	AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:20		Depar	ture Flights on Tuesday 23/2	/2016	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:55
MSC   MS   Salvag	Airline	s Flt	Route	Time	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
Mary   Anti-marker marker   100	BBC	143	Dhaka	00:05	KAC	672	Dubai	14:45	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	FDB	058	Dubai	
Math   Americanisman   Quage   GP	MSC	415	Sohag	00:05	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
June   1975	KLM		Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20		221	Bahrain		MSC	404		00:55	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:20
1928   399   Califor   C								15:05					FBA	832	Baghdad/Al Najaf	
FOR   1989   Oubsign   1985   NA   231   Absorands   1930   BCC   143   Chrisgory@Thake   1935   GTA   222   Bahrain   1946   1947   1947   1948	JZR		Cairo					15:30					SVA	501		
Text  Prof.   Text    Text													GFA		Bahrain	
Delt																
ETH   250   Addis Ababa   0145   UAE   877   UAE   017   018   0																
Section   Company   Comp																
DATE   STATE   Data   Q.230   OTR   1072   Dohe   1610   UAE   864   Dahaj   Q.345   STATE   473   Indicating   1605   CAR   All   Bahrajan   Q.230   The   1072   Dohe   1610   Q.64   All   Q.64   All   Q.64   All   CAR   CAR																
GFA   211   Sahrain																
OMA   643   Muscat   0.255   ETD   203   Absu Dhabi   16-90   OMA   644   Muscat   0.255   NIA   252   Alexandria   16-30   Call   Ca													ABY			
FBB   607   Outsal   6236   RJA   640   Ammran   1655   FBB   608   Outsal   Outsol   OAA   646   Muscat   1630   Ammran   1640   Ammran   1																
Fig.   644																
MSF   101																
OTH   1075   Obha   03:15   GA   215   Sahrain   17:30   KWK   6508   Istanbul   06:20   JZR   238   Amman   17:30   ISTANBURG   Califor   17:50   CITR   17:30   ISTANBURG   CALIFORNIA   CALIFORNIA																
Sect																17:30
FID   365   Abu Dhaba    0.325   ZB   325   Al Hajaf   17:50   THY   765   Intra-bul   0.515   FOB   0.52   Dubal   17:35	-															
Thy   6376   Stanbul   0.505   12R   777   Jeddah   17-55   12R   550   Sohag   0.610   OTR   1073   Joha   17-46   John   17-45   John   1																
DHX   170   Bahrain   05-96   UAE   875   Uabal   18.00   FDR   070   Dubal   06-30   UAE   875   Dubal   17.45   FDR   050   Dubal   06-30   UAE   875   Dubal   17.45   FDR   050   Dubal   18.00   THY   05.00   THY   05																
THY   770   Islandul   05:55   KAC   502   Befrux   18:00   THY   6376   Dubal/Islandul   06:35   UAE   858   Dubal   17:45																
Fig.   Solid   Dubal   O630   PibB   O631   Dubal   1805   JZR   164   Dubal   O655   RJA   641   Amman   1755   RJA   Color   RJA   Color   RJA   Color   RJA   Color   RJA   Color   RJA   RJA   Color   RJA																
PAM   157																
PAL   668   Manla/Dubal   06:53   KAC   680   Muscat   1823   THY   771   Istanbul   07:56   GFA   216   Bahrain   1820   RAC   412   Manla/Banglok   07:20   ABY   123   Sharjah   1845   GFA   212   Bahrain   07:15   MSR   615   Cairo   1845   RAC   412   Manla/Banglok   07:40   QTR   1080   Doha   1845   GFA   212   Bahrain   07:15   MSR   615   Cairo   1845   FDB   053   Dubal   07:45   KAC   472   Dammam   19:05   QTR   1080   Doha   18:55   FDB   054   Dubal   08:30   JZR   124   Bahrain   19:10   BAW   156   London   08:45   MSR   615   Cairo   18:50   FDB   053   Dubal   07:45   KAC   472   Dammam   19:05   QTR   1087   Doha   08:40   FDB   044   Dubal   19:20   MSR   615   Cairo   18:50   FDB   053   Dubal   07:50   KAC   474   Dammam   19:05   QTR   1087   Doha   08:40   FDB   044   Dubal   19:20   MSR   615   Cairo   18:50   FDB   07:50   MSR   615   Cairo   18:50   Cairo   18:50   MSR   615   Cairo   18:50   MSR   617   Cairo   18:50   MSR   617   Cairo																
MAC   416   Askart Akale Lumpur   02.15   KAC   786   eddsh   18.30   FDB   5062   Dubal   02.10   JZB   18.40   Dubal   18.40   Color   Col																
MAC   412   Manila/Bangkok   0720   ABY   123   Sharjah   1845   GFA   212   Bahrain   0715   MSR   615   Cario   1850																
OTH   1056   Doha   10740   OTR   1089   Doha   18.55   FDB   054   Dubai   08.30   JZR   124   Bahrain   19.10																
FOR   0.53   Dubal   0.745			3													
Synth   1975   Syndh   1975   KAC   614   Sahrain   1910   SAW   156   London   1945   May   126   Sahrain   1925   May   1925   May																
KAC   302   Mumbal   0750   KAC   774   Ripydh   1925   SVA   513   Ripydh   0850   UAE   876   Dubal   1930   CMA   641   Muscat   0850   CFA   218   Bahrain   2015   CMA   641   Muscat   0850   CFA   218   Bahrain   2015   CMA   642   Muscat   0855   CFA   218   Bahrain   2015   CMA   642   Muscat   0855   CFA   218   Bahrain   2015   CMA   C																
OMA																
KAC   382   Delhi   08:00   GFA   217   Bahrain   19:30   KAC   787   Reddah   09:25   KAC   283   Dhaka   20:35																
RAC   324   BLR																
KAC   206   Islamabad   08.25   KAC   104   London   1940   KAC   513   Tehran   09.45   CR   351   Kochi   20.50																
NAC   250   Somman   250   Somman   250   Combo   150   Somman   250   Combo   250																
ORE   855   Dubai   ORE   OR																
CAC   332   Trivandrum   08:50   FDB   061   Dubal   20:20   UAE   8:56   Dubal   09:55   KAC   331   Trivandrum   21:10																
NAC   362   Colombo   0850   OMA   647   Muscat   2020   Colombo   Colombo																
ABY   125   Sharjah   O9:00   FDB   SO33   Dubal   20:50   KAC   G71   Dubal   10:05   FDB   G62   Dubal   21:20																
RAC   284   Dhaka																
FID   301   Abu Dhabi   09:20   JAI   572   Mumbai   20:55   KAC   501   Beirut   10:30   DLH   634   Doha   21:45																
CIR   1070   Doha   09:25   QTR   1088   Doha   21:00   FDB   056   Dubai   10:35   DHX   171   Bahrain   21:50																
FDB   1070   1071   1																
RC   6507   Shiraz   10:30   MEA   402   Beirut   21:20   Colombo   21:25   GFA   214   Bahrain   11:25   KAC   381   Delhi   22:00   RAC   381   Delhi   22:10   RAC   381   Delhi   22:20   RAC																
Sharain   10:30   MEA   402   Selfut   21:20   QHR   1071   Duha   11:30   KAC   381   Delhi   22:00     RRA   675   Lar   10:40   UAE   859   Dubai   21:40   IRC   6508   Shiraz   11:30   CRA   CAS   C																
IRA   675   Lar   10:40   UAE   859   Dubai   21:40   IRC   6508   Shiraz   11:30   CTR   1089   Doha   22:00																
Name																
RBG   S753   Alexandria   11:15   OTR   1082   Doha   22:00   Doha   22:00   Doha   11:30   Doha   22:10   Doha   11:30   Doha   22:10   Doha   11:30   Doha   22:10   Doha   22:10   Doha   11:30   Doha   22:10   Doha   11:30   Doha   22:10   Doha   11:30   Doha   22:10   Doha   22:10   Doha   11:30   Doha   22:10   Doha   Doha   22:10   Doha   22:10   Doha   Doha   22:10   Doha   D																
RBG   535   Alexandrida   11:15   QTR   1082   Doha   22:00   RBG   534   Alexandrida   11:35   KAC   203   Lahore   22:10																
MEA   404   Beirut   11:55   MLM   415   Amsterdam   22:05   UAE   874   Dubai   12:30   ALK   230   Colombo   22:25																
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**CROSSWORD 1177** 

Kuwait Times

#### 12 13 15 18 20 21 22 23 26 31 32 36 38 42 43 45 49 51 54 58 60 62 63 64 65 66 68 70 71 75 76 78

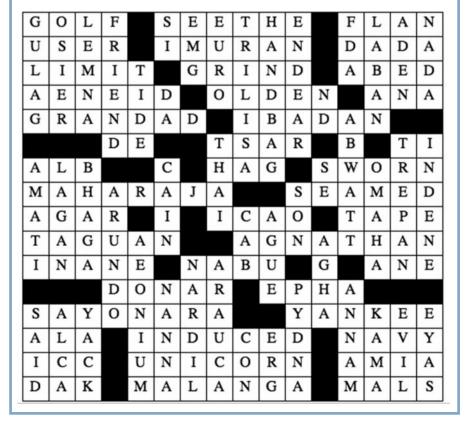
#### **ACROSS**

- 1. A long thin fluffy scarf of feathers or fur.
- 4. Arranged in or consisting of laminae. 11. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 15. The month following March and preceding
- 16. A person who has been evacuated from a dangerous place.
- 17. Strip the skin off.
- 18. A boy or man.
- 19. (biology) A relative capacity to unite or react or interact as with antigens or a biological substrate.
- 20. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 21. Any member of a Siouan people speaking
- one of the Dhegiha languages. 23. Being ten more than one hundred ninety.
- 25. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
- 26. A statement of fundamental facts or princi-
- 30. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in urani-
- 32. Tropical American tree producing cacao
- beans. 36. Of or relating to or involving an area.
- 39. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind. 42. God of wealth and love.
- 43. Surpassing what is common or usual or
- expected. 45. The villain in William Shakespeare's tragedy who tricked Othello into murder-
- 46. A software system that facilitates the cre-
- ation and maintenance and use of an electronic database.
- 48. Soft suede glove leather from goatskin.
- 49. An inflammatory complication of leprosy that results in painful skin lesions on the
- arms and legs and face. 51. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 53. French physicist noted for research on magnetism (born in 1904).
- 54. The function or position properly or customarily occupied or served by another.
- 57. A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
- 58. A rye bread made with molasses or brown
- 59. English illustrator of several of Dickens' novels (1815-1882).
- 61. Antipsychotic drug (trade name Moban) used in the treatment of schizophrenia.
- 64. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
- 66. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- 70. Relatively small fast-moving sloth.
- 74. An associate degree in applied science. 75. Any of a number of fishes of the family
- Carangidae. 76. An earring with a pendant ornament.
- 77. Government agency created in 1974 to license and regulate nuclear power plants.
- 78. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
- 79. Forceful and extreme and rigorous. 80. A doctor's degree in preventive medicine.

#### **DOWN**

- 1. With no effort to conceal. 2. Large elliptical brightly colored deep-sea fish of Atlantic and Pacific and Mediterranean.
- 3. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt. 4. (Levi's is a trademark) A popular brand of
- 5. A genus of Indriidae.
- 6. Stem of the rattan palm used for making canes and umbrella handles.
- 7. Water frozen in the solid state.
- 8. A woman religious.
- 9. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the
- United States.
- 10. Echo repeatedly, echo again and again. 11. A master's degree in fine arts. 12. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true
- stems and roots and leaves. 13. King of Saudi Arabia since 1982 (born in
- 1922). 14. An Indian nursemaid who looks after chil-
- 22. Agile long-tailed nocturnal African lemur with dense woolly fur and large eyes and
- 24. A white metallic element that burns with a
- brilliant light. 27. Experiencing or showing sorrow or unhap-
- piness. 28. A large number or amount.
- 29. 30 to 300 kilohertz.
- 31. A Buddhist who has attained nirvana. 33. Conqueror of Gaul and master of Italy
- (100-44 BC). 34. Female peafowl.
- 35. A member of the Siouan people formerly inhabiting the Black Hills of western South Dakota.
- 37. Any of various large keen-sighted diurnal birds of prey noted for their broad wings and strong soaring flight.
- 38. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
- 40. A crystalline rock that can be cut and polished for jewelry. 41. A genus of temperate and arctic evergreen
- trees (see spruce). 44. Common American weed or wildflower.
- 47. Brain corals.
- 50. (Norse mythology) Ruler of the Aesir. 52. Relation of mutual understanding or trust
- and agreement between people. 55. Type genus of the Alaudidae.
- 56. A unit of power equal to 746 watts.
- 60. The capital city of Vietnam.
- 62. Belonging to some prior time.
- 63. Any of numerous local fertility and nature
- deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples. 65. Acute lung injury characterized by cough-
- ing and rales. 67. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring
- on land.
- 68. The lean flesh of a fish that is often farmed. 69. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957). 71. A master's degree in education.
- 72. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 73. A drug combination found in some overthe-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).

#### Yesterday's Solution



#### **STAR TRACK**

#### Aries (March 21-April 19)

Self-discipline and a sense of self-worth become important issues in your life. A fear of asserting yourself can hold you back-as can coming on too strong. The trick is learning to make the most of your personal talents and abilities-working within your limitations instead of feeling hemmed in by them. Colors are brighter, images sharper, music more moving. Emotions run deep, especially with a loved one. Previously bland relationships could now border on love/hate. Intensity rules! You can control this, so enjoy each moment. You are alive and well-give someone else a helping hand today. When appropriate, encourage local businesses to display a kids welcome here sign. Create or help with a community theater group for kids.



#### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You have a sense that a secure foundation is essential to everything and you go about your day making sure your foundation is strong. This is a good time to lead the way on a project-at work or home. Your originality is unusually heightened. Your desire to succeed is strong, not only financially, but personally as well. Your enthusiasm is high and your creative juices are flowing-ready to be applied to the work at hand. If you give your best effort now, considerable success will follow. Harmony with friends and loved ones is in order. This afternoon may be a good time to socialize and enjoy those friends that bring you joy. Consider what you might do to improve relationships that may need work-positive energies are in your corner.



#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your ability to concentrate is strong-a good day to get things done. Good eye-hand coordination and a persistent effort make almost any task run well. Everyone's emotions are very present but within control. If you remember your priorities, it can be a very productive day. Reward and or penalties are given out as deserved. You can expect a little boost-some extra support or recognition from those around you. A little surprise mail or good news brings smiles all around. You will find that you are appreciated for your ability to act and follow through with projects. You may decide to take advantage of a little open time this afternoon to express your appreciation to loved ones. Your platonic relationships are fun and those friends may become like family.



#### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your mind feels like it is on a racetrack today. Activities are fast moving. Today is a great day for anything non-technical. If you need to meet a schedule or organize a party, this is the day for you; perhaps you will be teaching a new exercise or dance routine. You are on your feet and ready for whatever may come today. If it seems that things are moving too fast, step back for a bit. If you do not allow yourself a break from time to time, your talents could be of little value. Working with partners in an open, natural, creative environment brings good fortune. You will get many things accomplished. While you are with friends and family this evening, you could use your motivation constructively by encouraging someone else to take the lead.



#### Leo (July 23-August 22)

You need a career that is mentally stimulating and allows you to express your creative side. Now would be a good time to review and update your resume and give some thought to a job change or upgrade. This afternoon you are likely to reach out or attract a loved one. Try not to put undue strain on any personal relationship at this time. Avoid being extravagant. You have a passion that manifests itself in art. You show a great deal of interest in all family matters, particularly concerning the general living environment in the home. Further, you may wish to strengthen ties with the older generation by offering to run errands or by bringing them easy-to-heat food. You are on an even keel, content and focused to move forward. Also . . . This is a good time for travel.



#### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Now you can concentrate on practical matters. Your optimism is helpful in teaching yourself to grasp the big, grandiose picture; study. Do not forget, however, that the whole is made up of many parts. Each part must be considered and none can be missing or out of place. This is a good day for long-range planning. However, as usual, flexibility will keep things moving smoothly. Exercise caution in business dealings for this day. Consider the physical and the financial realm regarding business, so as to not get in over your head. Community activities at this time should be both well-attended and successful. The power of attraction and desire for love is great and you are wise to exercise caution before entering a new relationship that may come.

### WORD SEARCH

## John Wayne Movies

Find and circle all of the John Wayne movies that are hidden in the grid.

The remaining letters spell a John Wayne quotation.

В	Α	В	Υ	F	Α	C	E	Y	Α	W	S	М	R	Α	Н	Ν	1	L	Т	D	R
0	М	U	Ν	D	E	F	E	Α	Т	E	D	R	1	0	L	0	В	0	R	Α	0
Т	S	1	Т	0	0	Н	S	R	E	-1	Т	Ν	0	R	F	W	Е	Ν	Е	K	R
В	R	A	Ν	Ν	1	G	A	Ν	0	Z	1	R	Α	W	E	D	Ν	G	K	0	E
Q	0	Y	R	E	D	Ν	Α	R	G	0	1	R	R	A	L	L	Α	E	C	Т	U
C	S	R	E	T	Н	G	1	F	L	L	E	Н	0	R	D	R	М	S	A	A	Q
M	R	W	Н	L	0	P	C	R	R	E	Ν	S	S	W	0	0	Т	Т	P	D	N
J	E	Т	P	1	L	0	Т	A	E	1	W	Т	E	Α	R	W	E	D	R	Α	0
D	L	Н	Α	٧	W	A	Ν	E	G	V	A	L	E	G	Α	S	1	A	Α	W	C
E	1	Α	R	В	S	G	D	Н	S	G	1	Ν	E	0	D	U	U	Υ	Т	Ν	1
S	0	E	0	G	E	R	Т	0	E	E	D	E	S	Ν	0	C	Q	0	S	R	L
E	P	Υ	Н	F	R	R	E	C	0	M	Α	Ν	C	Н	Е	R	0	S	Α	1	L
R	S	1	Е	С	1	E	0	G	S	L	K	R	D	E	М	1	E	Т	Α	D	E
Т	Т	U	Т	D	Α	Α	E	E	1	С	В	R	C	0	D	C	А	R	R	E	E
Т	D	R	E	Т	C	P	Α	Ν	0	Т	Α	1	٧	Н	0	Н	Т	Т	E	R	Т
R	Υ	R	U	Н	S	С	Α	Т	В	W	G	Α	G	Ν	Е	Υ	Н	K	٧	С	S
Α	S	С	0	Е	Н	В	Ν	Т	Т	E	R	Ν	F	Т	L	R	Α	1	1	Н	E
1	Ν	Ν	0	Α	G	1	U	S	R	В	R	L	.1	E	R	J	S	G	R	1	U
L	D	F	S	0	L	R	E	R	0	0	1	E	Ν	Y	G	Α	R	0	D	S	L
0	М	E	Υ	С	Ν	W	1	1	G	C	F	0	Т	1	L	E	1	S	Е	U	В
Т	E	0	М	Α	L	Α	R	Т	T	Н	L	R	В	S	D	F	Α	L	R	М	Y

ALAMO, The ARIZONA BABY FACE BIG JAKE BIG TRAIL, The **BLOOD ALLEY** BLUE STEEL BRANNIGAN CHISUM CIRCUS WORLD COMANCHEROS, The CONFLICT CONQUEROR, The

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3

5

4

COWBOYS, The DAKOTA DAWN RIDER, The DECEIVER, The DESERT TRAIL, The EL DORADO FLYING TIGERS FORT APACHE GREEN BERETS, The HATARI HELL FIGHTERS HONDO IN HARMS WAY

LONELY TRAIL, The LONGEST DAY, The NEW FRONTIER NIGHT RIDERS, The PITTSBURGH QUIET MAN, The RANGE FEUD RED RIVER RIO BRAVO RIO GRANDE

SEA CHASE, The SEARCHERS, The STAGECOACH STAR PACKER, The TRUE GRIT TYCOON UNDEFEATED, The WAR WAGON, The WESTWARD HO

5

## **Libra (September 23-October 22)**

Optimism is easy to find today. Many projects come to your attentionrecognition is present. Your ideas gain a great deal of attention. This is a fine time to try out some new ideas or engage in some new business dealings or investments. Compromise should be exercised whenever possible. Mental stimulation from others is key for you right now and it's a good idea to make every effort to cooperate and compromise with others. At home this evening, it would be wise to try and foster a sense of togetherness and team play among family members. You should probably try hard at this time to squelch the desire to do everything by yourself. Insights into purchases for the family can be considered now, which may include a new car.



This is definitely a day to get many things done, especially if you are the leader. You tend to attract the people whose energy matches your own. Insight and clarity are successful leadership qualities in your favor. You are able to handle most any situation. If you are full of passion and enthusiasm by the end of the day you may want to become involved in an exercise program. It will help you to work off some of that excessive energy. You may find yourself working hard to make time for your family this week. This is a period of optimism and accomplishments. New projects get the green flag! You are coming into a period of greater than usual emphasis on emotional security, which is likely to manifest as settling down. Is it time to buy real estate?



#### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are happy to be with others and to work in groups today. You may be asked to complete a certain task or job. Your management and directional abilities are in high focus. It is important to stay focused and discourage co-workers from chatty, on-the-job interactions. You want to accomplish your work and be recognized for the quality of work that you provide. You encourage work breaks and you try to maintain the effort to enjoy visiting with co-workers during the break times. You truly desire fun and should not hesitate to get to know new people and form new acquaintances. Also, love is in full bloom and it is a good time to fully demonstrate the depth of affections to loved ones. There is a good balance in your life.

#### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a great day to sign contracts, conclude business deals or make plans. Your sharp mind will see all aspects from all angles. Any high-level mental pursuits should be rewarding and stimulating. Welcome all new ideas! There are new concepts that you are aware of and may find yourself talking about with co-workers. It is an excellent time to solicit the help of others, though it's important that you truly know the needs of your company or business before asking. You should take every opportunity to get outside and enjoy the natural world. Work will seem easier and you should feel more relaxed once you engage in some sort of health-related activity. You enjoy good relations with family members and a financial position is on the upswing.



#### Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

If ever there was a day to work with groups, this is it! Your acute sensitivity to other people's moods could enable you to fine-tune those moods as you would a violin. Your purchase power is to be envied. Of course, with your ability to socialize, you can create a great business transaction as well. Import, export or becoming a buyer for a company would not be an unusual option as a profession. Awareness of your monetary status is important and will help you have insight into the way you will want to invest. You must be practical in personal decisions about finances. You should love being around people today, especially those to whom you are emotionally attached-and possibly older friends with whom you can reminisce. Enjoy your companions this evening



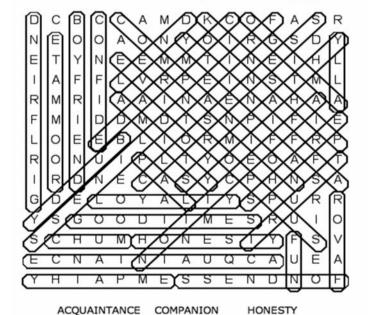
#### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a good time to work on a project type that is complicated or large. You might enjoy stepping back to adjust or create a plan. If you are working in a group to accomplish the end result, others will have their wisdom to impart. You should enjoy great headway later today as you and others struggle to complete this project. Changes in the workplace may include getting a new boss, new co-workers or making a move. Fame, recognition and creative arts are goals you have realized and will continue to enjoy this next year. As you talk about your goals you may enjoy the feedback that friends have to offer. You are help to someone today without even being aware of it. This evening friends and family want to help you celebrate.

#### **Yesterday Solution**

#### Friendship

This is the solution to the puzzle located here.



CLOSENESS **GOOD TIMES** TRUST The hidden message is: CAMARADERIE

COMRADE

CONFIDE

**EMPATHY** 

**FONDNESS** 

GIRLFRIEND

**FRIENDLINESS** 

**FAVOR** 

FUN

KINSHIP

LOYALTY

ROOMMATE

SUPPORTIVE

SYMPATHY

LEND

SHARE

PAL

**AFFECTION** 

**BOYFRIEND** 

**AFFINITY** 

ALLY

**AMIGO** 

**AMITY** 

BUDDY

CHUM

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			8			7	4
6		4					9
8	6				1	9	
							2
4	2				8	3	
				7		6	8
1			3				7

#### Yesterday's Solution 3 5 9 2 8 4 5 3 6 2 8 3 5 6 4 9 5 3 2 9 8 6 4 5 8 3 4 6 9 9 3 5 8 4 6 6 9 5 3 8 4 3 2 9 8 5 6 4 5 6 9

Sabah Hospital

**Amiri Hospital** 

**Chest Hospital** 

**Adan Hospital** 

**Ibn Sina Hospital** 

**Al-Razi Hospital** 

Kaizen center

Rawda

**Adaliya** 

**Khaldiya** 

Shamiya

Shuwaikh

Nuzha

Qadsiya

Dasmah

Shaab

Qibla

Mirqab

Sharq

Salmiya

Jabriya

Bayan

Mishref

Sabah

Jahra

**W Hawally** 

**New Jahra** 

**West Jahra** 

**South Jahra** 

**North Jahra** 

**North Jleeb** 

Ardhiya

**Firdous** 

**Omariya** 

N Khaitan

**Fintas** 

**Bneid Al-Gar** 

**Ayoun Al-Qibla** 

**Maidan Hawally** 

**Abdullah Salem** 

**Industrial Shuwaikh** 

Kaifan

**Physiotherapy Hospital** 

**Maternity Hospital** 

Farwaniya Hospital

**Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital** 



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:

**Hospitals** 

**Clinics** 

24812000

22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

24846000

24874330/9

25716707

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Soor Center

Tel: 2290-1677

Fax: 2290 1688

# Call MSAL hotline 128

#### **PHARMACIES** ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan	Fahaeel Makka St	23915883
	Abu Halaifa	Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd	23715414
	Danat Al-Sultan	Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1	24575518
	Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 92	24566622
Capital	Ahlam	Fahad Al-Salem St	22436184
	Khaldiya Coop	Khaldiya Coop	24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa	Farwaniya Block 40	24734000
	Ferdous Coop	Ferdous Coop	24881201
	Modern Safwan	Old Kheitan Block 11	24726638
Hawally	Tariq	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25726265
	Hana	Salmiya-Amman St	25647075
	Ikhlas	Hawally-Beirut St	22625999
	Hawally & Rawdha	Hawally & Rawdha Coop	22564549
	Ghadeer	Jabriya-Block 1A	25340559
	Kindy	Jabriya-Block 3B	25326554
	Ibn Al-Nafis	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25721264
	Mishrif Coop	Mishrif Coop	25380581
	Salwa Coop	Salwa Coop	25628241

## STATE OF KUWAIT

DAY: Monday

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

Issue Time 11:00

**Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours** 

22/02/2016

BY DAY: Partly cloudy to cloudy with moderate to fresh southerly to south easterly wind, with speed of 25 - 50 km/h

BY NIGHT: Cloudy to partly cloudy with moderate to fresh south easterly wind, with speed of 25 - 50 km/h causing raising dust with a chance for light rain

WEATHER WARNING		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	22 °C	20 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	28 °C	18 °C
ABDALY	28 °C	18 °C
BUBYAN	20 °C	18 °C
JAHRA	27 °C	17 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	23 °C	18 °C
SALMIYAH	20 °C	17 °C
AHMADI	21 °C	18 °C
JAL ALIYAH	27 °C	18 °C
QAROH ISLAND	22 °C	19 °C
UMM AL-MARADEM	22 °C	19 °C

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	4 DAYS FORECAST									
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DAY	DATE	WEATHER	MAX.	MIN.	Wind Direction	Wind Speed				
Tuesday	02/23	Cloudy + scattered rain	29 °C	18 °C	SE-NW	15 - 35 km/h				
Wednesday	02/24	Sunny + scattered clouds	25 °C	14 °C	NW	08 - 30 km/h				
Thursday	02/25	Sunny	26 °C	11 °C	NW	08 - 30 km/h				
Friday	02/26	Sunny	27 °C	12 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 28 km/h				

PRAYER TIMES					
Fajr	05:01				
Sunrise	06:20				
Zuhr	12:02				
Asr	15:16				
Sunset	17:42				
Isha	18:59				

All times are local time unless otherwise stated. UP.0

MAX. Temp.	26 °C
MIN. Temp.	11 °C
MAX. RH	71 %
MIN. RH	32 %
MAX. Wind	SE 46 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	00 mm



## **PRIVATE CLINICS**

Ophthainiologis	51.5
Dr. Abidallah 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
Ear, Nose & Throat	(ENT)
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Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
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Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
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Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awad	li 22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

**Psychologists** 

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surgeons							
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272						
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Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60						
Family Doctor							
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581						
Psychiatris	its						
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047						
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0						
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DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581						
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321						
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539						
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406						
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272						
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Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044						
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Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300						
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004						
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515						
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446						
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3						

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Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444				
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099				
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514				
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100				
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282				
Dermatolog	ıy				
Dr. Mohammed Salam					
Bern University	23845955				
Dentists					
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581				
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2				
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226				
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Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888				
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755				
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111				
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Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324				
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875				
Gastrologis	ts				
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464				
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030				
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135				

Kaizen center

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**Noor Clinic** 

23845955

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Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330	
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 2565888	88	
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 2532992	24	
Physiotherapist	s & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab 2572229	)1	
Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288	
Rheumatolog	ists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 2533006	60	
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290	
Internist, Chest &	& Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid		
MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC		
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology		
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667	
Consultant Cardi	iologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555	
MD, PH.D, FACC		
Inaya German Medical Center		
Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123		
Tax. 23/23 123		

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

# **INTERNATIONAL**



<b>INTERNAT</b> CALL			1
Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria Andorra	00213 00376	Macedonia Madagascar	00389
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Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
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Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
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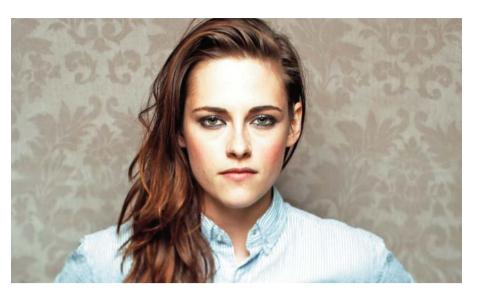
Gossip

# Stam celebrity's fake lives

■he 'Twilight' star has blasted her fellow because we wanna get distracted." The 25-yearactors who only worry about making money rather than have a passion for their job. She ranted: "People who are interested in selling a life as if it's a comic book story? It's just money, money, money, money. "It's just a distraction, and a lot of people make a lot of money on that,

old actress wishes she could let her hair down more and loves to channel her extra energy into dancing, envying those who don't care what others think about them. She added to AnOther magazine: "I danced the other night, and it felt so good. And it's so not like me. I envy people

like that so much. I'm pretty physical, but I really need to let myself go. Honestly, I just wish I could dance more. That's all. "I know when I meet someone, if we're gonna jive and dance. And I do not want to construct anything with anyone. I wanna dance."



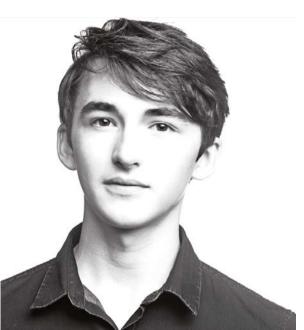
## Jourdan Dunn has 'new' mystery boyfriend

■he 25-year-old model - who has six-yearold son Riley from a past relationship doesn't want to give much away about her new romance but has vowed she doesn't want things to be made "complicated" by game playing. She told ES Magazine: "I'm seeing someone now but it's very, very brand new, so I don't want to say too much. It should be easy; it shouldn't be complicated or hard. I'm starting to realize that now - that if you want to text them, you just text them. All these games, aaargh! Why do we play them?" Jourdan - who was named Model of The Year for the second time at the British Fashion Awards last November - admits she feels "anxious" about her public persona and sometimes pretends to be someone else to avoid recognition. However, her young son quickly gives the game away. She said: "I didn't want to be horrible to [my fans] so I let them take the picture. You do feel this anxiety - that you have to be 'on' all the time. I've tried saying that I'm not Jourdan Dunn - I even say, 'Who is this Jourdan person?' but then Riley goes, 'IT'S YOU, MUMMY!" And the British beauty hates seeing herself being interviewed because of her "irritating" voice. She added: "I don't like watching myself speak. My voice is irritating...sometimes I think people are laughing at me rather than with me."

# Isaac Hempstead-Wright plans to release a single

■he 16-year-old actor may be famous for playing Bran Stark in 'Game of Thrones' but he has a number of other ambitions, including attending university. He said: "I always wanted to study physics. But now I'm not so sure. I really love music, and I'd maybe like to study music now." Asked if he will one day release a single, he added: "Yeah, maybe. I don't doubt you'll see a single from me." Isaac is making a return to 'Game of Thrones' after sitting out season five because his character's story arc had reached the point it is at in George R.R. Martin's novels, and the young actor admits it was a "shock to the system" when he got back on set. He told Loaded magazine: "It was a shame not being in season five, but it was the right time

for me to take a year out. "I hadn't done any acting in that whole year out, so it was quite a shock to the system to go back on a freezing cold film set. Once I was back into it, it was great fun." Though plot details for season six are being kept under wraps, Isaac has promised things will be "bigger and bigger and bigger" than ever. He said: "You'll see things in season six that have never guite made sense before - and now it will all start to tie up. "Stories all start to come together to make sense. I know we say this every season, but this series sees everything get bigger and bigger and bigger."



# Wilde thinks her attractive image as worn off else... Jennifer Lawrence is a great example

ne 31-year-old actress believes sexism is "not conscious" and people don't set out to be offensive, but she finds it frustrating that she and her fellow screen stars always seem to be assigned a label of identity. She told Net-a-Porter's The Edit: "Sexism is institutional. It's not conscious. People don't realize what they're saying, because you hear it from both men and women. "People are now saying, 'Listen, you need to hire women, specifically because they are women,' and although that's uncomfortable, it's how things change. "When I was younger, it felt like the main point was that [I was] one of the attractive actresses, and I felt totally minimized by it, as everyone does."But it's worn off, in a good way; I'm happy to have grown out of the place where that is the main point made about me." "Juno [Temple] has always been a total individual; she's never tried to look or behave like anyone

of brainy, feisty beauty. "The media always chooses one element of you to assign as your identity plaque: 'She's the mom, she's political, she's the one who is really pretty.' But we are all of those things." And Olivia who has son Otis, 22 months, with fiancÈ Jason Sudeikis - admitted she was left frustrated when her movie 'Meadowland' struggled to obtain funding until it had a male star attached to make it "real". She said: "Many people said, 'Come to us when the project is real.' I answered: 'The project is real: we have a director, we have an actor, we have a script, it's real.' And they said, 'No - when you get the guy attached.' Like we were just girls with a little project. "There's this sense that a project is incomplete if there's no male participation."



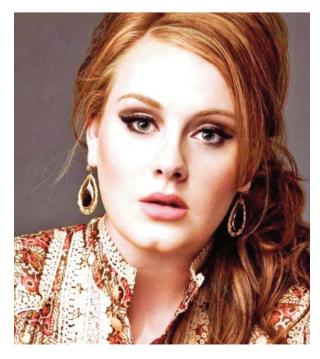
he 83-year-old musician-and-artist and her late husband John Lennon were good friends with Bowie and Yoko remained very close with the 'Heroes' singer in the wake of The Beatle's murder in 1980. Yoko was aware that David had been battling cancer but admits his passing in January at the age of 69 still shocked her and she, like many of his friends and family, are still trying to come to terms with his death. Speaking about David on the red carpet at the NME Awards in London she said: "It was terrible, it was such a shock, some of us knew that he was not well. Still when he actually went it's still a big empty space to fill." Yoko - who was honored with the Inspiration Award at the bash - also revealed she and John were always close with David because their shared a connection over their artistry. She told BANG

Showbiz: "We understood each other, he was great. David was such a happy person." Yoko previously described David as being "like family" to her and John and acted as a father figure to their Sean when the 'Imagine' songwriter was gone. She stated: "John and David respected each other. They were well matched in intellect and talent. As John and I had very few friends we felt David was as close as family. "When Sean was at boarding school in Switzerland, David would pick him up and take him on trips to museums and let Sean hang out at his recording studio in Geneva. For Sean this is losing another father figure. It will be hard for him, I know. But we have some sweet memories which will stay with us forever."



# Adele cried after her horrible Grammy performance

■he British star's rendition of 'All I Ask' at the Grammy's was beset with sound issues caused by a piano microphone falling onto the instrument's strings, which made an audible crash and knocked the piano out of tune, while there was also an issue with the volume levels fluctuating, and she admits she was very "embarrassed" afterwards. She said: "I was embarrassed. I woke up the next morning to people in England being like, 'We still love you, don't worry,' and I was like, 'I didn't ask you if you still loved me, but thanks.' "I was so embarrassed. I cried pretty much all day yesterday. "I kept like spontaneously bursting into tears yesterday. But it was alright. I was fine." But the 'Hello' singer insists she wasn't concerned about not hitting all the notes on the song as that is normal for her. She told talk show host Ellen DeGeneres in an interview: "I'm always a bit pitchy anyways - it's emotion. "When I'm flat and I'm sharp I'm just emotional." And Adele thinks the disaster has probably cured her of any future nerves because she doesn't think things could be any worse. She said: "I don't feel like it could go that much worse than the Grammy's, so I feel like I'm alright now. Anything that happens, dust it off! "If it wasn't live TV I would have busted a joke, but because it was, I couldn't make the disaster my own. "Next time I will. Next time I have any sound issues I am gonna stop I'll be like, 'Sorry that's not working for me.' If we have time to do it again, let's do it, otherwise, bye!"



# Swift praises Ed Sheeran for inspiring her

■he 'Bad Blood' hitmaker penned a heartfelt tribute to her friend on his 25th birthday and recalled how much she valued the way he always played her his new music first when they toured together in 2013. She wrote on Instagram: "Ed and I had been on tour together all year on the 'Red Tour' and we saw each other almost every day. I lived for the moments he would burst into my dressing room with a new song to play me. It happened so often that it became normal, and I don't think he ever knew how much it meant to me that he wanted me to hear his songs first."I don't think he ever knew how inspired I was by his drive and passion to constantly create new art. But it's his 25th birthday today, so I'm saying it now. "You deserve everything you have, and everything you will continue to achieve, Ed." And Taylor admitted one of the "highlights" of her life was when she heard Ed's track 'Thinking Out Loud' for the first time while out shopping in London. She



wrote: "Looking back on the highlights of my life, there's a moment I'll never forget from a day in London about two years ago. I was in town to play the O2 and I was out shopping on my day off. "My friend Ed Sheeran met up with me in this little shop where I was buying ballet shoes."He walks in and says, 'You have to hear this new song. I think it's the best one I've ever written.' "And then, as usual, he pulls out his phone and gives me

headphones. I sat there on a bench in that store and heard 'Thinking Out Loud' for the first time, as little kids were picking out tutus and leotards next to us. "Little did we know it would go on to be first dance song at countless weddings all over the world, become Ed's biggest hit, and eventually go on to win him Song of the Year at the 2016 Grammys."

# Women are suckers for bad boy appeal, says Muslim comic

hazia Mirza, who claims to be the world's first devoutly Muslim woman stand-up comic, is used to walking a very thin line. She made her name in Britain and the United States in the



aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks by starting her shows with the line, "My name is Shazia Mirza-at least that's what is says on my pilot's

But the writer and comedian is touching a still

rawer nerve in her new show "The Kardashians Made Me Do It", which asks why so many young Western Muslim girls choose to run away to join the Islamic State group.

At face value, her answer seems as problematic as the phenomenon itself. "Yes, they (IS fighters) may be barbaric... murderous psychopaths," she said. "But they are hairy, macho, they have guns and they're exciting... and that presses a lot of girls' buttons."

The West has got it all wrong on jihadi brides, she insisted. "This is not about radicalization, it's sexualisation," she told AFP ahead of a gig in Paris just down the street from one of the bars targeted by gunmen in November's jihadist attacks that left 130 dead. But for "the repressed, rebellious horny teenage Muslim girls" that fall for them, she claimed, this reality is lost in the fantasy world built around their longing for romance and adventure.

Mirza argued that for them IS fighters are a bad boy fantasy — "the One Direction of Islam", pin-ups who promise "no-guilt halal sex of which Allah approves". Mirza, who comes from a devout Pakistani family and was raised in Britain, knows more than most about where these teenagers are coming from. "Me and my friends were brought up in Birmingham the same way these girls were. If anything, our parents were stricter."

#### **Muslim Brad Pitts**

Up until now Mirza insisted her comedy was never "political. It was all observational. I just told

jokes." But after three London teenagers made headlines around the world last year when they skipped school to run away to join IS in Syria, she realized her comedy might "have something to

A former science teacher, she said she taught "hundreds of Bangladeshi girls just like them in a secondary school just down the road from theirs. "I was with a Bangladeshi friend when the news broke and we were both flabbergasted," she added. "But when we thought back to our 16-year-old selves we knew exactly why. Almost every Muslim woman I have talked knows this too, and I wondered why no one had just come out and said it.

"If some hot, hairy Muslim Brad Pitt had written to me at 15 and sent me pictures asking me to join him, it might have seemed like an exciting way out. But it would have been nothing to do with religion." So she wrote "The Kardashians Made Me Do It"-its title taken from one of the girl's shocked sisters, who told a British parliamentary inquiry that her missing sibling was more into celebrity culture than the Koran.

"I can't understand why she's gone," she told MPs, "she used to watch 'The Kardashians." Trying out the show around Britain, Mirza had found "lots of Muslims who never normally go to comedy" staying behind to say, "'You are so right." There have been reports since that IS deliberately uses good-looking young men, — the so-called jihotties-as part of its social media strategy to "groom" young female recruits.

#### Lure of unsuitable boys

At their age, these girls would have known "nothing about Islam", Mirza said. "I went to Koran classes every day after school... it takes years to get to the essence." Far from being radicalised, she is convinced they had sex on their minds rather than religion or to take revenge "on the West... That is such a joke. These girls are totally Western and British," she said, "and were only three when America invaded Iraq.

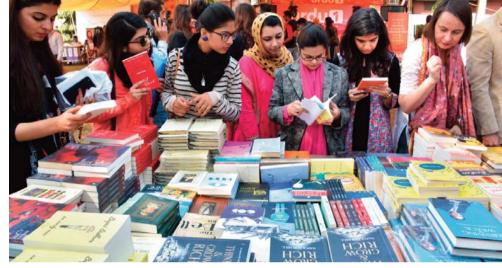
"What could be more British than driving your parents mad by running away with unsuitable boys?" Mirza added. "I was never allowed out of the house on my own, I didn't go on school trips, have white friends or was allowed to wear what I wanted," she said. But Muslim girls soon learn how to lead double lives.

"When we went out we left totally covered and then changed into miniskirts in the toilets. I dyed my hair pink once and kept it hidden from my mum under my headscarf," she added. Despite the November attack, Mirza is not worried about taking the show to La Java club in Paris on Wednesday. "It is important we talk honestly," she said. Muslims have to embrace comedy to help explain themselves, she said. "It is like with the Jews, or the Irish when they were seen as terrorists. When things get tough, you have to get funny." - AFP



Veteran Indian actress Sharmila Tagore speaking at the Lahore Literary Festival.





This photograph taken on February 20, 2016 shows Pakistani women browsing books at the Lahore Literary Festival in Lahore. — AFP photos

# Pakistan literary festivals tell tales of cultural revival

packed festivals attracting tens of thousands in a rock concert-like atmosphere that defies security threats in a growing cultural renaissance. Events such as the raucous festival. Lahore Literary Festival, held over the weekend, are reclaiming the 'cultural space' that has shrunk significantly in the conservative Muslim nation in recent years amid a raging Islamist insurgency.

The festivals-platforms for all forms of cultural expression, from architecture to film to food writing and feminism, as well as poetry and a recital by Central Asian musicians-are becoming a forum for exchange of liberal thought across the Muslim

#### Muslim stories

"It's great-one of the saddest things when you keep talking about Islam, the Muslims, the Ummah (the brotherhood of Muslim countries) is we don't know what their writers are, we don't know what their stories are," said Mohammed Hanif, whose internationally renowned 2008 novel "A Case of Exploding Mangoes" weaves a dark comedic narrative around

akistan's literary scene is seeing a spirited revival, with  $\;\;$  the death of dictator Zia ul Haq. "And there is very little that gets translated from these languages. So it's great to have Palestinian writers, Egyptian writers," he told AFP at the Lahore

> The event began with an interview with veteran Indian actress Sharmila Tagore, who received a standing ovation after discussing her storied career in Bengali and Bollywood cinema. She hailed the cross-pollination of artists across the two rival countries' borders as an important part of "cultural diplomacy".

Other top-billed speakers included outspoken Egyptian-American feminist Mona Eltahawy-whose vociferous denunciations of patriarchy and the politics of the hijab gave the festival some of its most energetic and controversial moments.

"When we talk about the Global South, when we talk about women of color, the issues that we talk about... it's very important for me to be able to come to Lahore and say, 'Look, the issues that I have written about in my book are very similar to issues in Pakistan that feminists are fighting over," she said. "I want to talk about how as Muslim women we are reduced to what's on our heads and what's in between our legs and I want to talk about the sexual revolution."

#### Pakistan opens its doors

Critics say successive Pakistani governments, influenced by the religious right, have done little to encourage artistic expression or have even curtailed it-including banning Lahore's spring kite-festival of Basant in 2007, which Islamists accuse of propagating Hindu thought. But overall levels of violence have fallen in the past two years as the army has stepped up its campaign in the Taliban's border tribal regions.

The Lahore festival's fourth edition glossed over a lastminute change of venue due to security fears and brought together writers and artists from across the region. It came hard on the heels of a similar festival in Karachi and ahead of one in Islamabad. Organizers estimated around 100,000 people attended in an almost Glastonbury-like atmosphere.

"The show must go on in spite of all the odds," the festival's CEO and founder Razi Ahmed said. "It's important to reflect to the wider world that we're not a country which is closing its doors but we're opening space that is going to allow us avenues for free thought and critical inquiry."

Pakistani authors have garnered increasing international attention in recent years, particularly those writing in English

like Hanif and Mohsin Hamid. His novel "The Reluctant Fundamentalist"-the fictional story of a disaffected Pakistani-American's journey towards extremism-became a hit film in

Closer to home are newer works like Saba Imtiaz's "Karachi, You're Killing Me!" about a tenacious reporter looking for love as she works her beat covering extremist attacks-a sort of Pakistani Bridget Jones. Despite the cultural revival, the Islamist insurgency that has racked the country for more than a decade is still underway.

But Lahore has long captured the imagination of writersfrom Britain's Rudyard Kipling to revolutionary poets like Habib Jalib. Festival founder Ahmed said he hoped it would continue to do so. "Lahore is a global site of ideas," he said. "We are trying to reclaim that." — AFP



A pair of French bulldogs go nose to nose at the Heart of America Kennel Club All Breed Dog Show in Kansas City.



A golden retriever looks over the half door entrance of the grooming room at Happy Paws in Washington.



A Labrador Retriever emerges from the water with a toy at Valley Falls Park in



Longtime Labrador retriever breeder Micki Beerman, left, and her wife, Linda Pensabene, give treats to some of the dogs they have bred, at their home in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

## 25th year as top US dog breed abrador retrievers still reign supreme after a quarter century as America's most prevalent purebred

■dog. But French bulldogs are riding their je ne sais quoi toward new heights, and some lesser-known breeds are climbing the popularity ladder, according to American Kennel Club rankings released Monday. Here's a look at how breeds stack up:

#### The top 10

Known for being easygoing, multitalented and friendly, Labs have held the top spot for longer than any other breed since the AKC started counting in the 1880s. Rounding out the top 10 for 2015, in order: German shepherds, golden retrievers, bulldogs, beagles, French bulldogs, Yorkshire terriers, poodles, Rottweilers and boxers.

So what to make of a list that includes both the toy Yorkie and the powerful Rottweiler? Americans "like easy-to-care-for, fun family dogs," whether that means big, strong animals that can protect their families or small pets with "big-dog personalities," says AKC Vice President Gina DiNardo.

#### **Gaining ground**

Labrador retrievers hit their

French bulldogs moved from No. 9 to No. 6 last year and became the predominant purebred in Miami and San Francisco, having already conquered New York City. The droll little bat-eared bulldogs last peaked at No. 6 during the 1910s. They weren't even top 50 as recently as 2002, but TV shows, movies and celebrity owners, including Martha Stewart, Hugh Jackman and Carrie Fisher, have helped spur their renaissance. Some other movers that aren't as visible, at least for now: the Cane Corso, an imposing Italian guard dog that rose from 47th in 2014 to 35th last year, and the Norwegian elkhound, a stalwart hunting dog that's up from 100th to 88th.

#### What's in a ranking?

The stats reflect puppies and other newly registered dogs; the AKC doesn't release raw numbers, only rankings. They don't include mixed-breed dogs (or hybrids such as Labradoodles and maltipoos that aren't AKC-recognized breeds). Some animal-rights advocates feel the pursuit of purebreds fuels puppy

mills and makes it harder to find homes for mixedbreeds in shelters. The AKC says breed characteristics help people find the right dog to give a permanent

#### Who the rarest of them all?

The English foxhound is the rarest of the AKC's 184 recognized breeds. And most of us aren't likely to run into a harrier, a Norwegian Lundehund, an American foxhound or an otterhound any time soon. Popularity rises and falls on many factors, and trends can be self-perpetuating - the scarcer the breed, the fewer the puppies, and vice versa, DiNardo notes. She encourages would-be dog owners to consider both rare and familiar ones. "You may want to be one of those people who helps protect and preserve a breed," she said. — AP



In this Jan 30, 2016 file photo, Laura Prepon, center, and the cast and crew of "Orange is the New Black" accept the award for outstanding ensemble in a comedy series at the 22nd annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium & Expo Hall in Los Angeles. — AP photos



This image released by ABC, Ken Jeong, from left, Tisha Campbell-Martin, Kate Simses and Jonathan Slavin appear in a scene from "Dr. Kenî.

# Damning study finds a 'whitewashed' Hollywood

n one of the most exhaustive and damning reports on diversity in Hollywood, a new study finds that the films and television produced by major media companies are "whitewashed," and that an "epidemic of invisibility" runs top to bottom through the industry for women, minorities and LGBT people.

A study to be released Monday by the Media, Diversity and Social Change Initiative at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism offers one of the most wide-ranging examinations of the film and television industries, including a pointed "inclusivity index" of 10 major media companies - from Disney to Netflix - that gives a failing grade to every movie studio and most TV makers.

Coming just days before an Academy Awards where a second straight year of all-white acting nominees has enflamed an industry-wide crisis, the report offers a new barrage of sobering statistics that further evidence a deep discrepancy between Hollywood and the American population it entertains, in gender, race and ethnicity.

"The prequel to OscarsSoWhite is HollywoodSoWhite," said Stacy L. Smith, a USC professor and one of the study's authors, in an interview. "We don't have a diversity problem. We have an inclusion crisis." The study, titled the Comprehensive Annenberg Report on Diversity, examined the 109 films released by major studios (including art-house divisions) in 2014 and 305 scripted, first-run TV and digital series across 31 networks and streaming services that aired from September 2014 to August 2015.

More than 11,000 speaking characters were analyzed for gender, racial and ethnic representation and LGBT status. Some 10,000 directors, writers and show creators were examined, as was the gender of more than 1,500 executives.

The portrait is one of pervasive underrepresentation, no matter the media platform, from CEOs to minor characters. "Overall, the landscape of media content is still largely whitewashed," the study concludes. In the 414 studied films and series, only a third of speaking characters were female, and only 28.3 percent were from minority groups - about 10 percent less than the makeup of the U.S. population. Characters 40 years or older skew heavily male across film and TV: 74.3



Ava DuVernay poses at the Palm Springs International Film Festival opening night screening of "Selma," at Palm Springs High School, in Palm Springs.

percent male to 25.7 percent female.

Just 2 percent of speaking characters were LGBT-identified. Among the 11,306 speaking characters studied, only seven were transgendered (and four were from the same series). "When we start to step back to see this larger ecology, I think we see a picture of exclusion," said Smith. "And it doesn't match the norms of the population of the United States."

#### Worse behind the camera

Behind the camera, the discrepancy is even greater. Directors overall were 87 percent white. Broadcast TV directors (90.4 percent white) were the least diverse. Just 15.2 percent of directors, 28.9 percent of writers and 22.6 percent of series creators were female. In film, the gender gap is greatest: Only 3.4 percent of the films studied were directed by women, and only two directors out of the 109 were black women: Ava DuVernay ("Selma") and Amma Asante ("Belle").

Following a request made in May by the American Civil Liberties Union (which cited previous USC studies, as well as those by UCLA and the Directors Guild in claiming women have been "systematically excluded" from directing jobs), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission last year began investigating gender discrimination in Hollywood.

The federal investigation is just one element of growing scrutiny for the industry. But for protesters, finding a target for what some consider a systematic problem isn't easy. Even many of those, like Spike Lee, who have criticized the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, have insisted the issue goes far deeper than Oscar nominees. When academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs recently announced dramatic steps to diversify the overwhelmingly white and male film academy, she said: "The academy is going to lead, and not wait for the industry to catch up."

USC's study, which the school has been publishing in various forms for the last 10 years, also seeks to add a new metric in the conversation. The "inclusivity index" is a report card for the performances of 21st Century Fox, CBS, NBC Universal, Sony, the Walt Disney Co., Time Warner, Viacom, Amazon, Hulu and Netflix. Those companies encompass all the broadcast networks, most major cable channels, all of the major movie studios and three of the dominant streaming services.

Each was rated by their percentage of female, minority and LGBT characters; and of female writers and directors. None of the six major studios rated better than 20 percent overall; Time Warner fared poorest of all with a score of zero. The report concludes that the film industry "still functions as a straight, white, boy's club." Disney, Sony, Paramount, Fox, Universal and Warner Bros. didn't immediate comment Sunday night.

#### Impervious to change

Some of the same companies, however, scored better when their TV and digital offerings were evaluated. Disney, the CW Amazon and Hulu all scored 65 percent and above "When we turn to see where the problem is better or worse, the apex to this whole endeavor is: Everyone in film is failing, all of the companies investigated," said Smith. "They're impervious to change. But there are pockets of promise in television. There is a focus that change is possible. The very companies that are inclusive - Disney, CW, Hulu, Amazon to some degree - those companies, if they're producing and distributing motion pictures, can do this. We now have evidence that they can, and they can thrive."

USC researchers also, for the first time, added analysis of those 10 companies' executives. Researches didn't have racial or ethnic background information, but found that women represent about 20 percent of corporate boards, chief executives and executive management teams.

"As prestige or power of the title increases, we see fewer women at the top," said Katherine Pieper, who co-authored the study with Smith and Marc Choueiti. "Film still has a prestige to it, so we see fewer women filling those positions." The research offers the chance for comparison between mediums. Do streaming services adhere to the established patterns of traditional television or deviate from them?

In some cases, they do, but in many, they don't. Netflix (20 percent on the inclusion index) scored about the same as NBC Universal, CBS and Fox. There were far fewer female directors working in digital series (11.8 percent) than in broadcast (17.1 percent), in the shows studied. Broadcast, cable and steaming series also all revel in sexualized female characters and nudity more than movies do.

But some of the study's most troubling finds are simply absences. Roughly 50 percent of the examined content didn't feature one Asian or Asian-American character; 20 percent didn't include one black character. Researchers argue for change beyond "tokenism," including making target goals public and creating a system of checks and balances in storytelling decisions. "People are still erased. It's 2016 and it's time for a change," said Smith. "We've laid out concrete actionable steps because we don't want to do this again in 10 years." — AP



This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Geza Rohrig in a scene from "Son of

## Plunging into hell of Auschwitz: 'Son of Saul' remains stunning

■he power and horror of "Son of Saul," a visceral plunge into the life of a Sonderkommando at Auschwitz-Birkenau, has left audiences staggering since it first debuted at the Cannes Film Festival last May.

It won the Grand Prix there, earned the praise of "Shoah" director Claude Landzmann and announced its maker and co-writer, the 38year-old Hungarian-born Laszlo Nemes, as an uncommonly assured first-time feature filmmaker. Now, Nemes' work is a top contender for best foreign language film at Sunday's Academy

The film follows a Sonderkommando (a Jewish prisoner forced to work at the camp), played by Geza Rohrig, who believes he sees his son among the exterminated and seeks to smuggle the body in order to give him a religious burial. "By making a portrait of a man in the midst of hell, we give the measure of humanity," says Nemes. "To see whether there can be humanity beyond inhumanity. There's nothing left. Can there still be an inner God?"

It's not for the faint of heart. "Son of Saul," the favorite to win the best foreign language film at the Academy Awards, is a deliberate rejection of less severe Holocaust films. It's a harrowing depiction of concentration camps' machinery in action. "I'm interested in evil," Nemes said in an interview earlier this fall. "A sort of evil that cannot be understood at a glance or represented. Exactly the contrary of our representation of evil in a modern world, especially in cinema."

#### Widespread acclaim

Shot on 35mm film, "Son of Saul" stitches together lengthy tracking shots that stay close to Rohrig's Saul. Much of the camp's surrounding activity is blurry in the background \_\_ a second layer of action that required its own director. The film never depicts the gas chamber, but

sits right outside the door. Nemes, who has ancestors who were killed at Auschwitz, wanted to make a film that reminded viewers of the reality of the Holocaust. While the film has been met by widespread acclaim, it has also drawn skepticism in some quarters for its blend of historical atrocity and a technically cunning filmmaking that, in staying with Saul over a day and a half, bares no context of the Holocaust.

"Is that the place for a thriller? Was there suspense inside Auschwitz?" asked Film Comment in a critical review. New York Times film critic Manohla Dargis called it "a radically dehistoricized, intellectually repellent movie."

Nemes confidently brushes aside any such criticisms. "She must feel alone," he says of Dargis, alluding to broader positive reaction. "The only thing I know is that by making this film, I tried to give the dignity back to the dead and the dying," says Nemes. "I don't think I ever lost from my aim the fact that I was speaking about the destruction of the European Jews. It's in my blood. I will leave a trace for my family that were scattered into the Polish rivers."

It took Nemes six years to make "Son of Saul," which began to form for him when he read personal testimonies Sonderkommandos from Auschwitz. "I always wondered what it would be to go from the train to the gas chamber," he says, "what this dusty road looks like when you're there."

Nemes, who moved to France with his mother at age 12, worked up to "Son of Saul" with a two-year apprenticeship with the existential Hungarian filmmaker Bela Tarr. After failing to find financing in France and Israel, Nemes made the film with a minuscule budget of about \$1.5 million, with support from the Hungarian National Film Fund and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.—AP

## **'Deadpool'** dominates again with \$55 million in 2nd week

arvel's R-rated antihero smash "Deadpool" continued to dominate movie theaters over the weekend, earning an estimated \$55 million and trouncing a trio of newcomers.

After pulling in a massive \$152.2 million in its President's Day weekend four-day debut, the comic book adaptation from 20th Century Fox starring Ryan Reynolds as a foulmouthed mercenary again topped the North American box office. Having already grossed \$235.4 million domestically, "Deadpool" - made for just \$58 million - is poised to become one of the most successful R-rated movies ever. Globally, the film - now certain to spawn a franchise of its own - has made \$491.1 million

Among new releases, the faithbased drama "Risen" debuted with \$11.8 million. The film, in which Joseph Fiennes plays a Roman soldier investigating the death and resurrection of Jesus, was made for about \$20 million by Sony's Affirm label, which targets evangelical Christian movie-

A24's critically acclaimed Puritan thriller "The Witch" opened with \$8.7 million, marking the biggest opening of the indie label behind the Oscarnominated drama "Room." A24 celebrated Robert Eggers' directorial debut - an austere 1600s horror film, rigorously authentic to the period as not only the company's biggest weekend in its three-year history, but one that put "The Witch" on course to be "the most successful film of all time with a goat in a starring role." It may have been too art house for some horror fans, though, as "The Witch" received a poor C-minus

CinemaScore from audiences.

The Jesse Owens biopic from Focus Features, "Race," struggled to find its footing with \$7.3 million. Directed by Stephen Hopkins, "Race" stars Stephan James as the Olympic sprinter. Edging out the three debuts was Fox's "Kung Fu Panda 3," which made \$12.5 million in its fourth weekend. The animated sequel, which has made \$117.1 million in total, will lose its near-exclusive window of family moviegoing next weekend when Disney's "Zootopia" opens. That film has already begun its overseas rollout, where it made \$31.2 million from 22 territories over the weekend. — AP



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Ryan Reyonlds in a scene from "Deadpool." — AP



US actor Leonardo DiCaprio (R) poses with the award for a leading actor and Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (L) with his award for a director both for the film 'The Revenant' which won the award for best film at the BAFTA British Academy Film Awards at the Royal Opera House in London. — AFP

## From heartthrob to heavyweight. Leo DiCaprio is Oscar-bound

season with no clear favorite in the Oscars best picture race, there is one sure bet - Leonardo DiCaprio, one of the world's biggest celebrities, will finally take home the best actor statuette on Sunday.

DiCaprio's fifth acting Oscar nomination, for his role as a fur trapper bent on revenge in "The Revenant," will prove the charm, awards pundits say, and crown the actor's transformation from teen heartthrob to Hollywood heavy-

"There are cases when a particular actor is seen as overdue, and this year it's definitely Leonardo DiCaprio," said Dave Karger, chief correspondent of movie website Fandango. "What is great is that he is going to win for the right performance," Karger said.

Twenty years after his first Oscar nomination as a blue-eyed teen in 'What's Eating Gilbert Grape,' DiCaprio, 41, has swept every major prize in the long Hollywood awards calendar for his role as taciturn Hugh Glass, who is left for dead in the wilderness after being mauled by a bear. The actor carries the twoand-a-half hour film, which was shot in sub-zero temperatures over seven months, despite barely speaking after the bear rips out his character's throat.

"He's really good in the film. It's

n a rollercoaster movie awards not like a throwaway award because of his career. I would be really stunned if he doesn't win," said Variety reporter Tim Gray. DiCaprio has tried for years to shake off his image as the young man who sent women swooning in the 1990s with "Titanic" and "Romeo + Juliet," even as he partied on yachts with a string of super-

model girlfriends. In "The Revenant", the swaggering star of "The Wolf of Wall Street" and the smooth charmer of "The Great Gatsby" are barely recognizable under a greasy mane, straggly beard and frostbitten face. Ironically, his very appearance may have boosted his Oscar prospects. "What's in Leo's favor this year is that he uglifies himself on screen. He grows a scruffy beard, he rolls in the mud, he desperately needs a bath," said Tom O'Neil, founder of awards tracker Goldderby.com.

Despite the widespread critical acclaim, DiCaprio has taken no chances, playing an unusually active part in the hand-shaking, smiling marathon that plays out in restaurants, TV studios and on red carpets during awards season. "He's a notoriously reclusive star who is suddenly very available," said O'Neil. — Reuters











Models present the creations of Burberry Prorsum at the Autumn / Winter 2016 London Fashion Week. — AP/AFP photos

# McQueen returns with sheer evening gowns

ozens of designers showcased their latest creations Sunday at London Fashion Week, from retail giant Topshop and leather goods brand Mulberry to British design's grand dame Vivienne Westwood and Alexander McQueen, which made a highly-anticipated return from Paris to the hometown of its late designer. Some highlights from Day 3 of London Fashion Week:

#### McQueen returns to London

The Alexander McQueen brand is back on the runways of London, the birthplace and hometown beloved of its late designer. For the first time in more than a decade, the label, now headed by designer Sarah Burton, moved its womens wear display from its usual home in Paris to London Fashion Week. Sunday evening's showcase opened with a series of tough black leather ensembles embroidered with large shimmering butterflies, lip motifs and stopwatches - as if Alice in Wonderland was playing dress up.

Then came sharply tailored cream-and-black tuxedo jackets, and black feather skirts layered over flared trousers. That was followed by a flurry of barely-there lingerie and boudoir-inspired dresses: Frilly numbers with daring cutouts at the chest, slips with sheer-tiered skirts, corsets worn over delicate pieces. Burton dialled up the decadence for the show's last section, sending models out in the sheerest evening gowns and capes dripping with sparkly crystals and dazzling embroidery. Luxurious fur-trimmed capes completed the look, and the last outfit - a feather concoction of a gown - was pure glamor.

#### Elegance on display at Westwood

Only the much-celebrated Vivienne Westwood, it seems, could pack a large fashion venue with a wildly appreciative crowd even though the invitation warns that humans face mass extinction if they don't move to a green-based economy. It's politics and fashion as usual for Westwood, who has been sounding the alarm about climate change for many years, using her fashion shows as a springboard for her political concerns. Westwood's politics may be apocalyptic but her clothes are pure fun, and her makeup artists, hair stylists and accessories gurus add a warm, playful touch, including a number of burgundy porkpie hats.

The show Sunday had no single theme, leaning more toward a greatest hits collection. There were slouchy dresses and loose fitting jackets that gave their models an androgynous, Charlie Chaplin look. Other jackets looked like comfortable duvets. To top it off there were magnificent evening gowns, including one showstopper with a silver metallic glint at the top and a flouncy billowing look at the bottom.

It was another triumph for Westwood, who emerged with her models to loud applause.

#### Heavy metal at Mulberry

British fashion house Mulberry has given its famous handbags a heavy metal makeover, adding rivets and chains as part of a Shakespearean-themed collection at London Fashion Week. Structure was the byword at Sunday's show, with buttons, exposed stitching, shoulder-to-ankle slits and strong lines dominating the collection. Tudor-style frills and ruffs - as well as a dark, sparkly coat that shone like a moonless night - added a much-needed element of mystery.

This being Mulberry, all eyes were on the company's trademark handbags, accessories whose appeal has faded a bit of late. New designer Johnny Coca appeared to be banking on his customers having some powerful

biceps. Although some Mulberry bags were small and minimal, with an unfinished look unlikely to get much attention beyond the fashion set, others were rectangular or severe-looking, with large chunky chains that might have seen better use as bicycle locks.

The metal wasn't too much for Canadian designer Amber Hickson, who watched the show from a stand set up in London's medieval Guildhall. These bags "are for women who want to make a statement," she said. "They can hear you coming."

#### Topshop Unique's funky boots

Fur-trimmed biker jackets, super miniskirts, slinky little party dresses: Topshop Unique delivered all the hallmarks of its youthful, cool girl look. But the main lesson for shoppers may be this: It's time to invest in a pair of funky '70s disco boots. Unlike the ubiquitous ankle boot, these are pointy, go up to the calves and come in eye-catching materials and colors like yellow velvet, bronze or white leather. Combined with grungy big hair and bright pink lipstick, the models look ready for a hell-raising night out on the town.

As for the clothes, it's all about being chic in a non-chalant, seemingly thrown-together way. So a mustard outfit in fluid fabrics is worn layered with an oversized granny jumper, and a leopard print top and sheer fuchsia lace skirt get covered up by a slouchy big coat. The evening wear looked particularly flattering and included a black velvet wide-leg trouser ensemble and floaty, slip-like black gowns with a thigh-high slit and matching velvet collar. - AP











Models present the creations of Alexander McQueen at the Autumn / Winter 2016 London Fashion Week in London.



Model feebee poses as part of art installation 'Dazzle room' made by artist Shigeki Matsuyama at Room 32 fashion and design exhibition in TokyoMatsuyama's installation features a strong contrast of black and white, which he learned from dazzle camouflage used mainly in World War I in Tokyo. — AP

# Iraqi artist imagines life in a bomb suit

lacksquare he man in the bulky bomb disposal suit waved at a gaggle of awed children as he walked down a Baghdad street and sat outside a small cafe to drink tea. But there was no bomb to defuse on Rasheed Street that day, and no armor inside the black suit to protect him from explosives.

Iraqi artist Hussein Adil designed the mock bomb suitcomplete with huge helmet and visor-himself for this performance. "We had to make this one because there aren't many bomb suits in Iraq," he said. "We have to be one of the countries in the world that needs them the most."

Adil, a wispy 20-year-old with a wild head of tight curly hair, is one of an ever growing number of Iraqi artists looking for new ways of tackling the violence they grew up with. The inspiration for his "bomb suit happening" was the death last year in a suicide car bombing of his close friend Ammar Al-Shahbander, a much-loved journalist.

Adil, Shahbander and two other friends were heading to a cafe to drink tea in Baghdad's Karrada district when an important call came in on his mobile phone. "I told them to go ahead, that I would follow them in five minutes," Adil said. He heard an explosion moments later. After searching for them for hours, he found one of his friends with a head injury in hospital and was told that Shahbander had been killed.

Two weeks later, he dreamt that a bomb would go off near a square in central Baghdad and, after waking up, immediately called his friends and his father to tell them. An explosion rocked the exact spot later that day. "My friends called me to ask me how I knew, it was a very strange thing," he said, adding it was then that he started looking for ways to express his angst through art.

#### Deep trauma remains

Baghdad has been rocked by hundreds of car bombs over the years, sometimes several in a day during periods when



Adil (left) helps to prepare an Iraqi youth put on a mock bomb suit he designed before doing a public performance in the streets.

violence peaked. Those blasts and other attacks have killed

tens of thousands of civilians and left many residents with

deep trauma that remains when violence ebbs, as is the case

friend Muslim would go about normal daily activities in

Baghdad wearing a bomb suit. "I thought, why isn't there

some kind of outfit that can protect us? Other approaches

produced no results so I looked at individual solutions," Adil

said. The decrepit charm of the once glorious Rasheed Street's

ornate arcades and derelict theatres provides an odd back-

drop for the dark figure casually walking in full mock ord-

Adil thought of a simple performance, during which his

now in the city.

nance disposal gear. As they saw Muslim trudging along, arms asway and head ensconced in a massive ballistic collar, some passers-by seemed alarmed or amused. Others barely turned their heads to look. "I suppose they have their reasons for doing this kind of art, but personally I don't see what it's going to change about what our country is going through," said Abu

rushed through his mind.

Iraqi artist Hussein Adil, sits in a cafe during a public performance.

Ibrahim, a local shop owner. Followed by his friend Adil, Muslim walked into buildings to chat with people, ordered tea at a cafe and inquired about prices at a tailor's shop. After two people helped him out of his bomb suit, Muslim spoke of the many thoughts that

"I knew it wasn't a real suit... but at one point I actually felt it was protecting me and started imagining all the things I could do," he said. "I could feel people looking at me. Some were laughing, some were perplexed and others looked like they wanted to try it on." Adil will repeat the performance in various locations of the capital and wrap up his experiment with a photo exhibit. "I wanted to show the public what we have come to... and plant this question in their heads: what if we all looked like this?" — AFP





