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JAMADA ALAWWAL 17, 1437 AH

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## NOTICE TO OUR READERS

On the occasion of the national holidays, Kuwait Times offices will be closed on Feb 25 and 26, 2016. Our next issue will be published on Sunday, Feb 28, 2016. Happy National and Liberation Days to our readers!



Kuwait Times

Mabrook Ya Kuwait

National and Liberation Days

February 25 &amp; 26



## KUWAIT, QATAR URGE THEIR CITIZENS TO LEAVE LEBANON

### YEMEN GOVT SAYS HEZBOLLAH BACKING HOUTHJI REBELS



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## INTERIOR MINISTER CALLS FOR VIGILANCE, SAFETY

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday affirmed necessity of vigilance and readiness for protecting the homeland and the people, so Kuwait can proceed on the march toward further progress and prosperity, under the guidance of the sagacious leadership.

According to a ministry statement, Sheikh Mohammad made the statement while inspecting a security checkpoint on Arabian Gulf Road, on the occasion of celebrating the national days and HH the Amir's proclamation. He congratulated the officers and personnel on the occasions and conveyed greetings by HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and HH the Premier.

He urged the personnel do their best to accommodate citizens and residents, with particular consideration to those of special needs. He urged for a literal execution of the security plan during the celebrations and praised the personnel for their special efforts. The minister was briefed by the officers about deployment of personnel and alternate plans to cope with traffic congestions. He also met a number of citizens who expressed gratitude to the security personnel. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah inspects a security checkpoint on Arabian Gulf Road yesterday as Kuwait prepares to celebrate the national holidays. — KUNA

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait and Qatar yesterday became the latest Gulf states to urge their citizens to leave Lebanon due to tensions over the pro-Iranian Lebanese group Hezbollah, which backs the Damascus regime. In a statement cited by the official KUNA news agency, the Kuwaiti embassy in Beirut advised Kuwaitis to postpone any planned travel to Lebanon. The mission said all citizens should leave "except in extreme circumstances," and advised those who stay to exercise caution and avoid unspecified, unsafe areas.

Late yesterday, Doha's foreign ministry, in a statement on the official Qatar News Agency (QNA), also called on citizens in Lebanon to "leave for their own safety" and said no Qatari nationals should travel there. Qatar and Kuwait join Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in issuing travel warnings for Lebanon.

Riyadh, which supports the Syrian opposition, has also halted a \$4-billion military and police funding program for Beirut in response to what it said were "hostile" positions linked to Hezbollah. The Saudi decision came after the Lebanese foreign minister, Gibran Bassil, an ally of Hezbollah, declined to support Saudi resolutions against Iran during two meetings of Arab and Muslim foreign ministers.

Yesterday, pro-Saudi politicians and other well-wishers flocked to the Saudi Embassy in Beirut to express solidarity with Saudi Arabia. Riyadh's ambassador to Lebanon, Ali Awad Assiri, said that Lebanon must apologize for failing to join other Arab nations in condemning attacks on Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran last month.

Continued on Page 13

## 23 KILLED IN NEPAL PLANE CRASH

### KUWAITI AMONG DEAD • AMIR SENDS CONDOLENCES

## News

in brief

#### Kuwait likely ruled out of FIFA election

**ZURICH:** Indonesia and Kuwait, both suspended from international football, should be barred from voting in FIFA's presidential election, the executive committee of world football's governing body said yesterday. The call made it highly unlikely that the two nations will cast ballots at tomorrow's congress to choose a new leader of global football, in what could be a blow to leading candidate Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa. Sheikh Salman, a royal from Bahrain, heads the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), which includes Indonesia and Kuwait. Any country can call at the congress for further debate on either Indonesia or Kuwait, but it is unlikely that will lead to reinstatement.

#### Gulf railway opening date not realistic: UAE

**DUBAI:** A 2018 target to open a transnational rail network in the Arabian peninsula is unrealistic and the six Gulf countries will meet in Riyadh next month to discuss a more plausible launch date, the UAE's infrastructure minister said yesterday. The 2,100-km passenger and cargo railway would run from Kuwait down the Gulf coast and through the United Arab Emirates to Oman, with lines connecting to Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia's interior and Red Sea coast. The project, estimated at \$30 billion in a 2011 report by consultants Frost and Sullivan, has suffered from technical and bureaucratic delays since its announcement last decade.

#### Nepal plane crash

A small plane flying in poor visibility crashed in the Nepal mountains on Wednesday, killing all 23 people on board.



SOURCE: Maps4News

**KATHMANDU:** Rescuers have found the burnt-out wreckage of a passenger plane that crashed into a mountainside in Nepal yesterday, killing all 23 people on board, officials said. A Kuwaiti citizen and a Chinese national were among the dead. The Twin Otter turboprop aircraft lost contact with air traffic control eight minutes after taking off from the tourist town of Pokhara early yesterday. The army had deployed helicopters and foot soldiers to search Myagdi, a mountainous district around 220 km west of Kathmandu, after locals reported seeing possible wreckage of the Tara Air plane.

Chief district officer Sagar Mani Pathak said there was "no possibility of survivors from the crash", the latest in a series of fatal aviation accidents in the impoverished Himalayan nation. "A small team has reached the crash site for an initial investigation," said Pathak. "It looks like the plane crashed into the hillside. The wreckage was still in flames when the team arrived and the bodies were scattered."

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences yesterday to Nepalese President Bidhya Devi Bhandari on the tragic accident. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

The airline said the plane was carrying three crew and 20 passengers, one a Chinese and one a Kuwaiti. All the others were from Nepal and two of them were children.

Continued on Page 13



**NEW YORK:** In this Feb 18, 2016 photo, Julie Zhuo, product design director at Facebook, demonstrates the new emoji-like stickers customers will be able to press in addition to the 'Like' button. — AP

## WOW, LOVE: FACEBOOK EXPANDS 'LIKE' FEATURE

**WASHINGTON:** Feeling outraged, tickled or touched by something you spotted on Facebook? Now you can say so, after the social media giant added five new reactions to its basic "like" button. "Like, love, haha, wow, sad or angry" — the expanded "Reactions" feature rolled out globally yesterday is designed to let users express a range of emotions.

Facebook had been testing ways to add to the "Like" button faced with complaints that it was sometimes inappropriate, especially in cases of tragic events. "We've been

listening to people and know that there should be more ways to easily and quickly express how something you see in News Feed makes you feel," said product manager Sammi Krug in a blog post. "That's why today we are launching Reactions, an extension of the Like button, to give you more ways to share your reaction to a post in a quick and easy way."

The familiar "Like" button with a thumbs-up image will still be there, alongside the new emoticon icons.

Continued on Page 13

## DUBAI AIRPORT OPENS EXTENSION

**DUBAI:** Dubai International, already the world's busiest airport by international passenger traffic, opened a new extension yesterday that will raise its annual capacity to 90 million passengers. The opening of Concourse D is the "result of a \$1.2 billion investment to enhance service and boost capacity for the more than 70 international airlines," Dubai Airports said in a statement. British Airways was the first airline to use the new concourse, connected by train to Terminal 1.

"Today we also announce our 2016 forecast which projects 85 million passengers will visit Dubai International this year," said Dubai Airports CEO Paul Griffiths. Dubai International said it remained the world's busiest airport for international travel in 2015 with more than 78 million passengers passing through. Dubai first announced it had overtaken Britain's Heathrow as



**DUBAI:** This image shows a new extension of Dubai airport, Concourse D, that would raise the annual capacity of the world's busiest airport for international travel from 74 to 90 million passengers. — AFP

the world's busiest airport for international passengers last year, after 70.4 million international travellers passed through in 2014.

Situated on transcontinental air routes, Dubai is one of several Gulf-based airports to experience prodigious growth in recent years. Around

100 airlines fly to more than 240 destinations from the international hub, which is also home to carrier Emirates. Dubai's second airport, Al-Maktoum International, opened in 2013 and will be capable of receiving 120 million passengers a year once fully operational. — AFP

## TEHRAN TO PAY FAMILIES OF PALESTINIANS KILLED

### ISRAEL: IRAN BUILDING TERROR NETWORK

**BEIRUT/NICOSIA:** Iran will pay thousands of dollars to families of Palestinians killed in a wave of anti-Israeli protests and violence, or whose homes have been demolished by Israel, Tehran's ambassador to Lebanon said yesterday. Scores of Palestinians and dozens of Israelis have been killed in five months of street violence. The recent violence has been stoked by a dispute over Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound and the failure of several rounds of peace talks to secure the Palestinians an independent state in Israeli-occupied territory.

"The decision firstly includes giving an amount worth \$7,000 to every family of a martyr of the intifada in Jerusalem," ambassador Mohammad Fathali said at a Beirut news conference. Iran would also offer "\$30,000 to every family whose home the occupation (Israel) has

demolished for the participation of one of its sons" in the unrest, he said. Israel condemned Iran's move. A Foreign Ministry statement said it "demonstrates again Iran's role in encouraging terror," adding that "following the nuclear agreement, Iran continues to be a major player in international terror."

On Tuesday, Israeli army bulldozers demolished the homes of two Palestinians who killed five people in attacks in the occupied West Bank and Israel last year. Israeli officials say such demolitions could deter other Palestinians from launching attacks in a campaign that has killed 28 Israelis and a US citizen since October. In the past five months, Israeli security forces have killed at least 168 Palestinians, 111 of whom Israel says were assailants.

Continued on Page 13

In my view

## DEALING WITH REFUGEES

By Labeed Abdal



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**D**utch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders recently called for the European Union to be united and work together to deal with the influx of refugees and urged them to put agreements signed earlier to deal with the crisis into practice. This call was made after EU member states' attitudes varied according to their financial statuses, security situations and other reasons. Koenders also called for continuing monitoring the measures taken over the past few months to assess how successful they were in terms of the agreement made on reducing the number of refugees while taking public opinion and possible reactions into full consideration.

There was also considerable focus on hotspots in Italy and Greece and calls to fully support the governments in both countries to put those measures into practice. He also urged Turkey to move forward with needed procedures to keep refugees within the region as agreed with the EU, which is serious and logical enough to stop the influx of refugees, while at the same time, securing them away from being killed or drowning while attempting to flee.

Securing EU borders firmly is a basic thing in the course of defending the freedom to travel without passports amongst the Schengen area states while maintaining the inter-Europea concept after those recent influxes, which called for amending many security policies. Several EU members seek to prepare a practical and legal base for imposing temporary border restrictions which are seen as necessary.

However, the Schengen border law authorizes any EU member to impose such temporary restrictions for a maximum of six months at a time and this will not include accelerating asylum seekers' problems.

The incidents in Cologne in Germany might have instigated many decisions that were full of contradictions and pointing fingers towards a few refugees who have been indicted of committing sexual abuse during the New Year's Eve celebrations. Well, we believe that those few refugees were desperate ones fleeing their home countries in fear and horror of a terrifying war. Other opinions against opening up for more refugees severely criticized it and used the call to justify strikes and incidents and make them more like those in Norway where protestors demonstrated against parties calling to be more lenient with refugees.

# WILL KUWAIT KEEP ABREAST WITH THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION?

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION MODERNIZING THE SCHOOLS

**KUWAIT:** Through its strategy for 2005-2025, the Ministry of Education charted the course and portrait of general education as well as the means and targets of the modernization process taking stock of the challenges of the internal and external environment. The strategic objectives reflect a range of factors that determine the role of education in the development process, the parameters of success in delivering the message specified in the strategy and specific ends of the educational reforms. The strategy sets forth the general framework of the social contract on the course of compulsory education in meeting the needs of the society - as individuals and institutions, and in bringing about changes in the educational systems.

### E-learning

In this connection, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Isa said the policy of the Ministry of Education is in keeping with the global technological revolution. "The Ministry started modernizing the schools and equipping them with the state-of-the-art technologies. As part of the e-learning system, the Ministry turned a number of school buildings into smart ones or green buildings that are envi-

ronment friendly. "The e-learning process, including all facilities for students such as tablets, will be leveraged across all the current and future schools," the minister affirmed.

Dr Al-Isa noted that the ministry, in collaboration with global corporations, has already set plans for empowering the teachers and making sure that they are capable of mastering the e-learning technologies. The Ministry had signed an agreement with Microsoft on training programs for teachers who will, in turn, train students on the best practices in educational technology, he went on. "The Ministry, in cooperation with the National Center for Education Development (NCED) and the World Bank, developed plans for e-learning in an interactive way that involves students, parents and teachers and contributes to ending the phenomenon of the so-called private lessons by 2025," the minister revealed.

### Modernize curriculums

There are plans to modernize curriculums in keeping with the technological advancements that could enable students to understand the subjects and encourage their creativity instead of learning by heart, thus

qualifying them to be productive persons in the future. Dr Al-Isa pointed out that the modernization process entails originality and modernity with a view to preserving our Arab, Gulf and Islamic identity, and social values and traditions. He noted that the status of the general education in Kuwait in 2025 will be of Singaporean style given the fact that Singapore is one of the world's most advanced countries in terms of education.

"The advancement of the educational system in Singapore, capitalizing on man and human development, brought about the country's economic miracle," the minister added. Meanwhile, NCED Director Dr Subeeh Al-Mokhaizim said in similar statements to KUNA that the educational strategy aims to modernize curricula, build the capacity of teachers and lead to qualified graduates who have the specific skills needed for their future careers. "The high school education, in particular, needs careful revision and introduction of vocational and technical training in keeping with the needs of the labor market," he said.

### The strategy

"The strategy aims also to integrate the students with discrepancies in education and

those with special needs into the various stages of the educational system through assessing and resolving the difficulties facing them. The strategy also attaches importance to the early learning and the pre-kindergarten stage, Al-Mokhaizim said, noting that there are plans for integrating the kindergarten stage into the compulsory system. He noted that it is important for students to rely on different sources for their study alongside the school books to provide them with skills needed to succeed in the their educational life.

The e-learning system will involve all types of school subjects, using different tools and methods for students to better understand their studies, the official said. Al-Mokhaizim meanwhile, added that an evaluation system is vital to measure the outcome of the e-learning process and its impact on students, to execute the necessary reforms and development. Moreover, the ministry is seeking to create further cooperation and dialogue between schools and parents to follow up on the performance of the students, he said. The modernization plan aims to provide the highest levels of proper education that prepares students to continue their future studies in international universities, he added. — KUNA

## KUWAIT'S CONSUL GENERAL, ITALIAN OFFICIAL HOLD TALKS

**MILAN:** Kuwait Consul General in Milan Abdunnasser Bu Khadour discussed with new representative of the Italian central government bilateral cooperation and means of promoting relations in all fields. The Kuwaiti consulate said in a statement to KUNA yesterday that the two sides dealt with friendly relations between Italy and Kuwait. During the meeting, Bu Khadour extolled the Italian stance supporting the State of Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion, the statement added, noting that the Italian official stressed his keenness on promoting ties between the two countries. Bu Khadour gave the official a medal on the occasion of 50th anniversary of establishing diplomatic ties between Kuwait and Italy.

### Ambassador meets Uzbek official

In another development, Kuwait's Ambassador to Uzbekistan Ahmad Khaled Al-Jeeran yesterday met Executive Director of the Fund for Reconstruction and Development in the Republic of Uzbekistan Ravshan Gulyamov. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in addition to the activities of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in Uzbekistan.

They also tackled the development of economic relations between the two countries and the exchange of visits between officials. — Agencies



## Kuwait's buildings shine

**KUWAIT:** Several buildings in Kuwait were decorated with bright shiny lights in celebration of the 55th National and 25th Liberation Days. Spectacular lights and patriotic decorations beautified public and private buildings as well as many houses and dwellings in the country. — KUNA photos



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## US AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ON GULF WAR

Commander of Kuwaiti Naval Forces General Khaled Al-Kandari, Admiral Donegan, Captain Bailey, members of the American, Kuwaiti and coalition militaries, distinguished guests, friends. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight as we come together to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait on this magnificent US Navy warship, the USS Arlington. We are here tonight to pay tribute to those men and women who contributed to the Gulf War and Kuwait's liberation: service men and women, diplomats, companies, and the families who supported them.

People like United States Marine Colonel Rod Arrington, who was among the first Marines to cross the border from Saudi Arabia in the ground operation to liberate Kuwait. People like Salah Al-Jemaz, a Kuwaiti air force pilot who was captured by Saddam's forces and brutally held as a prisoner of war in Iraq. People like Saad Al-Enzi, who, while living in the United States at the time of the invasion, volunteered to serve with the US Army and return to Kuwait to fight for his homeland.

And people like my own father in law, Retired Colonel Doctor Ted Raia who, like 700,000 other US service men and women, traveled half a world away to help liberate Kuwait. People like Sheikh Saud Nasser al-Sabah, God rest his soul, who as Kuwait's Ambassador in Washington, helped organize the coalition and galvanize the support of the American public. And people like my good friend Edward "Skip" Gnehm, the first US Ambassador to Kuwait after liberation, who laid the foundation for the unbreakably strong bonds of friendship that we see today.

And finally let's remember the families... mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, sisters, brothers, children, aunts, uncles, cousins... here in Kuwait, in the United States, and in the other coalition states. They sent their loved ones off to war because it was, in the words of President George HW Bush, "simply the right thing to do." To all who served, to all who sacrificed, thank you.

### President Obama's message

It is now my great pleasure to read to you a message from President Obama to the people of Kuwait. "I send greetings to all those marking the 25th anniversary of Kuwait's liberation and the 55th anniversary of Kuwait's independence. America has long been steadfast in our resolve to strengthen and stabilize the Gulf region. In Kuwait's struggle for sovereignty 25 years ago, American service members underscored that commitment when they stood alongside a coalition of brothers and sisters from 34 other countries to advance the ideals of peace and security. As I reaffirmed to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and other Gulf leaders when we met at Camp David last May, the United States' commitment to use all elements of our power to deter and confront external aggression against our allies and partners, as we did in the Gulf War, is unequivocal.

Today, this region faces new challenges and threats. We all have a responsibility to help defeat ISIL, to facilitate political transition in Syria, and to reduce the sectarian tensions that have contributed to untold human suffering. Kuwait is helping tackle these challenges by providing essential access, basing, and overflight for thousands of US military and coalition personnel working to defeat ISIL.

Our joint support of Iraqi forces has helped halt ISIL's advance in Iraq and has rolled back their territorial control. And Kuwait has delivered more than \$1 billion to assist Syrian refugees, providing humanitarian assistance to address the needs of those made vulnerable by the ravages of conflict. But true and lasting security requires more than success against external security threats; it requires good governance that serves all citizens. Kuwait has taken steps to foster civic participation by reinstating an empowered National Assembly following its liberation and extending voting rights to women.

With a continued commitment to transparency and the rule of law, the United States looks forward to Kuwait making progress toward even more inclusive governance that upholds the rights and dignity of people of all backgrounds - men and women alike. As we commemorate the 25th anniversary of Kuwait's liberation, I am confident that through continued close partnership, the United States and Kuwait will help build a more stable and prosperous region."



# USS ARLINGTON (LPD-24) JOINS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

**KUWAIT:** Coinciding with Kuwait's ongoing national festivals, the USS Arlington (LPD-24) amphibious carrier is currently in the country for the first time to join the national celebrations in reiteration to Washington's commitment to Kuwait's safety and security, US diplomat confirmed yesterday. The amphibious transport ship, which docked at Shuaiba Port, south of Kuwait City, on late Monday, is also present to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Liberation and honor US and Kuwaiti military veterans who participated in Operation Desert Storm and the Liberation of Kuwait in 1991, Mark Bosse, Press Attache at US Embassy, said during a ceremony held by the ship's command for the military veterans of the 1991 Gulf War.

"We brought the USS Arlington in here especially to show the United States' commitment to Kuwait and our determination to not only celebrate 25 years of partnership since the liberation in 1991, but also to consolidate our shared future of peace and prosperity, where we work together to solve regional problems and regional security issues," Bosse stated.

### Strong partnership

"The presence of the USS Arlington (LPD-24) in Kuwait symbolizes the strong partnership and unbreakable friendship bonds between Kuwait and the United States in many fields, including military, economic, educational, and social," added the US diplomat. He also stressed the importance of the 25th anniversary of Liberation Day as an opportunity to step back and appreciate the strong friendship between Washington and Kuwait, which also serves as basis for the two countries' future partnership for many years to come. "We have US military veterans who served in the liberation of Kuwait and we also have Kuwaiti veterans who served in the liberation of their country. I think there is no better symbol of the strong military partnership than to see these



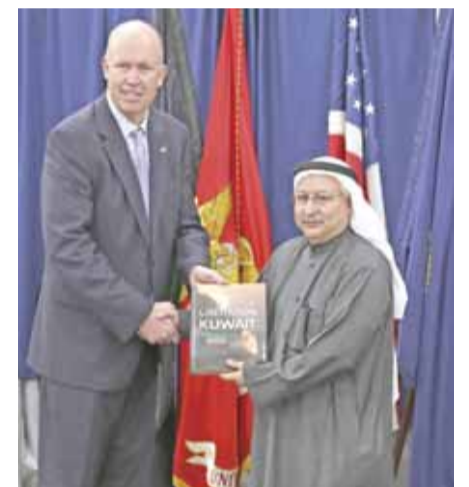
friends coming back together after 25 years, sharing stories, recollections, laughing, and showing that these bonds are unbreakable that stretch across many fields," Bosse said. The US diplomat wished Kuwait happy 25th anniversary of liberation, 55th anniversary of National Day, and 10th anniversary of His Highness the Amir's accession.

For his part, Captain Sean Bailey, Commander of USS Arlington (LPD-24), expressed his pride in hosting the special 25th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait for US and Kuwaiti military veterans, noting that Operation Desert Storm was a landmark event built upon a solid relationship between the United States and Kuwait. "We came together to help lead a coalition of number of countries toward the liberation of Kuwait. It's a very true honor to be able to recognize the event of Desert Storm and liberation of Kuwait, and recognize their services and efforts," Bailey said during the honoring ceremony.

### A 'rare event'

Meanwhile, Colonel Roderick Arrington, US marine commander and a Gulf War veteran, described to KUNA the USS Arlington's presence in the country for the first time as a "rare event" that signifies the partnership between the US and

country. Sergeant Yousef Al-Khawari, also a Kuwaiti Gulf War veteran, said that the impact of the US stand and efforts in liberating Kuwait is still apparent through continuation of safety and security in the country, expressing his hope that the US-Kuwaiti military ties continue to develop and prosper on all levels. The USS Arlington (LPD-24) is the third ship of the United States Navy to be named for Arlington, Virginia, the location of the Pentagon. It was named in commemoration of the September 11, 2001 attacks. LPD-24 is also the eighth ship in the San Antonio-class amphibious dock ships that was first commissioned in 2013, and currently scheduled on a seven-month deployment from its home board in Norfolk, Virginia. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Top officials, US and Kuwait military personnel aboard the USS Arlington (LPD-24) carrier visiting Kuwait during its national celebrations. Commander of US Naval Forces Central Command, Vice Admiral Kevin M Donegan said that the USS Arlington's motto "strength, honor, and fortitude" reflected the strength of the Kuwaiti-American ties. "These words capture the essence of the relationship between the United States of America and Kuwait," Donegan said. Meanwhile, Commander of the Kuwait Naval Force Major General Khaled Abdullah remembered the dark days which engulfed Kuwait, with many people losing their lives due to the vicious Iraqi invasion which lasted for seven months. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



General Manager of Kuwait Ports Sheikh Yousef Abdullah Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah pictured with the US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas A Silliman and other officials on board the USS Arlington (LPD-24) carrier. — KUNA



# INFO MINISTER HOISTS FLAG AT AL-QURAIN HOUSE

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah yesterday hoisted the Kuwaiti flag in Al-Qurain House, as part of the country's national celebrations. Al-Qurain House represents the heroism

and unity of Kuwaiti martyrs in defending their land against the Iraqi invasion, Sheikh Salman, also head of the supreme committee for national celebrations told KUNA. The flag hoisting ceremony included a documentary video on the

invasion and the Kuwaiti resistance movement during the war. Al-Qurain Martyrs Museum was established to honor 19 Kuwaiti youth who took shelter in the house while fighting back Iraqi soldiers. The incident occurred at the beginning of

Operation Desert Storm led by the US and international coalition to liberate Kuwait in 1991. The fight at Qurain House led to the death of 12 of the resistance members while the other seven survived. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah pictured during the ceremony of hoisting Kuwaiti flag in Al-Qurain House, as part of the country's national celebrations. — KUNA photos

## Local Spotlight

KUWAIT'S  
INDEPENDENCE

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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June 19, 1961 is the actual day of Kuwait's independence from British occupation, when the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the 11th ruler of Kuwait, signed a declaration of independence with Sir George Middleton, the British high commissioner in the Arabian Gulf on behalf of his government. That day witnessed the cancellation of the agreement which was signed by Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, the seventh ruler of Kuwait, with Britain on Jan 23, 1899 to protect Kuwait from foreign threats.

But the date for marking the independence was changed to match the inauguration of the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah, which took place on Feb 25. On Feb 26, 1991, Kuwait was liberated from the Iraqi occupation, therefore Kuwait has been celebrating both the national and liberation days every year on the 25th and 26th of February.

But the celebrations have transformed into a way that does not reflect affiliation and loyalty to Kuwait and its history. The festivities have taken up aspects of risk rather than a manifestation of expressing joy and fun, that may develop in the future to reach violence. During the celebrations, foam and water are sprayed on people, which are irresponsible acts that lack the slightest regard for people's health and safety.

Moreover, many pedestrians become targets of such silly acts by children and teenagers and this is very dangerous in terms of the water used that may be contaminated, while water pistols may be replaced by another harmful objects. The large number of vehicles, people and motorists leads to accidents too. Eye clinics deal with hundreds of participants injured in these celebrations, while ambulances transport to hospital many people injured as a result of accidents and fights among teenagers.

The celebration has been transformed from an innocent and quiet event to something that is characterized by violence, and has lost its identity as a national occasion. Festivities have become dangerous rather than a source of joy and pleasure, and can develop into acts of violence if they are not controlled by the security authorities in the future. These celebrations can be organized in a manner which is safe and fun for the participants and at the same time be a means to achieve reasonable profit by the organizers, like the musical Hala February concerts.

Spraying of water and foam must be done in areas allocated for this purpose only, such as the Flag Square, where those who want to enjoy with foam can go where they know they can spray others and others will spray them as well. This will give an opportunity for motorists to be safe from these kinds of celebrations. Maybe renting a sports club to host such festivities is another good idea away from public roads. Attendees can watch the foam celebration and enjoy the events in a comfortable and enjoyable location on seats without exposure to danger and violence. I believe that we as Kuwaitis are responsible for the safety and security of our country and we should not allow such disturbed acts to spoil an event marking Kuwait as a nation and its history.

DETECTIVES SEIZE 42,600  
CARTRIDGES, WEAPONS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Weapons detectives with the cooperation of police patrols, traffic and tracing departments launched a campaign at Ahmadi governorate stables resulting in the discovery of 42,600 shotgun cartridges, four hunting guns, two shotguns, ammunition, and an AK-47. A citizen was also arrested on debt charges. Owners of these stables were sent to concerned authorities.

## National day celebrations

The Municipality completed its preparations to celebrate the national days by decorating the streets of Kuwait with flags to reflect the festive mood of the occasion. The public relations department at the municipality said the decorations supervision department said that it completed its preparations to celebrate 55 years of independence and 25 years of liberation by hoisting 15,000 flags of various sizes all over the country.

## Awareness campaign

Social police launched an awareness campaign titled "With my loyalty and belonging... I am proud" at Souq Sharq on Tuesday, directed to all society members, and will last for four days. Leaflets on various social and guidance issues that are of interest to society and family and urge family cohesion and national unity were distributed. Director of the Social Police Department Brig Abdelrahman Al-Abdullah said a hotline was established to receive information and complaints related to problems families are

suffering from - in total confidence - on the following numbers 94000436/94000435.

## 14th Fireman Day

Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's Public Information and Information Director Col Khalil Al-Amir considered the 14th fireman day to be held under the patronage of State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak from March 3 to March 5 as an "Eid" for all firemen. He said firemen will meet citizens to have the opportunity to remind of their sacrifices to protect lives and property, and brief citizens on their efforts of fighting fires or rescuing. Amir said the presence of Sheikh Mohammad at the firemen festival is from his keenness to share good moments with the firemen.

## Gang busted

Iqama affairs detectives arrested a gang in Farwaniya that kept the passports and civil IDs of a number of expat laborers to collect KD 1,800 in exchange of an entry visa to the country and iqama. Information from the sources of residency affairs detectives showed that a citizen and a number of Egyptians brought in workers from Egypt and registered them to a bogus company, then set them loose. The company was raided and 350 passports and civil IDs were found, along with several forged seals. In another development, five Egyptians and five Asians were arrested for stealing from citizens' camps, particularly generators. The suspects took policemen to where hundreds of generators were stashed along with other goods.

## News

in brief

33 ambulances and 12  
medical units deployed

**KUWAIT:** A total of 33 ambulances, 12 mobile medical units and an air ambulance are set to provide emergency aid nationwide in time for national day celebrations, the Ministry of Health (MoH) announced yesterday. In a statement to KUNA, inspector of medical services at the MoH Jassem Al-Foudari said that the MoH has a medical aid plan that would encompass the whole country. The ambulances have been evenly dispatched to the country's six governorates, with 10 vehicles allocated for the Capital Governorate, nine for Hawalli, nine for Ahmadi, three for Jahra and two for Farwaniya, Al-Foudari revealed. The Emergency aid will be most available in the most densely inhabited areas and places most frequently visited, including shopping malls, he noted. The air ambulance will be of tremendous use in outlying areas including Abdali and Al-Wafra, the inspector added. He also called on citizens and expatriates alike to follow safety precautions to ensure their welfare during this festive time.

Joint Arab action 'strategic  
goal,' Al-Ghanim stresses

**CAIRO:** Speaker of National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanim has stressed the importance of joint Arab action, labeling it as a "strategic goal". Al-Ghanim made the statement yesterday while inaugurating the first council of Arab parliaments' speakers held in Egypt under the auspices of President Abdelattah El-Sisi. Al-Ghanim said firm conviction of the joint Arab action has been remaining a central goal and issue, despite circumstances facing Arab countries and changes in power across the globe. "There are several dossiers which interest us like the Palestinian cause, terrorism and suffering of Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Libyan nations," he added. Al-Ghanim, also President of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, said "we actually realize changes in the Arab personality over the last 60 years on psychological and sentimental level". "Despite this and worse political, economic and cultural circumstances facing us, little coordination and cooperation were a guarantee to make progress," he said.

Kuwait to host the 8th Arab  
scout conference on Feb 27

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of Kuwait Scout Society Mohammad Al-Dubayyan said yesterday that Kuwait will host the 8th Arab scout conference on February 27 entitled "social peace and human responsibility". Al-Dubayyan added during a news conference that Kuwait will organize, for the first time, the three-day event in which about 200 members from 13 Arab countries will take part. The conference's main axes are social peace, human responsibility, and political and economic effects, he said. He noted that roles of civil society organizations, and social peace in Arab countries and means of developing it in light of challenges facing the Arab world are also among the event's axes.

Foreign investment  
'crucial to growth'

**KUWAIT:** It is imperative to lure foreign investors to Kuwait, which would in turn, help transform the country into a financial and commercial hub, a statement from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said yesterday. Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade and International Organizations' Affairs Sheikh Nimr Al-Sabah made the statement during the inaugural "Kuwait International Commercial Exhibition", which lasts until February 27. The Ministry of Commerce is determined to eliminate any impediments to commercial trade between Kuwait and the international community, Sheikh Nimr said. Moreover, Sheikh Nimr pointed out that Kuwait's strategic location is a magnet for foreign investors to do business in the country, which would accelerate economic growth. Relying on oil as the sole source of revenue is detrimental to the economy, he said, adding that the ministry is looking into ways to diversify the country's economy. The ongoing international commercial exhibition is a monumental event, since it gives Kuwait the opportunity to get acquainted with major companies, Sheikh Nimr noted.

Kuwait flag raised atop  
Himalayan mountain

**KUWAIT:** A Kuwaiti mountaineering team raised the national flag along with photos of the Kuwaiti leadership atop a Himalayan mountain summit Tuesday, to mark the country's National Day celebrations. In a statement to KUNA, team leader Mahmoud Qabazard described scaling the mountain, which towers at 6654 meters, as a debilitating experience. The endeavor, which lasted for two weeks was an attempt to give Kuwait the recognition it deserves, he noted. Moreover, Qabazard underscored the fact that such an effort requires concerted teamwork as the adventurous task was rife with challenges. The frigid weather, with a temperature of 40 degrees below zero, made the challenge all the more difficult, Qabazard added. The Kuwaiti youth are capable of overcoming any challenges, no matter how insurmountable they may be, he said.



**KUWAIT:** Author Abdullah Bowair held a celebration at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, during which he signed copies of his biography on the Crown Prince. Sheikha Fariha Al-Ahmad, President of the Kuwait Society for Ideal Family, President of the Girl's Club, Goodwill Ambassador and the sister of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince attended the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

AUTHOR BOWAIR SIGNS COPIES OF  
HIS BIOGRAPHY ON CROWN PRINCE

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** On the occasion of the National and Liberation Days and the 10th anniversary of HH Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's appointment as Crown Prince, author Abdullah Bowair held a celebration at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, during which he signed copies of his biography on the Crown Prince. Sheikha Fariha Al-Ahmad, President of the Kuwait Society for Ideal Family, President of the Girl's Club, goodwill ambassador and the sister of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince, attended the event.

"We are proud to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad's appointment as Crown Prince as these years were full of achievements and sacrifices for Kuwait and its people. So he deserves our honor and appreciation for his efforts and continuous support for social and humanitarian works. This expresses the active role he is playing that supports human, economic and

social development in Kuwait. Sheikh Nawaf has always supported educational and cultural institutions," she said.

"Every year, the people of Kuwait celebrate the National and Liberation Days and express their love for this country, ensuring their unity and national identity. They also show their will to defend this country and sacrifice themselves for Kuwait, and promise to always support and cooperate with HH the Amir," concluded Sheikha Fariha.

"In fact, the actual date of independence is June 19, 1961, when Kuwait got independence from British occupation. On that day, former Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, the 11th ruler of Kuwait, signed a declaration of independence with British Higher Commissioner in the Arabian Gulf George Middleton on behalf on his government. With this act, he canceled the treaty signed by Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, the 7th ruler, with Britain on Jan 1899 to protect Kuwait from foreign aggression," Bowair pointed out.

"On February 26 every year, we celebrate Kuwait's liberation from the aggressive invasion, which was a victory over injustice, and we got our country back. This happened due to the help of alliance countries that supported us and the international right. We have so many occasions to celebrate today, and we hope that our beloved Kuwait will always be protected," he added. "On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad's appointment as Crown Prince, I have released my book on his biography and I'm distributing it tonight," concluded Buweir.

Businessman Mustafa Behbehani spoke about Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad and some of his achievements inside and outside Kuwait. A short documentary about Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad was also shown, which highlighted his political role, participation in conferences and social events, supporting elderly people and the disabled and many other activities.

KUWAIT, GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY SIGN  
AGREEMENT

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Higher Education signed an agreement of cooperation with George Washington University in the US, to exchange professors and increase the number of Kuwaiti students in the university. The ministry shares strong ties with top US universities, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Bader Al-Issa said yesterday. The university, where 20 Kuwaitis are currently studying, has previously awarded His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with an honorary Doctorate in law, he added.

On his part former US Ambassador to Kuwait Edward Ghunaim congratulated the Kuwaiti leadership on the National Day and the Liberation Day celebrations, adding that Kuwait and the US share strong educational ties. Meanwhile, US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas A. Silliman noted that the two countries are cooperating to develop their educational plans for the benefit of students on scholarships. — KUNA

MUNICIPALITY MONITORS FOODSTUFF  
ESTABLISHMENTS AND WAREHOUSES

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Coinciding with the national celebrations, the Municipality said stricter monitoring measures are being taken against foodstuff establishments and their warehouses with the aim of protecting public health and preventing any attempts to sell expired or inedible foodstuff. The Capital municipality team announced raiding three unlicensed storage sites in a parking lot where a toilet was turned into a storeroom. The team also announced filing 13 citations for opening stores prior to getting a license, selling expired items, not having health certificates and not following hygiene regulations. The team's head Tareq Al-Qattan said that a special plan for the national anniversaries was set in collaboration and assistance from the Capital security directorate focusing on peddlers along the coastline, restaurants and foodstuff stores to make sure they all observe general hygiene regulations.

## Decision to cut allowances

Municipal council member Ahmed Al-Bughaili hailed the government's decision to change its decision to cut allowances paid to citizens for treatment overseas and said that this would have a positive impact on all citizens. Bughaili added that the earlier decision was one made with haste and without enough studies. "It is very strange that the state wanted to start its austerity plans with sick citizens," he underlined.

## KD 10,000 bribe

The Public Prosecutor's office yesterday released a police officer who had been accused of receiving a KD 10,000 bribe, said security sources, noting that the officer was arrested red-handed while receiving the bribe from an expat who had reported the officer's abusive activities against expats.

# JORDAN RECEIVES KUWAIT DONATIONS WORTH \$807,000

**AMMAN:** Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij has presented the country with Kuwaiti donations worth \$807,000, to prop up development projects in the country. The Kuwaiti Islamic Heritage Revival Society contributed a share of \$574,000 to

finance Islamic projects in the country, while the Kuwait Charity of the Islamic Society for Social Reform contributed a share of \$233,000. In a statement to KUNA, Al-Duaij said that Kuwait has always lent a helping hand to the needy, as "supporting brotherly

nations is an obligation Kuwait is committed to." Moreover, the Kuwait Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom underscored the need of such donations to mitigate humanitarian suffering across the globe. In comments to

KUNA, Secretary General of the Zakat Al-Quds Ashraf Salhab was thankful of Kuwait's persistent support, saying that these humanitarian efforts have been in place for the last 15 years. Member of the Charity of Social Reform in Amman Salah Al-Fakih said

that the current batch of Kuwaiti aid is the latest in an incessant flow of aid from the country. An amount of \$233,000 will be earmarked for orphan support all over Jordan, Al-Fakih said, thanking Kuwait for its continued support. —KUNA



Minister Al-Sabeeh poses for a group photo with Ambassador Al-Otaibi and JPOs at Kuwait Mission. —KUNA

## MINISTER, UNDP CHIEF DISCUSS KUWAIT-FUNDED JPO PROGRAM

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh has met with UN Development Program (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark to discuss Kuwait-funded Junior Professional Officers' (JPOs) program. Al-Sabeeh (also Minister of Minister of State for Planning and Development Affairs) and Clark reviewed, during their meeting on Tuesday, the performance of two batches sent to JPO since its launch. The Kuwaiti minister and Clark exchanged views over the program and ways to further improve it.

When asked about the Kuwaiti-UN rapport, Clark told KUNA that His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's relationship with the United Nation is "very very strong," as Kuwait is a key player and key advocate in the humanitarian support. "The Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has recognized his huge contribution as humanitarian leader, and we really appreciate HH the Amir's leadership on support for the Syrian people and we thank Kuwait for its generosity," she expressed.

Al-Sabeeh congratulated Clark on UNDP's 50th Anniversary celebrations. On her part, Clark said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) after the meeting that she was happy to see the Minister who came all the way from Kuwait to celebrate the UNDP's 50th birthday. When asked about the meeting, she said "our aim is to stay relevant and responsive to all developing countries." The UN official affirmed that Kuwait and the UNDP have "a very special relationship, including with accepting young people as junior professional staff. "We look forward to Kuwait continuing to play a big role in UNDP's future," she said.

Minister Al-Sabeeh received at Kuwait Mission the JPOs, from both batches, where she urged them to work hard on lifting their country's name "very high" in all international arenas. The JPOs updated Al-Sabeeh on what they have achieved and what obstacles they are facing. Al-Sabeeh arrived earlier Tuesday to participate in the UNDP's high-level one-day 50th Anniversary celebration that will take place in the UN headquarters. The Minister was accompanied in her meetings by the Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Khaled Mahdi and Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi. —KUNA

# ARAB NUCLEAR DETECTION, RESPONSE EXERCISE 'FALCON' KICKS OFF IN UAE

## 3-DAY EVENT PROMOTES COOPERATION, INFO SHARING

**ABU DHABI:** The first Inter-Arab Nuclear Detection and Response Exercise "Falcon", commenced on Tuesday in the United Arab Emirates, with the participation of Kuwait. The three-day event aims to promote regional approaches in matters of nuclear detection and response, enhancing national and regional interagency coordination and cooperation, and encouraging information sharing. It has been developed under the framework of the European Union (EU) Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Centers of Excellence (CoE) Initiative by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), in partnership with the UAE, Jordan, Morocco, the European Commission, and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT).

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Undersecretary at the UAE Ministry of Interior Lt General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far

noted that the exercise is an opportunity to share the best practices in order to reinforce individual and collective capabilities in the effort to combat radiological and nuclear terrorism threats. "This important event clearly reflects the United Arab Emirates' commitment and its unremitting efforts, in cooperation with the international community, to counter chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risks, and enhance security and stability in the region," he said.

He stressed that the UAE has adopted, since its establishment, an open, peaceful and humanitarian approach, in dealing with the various issues that pose a threat to global security and peace. Lt General Al Sha'far pointed out that the UAE has endeavored to issue the Federal Law No (6) of 2009 on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy ie the Nuclear Law, which reflects the UAE's policy and its commitment to the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

### Security and stability

He also highlighted the unwavering and relentless efforts exerted by the UAE leadership to maintain security and stability, and provide security and peace of mind to both citizens and residents. "This approach is based on the directives of the higher leadership, and falls in line with its vision and mission to serve security and world peace, not only in the UAE and the region but in the whole world," Lt. General Al Sha'far said.

He cautioned that nuclear terrorism is one of the most serious threats to global security. "The fight against nuclear threat requires decisive action at the international level, and cooperation amongst world countries, due to its global political, economic, social and psychological consequences," he said. Furthermore, he highlighted the considerable attention dedicated by the UAE to provide protection from the devastating biological, nuclear, chemical, and radiological impact of weapons of mass destruction. "It is not a secret that

terrorist organizations seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction, which requires concerted efforts between world countries to prevent them from achieving their goals, and to establish effective cooperation with the relevant international bodies," he noted. The Exercise FALCON is regionally-oriented and focuses on key aspects of nuclear security related to detection and initial response to radiological and nuclear threats with an emphasis on national planning, information-sharing, operational cooperation, and decision-making. This table-top exercise includes presentations from international experts; scenario-based group work and facilitated discussions. Representatives from the following countries participate in the event: Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Customs Organization attend the exercise as observers. —KUNA

# KUWAIT TO HEAD THE 9TH ARAB-AFRICAN MEETING

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait is poised to head the ninth meeting of the Arab-African Partnership Coordination Committee at the level of senior officials due at the Cairo-based Arab League on February 29, said a senior Kuwaiti official said. The meeting will focus on a report on the implementation of the African development initiative that was launched by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during the Third Arab Summit in Kuwait in November 2013, Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan said to KUNA.

The initiative includes concessionary loans worth USD one billion to African countries for the period from 2014 to 2019, USD-one-billion investments in infrastructure in African countries and an annual award valued at USD one million in the name of the late Dr Abdulrahman Al-Sumait for development research in Africa, he elaborated. The meeting will also look into the outcomes of the third ministerial meeting of the Arab-African Partnership Coordination Committee which was held in New York on December 29, 2015 under co-chairmanship of Kuwait and

Zimbabwe, he added.

Preparations and arrangements for the Fourth Afro-Arab Summit in Guinea in November 2016, and an Arab-African exhibition as well as a suggestion for an Arab-African fund on response to disasters, will also figure out on the agenda of the meeting, he said. Furthermore, the conferees will consider preparations for the third Arab-African ministerial meeting on agricultural development and food security, the Kuwaiti official pointed out. Kuwait had hosted the Third Afro-Arab Summit in November 2013. —KUNA



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) device. (Inset) Director General of the hospital Ahmad Khaled.

# KUWAIT DONATES MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO LEBANON

**BEIRUT:** Kuwait's International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) donated a modern Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) device to Dar Al-Shifa hospital in northern Lebanon yesterday. The device, worth about a \$1.5 million, will contribute to accurate diagnoses of diseases and provide the suitable courses for treatment, Director General of the hospital Ahmad Khaled said. Khaled praised the supportive role of the Kuwaiti leadership, the people of Kuwait, and charities in helping the needy in Lebanon.



KRCS delivers bread to Syrian refugees in Lebanon

### Bread delivery project

In another development, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) launched its 12th bread delivery project for displaced Syrian families in different parts of Lebanon yesterday. The society's envoy to Lebanon Musaad Al-Enezi said that 6,000 Syrian refugee families in Tripoli, northern Lebanon will receive 14 breads on a daily basis for one month. The project aims to ease the suffering of Syrians living in severe conditions, he said, adding that the society has delivered over 45 million bread up till now. KRCS is currently running a campaign to aid 30,000 displaced Syrians in Lebanon, as well as a dialysis project

for patients in need. Lebanon is sheltering the majority of Syrian refugees who exceeded one million, living in different Lebanese cities in camps that lack the basic means of survival. —Agencies

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Al-Jarida

## HERITAGE VILLAGE AND THE SAADOUN'S BOT

By Hassan Al-Essa

To realize how the state is run and how corrupt and irresponsible the government and its bodies are, such as the municipality and its council and favoritism-run bodies where tenders are custom-tailored, you have the heritage village project in downtown Kuwait City, about which Al-Jarida wrote a feature story yesterday.

Walking along the Gulf Road and standing opposite to Shamlan boatyard, one can see huge disfigured form of cement constructions covered by an ugly sign that reads 'The Heritage Village' side by side with other huge ads used to cover the project's 'genitalia', which all rudely declare the death of the project and of the principles of responsibility and legal accountability! It has been almost 10 years now since the project stopped and we still do not know who was responsible for this frivolity!

According to Al-Jarida's story, the company that won the project according to a BOT contract blames the government for its failure, while the municipality and the municipal council blames back the company, while the government stands by watching without saying a word to blame anybody, even an anonymous one, for such failure. I am fed up of repeatedly saying that the project is now nothing more than a disgusting and saddening disfigured cement formation and constructions that tell 'the present of my country' ( I am quoting Sana Al-Kharaz' song about Kuwait Towers decades ago).

The current 'present of my country' is that village and some tired political and administrative establishments and institutions that run this 'mega Kuwaiti village'. Why the heritage village project now? Why raise the subject at a time of scarcity of oil funds? The political administration has limited the issue to come up with some visions that would alleviate the impact of financial deficits, though this should not be the issue. The real issue lies in 'disability to think' and the resulting political and administrative disabilities or incapability in addition to the absence of institutions and the rule of law.

That is where the story begins. The heritage village project is a living example you can see every day and I hope it will make you realize the volume of the state's political and administrative failure. It is normal to talk about failing projects, corruption and innumerable financial scandals. One may even find it hard where to start and where to end. Should we start with Jaber Stadium, Jaber Hospital, the Dow contract, Mishref sewage plant, the airport or...well, the list is endless.

In short, just close your eyes and reach out to easily touch corruption and absence of accountability as if they were real moving living beings that proudly and arrogantly walk around everywhere in the country. Yet, the heritage village is a real-life example you can see every day and drive past without thinking, though it is supposed to be an alarming sign about the disastrous management of this state, the volume of corruption and lack of legal accountability of those in charge.

Whenever your eyes are struck by the ugly brown color of bricks and cement on the village walls, I hope this will raise your concern first and your anger second because with the current miserable economic situation, Kuwait has entirely become more like that village - offered for bidding as a BOT project, which means steal without fears (quoting Ahmed Al-Saadoun). And thus, we have become more like ruins and learned how countries can actually create 'failure' and live by it!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

القباس

Al-Qabas

## GOVERNMENT REFORMS

By Qais Al-Usta

We can go a long way with the government when it speaks about reform, and we can laud, and cheer, and after that we can contribute to marketing the matter, but reform needs real will that is ready to confront those who are benefiting from the backwardness. Reform also needs to change most leaders in the government, because they contributed, even if in small percentages, to the condition we are in. Those leaders have been in important establishments for a long time.

I will not demand the appointment of ministers in their twenties, but the continuation with leaders who have been there since the days of "Nuzha Airport" indicates that all what is being said is not true, otherwise, how can we explain having some of them in their posts for decades?! We wish you all success and God knows we are calling for reform, but social quotas got us to the current situation.

I hope that I wake up in the morning to hear the news about firing all those responsible for the financial and administrative situation in Kuwait, because those, though we do not doubt their patriotism, are clearly unable to face the changes that took place lately over oil prices and other things. They are also unable to carry out the process of diversifying sources of income.

By the way, I received my certificate from the Public Authority for Applied Education in 1988, and got a job the same year at the information ministry press, and the leader who approved part of my documents at the Civil Service Commission is still there, then they talk about administrative reform. "But we only say that directing complaints to none other than Allah is a humiliation," so was the message delivered? I hope so.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: The National Guards Deputy Chief Sheikh Mesh'al Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Tuesday received the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Mohamed Al-Kayed at his office. Al-Kayed was accompanied by a Jordanian military delegation headed by the Jordanian Chief of Staff Lt General Mesh'al Mohammed Al-Zaben. The reception was also attended by the Jordanian military attache Brigadier Hilal Al-Khawaldeh.



## Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Helicopters from Kuwait Air Force flying high during National Day celebrations. — KUNA

## Crime

Report

### Patrolman files complaint

KUWAIT: A police patrolman complained against a citizen who insulted him after he stopped him for a violation. The accused, an employee at the Interior Ministry, denied the charges, saying that there were previous disputes between the two, and the patrolman took the opportunity of being on duty and stopped and insulted him. Investigations are underway.

### Citizen accuses real-estate

A citizen accused a real-estate company of swindling him. He said he signed a contract with the company to buy a house in an Arab country and paid KD 36,378 as down payment and a second installment of KD 5,287. He later discovered that the company has cheated others, and asked the company to return his money, but it refused.

### KD 900 withdrawn

An expat asked the Sharq police station investigator to start an investigation to find out how a forgery was committed against him and KD 900 was withdrawn from his bank account, although his ATM card was never stolen and is still in his possession, and no one else knows his PIN. The expat said he was surprised by several messages about withdrawals totaling KD 900.

### Saudi threatens to kill ex-wife

A Saudi threatened to kill his ex-wife due to disputes between them, and a complaint was lodged at Sabahiya police station. A security source said a citizen told police she was insulted and threatened by her estranged husband when went to her job at the social affairs ministry. She said he insulted her in front of other employees.

### Stray bullets

Jahra detectives are working on finding the source of three bullets that penetrated the roof of a health club and a parked car. Jahra security operations received a call about the bullets, so they rushed to the scene and located the three bullets. Those present in the club said they heard shooting clearly but could not find the source. Investigations are ongoing.

### Employee beaten

An employee at the citizens' service center in Adan was beaten by a person whose transaction was not completed, who left leaving his papers behind. The employee went to the police station and told them that a man whose papers were not complete became angry when she asked him to complete them, swearing at her and beating her. He then fled the scene. Detectives summoned the man, who confessed to committing the offence.

### Drug dealer nabbed

Taima detectives arrested an Egyptian wanted to serve 90 years in jail on several drugs cases. A security source said the suspect was arrested in Jleeb Al-Shoyoukh after obtaining a warrant from the prosecution. He was sent to concerned authorities. In another development, Jahra detectives arrested a citizen wanted to serve a five-year jail sentence on drugs charges, following resistance. A security source said that on learning the suspect was hiding in Salwa, a team of Jahra detectives went to the area and arrested him. He was sent to concerned authorities.

### 'Obscene words'

A citizen in his 50s accused his neighbor's sons of damaging his fence and writing obscene words on it. A police source said the citizen went to Fahd Al-Ahmad police station and lodged a complaint against the two boys. Detectives are working on the case.

### Saleswoman harassed

A citizen ended up in Jahra police station's detention cell after being caught harassing a perfume saleswoman in a mall. The saleswoman was surprised by a man entering the store and flirting with her. She asked him to stop, but he persisted, so she called the police.

### 'Informant' arrested

Residency affairs detectives arrested an Egyptian who was informing mandoubs about the ministry's campaigns for KD 10 for each call. They also arrested four Indians selling pornographic DVDs of women and children. Detectives learned about an Egyptian guard at the Social Affairs and Labor Ministry building in Farwaniya who informed companies' mandoubs about surprise security campaigns in exchange of KD 10 per call. He was arrested. Meanwhile, detectives learned about four Indians selling pornographic DVDs and copying others without a license. The four were arrested with 500 DVDs, cosmetics and mobile phones. They said they were not working for their sponsors, and were practicing this illegal activity for a long time.

### Belgian swindler

A Belgian swindler set a low exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar in order to attract customers. Many of them went to him and got bundles of money printed with black ink and chemicals, before discovering the banknotes were forged. A security source said that several complaints were received from citizens and expats in Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate about being swindled by a man who sold them counterfeit dollars. — Al-Anbaa and Al-Rai



**Erdoğan says US-Russia plan could benefit Assad**  
 Page 8

**SILENCE MAY NOT BE GOLDEN AS MODI LAYS LOW DURING UNREST**



RENO, Nevada: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump reacts as he walks up to the stage during a rally on Tuesday. —AP

**ELECTION 16**

**GOP delegate count**

Donald Trump, leading in delegates a week before Super Tuesday won the Nevada Republican caucuses Tuesday.



Latest state results: Feb. 23

NEVADA — percentage of vote (delegates won)

100% OF PRECINCTS REPORTING



Next contest: Feb. 27

South Carolina Democratic primary

Results as of 9 a.m. EST.

SOURCE: AP Election Services

AP

**TRUMP WINS AGAIN IN NEVADA**

**MOGUL'S THIRD STRAIGHT VICTORY HAS RIVALS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS**

WASHINGTON: Businessman Donald Trump inched closer to the US Republican presidential nomination after easily outdistancing his rivals in the Nevada caucuses on Tuesday, giving him his third win in four early nominating contests. Trump won Nevada by a margin of 22 percentage points, garnering 45.9 percent of the vote, the state Republican Party said after 100 percent of all precincts reported results. That gave him at least 12 of the 30 delegates at stake, which would bring his total to at least 79 before February ends, according to the Associated Press.

While more than 1,200 are needed to secure the Republican presidential nomination, Trump has built a formidable head start over his main rivals, US senators Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida. Rubio eked out another second-place showing with 23.9 percent of the vote, and Cruz again came in a close third with 21.4 percent. Each gained at least five delegates, the AP reported. Finishing at the bottom of the heap were retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson with 4.8 percent of the vote and Ohio Governor John Kasich with 3.6 percent. Broadcast networks called Nevada for Trump almost immediately after voting ended, with the state Republican Party confirming the victory soon afterward.

**'Winning, Winning, Winning'**

Trump's decisive win is likely to further frustrate Republican establishment figures who, less than a month ago, were hoping that the outspoken billionaire's insurgent candidacy was stalled after he lost the opening nomi-

inating contest in Iowa to Cruz. But since then, Trump has tallied wins in New Hampshire, South Carolina and now Nevada, with a suite of southern states ahead on March 1, so-called Super Tuesday. "If you listen to the pundits, we weren't expected to win too much, and now we're winning, winning, winning the country," Trump said at a victory rally in Las Vegas.

Polls suggest Trump will do well in many of those Super Tuesday states, placing further pressure on Cruz and Rubio, as well as Carson and Kasich, who were not factors in Nevada. "These guys have to figure out how to turn their fire on Trump," said Ford O'Connell, a Republican strategist in Washington. Absent that, he said: "Which one is going to get out of this field?"

**Playing for Second**

In the run-up to Nevada, most of Trump's rivals left him alone, preferring to tussle with each other to try to be the last surviving challenger to the frontrunner. Not long after Trump's win was certified in Nevada, Cruz's campaign released a statement criticizing Rubio for not winning the state. It did not mention Trump at all. Rubio, who has emerged as the Republican establishment's favorite to derail Trump's progress, can take some solace in finishing second. But that also has to be viewed as somewhat of a setback considering that he had frequently campaigned in Nevada, having lived there for years as a child. A Cuban-American, he had attempted to rally the support of the state's large Latino population.

Rubio had also benefited from Saturday's departure of former Florida

Governor Jeb Bush from the race. That brought an influx of new funds, a bevy of endorsements and a wealth of media attention. But none of it was enough to overtake Trump. Meanwhile, Cruz has been facing mounting questions about the viability of his campaign since he won in Iowa. Trump has made serious inroads among his core base of conservative supporters, draining anti-government hardliners and evangelicals.

Cruz targeted Nevada's fierce libertarian wing, appealing directly to those who supported local rancher Cliven Bundy's armed protest against the federal government in 2014 and a more recent one that Bundy's sons staged at a federal wildlife refuge in Oregon. But that, too, was not enough. The upcoming March 1 primary in Cruz's home state of Texas is looming as a make-or-break moment for him. Aiding his cause, Republican Texas Governor Greg Abbott endorsed Cruz in a video that appeared yesterday, CNN reported.

Despite early reports on social media of procedural irregularities at many Nevada caucus sites, the Republican National Committee and the party's state chapter said voting ran smoothly. Higher-than-normal turnout was reported, although historically, few of the state's citizens take part. Nevada's contest had been viewed as a test of whether Trump had organizational might to match his star power. Unlike in primaries, caucus results depend more on a campaign's success in motivating supporters to participate. Trump's failure to do that in Iowa was viewed as contributing to his defeat there. —Reuters

**ROUHANI SEEKING GAINS FOR MODERATES IN ELECTION TEST**

TEHRAN: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani is hoping his moderate allies can score a breakthrough against conservatives in elections tomorrow, the first polls since his government's nuclear deal with world powers. The elections are a crucial test of Rouhani's public clout as he struggles to rebuild Iran's economy following last month's lifting of sanctions under the nuclear agreement, which took more than two years to secure. In a first for the Islamic republic, voters are on the same day electing lawmakers to the 290-seat parliament and choosing the 88 members of the Assembly of Experts, a powerful committee of clerics that will select the country's next supreme leader.

The elections will be a crucial indicator of the future direction

Iranians want for their country. From a population of almost 80 million, 55 million people are eligible to vote. Since becoming president in 2013 Rouhani has fulfilled his main pledge to end the crisis over Iran's nuclear program, but the centrist cleric, who has close ties to reform-seeking politicians, has faced persistent criticism from a conservative-dominated parliament.

Hardline lawmakers have accused the government of making too many concessions to the West in order to secure the nuclear deal and are hoping voters will hand Rouhani and his allies a stinging rebuke. The president is vulnerable on the economy, which has yet to see the benefits of the lifting of sanctions despite announcements of major business

deals including a \$25 billion contract for 118 Airbus aircraft.

**Concerns Over Turnout**

The 13-year nuclear standoff saw Iran's currency, the rial, lose two thirds in value, eroding people's purchasing power. The official unemployment rate stands at 10 percent but rises to 25 percent among youth. If voters support a pro-Rouhani coalition of moderate and reformist candidates at the ballot box, dubbed "The List of Hope", the president could swing the balance of power, creating a fresh opening for social and political reforms on which he has so far been blocked. A one-week official campaign for the parliamentary election has been largely overshadowed by controversies over who was allowed to run for office. —AFP

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A Palestinian man uses a rope to climb over a section of Israel's controversial separation barrier that separates the West Bank city of Al-Ram from east Jerusalem yesterday. — AFP

## WOW, LOVE: FACEBOOK EXPANDS 'LIKE' FEATURE

Continued from Page 1

"We understand that this is a big change, and want to be thoughtful about rolling this out," Krug said. "For more than a year we have been conducting global research including focus groups and surveys to determine what types of reactions people would want to use most. We also looked at how people are already commenting on posts and the top stickers and emoticons as signals for the types of reactions people are already using to determine which reactions to offer." The expanded reactions feature had been tested in several markets and is now rolling out globally, Krug said.

In unveiling plans last year, Facebook noted that it was not considering a "dislike" button despite the idea floated in some reports. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg said in September that the "dislike" button was not coming "because we don't want to turn Facebook into a forum where people are voting up or down on people's posts. That doesn't seem like the kind of community that we want to create."

The new reactions buttons were unveiled last October as a test project for Facebook users in Spain and Ireland. Zuckerberg said at the time that Facebook had been working on expanded options for some time. "Not

every moment is a good moment, and sometimes you just want a way to express empathy," Zuckerberg said on his page last year. "These are important moments where you need the power to share more than ever, and a 'Like' might not be the best way to express yourself."

The "Yay" emoticon, which was present in the pilot launch was not seen yesterday. The slow test and rollout of the expanded button - which Zuckerberg has said is the company's biggest design change to date - is a marked change from Zuckerberg's famous mantra, "move fast and break things". The company said it will also use "Reactions" to track user behavior and for ad delivery.

The feature received mixed reviews from users on social networking sites. Many complained that they could not see the new emoticons, while some were unhappy that Facebook did not launch a "dislike" button. Marina Cupo wrote on Facebook: "I would rather have had a DISLIKE button and then attach an emotion instead if I want!" Users have often responded negatively to similar changes on other sites. Twitter, for example, replaced its star-shaped "favorite" icon with a heart-shaped icon called "like" in November. Users initially scorned the change, but Twitter later said it increased activity on the site. — Agencies

## TEHRAN TO PAY FAMILIES OF PALESTINIANS KILLED

Continued from Page 1

while most others were shot dead during violent anti-Israeli protests. Separately, Israel's defense minister yesterday accused Iran of building an international terror network that includes "sleeper cells" that are stockpiling arms, intelligence and operatives in order to strike on command in places including Europe and the US. Moshe Yaalon said Iran aims to destabilize the Middle East and other parts of the world and is training, funding and arming "emissaries" to spread a revolution. He said Tehran is the anchor of a "dangerous axis" that includes Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut, Sanaa and other cities in the region.

"The Iranian regime through the Iranian Revolutionary Guard corps is building a complex terror infrastructure including sleeping cells that are stockpiling arms, intelligence and operatives and are ready to act on order including in Europe and America," Yaalon said after talks with his Cypriot counterpart. Israel considers Iran the biggest threat to the region, citing its support for anti-Israel militant groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, and has been an outspoken critic of the international nuclear deal with Iran.

The Israeli defense minister offered no direct evidence of such sleeper cells existing in the US or Europe, but referred indirectly to the case of a Hezbollah member who was jailed in Cyprus last June following the seizure of nine tons of a chemical compound that can be converted into an explosive. A Cypriot court sentenced Lebanese Canadian Hussein Bassam Abdallah to six years in prison after prosecutors said he admitted that Hezbollah aimed to mount terrorist attacks against Israeli interests in Cyprus using the ammonium nitrate that he had been ordered to guard at the Larnaca home of another official of the Iranian-backed group.

Yaalon said Cypriot authorities had "defeated attempts by Hezbollah and Iran to establish a terror infrastructure" on the island that aimed to expand "throughout Europe." Yaalon said that apart from the refugee crisis, the war in Syria has resulted in "widespread infiltration by murderous, merciless terror organizations" that belong to global jihad and are partly funded by Iran. He said that requires western nations to counter attempts to carry out "massive terror attacks." Yaalon's trip to Cyprus was the first official visit by an Israeli defense minister to the east Mediterranean island. — Agencies

## 23 KILLED IN NEPAL PLANE CRASH

Continued from Page 1

A statement on its website said weather conditions were good when the plane took off for Jomsom, a popular trekking destination in the Himalayas about 20 minutes' flight from Pokhara. Relatives of the victims gathered at Pokhara airport after hearing the news. But Pathak said a full team of rescuers would be unable to reach the crash site, which is around 16,000 ft (4,900 m) above sea level, yesterday. "We are sending teams to bring down the bodies, but they have not arrived yet. It is not possible for a helicopter to land in the area," he said. "The weather is deteriorating and it might snow. It is unlikely they will be able to bring anything down today." Tara Air is a subsidiary of Yeti Airlines, a privately-owned domestic carrier founded in 1998 which services many remote destinations across Nepal. It suffered its last fatal accident in 2010 when a plane chartered by a group of Bhutanese tourists crashed into a mountainside in eastern Nepal.

Air travel is popular in Nepal, which has only a limited road network. Many communities, particularly in the mountains and hills, are accessible only on foot or by air. Aviation expert Kunda Dixit said the flight path, which passes near two of the

world's highest peaks Dhaulagiri and Annapurna, was prone to very strong winds. "Most flights in the area fly before 9:30 am because very strong winds pick up after that," he told AFP. "It is very strange because it is a brand-new plane and the weather was clear in the morning. The pilot is very experienced and focused on safety, I flew with him only 10 days ago." The country, which is still reeling from a devastating earthquake last April, has in recent years suffered a number of air disasters which dealt a blow to its tourist industry. Most have been attributed to inexperienced pilots, poor management and inadequate maintenance. Two years ago a Twin Otter plane belonging to national carrier Nepal Airlines crashed into a hillside shortly after taking off from Pokhara, killing all 18 people on board.

The country's aviation sector has come under fire from international authorities and in 2013 the European Union blacklisted all Nepal's airlines. EU Transport Commissioner Simeon Kallas said at the time the country's safety record "does not leave us any other choice". Nepal's last major aviation accident was last May when a US military helicopter helping with earthquake relief crashed in bad weather, killing six Marines and seven other people. — AFP

## KUWAIT, QATAR URGE THEIR CITIZENS TO LEAVE...

Continued from Page 1

"This has upset the kingdom and (Lebanon) has to repair the error with wisdom and courage," Assiri told AFP.

Former Prime Minister Saad Hariri said "the problem is that there are groups in Lebanon, whether Hezbollah or its allies, who think that they are bigger than the state." "Hezbollah should understand that it is not alone in the country and that there are Lebanese interests all over the world, and they are exposing Lebanon and all the Lebanese to dangers in the Arab world in general and the Arab Gulf in particular as well," he added.

The attacks on Saudi missions in Iran, which followed the kingdom's execution of influential Shiite cleric Nimr Al-Nimr, prompted Riyadh to cut diplomatic ties with Tehran. Syria's war has exacerbated political rivalries with

in Lebanon, which has been without a president for almost two years because of fierce disagreements between Hezbollah and its rivals, some of whom are supported by Riyadh.

Meanwhile, the spokesman of Yemen's internationally-recognized government accused Hezbollah of training Houthi rebels and orchestrating attacks on Saudi Arabia from Yemen. The government has evidence of "Hezbollah's involvement in the Houthi war on the Yemeni people," Rajih Badi said in a statement to the official sabanew.net agency. Hezbollah fighters are present in "the battlefields along the border with Saudi Arabia," said Badi, urging "international legal measures" against the movement. Saudi Arabia is leading a coalition battling the Iran-backed rebels in support of the Yemeni government. — Agencies

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Andre Russell



Suzie Bates and Rohit Sharma.

## NISSAN WELCOMES CRICKET STARS AS NEW GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

**YOKOHAMA:** Nissan is proud to announce a new line-up of cricket talent in support of its partnership with the International Cricket Council (ICC).

India batting star Rohit Sharma, West Indian all-rounder Andre Russell and New Zealand captain Suzie Bates will all help the Japanese car manufacturer bring cricket excitement to fans, starting with the ICC World Twenty20 in India from March 8th. "Nissan is absolutely delighted to welcome

this illustrious line-up to the Nissan team ambassadors," said Roel deVries, corporate vice president and global head of marketing and brand strategy for Nissan. "As genuine performers in the shorter form of the game, these players consistently deliver on the big stage. We look forward to working together to bring cricketing excitement to fans worldwide, starting with the ICC World T20".

In addition to an advertising campaign, Nissan's cricket ambassadors will be active on

social media across the tournament, supporting other fan focused initiatives such as Nissan Play of the Day and sharing great cricket content. Rohit Sharma said, "I'm thrilled to work with Nissan on their partnership with the International Cricket Council. The ICC World T20 is very special to me and takes a tremendous amount of hard work and innovation to win. It remains one of the most exciting cricket competitions in the world and I'm looking forward to sharing that with the fans."

Sharma, Russell and Bates join South African bowling legend Dale Steyn and rising star Kagiso Rabada in the Nissan cricket family, who were recently announced as Nissan cricket ambassadors in their home country for the next year.

"I am thrilled to be among some of the top athletes in the world that are associated with Nissan as a brand ambassador," Dale Steyn said. "Nissan's partnership with cricket will expose and inspire more young players to the

game both internationally and on home soil."

The eight-year sponsorship deal with the ICC comprises all tournaments for the period 2016 to 2023. It builds upon Nissan's sport sponsorship portfolio that already includes the UEFA Champions League, City Football Group and the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, not to mention an array of talent from Olympic champion and world record holder Usain Bolt to FIFA World Cup winner Andrius Iniesta.

## SHARMA SETS UP CRUSHING WIN FOR INDIA OVER BANGLADESH

**DHAKA:** Rohit Sharma made a half-century as India crushed Bangladesh by 45 runs to get their campaign in the Asia Cup Twenty20 tournament off to a flying start in Dhaka yesterday. Big-hitting opener Sharma smashed 83 off 55 balls to help India overcome a shaky start to score 166-6 before some excellent bowling by left-arm pacer Ashish Nehra and other medium pacers restricted hosts Bangladesh to 121-7. One-down Sabir Rahman made the highest 44 off 32 balls for Bangladesh after an early innings jolt saw the home side lose both their openers Mohammad Mithun (one) and Soumya Sarkar (11) for 15 runs. Bangladesh could never recover from the damage and kept losing wickets at regular intervals as experienced Nehra finished with 3-23. Indians Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya and Ravichandran Ashwin claimed one wicket each, and all conceded 23 runs.

Bangladesh earlier opted to bowl first on a rain-soaked pitch and made good use of the conditions to put India in trouble early in their innings at the packed Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. Al Amin Hossain bowled opener Shikhar Dhawan for two before skipper Mashrafe Mortaza got rid of an in-form Virat Kohli, who offered an easy catch to Mahmudullah at mid off for eight, putting India's formidable batting on the back foot. With the first six overs yielding just 31

runs, India began to feel the pressure once Mahmudullah bowled Suresh Raina for 13 to leave the visitors struggling at 42-3.

Sharma and Yuvraj Singh steadied the innings with a 55-run fourth wicket partnership before Pandya, who scored 31 off 18 balls, joined the opener to provide India a much-needed impetus.

Sharma was dropped by Shakib Al Hasan on 21 off Taskin Ahmed and he promptly made Bangladesh pay dearly as he hit two fours and a six in the next three balls of the over. He struck seven fours and three sixes for his 10th half-century in a Twenty20 international. "It's important for me to start afresh and not look back too much," said man of the match Sharma.

"This is a perfect platform for us before the World Cup (World Twenty20)," he said. "I was focusing on my basics on this kind of the pitch, use the pace of the bowlers. It was a good wicket and the ball was carrying." Skipper MS Dhoni, who passed a late fitness test to play the game, reserved some praise for young all-rounder Pandya.

"Batting fearlessly is Hardik (Pandya)'s strength and that's why we want to give him more matches, he's a good fielder too and a useful third seamer," said Dhoni.

Sri Lanka will face the United Arab Emirates in the second match of the tournament at the same venue today. — AFP



**CHRISTCHURCH:** Australian captain Steve Smith (Bottom C) holds the Trans Tasman trophy with his team after winning the 2nd Test during day five of the second cricket Test match between New Zealand and Australia at the Hagley Park in Christchurch yesterday. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

**DHAKA:** Scoreboard of the Asia Cup Twenty20 tournament opening match between Bangladesh and India at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

India		Bangladesh	
R. Sharma c Soumya b Al-Amin	83	Soumya Sarkar c Dhoni b Bumrah	11
S. Dhawan b Al-Amin	2	Mohammad Mithun b Nehra	1
V. Kohli c Mahmudullah b Mortaza	8	Sabir Rahman c Dhoni b Pandya	44
S. Raina b Mahmudullah	13	Imrul Kayes c Yuvraj b Ashwin	14
Y. Singh c Soumya b Shakib	15	Shakib Al Hasan run out	3
H. Pandya c Mahmudullah b Al-Amin	31	Mushfiqur Rahim not out	16
MS Dhoni not out	8	Mahmudullah c Sharma b Nehra	7
R. Jadeja not out	0	Mashrafe Mortaza c Jadeja b Nehra	0
Extras (b1 lb2, w3)	6	Taskin Ahmed not out	15
Total (six wickets; 20 overs)	166	Extras (lb4 w6)	10
Fall of wickets: 1-4 (Dhawan), 2-22 (Kohli), 3-42 (Raina, 4-97 (Yuvraj), 5-158 (Sharma), 6-158 (Pandya)		Total (seven wickets; 20 overs)	121
Did not bat: R. Ashwin, J. Bumrah, A. Nehra		Fall of wickets: 1-9 (Mithun), 2-15 (Soumya), 3-50 (Kayes), 4-73 (Shakib), 5-82 (Sabir), 6-100 (Mahmudullah), 7-100 (Mortaza)	
Bowling: Taskin 3-0-22-0, Al-Amin 4-0-37-3, Mustafizur 4-0-40-0 (w2), Mortaza 4-0-40-1 (w1) Mahmudullah 2-0-9-1, Shakib 3-0-15-1.		Did not bat: Al-Amin Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman	
		Bowling: Nehra 4-0-23-3 (w1), Bumrah 4-0-23-1, Pandya 4-0-23-1 (w3), Ashwin 4-0-23-1, Jadeja 4-0-25-0 (w2).	
		Result: India won by 45 runs.	

**CHRISTCHURCH:** Australia sealed a 2-0 series victory over New Zealand to reach the top Test ranking yesterday but captain Steve Smith was forced to defend their aggressive style as he was fined over a row with the umpires.

With Smith smacking 53 off 46 balls, Australia polished off the 131 runs they needed on the last day to reach their 201 target just after lunch in what was New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum's final Test.

The match had no sooner finished than Smith was charged over Tuesday's profanity-laced confrontation over an lbw decision that had already seen fast bowler Josh Hazlewood fined 15 percent of his match fee.

The ICC later said Smith was fined 30 percent of his match fee after he admitted showing dissent by questioning the decision that batsman Kane Williamson was not out.

Adam Voges finished on 10 not out, while the only wickets to fall on day five were those of Joe Burns for 65 and Usman Khawaja for 45 as Australia closed on 201 for three to win by seven wickets. The victory confirmed Australia's superiority after they won the first Test by an innings and 52 runs, and allowed them to overtake India as the world's top Test side.

"It's always special when you get to number one in the world. That's our goal as a team to be number one in the world in every format of the game," Smith said.

However Smith also had to dispute suggestions that Australia, often controversial over their uncompromising play and habit of sledging (insulting) the opposition, were cricket's bully boys. "I don't think we're not nice guys. We play a good hard, aggressive brand of cricket," Smith said. "For us it's about knowing where that line is and myself and Josh Hazlewood have crossed that line in this Test match and that's not what we're about. "Hopefully we can learn from that and continue to develop as a team and get better."

### 'NOT GOOD ENOUGH'

"I thought I was well within my rights to go up to the umpire and ask him why we didn't use the real time snicker," he said referring to the 'snickometer' heat-detect-

ing technology used to determine if the ball has hit the bat.

"That's deemed to be dissent and I'll cop that on the chin and I need to be better as a leader, I need to set the example and that was not good enough. "For me it's about trying to learn from my mistakes and improve and try and get this team going forward in the right direction and playing the good aggressive brand of cricket that we play so well and know there's a line there that we can't cross."

Despite the on-field dissent, New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum,

who retired from international cricket at the end of the Test, maintained there was a good relationship between the two sides. "This series has been played in great spirits, I think, and the one back in Australia. I think Steve Smith has been a catalyst for that," he said. "He plays the game for the right reasons as well. He plays with his heart on his sleeve but he's a very respectful guy and a wonderful cricketer. "They're number one in the world now and a lot of that is to do with his leadership and (Australian coach) Darren Lehmann's as well." — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the fifth and final day in the second and final Test between New Zealand and Australia yesterday in Christchurch, New Zealand.

<b>New Zealand 1st innings</b> 370 (B. McCullum 145, C. Anderson 72, B. Watling 58)	A. Voges not out	10
<b>Australia 1st innings</b> 505 (J. Burns 170, S. Smith 138, A. Voges 60; N. Wagner 6-106)	Extras (lb-4 nb-2)	6
<b>New Zealand 2nd innings</b> 335 (K. Williamson 97, M. Henry 66; J. Bird 5-59, J. Pattinson 4-77)	Total (for 3 wickets, 54 overs)	201
<b>Australia 2nd innings</b> (Overnight: 70-1; Target: 201 runs)	Fall of wickets: 1-49 D. Warner, 2-113 U. Khawaja, 3-179 J. Burns	
J. Burns b Boult	To bat: M. Marsh, P. Nevill, J. Pattinson, J. Hazlewood, N. Lyon, J. Bird	
D. Warner c Watling b Wagner	Bowling: T. Boult 17-1-60-1, T. Southee 7-2-30-1, M. Henry 9-1-33-0 (nb-1), N. Wagner 18-4-60-1 (nb-1), C. Anderson 3-0-14-0.	
U. Khawaja c B. McCullum b Southee	Result: Australia won by 7 wickets.	
S. Smith not out		53

### 'NOT THE IDEAL' EXIT

For New Zealand the drubbing by their arch-rivals put a cloud over the much-loved McCullum's farewell, as their captain made his bow on the world stage after 101 Tests.

"We're obviously disappointed to lose the Test match and the series but the right team won," McCullum said. "We threw everything at them at key times but they were able to withstand us. It's not the ideal way to go out but at the same time, I've had a great time."

The animosity throughout the series, which came to a head on Tuesday, was put aside the moment Voges hit the winning runs with a four.

Smith immediately searched out McCullum to shake his hand and congratulate him on his career, which included a record 54-ball century in the first innings.

"The way he played in the first innings to score the fastest-ever Test 100 is testament to the guy's character," Smith said.

"They were under the pump and he came out and took the game on and got them into a pret-

ty good position." McCullum's rollicking 145, in which he also reached a record 107 career sixes, was not enough to save New Zealand. After resuming Wednesday at 70 for 1, with David Warner (22) out late the previous evening, Australia took 34 overs to score the remaining 131 runs required.

Khawaja took his overnight 19 to 45 before giving Tim Southee his first wicket of the Test after 29 overs. Southee had bottled up Khawaja for eight consecutive deliveries before getting an edge with a ball angling away outside off stump which went to McCullum at first slip.

Man-of-the-match Joe Burns, having laid the foundations for victory with his 170 in the first innings, scored his fourth Test 50 before being bowled by Trent Boult for 65 just before lunch.

The series sweep made Australia world number one and earned them a US\$1 million prize at the end of their cricket year.

This was the last Test before cricket's attention turns to the World Twenty20 championship in India next month. — AFP



**DHAKA:** Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma plays a shot during a Twenty20 cricket match between India and Bangladesh for the Asia Cup T20 cricket tournament at The Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. — AFP

## CAPTAIN SMITH FINED FOR DISSENT OVER UMPIRE ROW

**CHRISTCHURCH:** Australian captain Steve Smith was fined 30 percent of his match fee for dissent yesterday after a confrontation with the umpires in the second Test against New Zealand. Australia won the Test by seven wickets to move to the top of the world rankings, but celebrations were marred by Smith's summons before the International Cricket Council match referee to explain his actions. He was later fined in connection with the same obscenity-laden rant that had already cost Josh Hazlewood 15 percent of his match fee. The abuse lev-

elled at the umpires during their seven-wicket win in Christchurch to sweep the series was the latest in a series of incidents involving Australia.

But Smith defended Australia as a team who play the game hard and push the boundaries but don't mean to offend. "I don't think we're not nice guys. We play a good, hard, aggressive brand of cricket," Smith said, admitting he and Hazlewood were wrong in how they approached the umpires after Australia were denied an lbw decision against Kane Williamson. "For us it's about knowing where that line

is and myself and Josh Hazlewood have crossed that line in this Test match and that's not what we're about, and hopefully we can learn from that and continue to develop as a team and get better." Smith said he believed at the time he was acting correctly to question the umpire's decision.

"I thought I was well within my rights to go up to the umpire and ask him why we didn't use the real time snicker," he said referring to the 'snickometer' heat-detect-

ing technology used to determine if the ball has hit the bat.

"That's deemed to be dissent and I'll cop that on the chin and I need to be better as a leader, I need to set the example and that was not good enough. "For me it's about trying to learn from my mistakes and improve and try and get this team going forward in the right direction and playing the good aggressive brand of cricket that we play so well and know there's a line there that we can't cross."

Despite the on-field dissent, New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum,

# PROFESSIONAL BOXERS SET FOR OLYMPIC SHOT

**LONDON:** Leading professional boxers will become eligible to compete at this year's Olympic Games in Rio under proposals put forward by the sport's global governing body, AIBA.

There has traditionally been a strict dividing line between amateur and professional boxing, although Olympic success has proved a springboard for a successful career in the paid ranks for the likes of Muhammad Ali, George Foreman and Lennox Lewis. However, AIBA president Dr Ching-Kuo Wu

has made no secret of his wish to expand the organisation's role in professional boxing, already an 'alphabet soup' of different global sanctioning bodies.

Now Wu wants boxing to follow the lead of tennis, where the sport's elite professionals compete at the Olympics. "We want the best boxers to come to the Olympic Games," said Wu, speaking at an AIBA meeting in Manchester, northern England, on Wednesday. "It is an IOC (International Olympic Committee) policy to have the best

athletes in the Games, and of the international federations, AIBA is probably the only one without professional athletes in the Olympics. "We already have our own professionals, APB and WSB boxers, in the Games (and) we will go further." Wu insisted such a change could be implemented ahead of the Rio Games, even though an extensive qualifying programme is already underway.

"According to our statutes it is absolutely possible," said Wu. Countries could now put forward fresh contenders for Rio and, if this

proposal is ratified by AIBA's executive, the likes of Floyd Mayweather, who has always felt he was wrongly denied a gold medal at the 1996 Games in Atlanta, could have another shot at Olympic glory.

Rules introduced in 2013 made professional boxers eligible for the Olympics, but only if they had had fewer than 15 paid bouts and signed a short-term deal with APB, the professional arm of AIBA—which also runs the team-based World Series of Boxing. Wu's plan, however, would effective-

ly end distinctions between amateur and professional boxing.

"When I took over the (AIBA) presidency in 2006 I made it very clear the term of amateur is not really relevant because when you look now at all the Olympic sports, who is really amateur?" said Wu. "I think the process is very clear and we plan to consider it very thoroughly. "We have already received a very strong, positive response from our members, and everybody is excited and would like to see it"—AFP

## STARS BEAT JETS TO END THREE-GAME SKID

**WINNIPEG:** Two late goals by center Jamie Benn lifted the Dallas Stars to a 5-3 victory over the Winnipeg Jets Tuesday night. Benn gave his club some breathing room when he whipped in his 31st goal of the season with 5:52 left in the game while Winnipeg was shorthanded to give his club a 4-2 lead. It turned out to be the winner. He then notched his 32nd into an empty net.

### SENATORS 4, OILERS 1

The Ottawa Senators exacted a measure of revenge by beating the Edmonton Oilers 4-1 Tuesday night. Back on Feb. 4, the Oilers humiliated the Senators in Ottawa, winning 7-2. But thanks to a first-ever NHL goal from left winger Nick Paul and a 30-save effort from goalie Craig Anderson, the Senators returned the favor and won their fourth game in a row in the process. The Oilers fell for the fifth straight game, all of them on home ice.

### HURRICANES 3, FLYERS 1

The Carolina Hurricanes finished with a flourish after taking nearly half the game to get going, defeating the Philadelphia Flyers 3-1 on Tuesday at PNC Arena. Left winger Joakim Nordstrom, center Jordan Staal and center Eric Staal scored for the Hurricanes in a matchup of two Metropolitan Division teams trying to move into playoff position.

### DEVILS 5, RANGERS 2

Right winger Lee Stempniak scored the go-ahead goal late in the second period as the New Jersey Devils defeated the depleted New York Rangers 5-2 at Prudential Center on Tuesday night. The Rangers were without Ryan McDonagh and Marc Staal, two of their top defensemen, due to injury.

### PREDATORS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 2

Left winger Filip Forsberg scored the first three goals of the game and the Nashville Predators held on to defeat the Toronto Maple Leafs 3-2 on Tuesday. Defenseman Roman Josi added two assists for the Predators, who earned at

least one point in each of their past nine road games. Left winger Josh Leivo and defenseman Morgan Rielly scored for the Maple Leafs in the third period.

### LIGHTNING 2, COYOTES 1

The Tampa Bay Lightning continued their hot streak Tuesday night, getting a shorthanded penalty-shot goal from center Cedric Paquette on the way to a 2-1 win over the Arizona Coyotes at Amalie Arena. Tampa Bay (34-22-4) has now won four straight—its second-longest win streak of the season—heading into a four-game road trip. Backup Lightning goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy took a shutout into the third period Tuesday as starter Ben Bishop got the night off.

### RED WINGS 2, BLUE JACKETS 1 (SO)

Centers Riley Sheahan and Andreas Athanasiou scored in a shootout to give the Detroit Red Wings a 2-1 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Tuesday at Joe Louis Arena. The Red Wings ended their four-game losing streak (0-2-2).

### ISLANDERS 4, WILD 1

When you're away from home for a long stretch, nothing helps pass the time like winning. That's a lesson the New York Islanders are learning in the midst of their longest road trip of the season.

Star center John Tavares had a goal and an assist for the Islanders on Tuesday as they won for the sixth time in their past eight games, beating the Minnesota Wild 4-1 and improving to 2-0-0 on the seven-game road swing.

### KINGS 2, FLAMES 1

Center Anze Kopitar scored the go-ahead goal late in the second period, lifting the Los Angeles Kings to a 2-1 victory over the Calgary Flames at Staples Center on Tuesday night. Kopitar returned after missing the Kings 2-1 decision over the Nashville Predators on Saturday with a lower-body injury. His 18th goal of the season was the difference as the Kings (35-20-4) increased their lead in the Pacific Division to four points over the idle Anaheim Ducks. — Reuters



**PORTLAND:** Brooklyn Nets center Brook Lopez (11) drives to the basket on Portland Trail Blazers center Ed Davis during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Tuesday. The Blazers won 112-104. — AP

# BACKCOURT BOOSTS BLAZERS PAST NETS

**PORTLAND:** Damian Lillard and C.J. McCollum each scored 34 points as the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Brooklyn Nets 112-104 on Tuesday night for their sixth consecutive victory. Lillard became the first player to score at least 30 points in five straight games for Portland since Geoff Petrie in the franchise's inaugural 1970-71 season. McCollum added six assists and five rebounds. The game was tied before McCollum and Lillard hit consecutive 3-pointers to make it 107-101 with 1:25 left. Lillard sealed the win with four free throws in the last 26.4 seconds. Mason Plumlee added 13 rebounds as Portland (30-27) won for the 11th time in 12 games to move into a tie with idle Dallas for the sixth seed in the Western Conference. Brook Lopez had 36 points and 10 boards for Brooklyn (15-42), which has lost three of four. Joe Johnson had 19 points and eight rebounds.

with 48.3 seconds left. Cousins came up big down the stretch, scoring eight of the final 13 points for the Kings, who blew a 17-point lead in the second half before rallying at the finish. The All-Star center stole the ball from D.J. Augustin and was fouled on his way to the basket. He made both free throws to give the Kings a lead they wouldn't relinquish. Cousins preserved the win by stripping the ball away from Darrell Arthur in the final seconds. The Nuggets had eight players score in double figures in their fourth loss in five games. Will Barton scored 14 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter.

### MAGIC 124, 76ERS 115

Nikola Vucevic scored a season-high 35 points against his former team, leading Orlando to the road win. Vucevic, drafted 16th overall by the 76ers in 2011, also had nine rebounds in a "must-win" game according to coach Scott Skiles as the Magic try to gain ground in pursuit of their first playoff berth in four years. Vucevic was 13 for 21 from the field and 9 for 9 at the line. Victor Oladipo added 22 points for the Magic, who return home on Thursday to host the NBA's best Golden State Warriors. Ish Smith scored 22 points and Jahlil Okafor had 17 for the NBA-worst 76ers, who dropped to 8-48 with their fifth straight loss. — AP

## NHL results/standings

New Jersey 5, NY Rangers 2; Carolina 3, Philadelphia 1; Nashville 3, Toronto 2; Detroit 2, Columbus 1 (SO); Tampa Bay 2, Arizona 1; NY Islanders 4, Minnesota 1; Dallas 5, Winnipeg 3; Ottawa 4, Edmonton 1; Los Angeles 2, Calgary 1.

Western Conference					
Central Division					
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA
Dallas	38	17	6	199	172
Chicago	38	19	5	176	148
St. Louis	35	18	9	156	150
Nashville	29	21	11	159	157
Colorado	31	27	4	165	173
Minnesota	27	23	10	157	152
Winnipeg	25	30	4	152	176
Pacific Division					
Los Angeles	35	20	4	159	138
Anaheim	31	19	8	146	141
San Jose	32	21	5	174	157
Arizona	27	27	6	164	185
Vancouver	23	24	12	142	168
Calgary	26	30	3	161	182
Edmonton	22	33	6	151	188
Eastern Conference					
Atlantic Division					
Florida	34	18	7	164	137



**EDMONTON:** Jordan Oesterle #82 of the Edmonton Oilers trips up Nick Paul #13 of the Ottawa Senators on Tuesday at Rexall Place in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. — AFP

## NBA results/standings

Orlando 124, Philadelphia 115; Washington 109, New Orleans 89; Sacramento 114, Denver 110; Utah 117, Houston 114 (OT); Portland 112, Brooklyn 104.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference			
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division			
	W	L	PCT		GB		
Toronto	37	18	.673			Oklahoma City	40
Boston	33	25	.569	5.5		Portland	30
NY Knicks	24	34	.414	14.5		Utah	28
Brooklyn	15	42	.263	23		Denver	22
Philadelphia	8	48	.143	29.5		Minnesota	18
Central Division				Pacific Division			
Cleveland	40	15	.727	-		Golden State	50
Indiana	30	26	.536	10.5		LA Clippers	37
Chicago	29	26	.527	11		Sacramento	24
Detroit	28	29	.491	13		Phoenix	14
Milwaukee	24	33	.421	17		LA Lakers	11
Southeast Division				Southwest Division			
Miami	32	24	.571	-		San Antonio	47
Atlanta	31	27	.534	2		Memphis	32
Charlotte	29	26	.527	2.5		Dallas	30
Washington	26	29	.473	5.5		Houston	28
Orlando	25	30	.455	6.5		New Orleans	22

## FORMER SPRINTER FREDERICKS HEADS IOC COMMISSION FOR 2024

**BERLIN:** Namibian former Olympic sprinter Frankie Fredericks will head the evaluation commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the 2024 summer Games bids, the IOC said yesterday.

Fredericks, an IOC member since 2012 and four-times Olympic silver medalist, will lead the 14-member commission tasked with evaluating the four bids from Los Angeles, Budapest, Rome and Paris ahead of the vote in 2017.

The evaluation commission will stage working visits to each of the four cities in early 2017

to review bid plans before delivering a final report to the Olympic body ahead of the decision at its session in Lima, Peru in September.

The IOC also said it had appointed Russian Olympic Committee chief Alexander Zhukov as head of the coordination commission overseeing the delivery of the 2022 winter Olympics in Beijing. Zhukov was head of the evaluation commission of the 2022 bids with Beijing getting the nod in August last year. He was also chairman of the supervisory board for the 2014 Sochi winter Olympics. — Reuters

### KINGS 114, NUGGETS 110

DeMarcus Cousins scored 39 points for Sacramento, including the go-ahead free throws

## BRITISH LAWMAKER SAYS FIFA CANDIDATE IN 'CASH FOR VOTES' SCANDAL

**LONDON:** A British lawmaker has accused Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim al Khalifa, a frontrunner in the FIFA presidential race, of being involved in a "cash-for-votes" scandal. Damian Collins said in Britain's House of Commons that Sheikh Salman, one of the favourites to succeed Sepp Blatter in charge of the tainted world body, had questions to answer over his election as president of the Asian Football Confederation in 2013.

Sheikh Salman strongly denied any wrongdoing. Collins, a member of Britain's ruling Conservative Party and a campaigner for better governance in sport, said there were "strong grounds to suspect" the Kyrgyz Republic's delegation to the AFC had voted for Sheikh Salman in the belief they would receive "significant financial support" for football projects from the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). The OCA is headed by an ally of

the sheikh. A spokesman for Sheikh Salman told Britain's Times newspaper last week there was no "credible evidence" behind the allegations. Collins also told MPs that emails between the delegation and the OCA prior to the confederation's presidential election in May 2013, included requests for funding despite there being "no legitimate reason" for such requests.

His latest intervention ahead of FIFA's vote or a new president tomorrow. Collins said that if Sheikh Salman was chosen, the British government should withdraw support for any English Football Association bid to host FIFA tournaments. Using a public petition to raise the issue Collins-whose comments are protected from any legal defamation action as he was speaking in parliament-said that "prior to Sheikh Salman's election to the presidency of the Asian Football Confederation in May

2013, details of the flights that the football federation of the Kyrgyz Republic (FFKR) delegation would be taking to and from Kuala Lumpur were emailed to the private account of the IT manager of the Olympic Council of Asia, of which a close associate of Sheikh Salman was head."

His petition noted that "three days before the vote, requests for support for 53 projects for Kyrgyzstan football to the tune of millions of pounds were discussed, although there seems to be no legitimate reason for the FFKR, part of FIFA, to be seeking funding from the OCA, part of the International Olympic Committee."

Collins added that the "FFKR approached the OCA again after the AFC election, asking when they would receive payment for their projects, which gives strong grounds to suspect that the FFKR voted for Sheikh Salman because they believed they would receive signif-

icant financial support from the OCA."

This, said Collins, amounted to a "fresh cash-for-votes scandal which needs urgent investigation". "The OCA strongly denies these accusations which are entirely without foundation," the Asian Olympic umbrella body said in a statement. Sheikh Salman's staff released a strong denial late Tuesday, saying: "Sheikh Salman has and had no knowledge whatsoever of any inducements offered, or of any payments made by the OCA to any football associations and absolutely no evidence has been forthcoming to show this to have been the case.

"Sheikh Salman won the 2013 AFC presidential election by a landslide, with 33 of the 46 votes. The other candidates received six and seven votes respectively. Sheikh Salman was clearly the overwhelming choice of AFC members." — AFP



**LEVERKUSEN:** Roger Schmidt, coach of Bayer 04 Leverkusen, pictured during a press conference at the BayArena in Leverkusen, Germany, yesterday. Bayer Leverkusen coach Roger Schmidt has been banned from the touchline for at least three matches because he refused to adhere to being sent off in a loss to Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga last weekend. — AP

## SCHMIDT HIT WITH FIVE-MATCH BAN

**BERLIN:** Bayer Leverkusen coach Roger Schmidt was yesterday banned from the bench for five league games and fined 20,000 euros (\$22,031) after refusing a referee's order to leave the touchline during a Bundesliga match.

The German Football Association (DFB) has taken a hard line with Schmidt, who is banned for the next three league games, against Mainz, Werder Bremen and Augsburg, with a further two games suspended until June 30 2017.

Schmidt became engaged in an angry exchange with referee Felix Zwayer following Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's 64th-minute goal at the BayArena last Sunday that gave Borussia Dortmund a 1-0 victory over Leverkusen in Germany's top flight. Schmidt was ordered to the stands, but refused to leave the technical area, instead demanding an explanation for Zwayer's decision and the referee 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 and the 48-year-old admitted he was wrong to have lost his temper. "I accept the verdict, even if I find it very hard," said Schmidt in a press conference. "I did not behave well on Sunday and made a mistake.

I therefore have to accept the consequences and will learn from this for the future. "I have apologised to the team about my behaviour, as it did nothing to help them. "I can't help the team in the

next three games, but that is the bed I have made for myself, now I must lie in it." However, Schmidt will be on Leverkusen's bench for Thursday's Europa League round of 32, second-leg clash at home to Sporting Lisbon, which Leverkusen enter with a 1-0 first leg deficit, as the ban only applies to German league games.

Leverkusen's director of sport Rudi Voeller has also been fined 10,000 euros after describing the referee's decision to send Schmidt to the stands as "completely unnecessary" during a post-match rant on Sunday. It was the first time a Bundesliga game was stopped after a coach refused to follow a referee's instructions. Rainer Koch, the interim president of the DFB and a lawyer, said the punishments handed to both Schmidt and Voeller were harsh, but fair. "Yes, the punishments are hard, but the incident was exceptional," Koch told Sky Sports News.

"I think the fact the participants later regretted their actions was taken into consideration. "I hope it remains a one-off, which will be unique in Bundesliga history."

The DFB has specified that Schmidt must have no contact with his players, directly or indirectly, from half an hour before each game until 30 minutes after the final whistle.

As well as the sidelines, he is banned from the team dressing room, the area around it and the players' tunnel. — AFP

## INFANTINO SAYS HE WILL BOOST, NOT BANKRUPT, FIFA

**ZURICH:** Insisting his \$1 billion financial pledges are affordable, FIFA presidential candidate Gianni Infantino yesterday countered rival Sheikh Salman's claim that he would bankrupt soccer's governing body.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Infantino said that by repairing FIFA's scandal-battered image he will attract new sponsors to fund a proposal to hike cash handouts to the 209 member federations.

"To all 209 associations, be sure that what is promised there is not only feasible but is easy to deliver and FIFA will be as financially stable as never before," Infantino said ahead of tomorrow's election. "My objective is also to increase significantly the revenues of FIFA. I think my track record in UEFA speaks for itself in this respect." Infantino is offering each of FIFA's members \$5 million to invest in development projects and running costs - a huge increase on the \$2.05 million per federation from 2011-14 - and another \$1 million, if required, for travel, which would be attractive to small nations in remote regions. Additionally, each of the six confederations will be handed \$40 million to invest in development projects, and their regional offshoots in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Central America can request another \$4 million to organize youth tournaments.

FIFA vice president Sheikh Salman told the AP yesterday that "in three years we would be bankrupt" if Infantino was able to lavish extra cash on federations while the governing body is struggling financially. FIFA will be required to dip into cash reserves of \$1.523 billion as it faces a deficit forecast to be \$560 million in the 2015-18 World Cup cycle, according to Sheikh Salman.

"Once FIFA's image and reputation has been rebuilt it will be easier to generate more revenue and have more funds at our disposal for development of football, which is what FIFA should do to start with," Infantino said, in response to Sheikh Salman, in an interview in Zurich.

As European soccer's top administrator, Infantino ensured UEFA not only weathered the worst of the post-2008 global financial crisis but almost tripled revenue. "If there is one thing I know about it is figures,"



**ZURICH:** FIFA presidential candidate Gianni Infantino smiles during an interview with AFP yesterday in Zurich. FIFA presidential favourites Gianni Infantino and Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa embarked on a final scramble for votes ahead of the election to lead world football's scandal-tainted governing body. — AFP

said Infantino, who has been at UEFA since 2000 and general secretary since 2009. "I know how much it costs to organize a World Cup because I know how much it costs to organize the Euros. I know how much it costs to run an administration like FIFA because I know how much it costs to run the administration of UEFA and it's a similar size.

"When I propose these things and when I propose these development funds and grants, not only am I sure and confident it can be delivered but this will be easy to deliver. When you generate only \$5 billion to distribute \$1.2 or \$1.3 billion is easy. My goal is to do much more. My goal is give 50 percent of FIFA's revenue to the national associations." Infantino is in the five-man election contest as a substitute for Michel

Platini after the UEFA president was banned for eight years for unethical conduct. Now Infantino is even adopting the language once used by the former France captain, who saw becoming FIFA president as his calling in his post-playing career.

"Until five months ago I was never thinking about being in this campaign but somehow it was a destiny," said Infantino, a Swiss-Italian. "It was a destiny to do it and when I embark on something I do it with 200 percent.

"What I have learned is there are many people around the world who live football, who breathe football, love football and organize football often in very, very difficult situations and conditions. And we have to be there to help them." — AP



**OLD TRAFFORD:** Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal, right, speaks during a press conference at Old Trafford, Manchester, England, yesterday. Barely a day goes by without fevered discussion about Van Gaal's future at Old Trafford, and it could be on even more shaky ground if United is eliminated by little-known Danish club FC Midtjylland after the second leg of the Europa League's first knockout round today. — AP

## MAN UNITED LOOKS TO AVOID EMBARRASSING EUROPA EXIT

**MANCHESTER:** Louis van Gaal was signing autographs after Manchester United's victory in the FA Cup on Monday when one voice from a group of mostly young fans wished the Dutchman the best of luck for the rest of the season. "We need that," Van Gaal replied straight-faced, without looking up to the well-wisher. "Otherwise, I shall be sacked." Barely a day goes by without fevered discussion about Van Gaal's future at Old Trafford, and it could be on even more shaky ground if United is eliminated by little-known Danish club FC Midtjylland after the second leg of the Europa League's first knockout round on Thursday. United lost the first leg 2-1 in arguably the lowest point in Van Gaal's tenure.

Elimination would restrict the chances of United qualifying for next season's Champions League, with a place on offer for winning the Europa League. The only other route for United would be to finish in the Premier League's top four and the team is in fifth place, six points adrift of fourth.

Being in the Champions League is likely a minimum requirement for Van Gaal if he is to stay on for a third season at United. Anthony Martial's away goal at Midtjylland, which won the Danish league title for the first time last season, has given United a good chance of advancing to the last 16. But an injury list currently containing 14 players, including captain Wayne Rooney, is proving a problem for Van Gaal with United playing three games in six days this week. Title contender Arsenal visits Old Trafford in the Premier League on Sunday, and Van

Gaal risks leaving his team fatigued for that match if he fields a full-strength lineup on Thursday. He may, though, have little choice given the injury concerns. In dominating the second half of the first leg, Midtjylland - founded in 1999, the year United won the Champions League-Premier League-FA Cup treble during its glory days under Alex Ferguson - showed it will be no pushover. "Midtjylland are very well-organized, we have seen that in the away game," said Van Gaal, whose team was eliminated in the group stage of the Champions League. "But still everything is possible." Here are some things to watch out for today:

## TENSIONS IN MOSCOW

Lokomotiv Moscow's game against Fenerbahce could see unrest in the stands because of the political tension between Russia and Turkey following the shooting down of a Russian jet by Turkey in November.

While there was no violence in the first leg in Istanbul, which Fenerbahce won 2-0, some Turkish fans were angered when Lokomotiv midfielder Dmitry Tarasov displayed a T-shirt featuring Russian President Vladimir Putin at the end of the game. Russia's Interior Ministry, which controls the police, has appealed for Lokomotiv fans to remain calm during the game.

"We are counting on you being able to express not only respectful support for the players in their struggle against the opposition, but also to behave

in a law-abiding and appropriate manner, and to properly represent a Russian club and your country," the ministry said in an address reported by the Interfax news agency.

## STRONG SPAIN

Spanish clubs have a strong record in the Europa League and there's a good chance all four of this season's representatives could make it through to the last 16.

Defending champion Sevilla travels to Molde protecting a 3-0 lead from the first leg, Valencia has a 6-0 lead over Rapid Vienna, Villarreal heads to Italy with a 1-0 lead against Napoli, and Athletic Bilbao is ahead 1-0 against Marseille.

## TOTTENHAM'S PRIORITIES

Tottenham is even with Fiorentina heading into the second leg in London after a 1-1 draw, and it's likely some of the English club's fans won't be too upset if their team is knocked out.

Tottenham is a genuine challenger for the English league title for the first time in a generation, and exiting the Europa League would allow the team to focus purely on the domestic championship for the rest of the season. The path was further cleared over the weekend when Tottenham was eliminated from the FA Cup in the fifth round. Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino rested some key players, like Harry Kane, for the first leg. — AP

## STURRIDGE HITS BACK AT LIVERPOOL TAUNTS

**LONDON:** Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge has said suggestions he doesn't want to play for the Merseyside club are "astonishing and disappointing".

Sturridge's commitment to the Anfield club has been called into question during two years where his career has been blighted by injuries, with some even suggesting his religious beliefs were influencing his lack of availability.

But the 26-year-old, who has featured in Liverpool's last three games after two months out with a hamstring problem, said suggestions he was taking the Reds for a ride were way wide of the mark.

"To say a player doesn't want to play is the biggest disrespect you could ever say to a footballer," he said ahead of Liverpool's Europa League tie against Augsburg at Anfield on Thursday.

"I think it is astonishing, disappointing-whoever is saying it-but that's football and people are entitled to their opinions. "I would probably say a lot of the things people say about me aren't true. "I don't listen to social media...I didn't know religion had anything to do with football." "I don't think anyone will understand how much it means to me to play football and I'll continue to do my best and focus on Liverpool."

England international Sturridge had appeared in a mere nine matches since April last year, when a hip problem led to him undergoing surgery in New York and has spent more time on the sidelines than being available for first-team duty after joining Liverpool from Chelsea in 2013. However, he said fans'

frustration with his injury record was nothing compared to his own. "I am very ambitious, very determined to help Liverpool have success; I'm totally focused and of course I want to be on the pitch every game playing like every player and it hurts not to be playing," Sturridge said.

"I am not someone who will be laughing and joking, going out with my friends living life to the fullest when I am not playing.

"I am at home, not enjoying life and not stress-free. I am devastated to be sitting in the stands watching my teammates play." Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, alongside Sturridge, was pleased by the forward's comments ahead of the second leg of the last-32 tie against Augsburg which is level at 0-0. "I agree with everything he said," said Klopp. "It was interesting to hear what you asked. He was completely relaxed and you (the media) were more excited than the player but it is good because a few things are more clear now.

"That is what we needed: to hear from him not second-hand," the German manager added. Liverpool have just a three-day turnaround after their European encounter before they face Manchester City in the League Cup final at Wembley on Sunday but Klopp said there would be no lack of effort today.

"It is an opportunity to prove (yourself) for Sunday. That is how it should be," he added. "We have to show we are able to be 100 percent concentrated on this game and then we can look at the final." — AFP

Djokovic eases  
into 700-win  
club in DubaiInfantino says  
he will boost,  
not bankrupt,  
FIFA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

AUSTRALIA'S RETURN TO THE TOP HIT BY CONTROVERSY Page 17



KIEV: Kiev's Andriy Yarmolenko, 2nd left, attempts a shot on goal during the Champions League round of 16 first leg soccer match between Dynamo Kiev and Manchester City at the Olimpiyskiy stadium in Kiev, Ukraine, yesterday. — AP

## SUPERB CITY HAVE Q-FINALS IN SIGHT

KIEV: Manchester City may be toiling domestically at the moment but they produced a superb European away performance to beat Dynamo Kiev 3-1 in Ukraine in their Champions League last 16, first leg yesterday.

Manuel Pellegrini's side did enough to win the game in the first half with Sergio Agüero and David Silva both scoring to underline their importance to City.

Dynamo pulled a goal back in the second half through midfielder Vitaliy Buyalskiy, but Yaya Toure's late beauty ensured that City are very much on course to reach the quarter-finals for the first time in their history.

They have been eliminated by Barcelona at this stage in each of the last two seasons

but this was a far kinder draw for City against opponents who were playing their first competitive match since December due to the long Ukrainian winter break. While Dynamo coach Sergiy Rebrov might have been concerned about a lack of match sharpness in his side, Pellegrini had complained of not having enough time to prepare his team for this encounter.

He named a fringe side containing numerous untested youngsters for Sunday's 5-1 FA Cup fifth-round defeat to Chelsea but his starting XI in the Olympic Stadium was back to full strength, with Fernando the only player to keep his place.

With Joe Hart, Vincent Kompany, Toure, Silva and Agüero in the side, City are a differ-

ent proposition and, after three consecutive defeats, they looked in the mood here.

There was an early fright when an Andriy Yarmolenko cross was parried by Hart only for the visitors played with a degree of hunger and intensity not seen in recent weeks.

They were rewarded with the opening goal a quarter of an hour in, as a Silva corner from the left was headed down by Toure for Agüero, who controlled before lashing in his 19th goal of the season.

### OVERRUN

Dynamo had held Premier League opponents in Chelsea to a goalless draw at home in the group stage and beat Everton 5-2 in

last season's Europa League, but they struggled to handle City and Agüero fired narrowly wide midway through the first half.

With his midfield being overrun, Rebrov chose to remove Denys Garmash and send on Miguel Veloso just after the half-hour mark, but still City came and Toure forced a save from veteran goalkeeper Olexandr Shovkovskiy before the second goal arrived five minutes from half-time.

It was a superb goal too, as Agüero laid the ball off for Raheem Sterling and his low cross to the back post was turned into the net by Silva. With club legend Andriy Shevchenko watching from the stands, Dynamo rallied at the start of the second half and were given hope when they cut the

deficit just before the hour mark. Nicolas Otamendi headed out a Domagoj Vida cross but Buyalskiy met the falling ball first time from 20 yards and his shot deflected into the net off the Argentine defender. City then had Hart to thank for keeping their lead intact as he produced a strong hand low down to his right to turn away another Buyalskiy shot following a Veloso pass, but City remained a danger on the break at the other end.

Toure somehow headed a Sterling cross wide when unmarked six yards out but he more than made up for that with a vintage goal to make it 3-1 in the 90th minute. The Ivorian exchanged passes with Fernandinho before curling home with his left foot from 18 yards into the far corner. — AFP

## 10-MAN PSV HOLD ON FOR ATLETICO STALEMATE

EINDHOVEN: PSV Eindhoven held out with 10 men to leave their Champions League last 16 tie with Atletico Madrid finely balanced at 0-0 after the first-leg yesterday. Atletico had the chances to kill the game before half-time as Luciano Vietto and Antoine Griezmann missed one-on-ones with Jeroen Zoet. The hosts had to resist for the final 20 minutes a man light when Gaston Pereira saw red for a second bookable offence.

However, Atletico failed to take advantage meaning all is to play for when the sides meet again on March 15 at the Vicente Calderon for a place in the last eight.

Vietto was handed a start ahead of Fernando Torres as Griezmann's strike partner and should have opened the scoring after just three minutes. Gabi's long ball through the middle caught the PSV defence flat-footed and the Argentine lifted the ball over the advancing Zoet, but Jeffrey Bruma got back just in time to clear the ball off the line.

PSV had seen off Manchester United in the group stages to reach the last-16 for the first time in nine years and showed signs they could produce another upset during the first-half. The home fans and coach Phillip Cocu were furious when Jurgen Locadia went down under

Gabi's challenge inside the area, but referee Daniele Orsato was unmoved.

Yet, Atletico were constantly finding space in behind the Dutch champions defence and Koke was next to have a go at chipping the ball over Zoet but didn't get enough on his effort to beat the 'keeper. Griezmann then had the best chance of the game when he raced onto Koke's through ball to beat the offside trap, but Zoet rushed from his line to make a vital save.

PSV could even have been in front before half-time when Davy Propper shot straight at Jan Oblak from close range after great work by Pereiro. Chances were harder to come by in the second period as neither side ran the risk of conceding the winner.

Diego Godin did have the ball in the net just after the hour mark, but his header from Koke's corner was rightly ruled out for a foul on Hector Moreno. PSV were then forced to try and see out the final 20 minutes when Pereiro picked up an unnecessary second booking for a flying elbow on Godin.

Torres had been introduced just before the dismissal for Vietto in the search for an away goal, but he wasted Atletico's best chance against the 10 men as he blazed well over from Juanfran's intelligent cut-back. — AFP



EINDHOVEN: PSV Eindhoven's midfielder Davy Propper (R) and Atletico Madrid's midfielder Gabi go for the ball during the UEFA Champions League round of 16 first leg football match between PSV Eindhoven and Atletico Madrid at the Philips Stadium in Eindhoven yesterday. — AFP

## FIFA REDUCES BLATTER, PLATINI BANS TO 6 YEARS

ZURICH: A FIFA appeal committee yesterday reduced bans against Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini to six years but maintained they were still guilty of ethics breaches.

The appeal result was announced as UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino and Asian football leader Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim al Khalifa stepped up their rivalry to take over as head of football's scandal-tainted world body in a vote tomorrow.

The bans against Blatter, FIFA president for 17 years, and UEFA president Platini were reduced from eight years to six by the appeal committee. Both were found guilty of conflicts of interest when Blatter approved a \$2 million payment to Platini in 2011 for consultancy work done without a contract a decade earlier.

French football legend Platini had been favourite to take over from Blatter but the ban demolished his hopes. "Mr Platini's and Mr Blatter's appeals are dismissed," said an ethics committee statement.

But it did determine that the FIFA ethics tribunal did not take into account "some strong mitigating factors" when determining the eight year sanction. "The appeal committee considered that Mr Platini's and Mr Blatter's activities and the services they had rendered to FIFA, UEFA and football in general over the years should deserve appropriate recognition as a mitigating factor."

Blatter and Platini again overshadowed FIFA's new attempt to turn the page on its scandal-plagued recent past with tomorrow's election.

Police raided a FIFA congress last May just before Blatter was elected to a fifth term. He announced he would stand down four days later. Now 39 football officials and executives face charges in the United States over more than \$200 million in bribes paid for soccer deals.

In the absence of Platini, Infantino and Sheikh Salman, president of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) have led a five man race to become the new president. The battle has been seen as too close to call in the final stages. But the election took a new twist when Prince Ali bin al Hussein went to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Monday seeking an order to force FIFA to use transparent voting booths.

The prince's lawyers had said they could seek a vote delay. The CAS said the demand by the Jordanian prince, a former FIFA vice-president, had been "rejected". — AFP



**AUB net profit surges by 11.3% to \$537.2 million**

**UK HOUSE PRICES TO RISE FASTER THAN PAY, INFLATION**



**TEHRAN: An oil facility in the Khark Island, on the shore of the Gulf on Tuesday. Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh dismissed an output freeze deal between the world's top two producers Saudi Arabia and Russia as "a joke", the ISNA news agency reported. —AFP**

**OPEC VETERAN ATTIYAH URGES OUTPUT CUT  
ACT QUICKLY TO REBALANCE OIL MARKET: IRAQ**

**DOHA:** OPEC and non-OPEC producers should cut production to balance the global oil market before a supply glut becomes unmanageable "like a cancer", Qatar's former oil minister Abdullah Al-Attiyah said.

Attiyah, influential in OPEC as Qatar's energy minister from 1992 to 2011, said a deal announced in Doha last week by Saudi Arabia and Russia to freeze production at January levels was not enough to balance the market as an oversupply continues to grow.

"If they want to balance the market the solution will be easy. Don't go slow. If you do, then every time the market will create a glut. Cut 2.5 million barrels and then you will balance the market in a few years," Attiyah, who says he is talking to producers in and outside of OPEC, told Reuters.

"I will ask every producer, do you want quantity or price? They say they want a reasonable price but to reach that there has to be sacrifice. If you do not sacrifice the other will not sacrifice," he said in an interview in Doha on Monday.

"The oversupply has grown from 1.7 million barrels per day (bpd) to 3 million bpd today. I am very worried about oversupply. It is like a cancer. If you did not deal with it quickly, it would spread."

Oil has slid around 70 percent from more than \$100 a barrel in mid-2014, pressured by excess supply and a decision by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to abandon its traditional role of cutting production alone to boost prices.

Attiyah spoke before Saudi Oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi said on Tuesday he was confident more nations would join a pact to freeze output at existing levels in talks expected next month, but effectively ruled out production cuts by major crude producers anytime soon.

Addressing the annual IHS CERAWEEK conference in Houston, Naimi told energy executives that growing support for the freeze and stronger demand should over time ease the glut that has pushed oil prices to their lowest levels in more than a decade. Traders have been sceptical about whether freezing pro-

duction near record levels will support the market.

Attiyah, a leading architect of Qatar's rise to global prominence as gas exporter, said OPEC would not cut production alone but added that Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter and defacto leader of OPEC, was willing to cooperate with other producers to balance the market.

"Saudi Arabia needs a commitment from everyone. The Saudis will be big supporters but others have to join in," he said. "OPEC will never do it alone. No way OPEC will do it alone: 100 percent."

One stumbling block in attempts to forge a wider agreement is Iran, which is increasing output following the lifting of Western sanctions in January and whose oil minister was quoted on Tuesday as calling the deal "laughable".

**Iraq call**

OPEC and non-OPEC producers should act quickly to rebalance the global oil market, otherwise they risk deep damage that could take a long time to fix, a senior Iraqi oil official said yesterday.

After a surprise meeting a week ago, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Venezuela and Qatar agreed to freeze production at January levels in an attempt to balance the market and boost oil prices that are down some 70 percent in the last 20 months. Iraq had said it was willing to cooperate but gave no details on whether it would freeze its production.

Iran, which is the biggest obstacle to a global deal as it focuses on ramping up output after sanctions were lifted, has said the freeze proposal places "unrealistic demands" on it. Falah Alamri, Iraq's OPEC governor and head of the State Oil Marketing Organization (SOMO), did not say if Iraq would join other oil producers in the freeze deal but indicated that any change in the country's output plans has to be done jointly with international oil companies who develop its main oil fields. "OPEC and non-OPEC countries should act promptly to rebalance world oil supply and demand or

the damage could be deeper and take time to recover," Alamri told the Argus Middle East Crude Conference in Abu Dhabi.

He said the collapse and volatility in oil prices were not related to Iraq's oil production, which has been growing at a steady pace each year in line with the global demand, and would continue to do so.

"Steady moderate yearly increases in Iraq oil production have been in line with the global oil demand," he said. Iraq's oil production was 4.775 million barrels per day (bpd) in January and the OPEC member currently exports "nearly 4 million bpd" including shipments from the northern Kurdish region, Alamri said.

"At the end of the day we don't want to flood the market with oil, we have to take into consideration the yearly demand. It will be a sustainable development but there will be no jump, it will not be affecting the international market," he said. "Iraq will try to maintain its crude oil market share in Asia, Europe, Americas and other markets." —Reuters

**OIL'S RETREAT HALTS GULF EQUITY RALLY**

**DUBAI:** Most Middle Eastern stock markets fell yesterday after oil prices pulled back sharply, interrupting a rally that had been built to a large extent on hopes that crude had bottomed out. As Brent crude fell back below \$33 a barrel, the Saudi stock index dropped 1.3 percent to 5,942 points, retreating from close to technical resistance at the February and January peaks of 6,056-6,098 points. The petrochemical sector led the market down with Saudi Basic Industries losing 2.1 percent. Second-tier speculative stocks also tumbled. Saudi Paper, which had jumped 8.1 percent in unusually heavy trade on Tuesday, tumbled 8.1 percent yesterday.

Retailing firms were weak. Al-Othaim Markets, a supermarket chain, fell 1.9 percent although the board recommended a cash dividend of 2.00 riyals per share for 2015, up from 2014 and above NCB Capital's forecast of 1.75 riyals. The retail sector may be hurt this year by the erosion of consumers' purchasing power after inflation spiked in January. On Tuesday the kingdom's statistics department said consumer price inflation hit 4.3 percent year-on-year, the highest since the data series began in 2012, after austerity measures in the state budget raised costs of electricity, water and gasoline. "We anticipate domestic inflationary pressure to intensify during 2016, driven by second-round effects stemming from the recent energy price reforms," said a research note by Riyadh-based Jadwa Investment. Dubai's index fell 1.7 percent to 3,137 points as investors

booked profits close to chart resistance at the late December peak of 3,189 points.

Emirates NBD, the largest lender by market value, fell 2.8 percent after adding 2.6 percent the previous day. The shares went ex-dividend on Wednesday. On Tuesday, Goldman Sachs raised its recommendation for the stock to "buy" from "neutral". But builder Drake & Scull, which has been rebounding in the past few weeks from a record low, added a further 2.7 percent. In Abu Dhabi, the stock index dropped 0.7 percent. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, which had surged 2.5 percent on Tuesday after Goldman Sachs raised its price target for the stock to 8.1 dirhams with a "buy" rating, fell 1.0 percent to 6.88 dirhams. Qatar's main benchmark fell 0.9 percent as Masraf Al-Rayan, the Islamic bank, slid 4.1 percent. The bank is expected to post annual profit growth of between 8 and 10 percent in 2016, Chairman Hussain Ali al-Abdulla said at its annual general meeting on Tuesday. Salam International Investments, the most heavily traded stock, climbed 3.6 percent. Bahrain's market outpaced the region, rising 1.1 percent on the back of Ahli United Bank, the country's biggest listed lender, which jumped 4.6 percent after it posted an 11.1 percent increase in its fourth-quarter net attributable profit to \$118.0 million. SICO Bahrain had forecast \$110.3 million. Egypt's main benchmark dropped 0.8 percent to as Palm Hills Development retreated 3.4 percent and Global Telecom Holding lost 4.8 percent. —Reuters

**INDIAN REFINERS IN BID FOR BETTER OPEC OIL DEALS**

**NEW DELHI:** Indian state refiners are jointly negotiating oil purchase deals with OPEC producers for the first time, as the world's third biggest consumer seizes on low prices to wrest better terms in a market awash with crude. In a sign of the shift in power from oil sellers to buyers, India is reviewing its import policy at a time when OPEC members are focused more on protecting market share than boosting prices that are down some 70 percent in the last 20 months. While producers have shown no sign yet of willingness to discount long-term price benchmarks, or official selling prices (OSPs), they have discussed concessions on loan terms and shipping that would reduce costs, said Indian industry and government officials familiar with the talks.

In the last two months officials from Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp, Hindustan Petroleum Corp and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd visited Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to negotiate deals for the next fiscal year beginning in April. The four refiners together control about 60 percent of India's 4.6 million barrels per day (bpd) capacity. "Joint negotiation increases your bargaining power. When you jointly negotiate, even a customer of a small quantity gets the (same) advantage (as) buyers of huge volumes," H. Kumar, managing director of MRPL, told Reuters.

**POLICY 'NEEDS TO EVOLVE'**

The UAE, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia declined to give discounts on OSPs to

Indian refiners, sources said, but there was some leeway on other commercial terms. "UAE and Kuwait said they may increase the credit period, and offered concessions on shipping if Indian refiners raise volumes," said an industry official privy to the talks.

"Saudi said they are open for discussion (on some terms) provided volumes are raised," the official added. State oil officials from the three exporting countries were not immediately available for comment on the talks. India's oil import policy was approved by the cabinet in 1979 and was last modified in 2001 to expand the list of companies that can supply crude

there. "The policy needs to evolve with the changing times ... It is necessary to make the policy more flexible so that Oil PSUs (public sector undertakings) are able to procure crude oil at the best possible terms," said an oil ministry official. In 2015, Indian state refiners lifted about 250,000 barrels per day (bpd) from Kuwait, about 514,000 bpd from Saudi Arabia, and about 214,000 from UAE, according to Reuters data. In the last fiscal year, IOC halved its term deal with Kuwait to about 100,000 bpd. An IOC source said that for the next fiscal year the company planned to restore volumes to about 200,000 bpd.

"If anybody goes for large volumes,

obviously there could be some benefit," said a source at a state refiner. "We may not get a discount on OSPs, but we may get benefits in terms of operational issues like choice of grade, lay days, relaxation in opening of LCs (letters of credit), enhanced credit periods and others."

**HOLDING HANDS**

Annual supply deals, also called "term contracts", account for about 80 percent of Indian state refiners' import needs. For the remaining volumes, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said recently that the Indian cabinet would shortly approve the creation of a joint trading desk for state refiners.

The companies currently float spot tenders two months in advance of oil being lifted, missing out on the chance to secure cheaper crude on the spot market. "The thinking is initially it will be a common trading desk, so a kind of hand holding will be there for us. Once we develop expertise, then we can move on our own. Eventually every company will have its own trading desk," said the state refiner source.

In December, India's oil ministry held a meeting of company officials on how to develop crude purchasing policy. Under changes yet to be ratified by the cabinet, it was decided to allow state refiners to buy crude under term contract from Indian private firms or those companies' foreign arms. Also qualifying would be international partners in private Indian companies' oil production ventures. —Reuters



**BRUSSELS: Activists demonstrate against the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the EU and the USA outside the European Parliament at Luxembourg Place in Brussels yesterday. —AFP**

# BAHRAIN'S BBK PLANS CAPITAL BOOSTING BOND

**MANAMA:** BBK, formerly known as Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, plans to issue a 100 million dinar (\$265.3 million) convertible bond by the end of March to boost its capital ratios, its chief executive told Reuters.

BBK is the latest lender in the Gulf region to announce plans to boost reserves as banks top up their capital after significant lending growth in recent years, as well as to comply with Basel III global banking standards. "Soon we will be launching a capital

issue ... a convertible perpetual issue 100 million dinars ... that will be launched by end of March," Chief Executive Abdulkarim Bucheery told Reuters on the sidelines of a conference in Bahrain.

The bank, Bahrain's fourth-largest by assets, had a capital adequacy ratio, a key indicator of its financial health, of 14.87 percent at the end of December, above a minimum requirement of 12.5 percent. Bucheery said BBK did not need to borrow other debt but warned

that this year would be extremely challenging for the kingdom's banking sector, with difficulties compounded by last week's downgrade of Bahrain's credit rating to junk status by Standard & Poor's.

BBK issued a \$400 million bond last year to refinance an existing obligation. "In terms of growth we will not see the same levels either for assets or liabilities, it will be much lower," he said.

The lender is expecting its balance

sheet to grow in the range of 3 percent to 4 percent this year, after a year-on-year compounded rate of 8 percent over the past eight years.

Despite this, Bucheery said the bank's bottom line would likely be flat to 2015, without elaborating. The bank reported a net profit of 53.2 million dinars for 2015, up from 50.1 million dinars in the previous year.

BBK, which has operations in Kuwait, India and Dubai, has obtained Bahrain central bank approval to

launch an investment wholesale banking company in the United Kingdom, he said.

The bank is yet to submit required items to obtain regulatory approval for the company from the UK-based Financial Conduct Authority, he said. The company will be based in London and set up as a joint venture with another partner, Bucheery said, declining to identify them but adding the firm will specialise in investments and real estate. — Reuters

# OIL BELOW \$33 ON SAUDI COMMENTS, US STOCK RISE

API SAYS US CRUDE STOCKS RISE; EIA REPORT DUE

**LONDON:** Oil fell below \$33 per barrel yesterday after Saudi Arabia ruled out production cuts and an industry report said US crude stockpiles hit a record, underlining the supply glut.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi said production cuts would not happen although more countries would join a deal to freeze output. OPEC and non-OPEC producers who support the idea are planning a mid-March meeting, his Venezuelan counterpart said.

"Al-Naimi's remarks punctured an oil-price rally that has lacked substance," said David Hufton of broker PVM. "The market

correctly interpreted the presentation as bearish."

Brent crude was down 88 cents at \$32.39 a barrel at 1220 GMT. US crude fell \$1.17 to \$30.70. Both dropped more than 5 percent in intra-day trading on Tuesday. Also pressuring prices, the American Petroleum Institute (API), an industry group, said on Tuesday crude inventories rose by 7.1 million barrels last week, far exceeding expectations of a 3.4-million-barrel rise.

The US government's Energy Information Administration, which said last week crude stocks hit a record high, released

its supply report at 10:30 a.m. EST (1530 GMT).

Oil has slid from more than \$100 a barrel in mid-2014, pressured by excess supply and a decision by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to abandon its traditional role of cutting production alone to boost prices.

OPEC and outside producers have stepped up diplomatic activity following the slump in prices to their lowest since 2003 last month, and on Feb. 16 Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Venezuela plus non-OPEC Russia said they would freeze output. One stumbling block in attempts to

forge a wider agreement is Iran, which is increasing output following the lifting of Western sanctions in January and whose oil minister was quoted on Tuesday as calling the deal "laughable".

And merely not adding more barrels to the market may have little impact on the excess supply, given that OPEC production is running at its highest levels in many years and increased further in January. "At these levels, even if OPEC members honestly implement a production freeze deal, it will do little to improve balances in the coming months," analysts at Energy Aspects said in a report. — Reuters

## News

in brief

### Kuwait oil price down 25 cents to \$26.71 pb

**KUWAIT:** The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by 25 cents yesterday to settle at \$26.71 per barrel as opposed to \$26.96 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation yesterday. On the global scale, the price of oil went down by four percent on the background of a Saudi official source ruling out any decrease in production. The source said that freezing production on the levels witnessed in January should be discussed further in upcoming meetings for international oil producers from OPEC and countries outside of the organization. The price of the Brent mix was down by \$1.42 to settle at \$33.27 per barrel, the same case with the American crude which went down by \$1.52 to settle at \$31.87 pb.

### US dollar stable against KD at 0.299

**KUWAIT:** The exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at KD 0.299, as well as the euro at KD 0.330 compared to the exchange rates yesterday, said a statement by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. According to the CBK, the exchange rate of the Sterling pound went down at KD 0.418 while the Swiss franc went up at KD 0.301.

### GASC receives offers in vegetable oils tender

**CAIRO:** The lowest sunflower oil offer received in a vegetable oils tender from Egypt's state-owned General Authority for Supply Commodities (GASC) yesterday was at \$801.80 a ton, traders said. The offer was made by Aston for 16,000 tonnes of sunflower oil for shipment March 15 to March 30. The lowest soybean offer was made by ADM at \$736.69 a ton for 25,000 tons of soybean oil for shipment March 15 to March 30. GASC said it was seeking to purchase an unspecified volume of soybean and sunflower oil for shipment between March 15-30. Results for the tender are expected later.

### Turkish CB says to keep tight liquidity stance

**ANKARA:** The Turkish Central Bank will keep a tight liquidity stance for as long as deemed necessary, it said in the text of a presentation to economists yesterday. The presentation reiterated elements of the bank's monetary policy committee statement on Tuesday, when the bank left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 7.5 percent for the 12th month running.

### Beln Media Group hopes to buy US firm Miramax

**DOHA:** Beln Media Group is optimistic of agreeing a deal to buy Californian film studio Miramax, the Qatari firm's deputy chief executive told Reuters yesterday. "We are optimistic. I think you might hear something on this in the short-term," Yousef al-Abaidly, deputy CEO of state-owned Bein Media Group, told Reuters on the sidelines of a company event in Doha. Privately-held Miramax, which owns the rights to hundreds of Hollywood films including "Bridget Jones' Diary" and "The English Patient," was exploring a potential sale, sources told Reuters last July. An investor group including state-owned Qatar Holding and Thomas J. Barrack Jr.'s investment firm Colony Capital bought the company from Disney in 2010 for \$660 million.

## SHELL'S PURCHASES UNDERPIN DUBAI

**SINGAPORE:** Middle East crude benchmarks were mixed yesterday, with Shell's purchases underpinning Dubai while Oman weakened for a third session. Cash Dubai's discount to swaps narrowed about 10 cents after Shell bought two April partials from Reliance at \$28.80 a barrel, traders said.

Spot trade remained thin as traders await tender results from CPC. Russian ESPO crude was expected to resume trading after Russia returned from a two-day holiday yesterday.

### DME OMAN

DME Oman for April settled at \$29.70 a barrel, down \$1.09, at 0830 GMT. This puts DME Oman at 35 cents a barrel below Dubai swaps, down from a discount of 27 cents in the previous session. Dubai has set its official differential to Oman futures OQC1 for May at a discount of \$0.20 per barrel, the Dubai Department of Petroleum Affairs said yesterday.

### MARKET NEWS

Saudi Oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi said on Tuesday he was confident more countries would join a pact to freeze output at existing levels in talks expected next month, but effectively ruled out production cuts by major crude producers anytime soon.

Kurdistan's oil exports to world markets are set to be suspended for a second week running, a shipping source said, a move that will deprive Iraq's semi-autonomous region of its main revenue stream as the security situation in southeast Turkey worsens.

OPEC and non-OPEC producers should act quickly to rebalance the global oil market, otherwise they risk deep damage that could take a long time to fix, a senior Iraqi oil official said on Wednesday.

Indian state refiners are jointly negotiating oil purchase deals with OPEC producers for the first time, as the world's third-biggest consumer seizes on low prices to wrest better terms in a market awash with crude. France's Total and Saudi Arabia's national oil company are considering expanding by 10 percent their joint refinery project to 440,000 barrels per day, a Total executive said on Tuesday. — Reuters



TOKYO: A woman walks past an electronic stock display at a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. — AP

## AIR FRANCE-KLM REVENUE STUCK IN EGYPT AMID DOLLAR CRISIS

**CAIRO:** Air France-KLM has urged Egypt to release upward of 100 million Egyptian pounds (\$13 million) in revenue it is unable to repatriate due to an acute dollar shortage, saying the delays were making it increasingly difficult to operate in the country. Cees Ursem, Egypt country manager, said the Franco-Dutch airline had been unable to transfer earnings out of the country since October and had last week asked the tourism minister and central bank governor to help resolve the delays.

There was no immediate comment from the central bank. "All the foreign carriers they have the same problem," Ursem told Reuters by telephone.

"It is a very, very serious problem because all our revenues are blocked at the bank, but at the same time we do have all the same costs ongoing like leasing the aircraft, the fuel, the staff, overflying rights,

ground handling etc, which have to be paid in dollars, so how do you suppose that we can sustain these operations?" Import-dependent Egypt has been facing an acute dollar shortage since a 2011 uprising and subsequent political turmoil, which drove away foreign investors and tourists, key sources of foreign currency. Foreign exchange reserves have more than halved to \$16.4 billion. The crash of a Russian airliner over Egypt's Sinai in late October, killing all 224 people aboard, has further impacted tourism in the Red Sea area, and with it Egypt's dollar earnings.

The Egyptian pound has come under downward pressure as reserves have tumbled, but the central bank is reluctant to devalue for fear of further fuelling double-digit inflation. Instead, it has sought to preserve forex reserves for food, fuel, medicines and manufacturing components, by

imposing restrictions on bank deposits and transfers for non-essential goods and services. But the restrictions have hampered manufacturing and trade and made it harder for foreign investors to repatriate revenues. Economists say those problems, plus a widespread conviction that devaluation is ultimately unavoidable, are discouraging the foreign investors Egypt needs to rebuild its forex reserves.

Ursem said the airline, which operates 10 flights a week out of Egypt, was not about to suspend operations in the country but financial pressure was mounting.

"We have been supporting Egypt throughout the past five very difficult years ... but we cannot transfer our money? This is not fair," Ursem said. "We have all the good intentions to help and support the country so why are they now pushing us in this situation?" — Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	25.562
Indian Rupees	4.394
Pakistani Rupees	2.865
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.087
Nepali Rupees	2.741
Singapore Dollar	214.230
Hongkong Dollar	38.655
Bangladesh Taka	3.826
Philippine Peso	6.303
Thai Baht	8.430

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.136
Qatari Riyal	82.548
Omani Riyal	780.535
Bahraini Dinar	798.060
UAE Dirham	81.817

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	35.250
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	38.423
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.402
Tunisian Dinar	148.320
Jordanian Dinar	423.540
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.002
Syrian Lira	2.142
Morocco Dirham	31.124

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	300.350
Euro	332.190
Sterling Pound	421.240
Canadian dollar	218.360
Turkish lira	102.510
Swiss Franc	304.000
Australian Dollar	217.450
US Dollar Buying	299.150

### GOLD

20 Gram	244.530
10 Gram	125.190
5 Gram	63.440

### UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

#### CURRENCIES

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

US Dollar	300.600
Canadian Dollar	219.570
Sterling Pound	420.995
Euro	332.310
Swiss Frank	299.485
Bahrain Dinar	795.235
UAE Dirhams	82.085
Qatari Riyals	83.290

### Saudi Riyals

Jordanian Dinar	80.840
Egyptian Pound	423.450
Sri Lankan Rupees	38.278
Indian Rupees	2.088
Pakistani Rupees	4.379
Bangladesh Taka	2.864
Philippines Peso	3.823
Cyprus pound	6.293
Kenyan Shilling	572.540
Syrian Pound	3.680
Nepalese Rupees	2.365
Malaysian Ringgit	3.735
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	71.995
Thai Bhat	46.385
Turkish Lira	9.390
	102.405

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

#### CURRENCY

British Pound	0.413031	0.422031
Czech Korune	0.004236	0.016236
Danish Krone	0.040278	0.045278
Euro	0.325334	0.333334
Norwegian Krone	0.030911	0.036111
Romanian Leu	0.086156	0.086156
Slovakia	0.008911	0.018911
Swedish Krona	0.031359	0.036359
Swiss Franc	0.295702	0.305902
Turkish Lira	0.096470	0.106770

#### Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.207029	0.218529
New Zealand Dollar	0.192308	0.201808

#### America

Canadian Dollar	0.211949	0.220449
US Dollars	0.296250	0.300750

### US Dollars Mint

	0.296750	0.300750
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#### Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003440	0.004040
Chinese Yuan	0.044459	0.047959
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036652	0.039402
Indian Rupee	0.004180	0.004570
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002604	0.002784
Kenyan Shilling	0.003005	0.003005
Korean Won	0.000234	0.000249
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067687	0.073687
Nepalese Rupee	0.002847	0.003017
Pakistan Rupee	0.002714	0.002994
Philippine Peso	0.006227	0.006507
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.210274	0.216274
South African Rand	0.013719	0.022219
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001736	0.002316
Taiwan	0.008926	0.009106
Thai Baht	0.008095	0.008645

#### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.789801	0.797801
Egyptian Pound	0.033462	0.037798
Iranian Riyal	0.000083	0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000197	0.000257
Jordanian Dinar	0.419604	0.427104
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020395	0.044395
Nigerian Naira	0.001234	0.001869
Omani Riyal	0.773711	0.779391
Qatar Riyal	0.081788	0.083001
Saudi Riyal	0.079207	0.080157
Syrian Pound	0.001272	0.001492
Tunisian Dinar	0.144825	0.152825
Turkish Lira	0.096470	0.106770
UAE Dirhams	0.080793	0.081942
Yemeni Riyal	0.001357	0.001437

## AIRBUS GROUP SEES 'BREXIT' HURTING UK COMPETITIVENESS

**LONDON:** Airbus Group expects the competitiveness of its British operations to fall if Britons vote to leave the European Union in a referendum, potentially threatening the scale of the planemaker's operations in the country.

The support of France-headquartered Airbus, which employs 16,000 people in Britain, for those campaigning alongside Prime Minister David Cameron to stay in the EU comes a day after a group of company bosses warned that a vote to leave in a June 23 referendum would put the economy at risk.

"If Britain leaves, I cannot imagine that this would have positive consequences for our competitiveness in Britain," Chief Executive Tom

Enders told a news conference at the aerospace group's annual results yesterday. Airbus said that while a so-called Brexit would result in a review of its investment plans in Britain, it does not currently have a team of people working on contingency plans.

"We don't have any specific contingency plans other than increasing our productivity, continuing to invest, continuing what we need to do to succeed," Paul Kahn president of Airbus UK said in an interview.

The company, which builds wings for jetliners in Britain, will set up a response team if Britain does vote to leave the EU, but until then Kahn said there was not a clear picture of the alternative to member-

ship of the bloc, making planning difficult.

"You can make all sorts of assumptions positive or negative and we just don't know what 'Out' looks like, so it's very difficult to answer questions about," he said.

As such, Airbus is not spending material sums on planning, he said. "There's no need to spend money now on hypothetical situations," Kahn added. The company's focus in Britain in the meantime is on ensuring its operations were as competitive as possible. "Wings are only going to be continued to be made here if we maintain our global competitiveness," Kahn said. "The EU genuinely helps us to be globally competitive." — Reuters



**LONDON:** Chief executive officer of Airbus Group, Tom Enders (center) speaks during a press conference to announce the company's annual results in London yesterday. — AFP



**MUMBAI:** A local train passes through slum and high-rise buildings in Mumbai yesterday. Indian Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu unveils the budget today for India's immense railroad network, once a pride of the Indian government but now hobbled by aging infrastructure. — AP

## HOW LONG BEFORE CRACKS SHOW IN CHINA'S GREAT CURRENCY WALL?

### CHINA RESERVES DOWN \$762BN SINCE MID-2014 AT \$3.23TN

**BEIJING:** China still owns the world's largest currency reserves, but it has been burning through them at such a pace that some think Beijing might soon have to allow a sharp fall in the yuan or back-pedal on liberalization and tighten its capital controls.

Foreign exchange reserves in China declined \$99.5 billion in January to \$3.23 trillion, following a record fall the previous month, and have shrunk by \$762 billion since mid-2014, more than the gross domestic product of Switzerland.

That still leaves a mighty arsenal, and the People's Bank of China (PBOC) says it is more than adequate, though it has not said what the minimum might be and did not return a request for comment. PBOC governor Zhou Xiaochuan told Caixin magazine a week ago that much of the outflow had been Chinese companies repaying dollar debt as the greenback rose,

which would bottom out, or outbound investment, which would be welcomed.

Most economists agree China has a way to go before running out of road, but some believe it will have to hit the brakes in months, not years.

The pace of decline has accelerated as the PBOC fought to keep the yuan steady in the face of speculative selling offshore and capital flight at home, a task made harder by China's slowest economic growth in 25 years and the bank's own decision to guide the currency down in August and again in early January.

Though it has huge reserves, an economy the size of China's needs them to cover imports and foreign debts, and the less liquid assets in reserves can't readily serve those purposes.

Though the composition of China's reserves is a state secret, officials also say the falling dollar value of

other currencies it holds accounts for some of the fall. Economists and foreign exchange professionals around the world are nevertheless asking how long can they go before Beijing is forced to choose between fresh capital controls or giving up selling dollars to defend the yuan, also known as the renminbi.

French bank Societe Generale says International Monetary Fund guidelines put \$2.8 trillion as the minimum prudent level for China, which is not far away if reserves keep falling at the current pace.

"If that occurs in the next few months," says SocGen, "expect to see a tidal wave of speculative selling, forcing the PBOC to throw in the towel and let the market decide the level of the renminbi exchange rate." A G20 deputy central banker was considerably more sanguine.

"Whatever number I would come up with, it would be a lot less than \$2.8 trillion," he said, adding that reserves could fall another trillion by year-end in conjunction with stability in the exchange rate.

### NO MAGIC NUMBER

Analysts at HSBC felt \$2 trillion would be sufficient in theory, but doubted Beijing would risk letting ever-falling reserves spook local investors into shifting more funds offshore. According to Win Thin, global head of emerging market currency strategy at Brown Brothers Harriman, New York, China has 17 months' import cover, and its short-term foreign debt is only 25 percent of reserves, comfortably better than the three-month and 55 percent levels that might be considered safe for emerging markets (EM).

"I would say by any metric that we use for EM, China's reserves are more than sufficient," he said.

Within China, economists agree there is no imminent crisis facing policymakers. "We have \$3.3 trillion. What should we worry about?" said one economist at a Beijing-based think-tank. "We have net claims on foreign assets of \$1.5 trillion, and we still have a trade surplus of about \$600 billion." — Reuters



**BEIJING:** World Bank's President Jim Yong Kim (left) speaks with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during their meeting in Zhongnanhai Leadership Compound in Beijing yesterday. — AP

## SINGAPORE ECONOMY SHOWED MODERATE EXPANSION IN 2015

**SINGAPORE:** Singapore's economy expanded moderately last year, amid concerns of a global slowdown and weak manufacturing data, official figures showed yesterday.

Gross domestic product expanded by 2 percent in 2015, a drop from 3.3 percent a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The government forecasts economic growth this year of between 1 to 3 percent, "barring the full materialization of downside risks," the ministry said. The forecast is low compared to average growth rates over the past decade.

"The global economic outlook has softened since the start of the year, alongside a sharp fall in oil prices and volatility in global financial markets," it said. The economy of the trade-reliant city-state at the tip of peninsula Malaysia expanded 1.8 percent in the fourth quarter from a year earlier, unchanged from the third quarter, the ministry said.

Manufacturing contracted in the fourth quarter, while services and construction grew. But the ministry said prospects for construction were weak for this year because of a fall in contracts awarded and sluggishness in private-sector demand.

"The current outlook is subdued due to slowdown of growth in ... developed economies like the US, Europe and Japan," said Song Seng Wun, an economist at CIMB Private Banking. Selena Ling, an economist at OCBC Bank, said the government may soon tweak its forecast for this year "given the growing specter of downside risks coming from China's slowdown, continued oil price and elevated financial market volatilities." "On the domestic side, structural challenges remain for companies trying to restructure their business activities to enhance productivity and innovation as well as manage manpower... given the weak external demand conditions," she said. — AP

## TARGET'S Q4 PROFITS MISS ESTIMATES

**NEW YORK:** Target's heavy discounting during the crucial holiday season squeezed fourth-quarter profits, but the discounter's trendy assortments and spiffed up presentations drove more shoppers to spend more.

The results, released yesterday, show Target has made solid progress in reinvigorating its business and winning back shoppers. It initiated an aggressive plan to regain its cheap chic status in 2014 under new CEO Brian Cornell after a series of headline grabbing setbacks, including a major debit and credit card breach that hurt sales and profits for months.

Under Cornell, the company got rid of its money-losing Canadian operations, and it shook up its leadership ranks. And it's now focusing on specific areas: fashion, as well as baby products, home decor and wellness. It's added mannequins to display clothing and has created vignettes for its home decor area. During the Great Recession, the company lost its fashion mojo when it expanded into basic groceries.

This past holiday season, Target battled it out with Wal-Mart and other rivals, heavily discounting goods. And it reprised free shipping offer for online shoppers. Target earned \$1.43 billion, or \$2.32 per share in the quarter ended Jan. 30. That compares with a loss of \$2.64 billion, or \$4.10 per share in the year-ago period when the company incurred hefty charges related to its pullout of its Canadian business.

Still, adjusted earnings results were \$1.52 per share, which was a bit below the \$1.54 per share estimate, according to FactSet. Revenue slipped 0.6 percent to \$21.63 billion on the sale of its pharmacy business to CVS, also just shy of Wall Street expectations.

Sales at stores open at least a year rose 1.9 percent for the quarter. Online sales surged 34 percent, contributing about 1.3 percent of that growth. And customer traffic was up for the fifth quarter in a row.

That revenue metric for its so-called signature categories - fashion, baby, kids and wellness, grew more than

three times faster than the company average during the fourth quarter.

"Target's results demonstrate that

we are focused on the right strategic priorities," said Cornell in a company release. — AP



**BOSTON:** The exterior of the CityTarget store in Boston. Target reported financial results yesterday. — AP

## TAIWAN JAN EXPORT ORDERS SLUMP MOST IN 3 YEARS

**TAIPEI:** Taiwan's export orders in January shrank the most in three years, as evidence mounts that Asia may be facing an export collapse in the first quarter.

The 12.4 percent year-on-year slump in orders reported yesterday was the steepest since February 2013 and much worse than the 9.8 percent fall seen by economists in a Reuters poll.

Orders from all of Taiwan's major markets - China, the United States, Europe and Japan - fell at double-digit rates or close to it, suggesting a further contraction in exports and the island's industrial output in the next few months. "The order data was worse than expected, further evidence that global demand remains weak. We see that as the US Federal Reserve is expected to delay rate hikes this year, while China is shifting its focus from exports to boosting domestic demand," said Hsu Kuo-an, an analyst with Capital Securities in Taipei. Taiwan, China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Indonesia have all reported sharper-than-expected declines in shipments in January, painting a bleak picture for regional growth and global trade early in the new year.

And there are scant signs trade may be bottoming out. A private business survey this week showed Japan's new export orders contracted at the fastest pace in three years in February, slamming the brakes on growth in its manufacturing sector and raising fears of a return to recession. "In light of growing downside risks to what is already a tempered growth outlook, we expect further interest rate cuts from many of the region's central banks, including in China, Indonesia, India, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan (which introduced negative interest rates in

January)," Frederic Neumann, co-head of Asian economic research at HSBC, said in a note last week.

"Fiscal policy will also have to play a bigger role, especially in China, where authorities need to come up with a convincing package ... in order to shore up private sector confidence in growth and reform." Taiwan's orders - which are seen as an indication of the strength of Asian exports and of global demand for technology products in particular - have slumped for 10 months in a row.

Double-digit declines were seen for all types of key products in January except electronics, which fell nearly 8 percent. Taiwan is an important hub in the global supply-chain for tech giants such as Apple Inc. The value of February's export orders will be less than January's and orders for the first quarter are likely to contract from a year ago, the Ministry of Economic Affairs said in a statement along with the data.

To be sure, economic trends in much of Asia can be distorted early in the year by the timing of the long Lunar New Year holidays, during which many businesses typically scale back operations or close for a week or two. This year the new year began on Feb. 8.

But the slump in Asian trade has been prolonged - Taiwan's export orders fell the most in six years in 2015 - pointing not only to the deepening regional downdraft from China's slowing economy but possibly deeper global malaise. Last week, the Taiwan government downgraded its outlook for the economy, which is now expected to expand just 1.47 percent this year, after growing at its weakest in six years in 2015. It predicted exports could shrink 2.8 percent this year. — Reuters

## ASTON MARTIN PICKS WALES FOR NEW CAR PLANT

**LONDON:** British luxury carmaker Aston Martin will build a new plant in Wales as part of a 200 million pound (\$279 million) investment aimed at expanding its product range and returning to profit.

The brand said yesterday it would make its new DBX crossover model, designed to tap into the popularity of sport utility vehicles, at a site in St. Athan near the Welsh capital Cardiff, choosing it over 20 other domestic and global options. Aston Martin, famous for making the DB5 sports car driven by fictional secret agent James Bond, had previously said it hoped to build the new site in Britain but that any financial support would be an important factor in its decision. The 103-year old carmaker has suffered in recent years due to a costly recall in 2014, a slump in sales following the 2007-8 financial crisis and from not being part of a wider automotive group like many high-end rivals.

The brand, whose owners include Italian private equity group Investindustrial and Kuwaiti group Tejara Capital, is pinning hopes of a revival on the DBX, a new DB11 model to refresh its traditional line-up and its first electric car.

There was competition from sites in eastern Europe, the United States and elsewhere in Britain, a spokesman said, but the Royal Air Force site in Wales, where the firm will transform three hangers into its manufacturing facility, won due to several factors.

"It was site-readiness, infrastructure, availability of skilled labour, the proactive nature of the government, Cardiff University, (and) the area has already got aerospace, defence and other industries," he said, without giving details about the government backing.

Aston Martin, which has not turned a profit since 2010, will begin construction in 2017 and expects the plant to have a capacity of up to 8,000 vehicles with nearly all to be exported to overseas markets such as China and the United States.

Up to 1,000 jobs will be created at the new facility and its existing site in Gaydon, central England, where the firm confirmed it will build its new DB11 conventional sports car. Chief Executive Andy Palmer told the BBC a June 23 referendum, when Britain will decide whether to remain in the European Union, had no bearing on the decision. — Reuters

# WORLD STOCKS EXTEND SLIDE; STERLING FALTERS

**LONDON:** World stock markets slumped once more yesterday and the pound sterling hit near seven-year lows on worries about the global economy and Britain's potential exit from the EU.

Falls to oil prices heaped additional pressure on financial markets. Around midday across the eurozone, leading indices were down more than 2.0 percent, while in London the FTSE shed 1.3 percent. "Eurozone indices are going to suffer under the same Brexit fears currently plaguing the pound and the FTSE," said Connor Campbell, financial analyst at Spreadex trading group.

The pound slumped to \$1.3913 at one point—the lowest level since March 2009. As Britain prepares for a June 23 referendum on its EU future, British Prime Minister David Cameron has warned that the coun-

try's departure from the European Union would threaten its economic and national security.

But London Mayor and Conservative rival Boris Johnson has dealt a blow by backing a "Brexit" despite Cameron winning a deal on EU reforms.

The pound has been struggling for some time. "Unsurprisingly, the concerns for the global economy have continued to have disastrous consequences for the pound, which often performs poorly in a risk-off environment," said Phil McHugh at trading group Currencies Direct.

"Global risk sentiment has taken another swing lower as a slump in Asian and Chinese equities shadowed a similar decline in the US," he said, pointing also to falling oil prices as contributing to the weak sentiment. Crude has resumed its decline after Iran's oil

minister called a proposal by Saudi Arabia and Russia to maintain production levels "ridiculous," as it seeks to boost output after years of sanctions-constrained sales.

Analysts warned that current market turmoil was unlikely to ease in the short term.

### G20 meeting

Asian bourses earlier tracked losses in global markets, with Tokyo stocks weighed down by the strength of the yen which is seen as a haven asset. US and European markets had been battered yesterday after a closely-watched report rated German business confidence in February at the lowest level since December 2014, and Wall Street fell more than one percent overnight.

But Shanghai closed up almost one percent yesterday, reversing losses from earlier in the day, on expectations of economic reform pledges at an upcoming annual meeting of lawmakers.

Ahead of a meeting of G20 finance ministers' and central bank chiefs starting Friday in Shanghai, there have been calls for increased fiscal support as authorities grapple with reduced monetary leeway. Japan and the eurozone have already seen negative interest rates.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index lost 0.9 percent to 15,915.79 as investors seeking haven in the yen pushed it higher, hurting shares of the country's big exporters. South Korea's Kospi edged 0.1 percent lower to 1,912.53 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 1.4 percent to 19,146.54. The Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China rose 0.9 percent to 2,928.26. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slid 2.1 percent to 4,875.00. Benchmarks in Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines also lost ground.

China stocks were easier yesterday, with sentiment eroded by a slump in Shenzhen's start-up board where the market will come under greater regulatory scrutiny. Hong Kong shares also sagged, tracking global markets, and were dragged down by the energy sector after oil prices pulled back.

The blue-chip CSI300 index fell 0.3 percent, to 3,079.12 points by lunch break, while the Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.2 percent, to 2,897.25 points. The market has rebounded

roughly 10 percent over the past month, propelled by a bounce in global markets, signs of yuan stabilisation, and policy expectations ahead of a meeting by China's legislature that starts March 5. However, Zhang Chen, strategist at Shanghai Maoshuo Asset Management Co, expected the rebound to lose some steam, with its sustainability hinging largely upon whether policies announced during the National People's Congress (NPC) gathering could exceed expectations.

"The market will become more volatile as much of the policy expectation has been priced in, so if policies fail to excite investors, the market may fall again," Zhang said.

Beijing has already unveiled a series of measures this year to tackle overcapacity and excessive inventory issues in industries ranging from coal, steel, and property.

Chinese president Xi Jinping urged officials at all levels to implement reforms and address lingering problems, the official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday. Most sectors fell, but infrastructure and transportation stocks rose, while resource shares kept their upward momentum. Shenzhen's ChiNext slumped 1.6 percent, after a media report citing sources that said China's new securities chief vowed to step up the fight against malpractices. Analysts said small stocks were more vulnerable to the government's clampdown.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index dropped 1.6 percent, to 19,103.70 points, while the Hong Kong China Enterprises Index lost 2.0 percent, to 8,006.95. Energy shares tumbled as oil prices skidded after Saudi Arabia effectively ruled out production cuts by major producers anytime soon. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Wednesday 24 February 2016						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	
Price Index	▲ 8.50	5,174.69	5,166.19	5,176.46	5,152.21	
Weighted Index	▲ 1.79	356.37	354.58	356.66	354.17	
KXS 15	▲ 1.79	838.19	836.40	840.21	831.03	

Volume	131,044,107
Value (KWD)	12,891,387
Number of Trades	3,355

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	▲ 0.0
IKARUS	81	78	66,000	5,151	8	80	▼ -2.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	630	630	350	221	1	630	▼ -10.0
ENERGYH	30.0	29.0	48,458	1,420	11	30.0	▲ 0.5
GPI	42.0	41.0	3,169,008	132,139	92	42.0	▲ 1.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	118	▲ 0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>3,283,816</b>	<b>138,930</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>753.29</b>	<b>▼ -2.76</b>
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0
BPCC	450	445	106,504	47,427	5	450	▲ 5.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	▲ 0.0
ALQURAN	176	174	101,793	17,884	12	174	▲ 0.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>208,297</b>	<b>66,311</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>891.25</b>	<b>▲ 3.36</b>
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	365	▲ 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	▲ 0.0
CABLE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	340	▲ 0.0
SHIP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	148	▲ 0.0
PCEM	1,060	1,060	500	530	1	1,060	▲ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	420	▲ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	▲ 0.0
ACICO	290	280	8,500	2,458	8	280	▲ 0.0
GMCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	470	▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	▲ 0.0
KPAK	340	340	350	119	1	340	▲ 0.0
KBMMK	250	250	350	88	1	250	▲ 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	230	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	51	50	244,510	12,280	7	51	▲ 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	▲ 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	67	67	6,309	423	2	67	▲ 0.0
AGLTY	430	420	388,141	164,834	30	425	▲ 0.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	38.0	37.0	338,500	12,839	15	38.0	▲ 1.0
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	▲ 0.0
KGL	42.5	41.0	584,700	24,330	22	41.0	▲ 0.0
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	750	710	65	46	2	750	▲ 0.0
NAFAIS	136	136	5,400	734	1	136	▲ 0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.0	▲ 0.0
MAYADEEN	17.5	17.5	1,163,100	20,364	13	17.5	▲ 0.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	790	▲ 0.0
MTCC	72	70	1,158,209	82,253	23	72	▲ 1.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	800	▲ 0.0
ALAFCO	200	198	26,760	5,299	6	198	▼ -4.0
MUBARRAD	60	59	235,000	13,870	7	60	▲ 0.0
LOGISTICS	60	56	1,494,915	85,094	51	60	▲ 4.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	▲ 0.0
GCEM	77	77	500	39	1	77	▲ 4.0
QCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	65	▲ 0.0
FCEM	73	72	600,000	43,550	9	73	▲ 1.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▲ 0.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>6,226,809</b>	<b>469,238</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>962.92</b>	<b>▲ 1.81</b>
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	▲ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	112	▲ 0.0
CATTL	122	122	5,000	610	1	122	▲ 0.0
DANAH	70	70	1	0	1	70	▲ 1.0
POULT	200	198	49,500	9,802	5	198	▼ -2.0
FOOD	2,140	2,120	11,004	23,349	2	2,140	▲ 40.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>65,605</b>	<b>33,761</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1058.45</b>	<b>▲ 0.59</b>
MHC	210	210	399	84	1	210	▲ 0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▲ 0
YIACO	228	228	967,166	220,514	8	228	▲ 10
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>967,665</b>	<b>220,598</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1016.55</b>	<b>▲ 7.18</b>
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,120	▲ 0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0
SULTAN	63	60	813,899	36,848	4	63	▲ 2
CABLETV	24.5	24.5	500	12	1	24.5	▲ 1
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0
IFAHN	164	162	1,500	245	2	162	▼ -10
QULAFUEL	112	110	51,338	5,749	16	112	▲ 2
MUNTAZAHAT	91	88	100,100	8,859	5	88	▼ -12
JAZEERA	840	820	55,949	46,301	16	830	▲ -0
SOOR	114	114	165,267	18,840	21	114	▲ 2
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	▲ 0
ALNAWADI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	▲ 0
ALRAJ	144	142	784,379	108,543	27	142	▲ 0
ZIMAH	98	91	3,082,400	292,942	130	96	▲ 2
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	▲ 0
KOUTFOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	570	▲ 0
Mezzan	1,040	1,020	162,869	169,280	10	1,020	▼ -20
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>5,008,261</b>	<b>687,619</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>959.10</b>	<b>▲ 1.21</b>
ZAIN	360	355	672,482	238,820	45	355	▼ -6
OOREDOO	1,180	1,180	9,016	10,639	11	1,180	▲ 40
HITSTELEC	29.0	28.0	2,520,450	71,565	41	28.0	▲ 0
VIVA	960	940	130,689	123,583	79	950	▲ 0
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>3,332,637</b>	<b>444,607</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>592.94</b>	<b>▲ 2.20</b>
NBK	740	730	1,049,693	766,302	56	730	▲ 0
GBK	206	204	75,835	15,474	7	204	▲ 2
CBK	510	500	333,028	169,563	20	510	▼ -20
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	345	▲ 0
ALMUTAHED	445	430	251,541	109,935	13	445	▲ 10
KIB	192	192	22,297	4,281	6	192	▼ -2
BURG	335	335	217,452	72,846	14	335	▲ 0
KFIN	510	490	7,483,077	3,730,122	183	510	▲ 15
BOUBYAN	395	385	663,461	258,738	28	390	▲ 0
AUB	210	204	6,197,695	1,290,419	131	210	▲ 10
ITHMR	33.0	32.5	6,480,111	211,693	77	32.5	▼ 0
WARBANK	178	176	474,978	84,482	68	178	▼ -2
<b>Banks</b>			<b>23,248,166</b>	<b>6,713,875</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>813.22</b>	<b>▲ 6.47</b>
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	▲ 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	▲ 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	▲ 0.0
WINS	120	110	211,000	23,510	33	114	▲ 4.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	52	▲ 0.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.0	▲ 0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>211,000</b>	<b>23,510</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1061.21</b>	<b>▲ 4.35</b>

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	32.0	31.0	198,090	62,375	38	32.0	▲ 1.0
KRE	47.5	46.5	1,069,629	50,159	21	47.0	▲ 0.0
URC	92	92	292,000	26,864	13	92	▲ 0.0
NRE	94	90	1,830,070	167,626	59	94	▲ 3.0
SRE	330	330	105,000	34,650	3	330	▲ 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	560	▲ 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0		



# HONG KONG BRACES FOR WEAKER GROWTH

**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong rolled out a multi-billion dollar package of sweeteners to bolster its economy yesterday, as a slowdown in China and rising political tensions deepen its economic woes.

In unusually blunt comments for a budget address, Financial Secretary John Tsang said "political volatility" was threatening to undermine the economy and warned disputes would intensify ahead of legislative elections this year, pitting the city's democratic opposition against pro-Beijing and pro-establishment political parties. He said the conflicts must be resolved.

"Politics and economics are closely intertwined. Political volatility will unavoidably impact our economy," Tsang said. In the wake of a night-long 'riot' earlier this month that saw protesters fight pitched street battles with police, Tsang warned Hong Kong faced "even greater chaos" and risks future generations growing up "in the midst of hatred."

Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China that returned from British to Chinese rule in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" framework that guarantees broad freedoms and autonomy.

Tsang, who said the local economic outlook was "far from promising", expects GDP growth to slow to 1-2 percent this year, the slowest pace in four

years.

The economy expanded 2.4 percent in 2015, in line with the government's estimate, and better than a median 2.3 percent forecast by six economists surveyed by Reuters.

Tsang noted the economy grew a seasonally adjusted 0.2 percent in the fourth quarter, slowing from a revised 0.6 percent in the third, and expanded 1.9 percent from a year earlier.

Some economists said core sectors including trade, property and finance were in trouble and needed longer-term solutions. "More one-off relief measures were always likely given the weaker outlook for the Hong Kong and global economy," said John Zhu, an economist for HSBC, who said the budget was no surprise. "The long-term challenges are not something that can be solved in a single budget. But the support for SMEs, technology and innovation is certainly what Hong Kong could do with."

## DEFICITS AHEAD

After a stint of healthy surpluses, including HK\$30 billion (\$3.86 billion) for the current financial year, Tsang said he expected the city to run up deficits in its consolidated accounts for two years starting from 2018, largely due to the need to pay for healthcare reform and retirement protection.

The city's deep financial, service and trade links with China have also weighed on growth, including the retail and tourism sectors which have been hit hard by a drop in mainland tourists.

"Weak tourism was caused by the anti-corruption campaign in China and a relatively strong Hong Kong dollar compared to neighbouring economies," said Iris Pang, an economist at Natixis.

Among the nearly HK\$40 billion worth of measures to support the economy were a personal tax cut up to HK\$20,000 for some city residents, property rate waivers and a public housing supply target of 280,000 units for 10 years up to 2026.

Hong Kong home prices remain among the highest in the world. The recent riot, slowness in rolling out major infrastructure projects such as a rail link with China and HSBC Holdings' recent shunning of the city for its headquarters, are posing a stiff test for Hong Kong's Beijing-backed leader Leung Chun-ying and have tarnished its reputation as a law-abiding and efficient global business hub. The shadow of 2014's street protests and occupation of roads part of a push for full democracy that ended without any concessions from Beijing's leaders - also lingers.

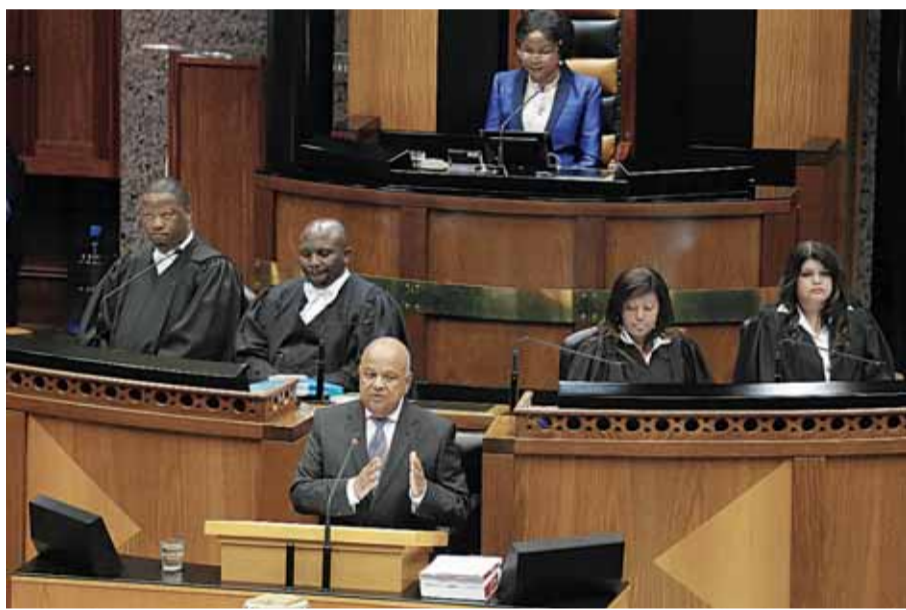
"Hong Kong is facing a structural problem," said Avery Ng, a pro-democra-

cy activist with the League of Social Democrats. "Unless we have true universal suffrage, and can use our surpluses to have genuine reform in terms of the

social welfare system as well as the education system...a one-time sweetener won't help alleviate the anger of Hong Kong people." —Reuters



**HONG KONG:** A woman walks on a bridge near the Central district of Hong Kong yesterday. Rising political turmoil in Hong Kong could hurt economic growth in the freewheeling southern Chinese business hub, the city's finance chief said as he unveiled measures to counter the impact of global weakness. —AP



**CAPE TOWN:** South Africa's Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan (center) delivers his 2016 Budget address to Parliament in Cape Town yesterday. South Africa's finance minister walks a tightrope yesterday as he presents a budget watched closely by ratings agencies that are on the verge of downgrading the country's debt to junk status. —AFP

## S AFRICA 'CRISIS' BUDGET HIKES TAXES, TARGETS STATE SPENDING

**CAPE TOWN:** South Africa's finance minister hiked taxes and targeted what he called wasteful and corrupt government spending yesterday in a "crisis" budget aimed at staving off a ratings downgrade to junk status. Africa's most developed economy is struggling with shrinking growth, unemployment running at 25 percent, and widespread poverty.

"There is no doubt about the fact that we are in crisis," minister Pravin Gordhan told a media conference ahead of his budget speech. Presenting the budget to parliament he announced greater cooperation with the private sector in an effort to boost growth, which he forecast would drop to below one percent this year.

Although he did not use the word "privatization," the minister opened the way for private sector investment in under-performing state-owned enterprises. These include the loss-making national carrier South African Airways, long a target of government critics. Gordhan said the government would explore a merger of SAA with the state-owned SA Express airline "with a view to engaging with a potential minority equity partner."

Privatization has long been resisted by sections of the ruling African National Congress. Increased taxes on excise duties, capital gains, fuel, sugary drinks, alcohol and tobacco and environmental levies are expected to bring in an extra 18 billion rand (\$1.18 billion). Personal income tax was not increased, but "current taxes on wealth are under review," Gordhan said.

The government spending ceiling will be cut by 25 billion rand (\$1.64 billion) over the next three years, mainly by trimming posts in the bloated public service. Government corruption will be tackled through a crackdown on tender processes, while wasteful expenditure clamps will include a downgrade in the value of cars bought for politicians.

Abuses in the private sector will also be targeted. "We will continue to act aggressively against the evasion of tax through transfer pricing abuses, misuse of tax treaties and illegal money flows," Gordhan said.

At the same time he said steps were being

taken to cut red tape for business investors, including the establishment of Invest South Africa as a partnership with the private sector.

### 'Address declining confidence'

Winning the confidence of the ratings agencies—which help determine how much countries pay to borrow money—was made more difficult when President Jacob Zuma shocked markets in December by firing two finance ministers within four days. Gordhan, who was widely respected when he held the position from 2009 to 2014, was recalled in a panicked attempt to limit the damage to the country's credibility.

"In acting together we can address declining confidence and the retreat of capital, and we can combat emerging patterns of predatory behaviour and corruption," Gordhan said.

The minister faced the difficult balancing act of trying to please both the financial world and a government facing voters in municipal elections this year.

He denied in his press conference that he was presenting an "austerity budget", saying that spending cuts would be made without affecting social services. South Africa is regularly rocked by protests over service delivery for the poor, and in the past year the unrest has spread to university campuses with students pressing for free education.

Gordhan announced an extra 16 billion rand (\$1.05 billion) for higher education, saying "we are crafting solutions to the voices of students regarding fees and housing". A central objective of the budget was to stabilise debt as a percentage of GDP, he said. "Net national debt is projected to stabilise at 46.2 percent of GDP in 2017/18, and to decline after that." Efforts are also being made to reign in the budget deficit, which is expected to be 3.2 percent of GDP this year on total spending of 1,324 billion rand (\$86.9 billion), declining to 2.4 percent in 2018/19. Apart from policy missteps, the resource-rich economy has been hard hit by falling commodity prices on reduced demand by China, and an agricultural sector hobbled by the worst drought in more than a century. —AFP

# UK HOUSE PRICES TO RISE FASTER THAN PAY, INFLATION

## GLOBAL ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, BUY-TO-LET TAX BIGGEST THREATS

**LONDON:** British house prices are set to rise much faster than almost non-existent consumer inflation and outstrip modest pay gains, making home the ownership dream even harder for the average first-time buyer, a Reuters poll found.

They will rise 5.0 percent this year, 4.0 percent next and 3.8 percent in 2018, according to medians in a poll of 20 property specialists taken in the past week, steeper this year than in forecasts published in December. However, wages are only expected to rise 2.8 percent this year and 3.6 percent in 2017.

"The house price to earnings ratio is nudging six times and is less than 1.0 times off its all-time peak from 2007. Many younger people have no choice but to rent," Tony Williams at Building Value said. With interest rates at a record low of 0.5 percent, borrowing is relatively cheap but buyers are usually required to have a 10 percent deposit, making getting on the housing ladder difficult.

The average asking price for a home was a record high of 299,287 pounds (\$416,000) this month, according to property website Rightmove, around 11 times the annual British

salary. In greater London the average asking price was 643,843 pounds.

London homes were overwhelmingly rated as expensive, with a median of 9.0 on a scale of one to 10, ranging from very cheap to very expensive. Nationally, house prices were rated 7.0, above the 6.5 given in a December poll.

"UK house prices remain extremely over-valued. For now, they are supported by record low interest rates," said Oliver Jones at Fathom.

Economists do not expect Bank Rate to go up until October at the earliest - and financial markets are not pricing in an interest rate rise for about two years - but both agree any increases would be gradual. Rates would have to reach 2.0 percent before seriously restraining the housing market, the poll found, a level only two of 33 economists surveyed by Reuters earlier this month had in their forecasts before the end of next year. Respondents said one of the biggest risks to the housing market was instead further evidence of a global economic slowdown.

A large proportion of foreign buyers have come from China and Russia but growth in the

world's second biggest economy has continued to slow while Moscow has struggled to escape recession in face of a slump in oil prices - the country's main export.

Those wealthy foreigners had been buying up huge swathes of property in the capital and that, coupled with market speculators buying homes and demand far outstripping supply, sent London prices skyrocketing.

Britain has a huge buy-to-let market, where investors buy multiple properties and rent them out. But finance minister George Osborne announced in November they would have to pay a 3 percentage-point higher rate of stamp duty than residential buyers from April.

"The biggest single risk is changes to the market once the buy-to-let changes come into force. We have seen in the past what can happen when legislative changes alter buyers' behaviour," said Peter Dixon at Commerzbank. Despite the global jitters and the upcoming extra tax burden, London prices will still rise 5.0 percent this year and next before a more modest rise of 4.4 percent in 2018, the poll found. —Reuters



**BERLIN:** German Vice Chancellor, Economy and Energy Minister Sigmar Gabriel (L-R), Chancellor Angela Merkel, Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen and Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier chat as they arrive for the weekly cabinet meeting in Berlin yesterday. —AFP

# GERMAN ECONOMY 'IN GOOD SHAPE': BUNDESBANK CHIEF

**FRANKFURT:** The German economy is "in good shape overall," the head of the country's central bank or Bundesbank said yesterday, waving away suggestions that clouds could be building over Europe's biggest economy. Speaking at the Bundesbank's annual news conference, president Jens Weidmann pointed to record high employment last year and falling unemployment.

"While wage growth was marked, inflation remained subdued. This led to a distinct rise in

real disposable income," Weidmann said. Private consumption was the main engine driving the economy last year.

And "this year, too, will probably see brisk domestic demand fuelling economic activity, which looks set to remain on a clear upward trajectory in 2016 despite the slight upturn in risk," Weidmann said.

His comments came as recent economic data point to a possible slowdown in German growth and falling confidence. The day before,

the widely-watched Ifo business climate index fell to its lowest level in 14 months as business leaders became increasingly unsettled by the recent financial market turmoil.

Turning to the eurozone as a whole, Weidmann said the outlook there, too, was "rosier."

"The euro area's gradual economic recovery is likely to continue in the rest of this year and in 2017," Weidmann said. And he warned of the possible risks of further stimulus measures by the European Central

Bank at its next policy meeting in March.

With the ECB's monetary policy stance "already highly accommodative," additional action "could entail longer-term risks and side-effects...that it would be dangerous to simply ignore," Weidmann cautioned.

In the face of stubbornly low inflation, the ECB is expected to roll out further measures next month to push area-wide inflation back up to levels more conducive to healthy economic growth. —AFP

## COCA-COLA CAN'T TRADEMARK NEW BOTTLE, EU COURT RULES

**BRUSSELS:** An EU court yesterday threw out an attempt by US drinks giant Coca-Cola to get trade mark status for a new design of its iconic fluted bottle throughout the 28-nation bloc. Invented in the United States as a tonic drink in the late 19th century, Coca-Cola is a triumph of modern-day marketing, with its contoured bottle one of the most widely recognised global brands. In 2011, the company introduced a flat surfaced bottle but European Union authorities rejected its trade mark request because they said the new design lacked any "distinctive character." The General Court of the EU, the bloc's second highest court, ruling on a company appeal,

said there was no reason to change that view, with the new design simply a variant of its predecessor.

"The General Court finds that the sign at issue is devoid of the distinctive character required for registration under the Community trade mark regulation," it said. "In those circumstances, the General Court dismisses in its entirety the action brought by Coca-Cola." The judgment features drawings of the new Coke bottle from the side, the top, and at a forward-leaning angle. Coca-Cola can in theory appeal to the European Court of Justice, the EU's highest court. There was no immediate reaction from the company. —AFP



## ZAIN MAKES STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN NEXGEN GROUP, FORMING A 'SMART CITY' BUSINESS UNIT

**BARCELONA/KUWAIT:** Zain Group, a leading telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces a strategic investment in neXGen Group, a leading smart city advisory and consulting services provider based in the UAE. The investment will lead to the establishment of a specialized business unit delivering smart city services to governments and mega real estate developers facilitating the deployment of smart city solutions and managed services across Zain's regional footprint.

The investment in neXGen Group was announced at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona at a signing ceremony attended by Zain Group Chairman Asaad Al Banwan, Zain Group CEO Scott Gegenheimer, neXGen MD Ghazi Atallah, senior executives from Zain and neXGen, as well as industry figures and international media. The agreement comes exactly twelve-months after a strategic cooperation partnership was announced between the two entities.

Both Zain and neXGen hold strong opinions that the power of mobile internet is a driving factor to unlocking the potential of how people live their lives and transforming how they conduct their business. The companies are in agreement that with the confluence of Smart Technologies and Services, the Internet of Things and the power of data, smart city developments will enhance the lives of millions of people across the region.

The newly established business unit will focus on delivering smart city solutions and managed services and will include design and integration for applications including smart living in city districts, smart safety and security, smart education and health, and smart metering for the utility sector among others.

Commenting on the strategic investment, Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said, "The cooperation with neXGen over the past twelve months has

been an eye-opener for Zain in identifying and better understanding the requirements needed to maximize the substantial opportunities that we believe exist in the smart city space across our footprint."

Gegenheimer continued, "This strategic investment and establishment of a new dedicated smart city and managed services unit creates value for both entities, as it combines Zain's capital strength and expertise as a digital communications provider with neXGen's competence in smart city technology and services."

Ghazi Atallah, MD of neXGen Group commented, "Today neXGen is at the forefront of smart city expertise and thought leadership across the region. Through this partnership with Zain and the creation of a specialized business unit, we are confident in our ability to deliver unique offerings that address the growing demand in the market for smart city solutions and managed services. This business unit is set to unlock many lucrative opportunities in the connected society revolution, placing both Zain and neXGen as leaders in this space."

The concept of smart cities relates to the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to enhance performance and well-being, to reduce costs and resource consumption, and to engage more effectively and actively with citizens. A smart city should be able to respond faster to city and global challenges than one with a simple transactional relationship with its citizens.

Zain's investment in neXGen Group builds on the establishment of the Zain Digital Frontier and Innovation (ZDFI) business unit, which is charged with launching Zain into the digital space with the view to growing the company through new innovative business streams that add to Zain's customer service offerings. ZDFI focuses on the areas of innovation; digital services; corporate venturing; and smart cities.

# AUB NET PROFIT SURGES BY 11.3% TO \$537.2 MILLION

## NET PROFIT IN Q4/2015 REACHES \$118.0 MILLION

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank BSC (AUB) reported a record net profit attributable to its equity shareholders of \$537.2 million for the year 2015, representing a growth of 11.3 percent compared to a net profit of \$482.5 million in 2014. The net profit in Q4/2015 was \$118.0 million as compared to \$106.2 million in Q4/2014.

The positive operating results of AUB were primarily driven by the growth in its core operating earnings across its major lines of business and markets, despite the continuing general weakness in economic trends regionally and globally, witnessed during 2015. The surge in operating income was underpinned by a 6.7 percent rise in net interest income (NII) to \$814.7 million despite the prevalence of very low absolute interest rate levels. The NII increase was achieved through a moderated increase in lending volumes as well as by a prudent deployment of liquidity in non-trading high quality investments within a conservative and diversified risk framework. The result was also complemented through focused liability cost management which improved NII margins. Total operating income grew by 4.9 percent to reach \$1,091.9 million (2014: \$1,041.3 million). The higher operating income and disciplined cost culture across the AUB Group further improved the operating cost income ratio to 28.3 percent (2014: 29.2 percent).

The Group's total assets increased by 1.6 percent to reach \$34.0 billion at 31 December 2015 from \$33.4 billion as at 2014 year-end. The growth in total assets was primarily due to a 4.8 percent growth in the loans and advances portfolio to reach \$19.4 billion (31

December 2014: \$18.5 billion). Balanced credit growth was supported by a 2.1 percent increase in customer deposits to reach \$23.5 billion (31 December 2014: \$23.0 billion). The non-performing loan ratio reduced to 1.8 percent as at 31 December 2015 (31 December 2014: 2.0 percent) with a healthy specific provision coverage ratio of 84.6 percent (31 December 2014: 83.8 percent). The total provision coverage ratio, inclusive of collective impairment provisions, was also increased to 181.9 percent as at 31 December 2015 (31 December 2014: 159.4 percent) as part of the AUB Group's effort to enhance its risk coverage position.

Through improved earnings and judicious cost management, return on Average Equity increased to 16.0 percent (2014: 15.2 percent)

while the return on Average Assets increased to 1.7 percent (2014: 1.6 percent).

The resultant basic earnings per share were US cents 8.1 for the year ended 31 December 2015 (2014: US cents 7.6). Given the challenging business environment, the Board of Directors has recommended unchanged distribution comprising a cash dividend of US cents 4.5 per share (2014: US cents 4.5) together with a bonus ordinary share issue of 5 percent (2014: 5 percent).

Hamad Al-Humaidhi, AUB Chairman, commented: "AUB continued its robust performance in 2015 crossing for the first time \$500 million benchmark in terms of operating net profit, in the face of strong economic headwinds. The 2015 result is a testament to AUB's well-managed business model based on diversification, targeting of cross border flows and selective growth initiatives to increase operating income that continue to serve the Bank well. AUB is also proud to have successfully completed a US\$ 400 million issue of Additional Tier 1 Perpetual Basel III Compliant Capital Securities in April 2015 at a very competitive pricing under very challenging market conditions. This represents an important step forward in terms of the evolution and diversification of the Group's capital structure."

"While risks to the global economic outlook remain high and a continuing slowdown in regional economies looms large, AUB remains cautiously confident of its resilience and ability to maintain its performance given its strong underlying operating fundamentals and its prudent, proactive management of risks and costs," added Al-Humaidhi.



AUB Chairman Hamad Al-Humaidhi

## MALABAR GROUP LAUNCHES DH1.07BN INTEGRATED TOWNSHIP IN TRISSUR

**TRISSUR:** Malabar Group, which developed a strong reputation as a gold and diamond jewellery trade, is set to launch Malabar Integrated Township - a mixed-use master-planned community that will be built in Trissur, central Kerala with a development cost of Rs20 billion (Dh1.07 billion; \$293 million). This landmark project is being developed by its property division - Malabar Developers.

Malabar Integrated Township, a city within a city where one can live, work and play will create a community comprising of information technology hub, a commercial business cluster, a large convention facility, a residential community, a shopping mall and entertainment centre. It will also host a five-star hotel along with a business hotel and an iconic residential tower that will raise the profile of Kerala in urban landscape. IT professionals will be able to live and work within the same community that will offer them a perfect work-life balance. Conveniently located on the National Highway 47, the project is situated closely from 90-minutes driving distance of three international airports - Kochi, Coimbatore and Calicut.

The project, that will create more than 50,000 jobs, will be built on a five million square feet area. About 40 per cent of the area will be for residential projects while 30 per cent of the area will be for the IT business park.

The massive project will take Malabar Developers which has been delivering real estate projects since 1995, to a new level and help expand the group's capabilities to support and help realise the Indian government's vision to take the economy to the next level. Malabar Developers have been transforming aspirations and landscapes of a great nation and its people delivering over 1.8 million square feet in residential and commercial segments of India. Currently Malabar Developers has on-going projects of over 3 million sq ft and another 10 million sq ft earmarked for construction which includes around 5,000 residential units within 8 cities across all categories of residences.

Kerala is the first Indian state to have a 100 per cent literate society. The state, therefore, is the preferred base for a 100 per cent knowledge society. The state, which has been producing some of India's best information technology professionals, however, could not retain them due to lack of IT infrastructure and facilities, something that is changing gradually.

"Malabar Integrated Township is going to change that. It will help not only retain and nurture the local IT talents, but also help attract those scattered across other IT hubs in the world," MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar

Group, said. "Malabar Integrated Township will also attract investment in outsourcing business - which due to a competitive environment worldwide - will look at more cost effective destination. When it comes to cost advantage, no one could beat the cost competitiveness of Kerala."

"Our project has carefully been planned to offer a greater value to the global IT industry while looking at the economy of Kerala and India. The project, once delivered successfully, will become a model for the development of mixed-used integrated master-planned communities by the private sector developers."

The project will offer office blocks on lease as well as sale for investors and IT companies. Malabar Developers plans to deliver the infrastructure and the full project.

leanings throughout history. It has also served as an incubator for many entrepreneurs and is a major financial and commercial hub of Kerala. Apart from being the cultural nerve center of Kerala, it is also a major academic hub and is home to several educational institutions.

MP Ahammed says, "As a socially responsible business group, we want to realign our business with the needs of the country and our society. Malabar Integrated Township will help Kerala to realise its vision. Our facilities and the environment will match those in the developed world. We want our IT experts and professionals to enjoy the best working and living environment that money could buy - in Kerala."



### Business Case for Malabar Integrated Township

The total information technology business in Kerala, both domestic and export, was around \$1.6 billion in 2015. The government has set an ambitious target of \$3 billion business and five lakh jobs in the IT sector - that will require private sector developers to create IT knowledge clusters - to help realise the vision.

Compared to other parts of the country, Kerala offers 30 per cent lower costs and provides electricity at \$5.51 per unit, which is the lowest in the country. Such factors will help us achieve the target of 5 lakh jobs by 2020. At five per cent, the attrition rate in Kerala is very low, compared to 25 per cent in Bengaluru.

At present, there are over 600 IT companies operating in the state, and about 11 per cent of the country's total IT workforce is from Kerala.

The social and communal harmony of Kerala combined with its moderate and balanced climate makes it a preferred destination in India. The location of the project in Trissur also known as the Cultural Capital of Kerala because of its cultural, spiritual and religious

The electronics manufacturing industry is the largest and fastest-growing manufacturing segment in the world, with a current estimated value of \$1.75 trillion and is expected to reach \$2.4 trillion by 2020.

When combined with India's growing strength in semiconductor chip design, Electronics Systems Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) can provide unprecedented opportunity for growth and employment. Government envisions Kerala to become a preferred destination for ESDM investments and become a major contributor in Electronics design and embedded software in India by the year 2020.

Besides, India's real estate sector is also graduating to the next level with the new upwardly mobile professionals want quality life, good income and a perfect work-life balance with less hassle. Over the next decade, the real estate sector is expected to grow by 30 per cent. The Indian real estate market size is expected to touch \$180 billion by 2020. Malabar Integrated Township is expected to fulfil the current and future needs of the new IT professional class.



## JOYALUKKAS LOYALTY PROGRAM ENHANCES MEMBER BENEFITS WITH ACCESS TO ETIHAD GUEST MILES

**ABU DHABI:** In collaboration with Etihad Airways' award-winning loyalty program, Etihad Guest, members of Joyalukkas Golden Rewards program can now convert their loyalty points to Etihad Guest Miles.

This is the first time in the Middle East that a jeweller is offering its members the loyalty benefit of converting their loyalty points to miles so they can enjoy privileges such as upgrades and flights. There are currently 120 Joyalukkas locations in the UAE and around the world.

"The concept of the Joyalukkas Golden Rewards loyalty program is to offer our customers a more rewarding experience when they earn and spend points at our showrooms or with our partners around the world," said John Paul Alukkas, Executive Director of Joyalukkas Group.

"Without their support through the years, Joyalukkas Group would not be the success it is today and because of this, we are focused on providing our loyal members with a wide array of benefits and the best possible value through our loyalty program."

Yasser Al-Yousef, Managing Director of Etihad Guest, said: "We are always looking for new ways to provide our members with greater choice, and the partnership with Joyalukkas supports our wider vision for making Etihad Guest the best global loyalty program."

"We want to enhance the member experience by providing them with more earning and redemption options. We have built a program with a membership base of more than 3.8 mil-

lion members and each new feature is part of a strategic plan to fast track the program's growth and become a leading lifestyle loyalty program."

Joyalukkas 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 recognised jewellery retail chains in the world.

Etihad Guest, the award-winning multi airline loyalty program of Etihad Airways, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles, and Etihad Regional was launched in August 2006 and quickly established itself as one of the airline industry's fastest-growing and most innovative loyalty programs.

Etihad Guest now boasts more than 3.8 million members. The program offers members the opportunity to accumulate Etihad Guest Miles on flights with more than 40 airline partners, such as airberlin, Virgin Australia, Alitalia and Jet Airways. Members also enjoy accruing miles with global partners, ranging from hotel accommodation and car rental to retail and financial products. Etihad Guest members can redeem miles against a selection of flights on more than 3,000 routes and thousands of products on the Etihad Guest online Reward Shop. Etihad Guest Miles can also be used to shop at more than thirty million retail outlets worldwide with PointsPay(r) - an unmatched loyalty proposition.



## NISSAN AL-BABTAIN CONGRATULATES KUWAIT ON ITS NATIONAL AND LIBERATION DAY

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, the exclusive agent of Nissan in the state of Kuwait is greeting Kuwait on the occasion of the National Day and Liberation Day on February 25th and 26th, as Kuwait is celebrating 55 years of Independence, 25 years of Liberation and 10 years of H H the Amir's accession.

Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co is keen to participate in the National Day celebrations as part of its pride for the country.

On this occasion, Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, launched the 'Hala February' Campaign with exceptional prices on all vehicles in addition to immediate cash prizes and a raffle draw for a Nissan X-TRAIL during the whole month of February.

As part of its participation in the 'Hala February' Campaign, Nissan Al-Babtain unveiled a group of its attractive offers on different vehicles. Nissan Al-Babtain will conclude the month of February with a raffle draw for a Nissan X-TRAIL for all qualified clients.

Since its establishing in 1984, Al-Babtain Group has been keen to participate in Kuwait's

growth. In addition, to the hard work in developing customer service according to international criteria, Al-Babtain Group ranks on top positions not only locally and regionally, but also internationally. Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, would like to share in the National celebrations and invite the public to visit its showrooms and benefit from the Hala February offers. Al-Babtain Group was founded in 1948 to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication and to gain bright reputation in Kuwait and the Middle East area. Today Al-Babtain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East.

For more than 60 years Al-Babtain Group has experienced continued success, and large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible management style and long term vision. These astounding results were achieved due to a versatile strategic formula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, information, industrial and Finance.

## HONEYWELL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE IN KUWAIT



Honeywell team members at the 50 years celebration in Kuwait.

**KUWAIT:** Honeywell, one of the first leading international technology companies to enter the Kuwait market back in the 1960s, is celebrating fifty years of service by honoring dozens of its leading clients and long standing partners. The firm is also marking the 44th anniversary of the founding of Honeywell Kuwait KSC, one of the oldest international commercial partnerships in Kuwait, which was founded in conjunction with the Al Sagr family

in the early 1970s.

Honeywell has collaborated with the private and public sectors for half a century to help deliver some of Kuwait's most significant projects in the oil and gas, aviation, construction, healthcare and education fields. The 50-year milestone for Honeywell underscores the company's commitment to the country, and acts as a catalyst for continued support of Kuwait's ambitions and long term growth, in line

with the Kuwait Development Plan (KDP) for 2020, Vision 2035, and beyond.

"Over the course of half a century, we have seen Kuwait grow, prosper and innovate to transform itself into a flourishing economy. Our celebrations don't simply mark our company's history here, but seek to acknowledge and appreciate the transformation that the country as a whole has undergone, as well as everything that has been achieved over the



Norm Gilsdorf, President, Honeywell Middle East (R) hands over trophy of appreciation to Mohammad Ghazi Al-Mutairi, CEO of KNPC.

past five decades on a national scale," said George Bou Mitri, General Manager for Honeywell in Kuwait.

"We are taking this opportunity to meet with our leading clients and reflect on the past 50 years, while also looking ahead at the possibilities that exist in Kuwait and how we can support the ongoing efforts to make it a regional finance and trade hub by 2035. With our expertise and wide range of solutions in

key sectors, Honeywell is the ideal partner to support Kuwait's enduring infrastructure development requirements," Bou Mitri added.

Amongst the 30 key clients and partners honored by Honeywell with trophies of appreciation and personal visits from the senior management team, were Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and EQUATE Petrochemical Company.

## FOOD PRINTERS AND EYE WRITING: TECH SHOW'S QUIRKIEST GADGETS

**BARCELONA:** While tens of thousands flock to the Mobile World Congress to check out the latest smartphones, the show also offers glimpses of some of the coolest off-beat - and downright strange - innovations.

Many of these newfangled prototypes found a niche at the trade

can interact with through the screen.

The one on the solar system, for example, lets kids explore the planets, zoom in and out, and learn facts. Other modules teach about the human body, the metamorphosis of a frog, simple geography, or how to build a machine.

The Foodini lays down layer after layer of food from nozzles, ultimately creating treats like ravioli, crackers, or chicken nuggets. The company says you can even make more complex items like hamburgers, though it's not clear what they would look like coming through nozzles.

food printers will be as common in kitchens as microwaves," Kucsma said.

### EYE WRITING

We can write with our touch. We can write with our voice. Irisbond is making it easier to write with our sight.

Their eye-tracking app, which can work with standard smartphone cameras, allows you to type on a computer.

Co-founder and CEO Eduardo Jauregui said the app is designed for disabled users. "They can send emails or write books with their eyes. It changes their lives completely," Jauregui said.

But it could also be helpful for professionals, like surgeons, who may have limited use of their hands during work.

Irisbond allows users to control a mouse pointer on a virtual keyboard of a smartphone or tablet. Stare for one second over a letter to "push" the button and type.

Jauregui said his company based in San Sebastian, Spain, is in talks with smartphone makers, including Samsung, to be acquired.

### PAPER PROGRAMMING

Take paper art, a little round robot, throw in some low-level coding, and, voila! You have the Kamibot, an interactive toy that helps children have fun while learning computer programming.

Aimed at kids as young as eight, the Kamibot robot can be covered with paper-made "skins" to turn it into a variety of characters, including Dracula, Frankenstein, and several popular figures in Korea.

An app controls the robot's movement, and teaches users how to program routes for the robot to follow.

Head of design Asaph Kim said "the idea was making programming fun through characters (children) have seen on TV."

Still at the kick-starter phase, the Korean company 3.14 is hoping to ship its first Kamibots in June. Pre-orders go for \$89.

### PACK ROBOTS

One gadget that caused a big stir as it moseyed through the aisles of the trade show was Starship's delivery robot.

Don't let the company's name fool you.

The tub-sized robot on rollers won't blast you away, but it just might make home delivery more convenient as it creeps its way down the sidewalk.

Co-founder Janus Friis, one of the creators of Skype, had the idea to create a fleet of wheeled robots that would work with stores making deliveries from hubs that cover neighborhoods.

Keith Cornell, Starship's senior advisor, said customers would gain from being able to decide exactly when they receive their packages, while stores will reduce costs. To ensure the robot doesn't cause mayhem on the street, its max speed is a slow 4 mph and it includes sensors that force it to stop when facing an obstacle. If stuck, it can be taken over remotely by an operator.

Customers will use an app to program the drop-offs and unlock the robot once it arrives to retrieve their goods. It can carry up to 20 pounds of stuff.

Still in testing phase, these modern-day pack mules are expected to be deployed in 2017. —AP



**BARCELONA:** A man touches the screen of a 3-D food printer during the Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain. Natural Machines co-founder Lynette Kucsma insisted her company hadn't replicated Star Trek's "food synthesizer" that made munchies appear at Captain Kirk's mere command. But they sure have come pretty close with their 3-D food printer. —AP



**BARCELONA:** A man uses his eyes to write in a computer during the Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain. Irisbond has now made it way easier to write with our sight. Instead of needing a special camera, typing on a computer can now be done with the Irisbond eye-tracking app. Co-founder and CEO Eduardo Jauregui said the app, which can work with standard smartphone cameras, is designed for disabled users. But, he said it could also be helpful for professionals, like surgeons, who may have limited use of their hands. —AP

show's special corner for start-ups, which gathered here to find business deals for their inventions.

Here is a look at the quirkiest of the gadgets and apps on display this week in Barcelona.

### MAGIC DRAWINGS

Remember pop-up books?

Chromville takes the idea to another dimension with its augmented reality educational app.

Here is how it works: Kids download and print pages with designs that they color in as they wish. Next, they hold a tablet over the page and, via the Chromville app, the drawing turns into a 3 D image they

"It is something like magic. We have to play and enjoy education," said Hector Perez, CEO of the company from Zaragoza, Spain.

As of December, a one-time fee of 3.99 euros (\$4.39) gives customers the app and access to drawings.

### FOOD PRINTER

Natural Machines co-founder Lynette Kucsma insists her company hasn't replicated Star Trek's "food synthesizer" that made munchies appear at Captain Kirk's mere command.

But they sure have come close with their 3-D food printer.

"You become the food manufacturer," Kucsma said, adding that the Foodini would allow cooks to use more natural ingredients to make healthier food instead of buying prepared foodstuffs with added preservatives.

The Foodini can also link up with other connected devices. "You can print recipes from a chef who is halfway around the world," Kucsma said.

The Barcelona-based company is launching the Foodini with the target of professional chefs to meet the \$1,500-2,000 price tag. They plan to later expand to regular customers.

"In 10 to 15 years we think 3-D



**BARCELONA:** Xiaomi Vice President of International Hugo Barra presents the new Xiaomi Mi5 during the Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain, yesterday. China's leading smartphone maker Xiaomi has unveiled its new flagship device, the Mi 5, which it says is fast and lightweight. —AP

## CHINA'S TOP PHONE MAKER XIAOMI UNVEILS NEW FLAGSHIP HANDSET

**BARCELONA:** China's leading smartphone maker, Xiaomi, unveiled yesterday its new flagship device, the Mi 5, which it hopes will strengthen its hold on the world's biggest domestic market for handsets.

Staying with Xiaomi's strategy of undercutting global giants like Samsung and Apple, the Mi 5 aims to provide speedy processing and light weight at a relatively low cost.

"This is basically ahead of the pack in many ways when it comes to flagship devices," Hugo Barra, Xiaomi's vice president of international operations, told The Associated Press after presenting the Mi 5 on the sidelines of the Mobile World Congress trade show in Barcelona. "You're looking at a third to a half of the price that you would expect to pay for another flagship device with similar capabilities."

The Mi 5 comes in three versions. The Mi 5 Pro, with more memory and a ceramic body, will cost 2,699 yuan (\$413). The cheapest version will cost 1,999 yuan (\$305). They will go on sale in China on March 1. In India and "other countries" they will be available soon, the company said, without revealing launch dates. Xiaomi does not sell in the US or Europe. Founded in 2010, Xiaomi led China in smartphone sales in 2015, shipping 64.9 million smartphones, or about 15 percent of the market, according to research firm IDC. It has some of the lowest prices in the world. In

China last year, the average price of a Xiaomi phone was \$141, according to IDC. The Mi 5 Pro has 128 GB of flash memory, 4 GB of RAM memory. The basic Mi 5 has 32 GB of flash memory, 2 GB of RAM and a glass body. All models include Qualcomm's new Snapdragon 820 processor, a 16 megapixel camera and a 5.15-inch screen with front fingerprint sensor. They will be available in black, white and gold. "Getting it at this price point (!) there is no other company capable of building such a beautiful device. It's a flagship killer," said Sascha Pallenberg, editor of technology website Mobilegeeks.

Barra, a former Google executive, said his company will look to expand both its handset and services businesses in China, despite the country's economic worries. Xiaomi will also focus on boosting sales in India, he said. Besides phones, Xiaomi sells apps and other gadgets. "Our business is enjoying tremendous growth because of all the services we have been able to add," Barra said. "India is soon going to be the second largest smartphone market in the world, only behind China, and with much faster growth. And that's a market where we are already doing super well." Barra said "Western markets like the U.S. and Europe are definitely on our radar screen. But it's a bit too early to even start estimating when we are going to enter those." —AP

## NEW TROJAN 'LOCKY' TARGETS BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS

**DUBAI:** A Trojan named "Locky" is currently paralyzing computers of enterprises and private individuals with the aim to extort ransom money. RadarServices, a leading managed security service provider warns that the new malicious

trojan in the network. As a result, companies are suffering from failures and enormous damages. As soon as the files are encrypted the blackmail appears on the screen with a ransom demand.

Aji Joseph, General Manager of RadarServices Middle East explains, "Threats especially on businesses are forever evolving and becoming more and more sophisticated. This current malware cannot be detected by antivirus programs, as the infected email attachment is very professionally designed with an aim to extort money. Companies here should adopt a more proactive approach towards security than just implementing antivirus and firewalls to protect their infrastructure."

According to RadarServices labs - in case of such attacks the corporate IT infrastructure is only secure if two IT risk management modules are applied: "Advanced Email & Web Threat Detection", the automated analysis of attachments of all incoming E-Mails in "isolated" environments (so-called "sandboxes") and "Network-Based Intrusion Detection" (NIDS), the detection of suspicious network activities, in case Locky is already active in the company but not yet noticed by the user. In the latter case NIDS detects the network traffic between the Command & Control Server of the Trojans in the Internet and reports it to the IT security team to initiate immediate measures.



Aji Joseph

virus is currently affecting Europe and the USA and the Middle East enterprise sector may be susceptible target.

This Windows-Trojan is mainly distributed via email attachments and web-downloads. The emails are disguised as invoices or messages and contain infected office documents. When opened, this malware does not only encrypt computer but also infects networks and cloud-storages such as dropbox. In many cases, the Trojan integrates the infected computer in a botnet, thereby gaining remote control and the ability to spread the virus fur-



**JOAO PESSOA:** Pediatrician Alexia Harrist from the United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) takes a picture of 3-month-old Shayde Henrique who was born with microcephaly, after examining him. — AP

## US, BRAZIL HEALTH TEAMS BRAVE SLUMS TO START ZIKA RESEARCH

### FIGHTING RAINS, TRAFFIC AND LOGISTICS FOR SCIENCE

**JOAO PESSOA:** Teams of US and Brazilian health workers ventured into dicey slums, fought through snarled traffic and braved torrential downpours on the first day of their effort to determine if the Zika virus is causing babies to be born with a birth defect affecting the brain.

The eight teams, each made up of one "disease detective" from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and three Brazilian health workers, went to work Tuesday in Parabiá, the impoverished state in northeastern Brazil that is one of the epicenters of the country's tandem outbreaks of Zika and microcephaly.

Their goal is to persuade about 100 mothers of infants recently born with the defect as well to enroll in the study. They also need participation as controls of two to three times as many mothers from the same areas who delivered babies without microcephaly at about the same time. The study aims to determine if the Brazilian government is right that Zika can cause microcephaly, or whether the mosquito-borne virus is not in fact to blame or is only partially responsible, as a growing chorus of doctors in Brazil and beyond have begun to suggest.

#### Multiple obstacles

The seemingly straightforward task of locating the women and infants was fraught on day one by traffic jams, logistical snags and menacing weather, though the teams soldiered stoically on. Stuck in the chronic gridlock of the state capital, Joao Pessoa, one team missed its first appointment, and the two home visits that it had scheduled for morning didn't get underway until well after lunchtime.

"Obviously, we've seen the problems of logistics -

to be able to reach the families, to have them be there," said Dr Alexia Harrist, a Boston-born pediatrician who works for the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service. "If things take longer, things take longer, but I think we're all really dedicated to getting it done."

Packed into a small sedan, Harrist, three Brazilian health workers and a driver weaved from the CDC's headquarters in a beachfront hotel to the outskirts of Joao Pessoa along pothole-marred streets swimming with runoff from recent rains. They turned onto a side street lined with trash, then turned again and again onto successively narrower and more pocked streets that carried them deep into the heart of the Taipa shantytown. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that spreads Zika proliferates in such neighborhoods, where omnipresent trash provides breeding grounds in discarded margarine tubs, yogurt containers and plastic bottle caps.

When the going got too rough, Harrist and her colleagues parked and headed on foot along a dirt road running with raw sewage and dotted by foraging chickens and goats to a three-room cinderblock home.

#### Understanding the mystery

Janine dos Santos, a 23-year-old unemployed former towel factory worker, shares the space with her mother, two siblings and two children, including Shayde Henrique - born in November with the truncated head and brain damage caused by microcephaly. "I didn't expect to see all these people," Santos said, adding that the visit renewed her hopes of understanding what happened to Shayde. "Not only me, but all the mothers, we want to understand the mystery behind all this - what really causes micro-

cephaly?"

She and the family answered an extensive questionnaire probing everything from whether she used insect repellent during pregnancy to what was the source of their drinking water. The team also drew blood samples from mother and infant, setting off screams from a child who, like many infants with microcephaly, is rarely quiet.

Down the street, the team knocked at an abandoned warehouse where another new mother, 26-year-old Aline Ferreira, squats with her fisherman husband and three kids. Her 4-month-old, Angeline Karolayne, is in good health and doesn't suffer from microcephaly, and Ferreira agreed to take part in the study as a control case. Such cases will be a critical element in understanding whether Zika is triggering microcephaly and, if so, whether it's doing so alone or with contributing factors.

Ferreira patiently responded to the litany of questions. "When I was pregnant, there were all these problems with Zika and microcephaly and ... I could very well be in the place of any mother whose baby has microcephaly," she said. Organizers expect it will take a month to gather data, but acknowledge it could take longer.

Ferretting out results from the data will take several more months. Despite Tuesday's rocky start, the CDC's Harrist said the generosity and openness of the two young mothers her team managed to contact gave her hope. "I'm actually encouraged by what happened today," said Harrist, who worked in Sierra Leone during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. She said Santos and Ferreira seemed enthusiastic to join in the study. "I hope that means they think that the study is important," she said. — AP

## SEAS ARE RISING WAY FASTER THAN ANY TIME IN PAST 2,800 YEARS

**WASHINGTON:** Sea levels on Earth are rising several times faster than they have in the past 2,800 years and are accelerating because of man-made global warming, according to new studies. An international team of scientists dug into two dozen locations across the globe to chart gently rising and falling seas over centuries and millennia.

Until the 1880s and the world's industrialization, the fastest seas rose was about 1 to 1.5 inches a century, plus or minus a bit. During that time global sea level really didn't get much higher or lower than 3 inches above or below the 2,000-year average.

But in the 20th century the world's seas rose 5.5 inches. Since 1993 the rate has soared to a foot per century. And two different studies published Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, said by 2100 that the world's oceans will rise between 11 to 52 inches, depending on how much heat-trapping gas Earth's industries and vehicles expel.

"There's no question that the 20th century is the fastest," said Rutgers earth and planetary sciences professor Bob Kopp, lead author of the study that looked back at sea levels over the past three millennia. "It's because of the temperature increase in the 20th century which has been driven by fossil fuel use."

To figure out past sea levels and rates of rise and fall, scientists engaged in a "geological detective story," said study co-author Ben Horton, a Rutgers marine scientist. They went around the world looking at salt marshes and other coastal locations and used different clues to figure out what the sea level was at different times. They used single cell organisms that are sensitive to salinity, mangroves, coral, sediments and other clues in cores, Horton said. On top of that they checked their figures by easy markers such as the rise of lead with the start of the industrial age and isotopes only seen in the atomic age.

#### Downward trend

When Kopp and colleagues charted the sea level rise over the centuries - they went back 3,000 years, but aren't confident in the most distant 200 years - they saw Earth's sea level was on a downward trend until the industrial age.

Sea level rise in the 20th century is mostly man-made, the study authors said. A separate, not-yet-published study by Kopp and others found since 1950, about two-thirds of the US nuisance coastal floods in 27 locales have the fingerprints of man-made warming.

And if seas continue to rise, as projected, another 18 inches of sea level rise is going to cause lots of problems and expense, especially with surge during storms, said study co-author Stefan Rahmstorf of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany. "There is such a tight relationship between sea level and temperature," Horton said. "I wish there wasn't, then we wouldn't be as worried." The link to temperature is basic science, the study's authors said. Warm water expands. Cold water contracts. The scientists pointed to specific past eras when temperatures and sea rose and fell together. The Kopp study and a separate one published by another team projected future sea level rise based on various techniques. They came to the same general estimates, despite using different methods, said Anders Levermann, a co-author of the second paper and a researcher at the Potsdam Institute.

If greenhouse gas pollution continues at the current pace, both studies project increases of about 22 to 52 inches. If countries fulfill the treaty agreed upon last year in Paris and limit further warming to another 2 degrees Fahrenheit, sea level rise would be in the 11 to 22 inch range. Jonathan Overpeck at the University of Arizona, who wasn't part of the studies, praised them, saying they show a clear cause and effect between warming and sea level rise. — AP



**NEW JERSEY:** In this Oct 31, 2012 file photo, a view from the air shows the destroyed homes left in the wake of Superstorm Sandy in Ortleigh Beach. — AP

# PIONEERING TREATMENT IN NASAL ALLERGY

By Consultant surgeon & scientist  
**Dr Mohammed Faig Abad Alrazak**  
MBChB (University of Baghdad),  
FRCS (The Royal College of Surgeons  
of England/London)

**N**asal allergy is one of the most common conditions affecting millions worldwide. It is one of the medical conditions which have so far has no cure. All of the current treatments are symptomatic treatments and for short periods of time, not mentioning the countless side effects from misuse or long use of the medication in a form of tablets, nasal spray, or various injections. Regarding surgery, this is also a temporary solution as far as nasal allergy is concern, however most nasal surgeries do improve nasal breathing.

I have pioneered an effective treatment for nasal allergy with a success rate of around 90% in the reduction of the nasal allergy after 1-2 weeks following the procedure. The procedure is non-invasive with no incision, no wounds with long term effect. The procedure is done in ten minutes, under local anesthesia in a clinic setting with no admission to the hospital, with no nasal packing or dressing and the patient can go back to his office or home following the procedure.

Most of the nasal allergy (allergic rhinitis) symptoms are an immune triggered inflammation of nasal tissues and mucosal linings of the nose and para-nasal sinuses, the nasal allergy process which occurred as a result of an inhaled, administrated or ingested materials or allergens. The most common and famous allergens are pollens, dust and house dust mite (a microscopic parasite usually on the lining of bed or pillow cases) or certain ingested food.

Allergic Rhinitis is one of the most common untreatable medical conditions since it was recognized as a medical condition with worldwide distribution. It can also cause many symptoms of suffering to the patients with various degrees of long or short term complications i.e. sinusitis, polyposis, loss sense of smell, excessive watery, mucous or even mucopurulent secretions, unpleasant smell in the nose or mouth, mucous, loss sense of taste, headaches, migraine, snoring, blocked ears, reduced hearing, triggering imbalance and light headed attacks when affecting the ears, disturb breathing at night and other complications and most importantly it does affect the quality and enjoyment of life and can also cause social embarrassment.

#### Symptoms of nasal allergy

Most of the symptoms and signs are mainly affecting the inside of the nose and nasal breathing, but it can also affect the face eyes

and throat. It can also cause general malaise, fatigue, stress and affecting the quality of life.

The main symptoms are nasal blockage, rhinorrhoea (nasal secretions), itching, sneezing, watery post nasal dripping, facial pain, headaches, facial congestion, partial anosmia (loss sense of smell) or rarely total anosmia, dark shadow or rings below and around the eyes, occasional swelling of the nose, sometimes around the eyes, watering or thick nasal mucopurulent secretion, loss a reduced sense of smell, blocked ears (due to the blockage of Eustachian tube openings) which can cause reduced hearing and other symptoms that may exacerbate or trigger the attacks of migraine, tension headache, asthma, recurrent chest infection etc.

The irritating itching does not only involve the nose or para-nasal sinuses but it can also involve the mouth, pharynx, face, eyes and the throat. Most patients suffer a combination of these symptoms and signs, but in some patients, may only have one or two symptoms of nasal allergy.

#### Types of nasal allergy

Allergic Rhinitis could be seasonal, perennial (all year round), an instant allergy from certain materials, or senile allergies. Allergy of the Nose and para-nasal sinuses becomes one of the most common medical conditions especially in modern history. The condition is wide spread all over the world and it affects all ages.

The condition became worse with the advancement of civilization and pollutions. Nasal allergy even becomes reluctant to the effect of symptomatic treatment of the medication and ends with a poor response to medications such as nasal spray, anti-allergy tablets or injections. It has created a situation when poor responses to the current treatment has lead to more misuses of medication when frequent, higher doses and multiple medications are administered to the nose which puts the patient in a vicious circle that includes negative counter effects to the nose and general health.

The rebound phenomenon start affecting nasal tissues and the mucosa or linings of nasal and par nasal sinuses which start a defense mechanism; that being a poor response to medication, hypertrophied or thickening of the mucosa and the normal structures in the nose in order to avoid the direct and chemical effect of nasal sprays and other locally applied medications to the nose.

#### Complications of nasal allergy

Nasal allergy usually cause intermittent nasal blockage and in severe and untreated or complicated cases can cause a constant nasal



**Dr Mohammed Faig Abad Alrazak**

blockage. Nasal allergy can cause a loss of sense of smell, nasal polyps, enlarged or hypertrophy of nasal turbinates (long structures inside the nose), blocked lacrimal duct, acute or chronic purulent rhinitis and sinusitis, blocked ears, recurrent secretory or purulent otitis media, hearing loss unbalance and even vertigo. Triggering or worsening the attacks of asthma, migraine, recurrent headaches, sinusitis and others medical conditions.

#### Diagnosis of nasal allergy

The full medical history of the condition with signs and symptoms of nasal allergy are the major factors to reach for a diagnosis. ENT Examination of the nose, mouth, pharynx, ears and neck. The special coloration of the nasal mucosal linings and the type of nasal secretions is highly indicative of nasal allergy. Other signs, like hypertrophied or enlarged inferior or middle turbinate with excessive watery secretions, mucous or even mucopurulent secretions (especially in children). Detailed examination by flexible or rigid fiberoptic nasoendoscopy which allows for full assessment of the nasal cavities, signs of complications, examining the middle meatal area where the ostiums (openings) of some sinuses can be seen and to make sure there is no infection or polyps or mass or foreign body are inside the nose of sinuses.

#### Investigations for nasal allergy

The investigation for nasal allergy like radiological test to exclude or confirm any complication inside the nose or para-nasal sinuses, an allergy test in order to discover the allergen which triggers the nasal allergy which in most of the times accompanies with allergy of the mouth, pharynx, ears, lungs, eyes and sometimes the skin.

The cause for allergic rhinitis is a single allergen or allergens, and can be either inhaled through the nose or mouth, or ingested, or

might have been in contact with mucosa of the nose (medicine or any other materials). It is not possible to do the test for all or every allergen, the test are not 100% confirmatory and may provide a false positive results. The allergy tests are not requested in every case, but it needs to be done in severe, reluctant, resistant cases, when there is no repose to medication and when the potential allergen is affecting general health.

In the modern world cost effectiveness is an issue to many hospitals or medical centers and practically speaking it is not possible to test every one with nasal allergy, not mentioning the huge financial burden arising from the cost, personnel involved and the time required for conduction of the test.

The test done to find out the cause for allergy is usually performed to search for the suspected allergen causing the nasal allergy. Once the allergen is found, the first treatment is avoidance of the substance or substances (in practice is usually very difficult for inhaled allergens). By complete avoidance of the allergen (which is almost impossible) the allergy symptoms will be dramatically reduced but rarely will it completely stop the allergy.

X ray of the nose and sinuses. This type of investigation is much less informative than the CT scan, x ray is usually requested for children with nasal allergy or as a survey test for the presence of any complications, sinusitis or adenoid hypertrophy.

CT scan is more specific, usually done for adults when complications are suspected or observed, it will shows the hypertrophied (or enlarged) Turbinates of the nose, deviated Nasal spectrum, sinusitis, infection, polypsis inside the nose and para-nasal sinuses, and may reveals other signs or complications which may require further investigation and treatment. Blood test and other test may also requested.

#### The current treatment for nasal allergy

The current medical treatment for nasal allergy are mainly nasal spray, anti-allergy tablets, nasal drops, steroid injection etc which are temporary symptomatic treatment and does not treat the cause or cure the condition.

Surgical treatment is mainly to treat the complication of nasal allergy ie sinusitis, polyposis, enlarged turbinates etc combined treatment by surgery and medication are also beyond the treatment of the conditions, both are still symptomatic treatment which provide temporary reduction of the symptoms and signs or the complication of nasal allergy, but it does not treat the condition of nasal allergy itself.

Desensitization method (oral or by injection)

or treatment is an allergen specific treatment by injection or oral drops by desensitization with a specific allergen. The injection method does carry the risk of shock or anaphylaxis. Desensitization when the injected allergen, which usually requires multiple injections, it is also a temporary treatment because there is always a new allergen and the patients is usually allergic to more than one allergen and it is only affective in certain or some cases and the treatment must be conducted in a special centre due to high risk to life and risk of shock. Oral desensitization is less effective than injection treatment.

Regarding other modalities of treatment of allergic rhinitis ranging from new medication, laser treatment, radiofrequency, etc are usually temporary, symptomatic and offer no dramatic reduction or cure in the treatment of nasal allergy. Other treatment, like homeopathy, herbal, Chinese acupuncture, etc has little effect, some has placebo like effect or provides temporary minor symptomatic effect.

Steroids injection are still a symptomatic and temporary treatment and should be avoided due to the potential of systemic complications. Steroids should be used only in special circumstances and when there is no medical contraindication as they have the potential of serious side effects.

#### The pioneering treatment in Nasal Allergy

The new treatment has been researched and developed over many years. The treatment can be conducted in outpatient or clinic setting under local anesthesia. It targets specific allergic areas inside the nose which I have discovered over 25 years experience in the field of otolaryngology, the procedure is an endoscopic treatment with the aid of cautery or radiofrequency on specific area inside the nose devices without making any surgical incision. The procedure takes 10 minutes to conduct, noninvasive under local anesthesia only. The success rate of my pioneering technique (Alrazak procedure) is between 80-90%. There is no hospital admission; no nasal packing and the patient can resume his daily normal activities after the procedure. There is a great advantage from this procedure for patients who suffer from nasal allergy and asthma. Following the procedure the frequency and severity of asthma will decline or diminish in most patients, in addition the need for asthma inhalers or medications much less needed than before. This dramatic and positive effect on patients with asthma has been observed in a good percentage of patients. This pioneering treatment in nasal allergy is the first of its kind in the history of medicine.

GOSH EXPERT EXPLAINS THE IMPORTANCE OF GENETIC TESTING FOR CHILDREN WITH RARE DISEASES

**KUWAIT:** Lucy Jenkins, Director of the Regional Genetics Laboratories and Head of Service for Molecular Genetics based at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (GOSH), talks about rare diseases and how important genetic testing is for children with a rare disease.

"A rare disease is classed as one that affects fewer than five in ten



thousand people," Lucy explains. There are at least 6,000 known rare diseases and 75% of them affect children. Unfortunately 30% of children diagnosed with a rare disease will die before their fifth birthday. The Arabic population worldwide suffer from one of the highest rates of genetic disease in the world, according to the Centre for Arab Genomic Studies. Some 906 genetic disorders have been identified in Arabic people and their descendants with about 200 of these being prevalent in the GCC.

The vast majority of rare diseases are either genetic in origin or have a significant genetic component. "There may be only a few people in a country or area affected by a particular rare disease. However, because there are many different rare diseases, quite a high number of people are affected in some way," Lucy comments, "So rare disease is actually quite common, but the nature of a particular rare disease means that patients may go undiagnosed because their specific symptoms, often complex and multisystem, are not recognized."

Having a diagnosis for a patient with a suspected rare disease is important. "For a patient with a rare disease the diagnosis can be very important to help with management and to avoid repeated diagnostic assessments. A diagnosis can provide a treatment plan, help support children at school



Lucy Jenkins

and home, and also give important genetic information to the rest of the family risk of the condition recurring," Lucy explains. "Knowing the specific cause for the presentation of a condition also helps with treatment. For example, for an immunodeficiency it may dictate whether or not a patient needs a bone marrow transplant."

For a patient with a rare disease, often a genetic test is the only way to get an accurate diagnosis. This is where Lucy, a consultant clinical scientist, comes in. Lucy and her team at the Regional Genetics Laboratory based at GOSH receive samples from clinicians from GOSH, the UK and around the world, and do genetic test-



ing based on the symptoms a patient has. "That's the first thing," Lucy says, "We help diagnose. That diagnosis can then provide assistance with treatment plans. When the diagnosis is made we can offer wider family testing if it is relevant, as well offering prenatal diagnosis. We also do translational work, where we take research done by researchers at University College London (UCL) and UCL Institute of Child Health and translate it into service in an accredited lab for the benefit of everyone."

Unfortunately only a quarter of rare

disease have had their molecular basis defined, which means that many people with a rare disease risk being undiagnosed and therefore untreated. Children with undiagnosed conditions often have significant and complex health care needs. Identifying and addressing these needs is challenging when there is no diagnosis. "In the future," Lucy comments "we hope to see more rare and genetic diseases mapped out through research so that clinical scientists like myself can provide a diagnosis for even more families worldwide."

THE EVER CHANGING FACETS OF OBESITY AND DIABETES

On a recent visit to Kuwait, Dr Evan Nadler and Dr Sheela Magge from Children's National Medical Center, based in Washington, DC, sat down to discuss the current state of their medical practices.

**About Evan P Nadler, MD**

Evan P. Nadler serves as Co-Director of the Children's National Obesity Institute at Children's National Medical Center and is an Associate Professor of Surgery, and Pediatrics, at The George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Sciences. Before moving to Washington DC, he was the Director of Minimally Invasive Pediatric Surgery at the New York University School of Medicine where he participated in US Food and Drug Administration-approved studies using laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding in obese adolescents.

**Has the prevalence of childhood obesity increased? How does that compare to the prevalence of adult obesity?**

The childhood obesity epidemic has grown in parallel with the adult obesity epidemic, only lagging behind by a few years. Adult obesity rates in the most obese countries range from 30-40% of adults, while the childhood obesity rates are about 20-30% in the most obese countries.

**What are some of the most recent surgical and technological innovations in bariatric surgery?**

There is a huge need for less invasive and equally effective options for patients with morbid obesity. Unfortunately the new devices don't seem to be meeting that need very well. There are two new weight loss balloons that were just approved in the US, and there is also a nerve stimulator that has been approved. However those devices don't achieve the same degree of weight loss, nor the duration of weight loss, that the current surgical techniques provide. So I don't think they are going to be major advances for the

treatment of obesity. There are a couple other devices that haven't made it to the US, like the pill balloon and the food suction device. What I have heard from my international colleagues has not been very positive about either of those, but I don't have any firsthand knowledge of either.

**When does surgery become the recommended option for obese children?**

We use the same criteria for children that we use for adults, namely a BMI over 35 with a disease related to the obesity, or a BMI over 40 without a related disease. In my opinion, there is no reason to withhold surgery from someone who is already suffering from weight related health issues regardless of their age.

**After surgery, what is involved with post-op care - in terms of medication, rehabilitative treatment, lifestyle changes, etc?**

Most patients don't need any medication other than pain medicine after surgery. We do recommend vitamins since the food intake will dramatically decrease, although we don't really know if these are required. We recommend that the families follow up with the same team after surgery that they were seeing before surgery so that dietary changes and exercise regimens can be reinforced.

**What plays a larger role with obesity: environment or genetics?**

It's a combination of both. We now know that the environment can change the way your genes behave and the proteins they make. Everyone knows someone who can eat anything they want and still not gain weight. That's genetic too. The likely reason that the GCC has such an obesity problem is that over time the genes were selected to conserve energy since food was scarce years ago. But now that food is abundant, the genes cause too much energy storage and eventually obesity. That's why both genetics and environment are involved.



Dr Sheela Magge

**About Sheela Magge, MD, MSCE**

Sheela N Magge, MD, MSCE, is a pediatric endocrinologist at the Children's National Health System. Dr Magge also serves as the Director of Research for the Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes through the Center for Translational Science, and is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr Magge's research focuses on pediatric obesity, insulin resistance, prediabetes, and type 2 diabetes, as well as the cardiovascular complications of these conditions.

**We hear a lot of news about the spread of the "diabetes epidemic" and the growing number of people who suffer from the disease. How does the prevalence rate of the disease currently compare to that of 10 or 20 years ago?**

There are different types of diabetes. The type related to obesity is type 2 diabetes, previously almost exclusively seen in adults,

and now occurring much more frequently in children. Amongst new diabetes in 10-19 year old children, the SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth study indicates that in the US, an average of 15% have type 2 diabetes, an increase from < 4% in the 1990's. This varies in different ethnicities and can be much higher in certain groups. In Kuwait, a recent study indicated that among 10-20 year-olds, 42% had type 2 diabetes. This is extremely concerning. However, looking at overall numbers of diabetes developing during childhood, type 1 diabetes is still far more common.

**What are some of the factors that have contributed to this?**

There are multiple factors which have contributed to this. In terms of diet, there is an increased consumption of highly processed, high fat foods, large portion sizes, and increased soda consumption - all contributing to the problem. There is not enough fruit and vegetable consumption as well. In addition, society has become more sedentary, spending increased amounts of time in front of a screen - television, computers, tablets, phones, etc - and less time being physically active. This all contributes to increased caloric intake and not enough caloric expenditure.

**Is diabetes curable or reversible?**

This depends on the type of diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is not curable, and insulin is required to live. There are other genetic types of diabetes which are not curable as well. Type 2 diabetes can be curable in its early stages, before it progresses too far. Early on, a person could use improved nutrition and increased exercise to lose weight and try to reverse type 2 diabetes.

**How do treatment approaches for children differ from adults?**

Treatment approaches for children are often geared towards the family as a whole. Depending on the age of the patient, parents



Dr Evan Nadler

may be doing some or all of the management. Even in an adolescent's case, parents need to be involved and monitor the child. Also, we are often more aggressive in children, as we want them to live a long life without complications. In addition, for type 2 diabetes in adults there are many oral diabetes medications. In children, the only medications currently approved for use in children are insulin and metformin.

**During your visit to Kuwait, you took part in several educational lectures. In your opinion, how important is international collaboration between medical professionals from different countries?**

I believe international collaboration is extremely important in medicine. We learn about potential differences in disease states in different races and cultures, and about possible genetic differences in disease presentation. We also learn about different management approaches. We can learn a great deal from each other.

**CLINIC PAGE**

Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

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**CBK PARTAKES IN PCC NATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATIONS**

On the occasion of the National and Liberation Days' anniversaries, CBK's PR team took part in the events organized by the Palliative Care Center (PCC) for hospitalized patients. Speaking on the occasion, CBK's Assistant Manager and PR and Advertising Manager Amani Al-Wer' said that PCC patients and their families were so happy with the ceremony and that such a contribution was but part of CBK's communal activities that were meant to entertain the patients and wish them a speedy recovery. CBK's delegation was received by PCC's Social Services Section Manager Hoda Shehab and a number of the center's staff.

**BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WORKING HOURS DURING NATIONAL HOLIDAYS**

Burgan Bank yesterday announced that its airport branch will resume normal working hours during Kuwait's upcoming National and Liberation holidays, in order to accommodate banking requirements for all the customers during the public holidays. The airport's branch will operate from 8:00 am to 10:30 pm. For more information on any products or services, customers are required to contact Burgan Bank's call center 1804080 during the holiday. On this occasion, Burgan Bank extends its best wishes and greetings to the public on Kuwait's nationwide celebrations of both the 55th Independence Day and the 25th Liberation day.

**GULF BANK'S CUSTOMER CENTER AVAILABLE 24/7**

On the occasion of National and Liberation day, Gulf Bank's Head Office and all branches will be closed from Thursday 25 February 2016, and will commence normal working hours on Sunday 28 February 2016. During the holiday, customers will continue to have round-the-clock access to Gulf Bank on 1805805, where Gulf Bank staff are available 24 hours to directly assist customers. Customers can also log on to Gulf Bank's website, www.e-gulfbank.com, to get more information about the Bank's latest products and services.

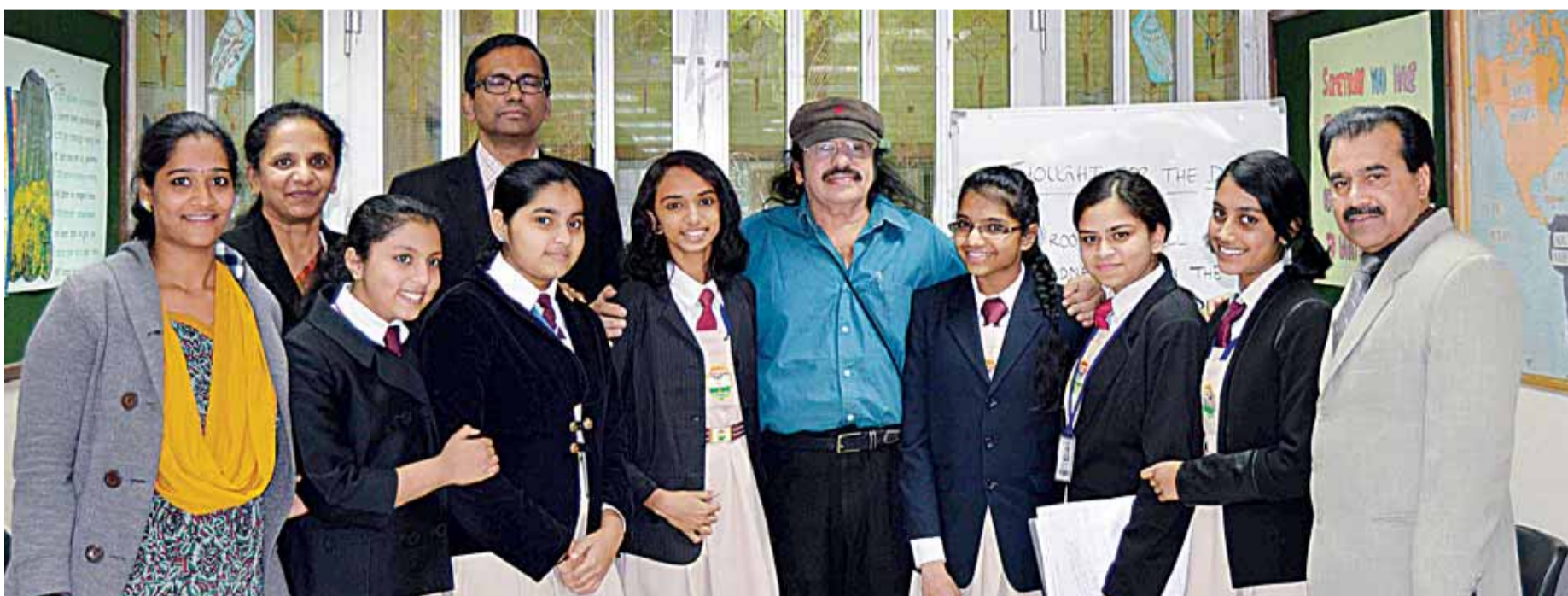
On this occasion, Gulf Bank would like to convey its sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Amir of the State of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah - May Allah Almighty safeguard and preserve them for their nation, as well as to the government and people of Kuwait.

**KDNA TO HOLD 5TH MALABAR MAHOLSAVAM**

KDNA, Kozhikode District NRI Association Kuwait will hold Malabar Maholsavam on February 26th at Indian Central School, Abbasiya, Kuwait, as a full day event. The venue titled Samoothiri Nadu will landscape the heritage and cultural significance of Malabar and its deep-rooted relations with Kuwait. Addressing a press conference, the organizers informed that the event would begin at 10 am. Different types of dances, oppana, mehfil and comedy show of the famous Siraj Payyoli & Saji Ochira and great music are from Abhijith Kollam known as "Junior Yesudas", Keerthana [Asianet Mailanchi winner], Akash [Gandharwa sangeetham winner] the fabulous singers from Kerala in store for visitors at the event.

The day's event will begin with Henna competition for ladies at 10 am, fancy dress completion and face painting competition for children, cooking competition for ladies. Various types of Malabar foods will be available in the stalls. The stage will welcome eminent socio-cultural personalities from Kuwait and India.

An exhibition of caricature of history of Kuwait will be held at the venue. The highlight of the day will be a cultural program featuring prominent film director, Script Director & producer: Dada Saheb Falke award winner Adoor Gopalakrishnan and the musical eve lead by famous Abhijith, Keerthana and Akash. KDNA President Aziz Thikkodi, General Secretary Sathian Varoonda Program Chairman Suresh Mathur, Program General Convener Zubair M M, Treasurer Zaheer Alakkal, Joint Convener Illias Thottathil, Krishnan Katalundi & K.Alikoya were present during the press meet.



**SOORYA KRISHNAMURTHY - A RENOWNED ACTIVIST AND PHILANTHROPIST VISITS ICSK**

The Indian Community School Kuwait, Amman branch had the unique privilege of receiving Soorya Krishnamurthy - the founder of Soorya Stage and Film Society, the Chairman of Kerala Sangetha Nataka Academy and Festival Director International Theatre festival of Kerala (ITFoK) on February 11, 2016. He spent time and interacted with the students. He was welcomed in the school by Vijay Karayil, Hon Secretary BOT, ICSK; Rajesh Nair C, Principal ICSK Amman and Dr Mary Issac, Vice-Principal ICSK Amman. A team of ICSK Amman students comprising MrigaArora, Shivani Rajiv Menon, Beneeta, Aswathi, Diya Ajay and Aiswarya interviewed Krishnamurthy. He explained to them the concept of the theatre of freedom. He also expounded Soorya's aim at dissemination of the rich Indian culture and achieving "Integration through culture".

**SOUHRIDAVEDI CONDUCTS KUDUMBASANGAMOM**

Souhrivedhi Kuwait conducted its 3rd Kudumbasangamom at NCIM Hall Salmiya. The function began with the National Anthem. The meeting observed a moment of silence paying homage to the survivor of the massive avalanche at the Siachen Glacier - Lance Naik Hanumanthappa, but could not survive longer. Parimanam Manoj, Secretary, delivered the welcome speech. The Program was inaugurated by Samkutty George by lighting the traditional Lamp. Manoj Menon, Treasurer, delivered the vote of thanks. The event was marked by various cultural programs & games. The children presented various cultural programs which added color to the event.





## AOU CONDUCTS WORKSHOP ON 'PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM'

Arab Open University (AOU) conducted a workshop entitled "Academic Staff Performance Evaluation" with the participation of University President, Vice Presidents, deans, branch directors, and coordinators of academic programs. Speaking at the opening of the workshop, Prof Moudi Al-Humoud, AOU President, pointed out that, "a system of performance evaluation and promotion will be applied to all job levels, academic and administrative, at the headquarters of AOU and its eight branches that are operating in a number of Arab countries".

Al-Humoud talked about the adopted policies and procedures of AOU staff performance evaluation, pointing to the efforts of Quality Assurance Department and its units, and their systematic work in preparing reports, data, and annual and quarterly evaluation forms that are used in the objective assessment and revision of all performance evaluation operations.

She also stated that the AOU performance evaluation system is an effective system for empowering and promoting AOU staff as being transparent, objective and clear in addition to providing the working environment

with openness, trust, dialogue and communication between the staff and the upper management. Al-Humoud pointed out that one of the goals of the performance evaluation system applied to academic and administrative staff as well as to the University's leadership is to improve performance and achieve strategic objectives of the University in addition to enable it to identify its potential and expertise and to recognize requirements, needs and challenges of training and development.

Prof Mustapha Achoui, Vice President for Planning, Research and Development Affairs,

addressed the workshop goals, which are a comprehensive presentation of a system for academic staff evaluation and its application in addition to the extent of its benefits in planning, pointing to the value of disseminating the culture of evaluation, promotion and improvement of performance in the University. Prof Mohamed Tawalba, Acting Dean of the Education Faculty, talked about the key principles of evaluation process.

Dr Naif Al-Mutiri, Director of AOU in Kuwait, talked about the gains of the system of academic staff performance evaluation at AOU

branches as being a quality tool, which can measure performance and scientifically improve it in accordance with the comprehensive quality management for higher education institutions. On his part, Dr Mohamed Mirghani, Vice President for Administration and Financial Affairs, spoke about the guidelines of AOU annual budget preparations, which can be seen as a planning tool connected to the AOU annual plan and which can provide and employ the required resources to implement the plans of all AOU sectors and departments.



## AUB ORGANIZES OPEN DAY FOR ITS STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES

As part of its National Day celebrations, Ahli United Bank organized an Open Day for its staff and their families in Al Shaheed Park last Saturday, which included many surprises, entertainment performances and distribution of gifts. In a joyful atmosphere, the audience of Bank staff, their families and the public visitors of the park, enjoyed listening to the most famous traditional and national songs of the local "Arda" band. Amid the celebrations, and as an expression of patriotism to our beloved Kuwait, a team of Ahli United Bank distributed the Kuwaiti

flags to attendees. On the occasion of the National Days, Ahli United Bank extended its sincere congratulations to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and the Government, people of Kuwait and all residents in its territory, expressing its wishes for constant celebrations year after year and the completion of the development process and achievements. The event was attended by a number of famous local celebrities, where by the famous announcer, Salman Nejadi, co-hosted the presenta-

tion of the event, Al Mass Heritage Folklore Band entertained the attendees with their traditional songs and last but not least was the surprise of the event, the distinguished actor Dawoud Hussein, who interacted with the audience and spread an atmosphere full of fun to wrap up the day.

Ahli United Bank announced in a press release: "The annual Family Day is organized in recognition of the active efforts of the Bank's staff and their dedication to achieve the Bank's objectives and also, as an expression of grati-

tude by management to express their appreciation to staff for their ongoing efforts throughout the year. One of the most important success factors of this family day is its timing synchronous with the National celebrations which gave it more joy. The Bank added: "We will not spare any effort in organizing events that will enhance the relationship between the Bank's employees, seen as one family; which in return is reflected in the morale and harmony among the staff on one hand and to stimulate the spirit of work dedication on the other."



## AL-BAYAN BILINGUAL SCHOOL CELEBRATES KUWAIT NATIONAL AND LIBERATION DAYS

Under the Patronage of Kuwait's Minister of Education, Dr Bader Al-Essa, Al-Bayan Bilingual School students from all divisions, faculty, administration and parents celebrated the National and Liberation Day. They were singing the entire Kuwait National Anthem loudly and proudly waving the Kuwaiti flag. BBS wore Kuwait's vesture and was filled with the 4 colors of the Kuwaiti Flag, the whole atmosphere was filled with emotions, joy and pride. Many songs and poems, for the love of Kuwait, were performed by students and teachers. Festivities commenced in the High School division with a wonderful cultural show and activities that indicated Kuwait's customs and traditions. The celebrations also included traditional songs and homemade Buffet. As for the Middle School division, they celebrated the festivities through performing an assembly about Kuwait, it included Kuwaiti Songs, folkloric dances and activities. The Kindergarten division had a carnival that contained a lot of cultural activities that distinguish Kuwait, they also celebrated by singing patriotic songs in both Arabic and English languages. The carnival included Traditional Kuwaiti food for kids. Last but not least the Elementary School division, they celebrated by singing the entire national anthem for Kuwait while waving the Kuwaiti Flag, they have performed a beautiful folkloric dance during their morning assembly. In a great celebration and after reciting the Holy Quran, grade 3 students performed an operetta called "Ya Kuwait Ya Beladi" by Alaa Jaber, who wrote the lyrics, and Laila Musallam, BBS Music Teacher, who composed the music for the whole performance.

The Minister of Education Dr Bader Al-Essa, Grade 3 parents, some of the Board of Trustees members and Faculty attended the operetta. The operetta included 6 performances that spoke about Kuwait in the past and the present, about the collaboration of its citizens and their courage to face difficulties, their urge to give, as well as their hard work and last but not least their passion to work on pearling, sea trade and construction. Maha Kaddoura, Acting Director, is very proud of Grade 3 students and all the people in charge of this operetta, as she said: "This operetta is a High End artwork that we are proud to be part of", "BBS is always keen to support the national celebrations to mark the festivals of our beloved Kuwait, This event strengthens the concepts of patriotism among students through their participation in this work which included performances from Kuwait and the heritage of Kuwait" She added

At the end of the ceremony Zetha Nobles Adeleke, Elementary School Principal and Nada Darwish, Deputy Principal, expressed their gratitude to Dr Bader Al-Essa, the parents, the students and the teachers who were in charge to make this operetta a successful one and presented Shields of Appreciation to Alaa Jaber and Laila Musallam. It was a moving performance and the audience enjoyed it. BBS Grade 3 students performed again on Wednesday, 24 February 2016 at Al Hamra Tower located in Sharq - Kuwait City for everyone to enjoy the show.



## RIMAL HOTEL & RESORTS CELEBRATES NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

Rimal Hotel & Resorts celebrated its national holidays with many activities and events that keep pace with the joy of the people of Kuwait. Program includes raising of Kuwait flag and photos of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Yassin Mahdi, Director-General stressed that the

resort management sends deepest congratulations and greetings to the political leadership of the country and wished that the safety and security prevail in the land. Abeer Qouta, Public Relations Manager said "There were many activities including - riding, sailing boats and training and also there are activities for children."

## SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY

On the occasion of the National Day and Liberation Day, the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa will be closed today and will reopen with its official office hours from 8h00 to 16h00 & the Consular Section operation hours will be from 8h30 to 12h30 on Sunday, 28th February 2016. For Emergency calls please contact: 94924895

AMC 00:00 Breaking Bad 01:00 Breaking Bad 02:05 The Myth Of Fingerprints 03:40 Idle Hands 05:15 Robinson Crusoe 06:45 The Watsons Go To Birmingham 08:15 George Washington 09:40 One More Kiss 11:20 Music Of The Heart 13:25 Teen Witch 14:55 One More Kiss 16:35 Beachhead 18:05 Miracles 19:30 Duplex 21:00 Breaking Bad 22:00 Idle Hands 23:35 Touched

ANIMAL PLANET HD 00:50 River Monsters 01:45 Swamp Brothers 02:15 Swamp Brothers 02:40 Dog Rescuers 03:35 Tanked 04:25 Gorilla Doctors 05:15 Gator Boys 06:02 Treehouse Masters 06:49 Dog Rescuers 07:36 Swamp Brothers 08:00 Bad Dog 08:25 Dog Rescuers 09:15 Treehouse Masters 10:10 Treehouse Masters 11:05 Tanked 12:00 Bad Dog 12:55 Bondi Vet 13:50 Dog Rescuers 14:45 Gator Boys 15:40 Treehouse Masters 16:35 Tanked 17:30 Gorilla Doctors 18:25 River Monsters 19:20 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet 20:15 Tanked 21:10 Tigerfish: Africa's Piranha 22:05 Treehouse Masters 23:00 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet 23:55 Gator Boys

BBC FIRST 00:20 Eastenders 00:50 Call The Midwife 01:40 Call The Midwife 02:35 Ripper Street 03:30 Doctors 04:00 Eastenders 04:25 The Town 05:15 The Town 06:00 The Cafe 06:25 Doctors 06:55 Eastenders 07:25 Startlings 08:15 Call The Midwife 09:10 Doctor Who 10:00 Doctors 10:30 Eastenders 11:00 Death In Paradise 12:00 Startlings 12:45 Call The Midwife 13:40 Doctor Who 14:30 Doctors 15:00 Eastenders 15:30 Startlings 16:20 Dickensian 17:10 Doctor Who 18:00 Doctors 18:30 Eastenders 19:05 Death In Paradise 20:00 Hobby City 21:00 Stella 21:45 Ripper Street 22:45 Death In Paradise 23:40 Doctors

Bloomberg Television 00:00 What'd You Miss? 01:00 Charlie Rose 02:00 First Up With Angie Lau 03:00 First Up With Angie Lau 04:00 Trending Business 05:00 Trending Business 06:00 Asia Edge



THE X FILES ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

Table listing TV programs for The X-Files on OSN Movies HD Action, including titles like 'Storage Hunters', 'The Liquidator', and 'Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop'.

CNBC 01:00 Sustainable Energy 01:30 The Edge 02:00 U.S. Squawk Alley 03:00 Asia Squawk Box 05:00 Asia Street Signs 07:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report 08:00 Capital Connection 09:00 Squawk Box Europe 12:00 Europe Street Signs 13:00 Worldwide Exchange 14:00 U.S. Squawk Box 17:00 Squawk On The Street 19:00 U.S. Squawk Alley 20:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report 21:00 U.S. Power Lunch 23:00 U.S. Closing Bell

Discovery Science 00:35 Weird Or What? 01:20 How It's Made 01:44 How It's Made 02:08 Invent It Rich 02:55 Moon Machines 03:42 Mythbusters 04:29 Weird Or What? 05:16 Invent It Rich 06:03 Moon Machines 06:50 Unchained Reaction 07:37 How Do They Do It? 08:00 How Do They Do It? 08:23 Weird Or What? 09:08 Mythbusters 09:53 Unchained Reaction 10:38 How It's Made 11:00 How It's Made 11:23 Food Factory 11:45 Food Factory 12:08 Moon Machines 12:53 Unchained Reaction 13:38 Weird Or What? 14:23 How It's Made 14:46 How It's Made 15:10 Mythbusters 15:57 Food Factory 16:20 Food Factory 16:44 Moon Machines 17:31 Unchained Reaction 18:18 Mythbusters 19:05 Weird Or What? 19:50 Mega Builders 20:40 Moon Machines 21:25 How It's Made 21:50 How It's Made 22:15 Mythbusters 23:00 Mega Builders 23:45 Moon Machines

Discovery World 00:40 Solved 01:30 Codes And Conspiracies 02:20 America: Facts vs. Fiction 02:45 America: Facts vs. Fiction 03:05 Mega Predators 03:50 Solved 04:35 Extreme Engineering 05:20 Deadliest Catch 06:05 Chef Gone Wild 06:50 100 Miles From Nowhere 07:35 Origins 08:00 Deadliest Catch 08:50 Codes And Conspiracies 09:40 100 Miles From Nowhere 10:30 Chef Gone Wild 11:20 Extreme Engineering 12:10 Deadliest Catch 13:00 Dive To The Bottom Of The World 13:50 Chef Gone Wild 14:40 Extreme Engineering 15:30 Codes And Conspiracies 16:20 100 Miles From Nowhere 17:10 Deadliest Catch 18:00 Mega Predators 18:50 Chef Gone Wild 19:40 Codes And Conspiracies 20:30 American Guns 21:20 Lost Temple To The Gods 22:10 Extreme Engineering 23:00 American Guns 23:50 Lost Temple To The Gods

Discovery Channel HD 00:20 Fast N' Loud 01:10 Mythbusters 02:00 The Weapon Hunter 02:50 Big Giant Swords 03:40 Storage Hunters 04:05 The Liquidator 04:30 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars 05:30 How Do They Do It? 06:00 Flying Wild Alaska 06:50 Kings Of Crash 07:40 Fast N' Loud 08:30 Storage Hunters 08:55 The Liquidator 09:20 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition 09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars 10:10 How Do They Do It? 10:35 Mythbusters 11:25 The Weapon Hunter 12:15 Big Giant Swords

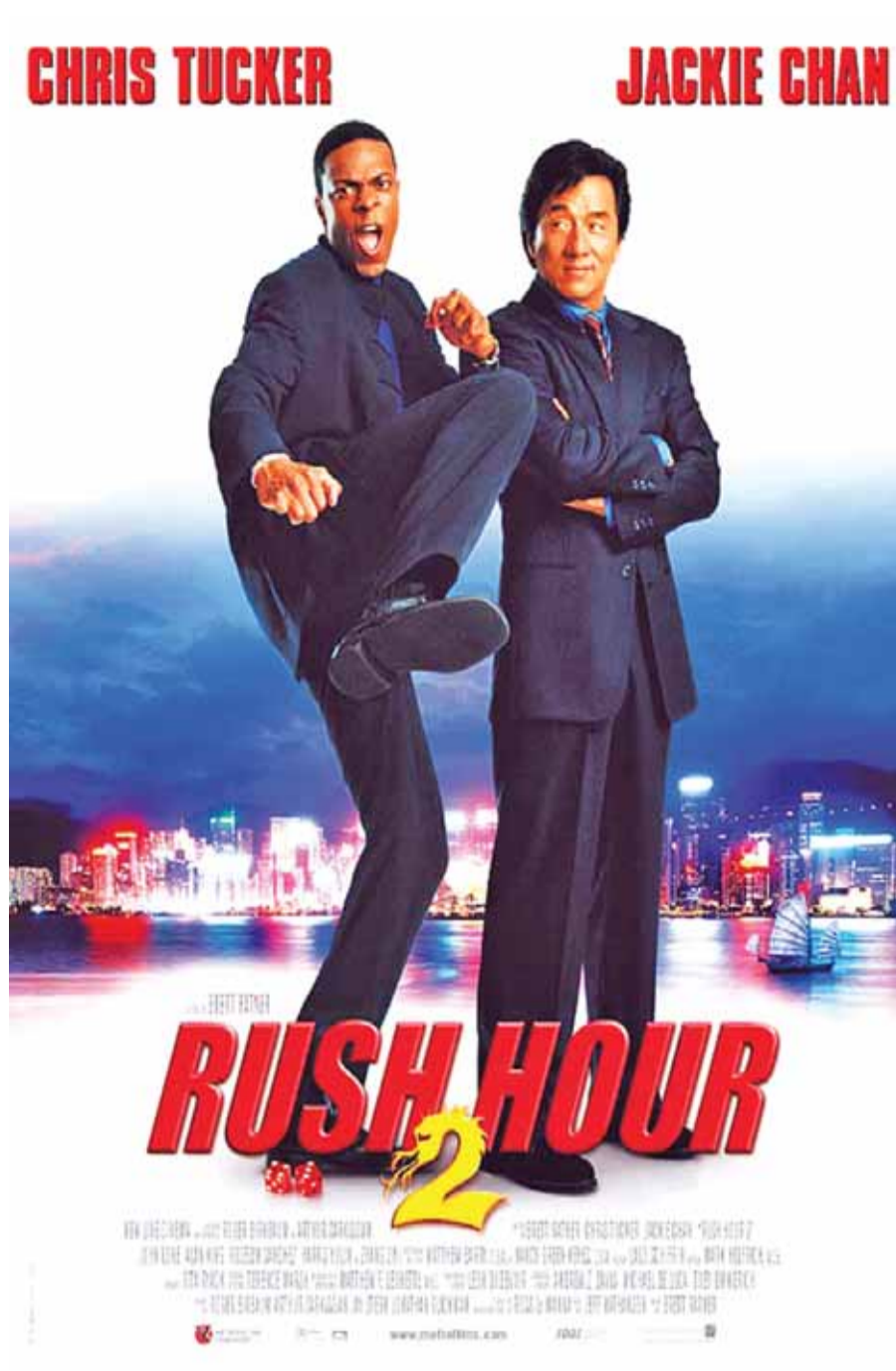
Discovery Channel HD 00:20 Fast N' Loud 01:10 Mythbusters 02:00 The Weapon Hunter 02:50 Big Giant Swords 03:40 Storage Hunters 04:05 The Liquidator 04:30 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars 05:30 How Do They Do It? 06:00 Flying Wild Alaska 06:50 Kings Of Crash 07:40 Fast N' Loud 08:30 Storage Hunters 08:55 The Liquidator 09:20 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition 09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars 10:10 How Do They Do It? 10:35 Mythbusters 11:25 The Weapon Hunter 12:15 Big Giant Swords

09:40 Fatal Encounters 10:30 Murder Shift 11:20 Deadly Affairs 12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones 13:00 The Will 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It 14:40 California Investigator 15:05 Dr. G: Medical Examiner 15:55 Fatal Encounters 16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn 17:35 Murder Shift 18:25 I Almost Got Away With It 19:15 The Will 20:05 Deadly Affairs 20:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones 21:45 California Investigator 22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 22:35 Who On Earth... 23:00 Deadly Affairs 23:50 True CSI

00:35 Weird Or What? 01:20 How It's Made 01:44 How It's Made 02:08 Invent It Rich 02:55 Moon Machines 03:42 Mythbusters 04:29 Weird Or What? 05:16 Invent It Rich 06:03 Moon Machines 06:50 Unchained Reaction 07:37 How Do They Do It? 08:00 How Do They Do It? 08:23 Weird Or What? 09:08 Mythbusters 09:53 Unchained Reaction 10:38 How It's Made 11:00 How It's Made 11:23 Food Factory 11:45 Food Factory 12:08 Moon Machines 12:53 Unchained Reaction 13:38 Weird Or What? 14:23 How It's Made 14:46 How It's Made 15:10 Mythbusters 15:57 Food Factory 16:20 Food Factory 16:44 Moon Machines 17:31 Unchained Reaction 18:18 Mythbusters 19:05 Weird Or What? 19:50 Mega Builders 20:40 Moon Machines 21:25 How It's Made 21:50 How It's Made 22:15 Mythbusters 23:00 Mega Builders 23:45 Moon Machines

00:00 Solved 01:30 Codes And Conspiracies 02:20 America: Facts vs. Fiction 02:45 America: Facts vs. Fiction 03:05 Mega Predators 03:50 Solved 04:35 Extreme Engineering 05:20 Deadliest Catch 06:05 Chef Gone Wild 06:50 100 Miles From Nowhere 07:35 Origins 08:00 Deadliest Catch 08:50 Codes And Conspiracies 09:40 100 Miles From Nowhere 10:30 Chef Gone Wild 11:20 Extreme Engineering 12:10 Deadliest Catch 13:00 Dive To The Bottom Of The World 13:50 Chef Gone Wild 14:40 Extreme Engineering 15:30 Codes And Conspiracies 16:20 100 Miles From Nowhere 17:10 Deadliest Catch 18:00 Mega Predators 18:50 Chef Gone Wild 19:40 Codes And Conspiracies 20:30 American Guns 21:20 Lost Temple To The Gods 22:10 Extreme Engineering 23:00 American Guns 23:50 Lost Temple To The Gods

00:05 Henry Hugglemonster 00:20 Calmero 00:35 Zou 00:50 Loopdidoo 01:05 Art Attack 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster 01:45 Calmero 02:00 Zou 02:15 Loopdidoo 02:30 Art Attack 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster 03:05 Calmero 03:20 Zou 03:30 Loopdidoo 03:45 Art Attack 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster 04:20 Calmero 04:35 Zou 04:45 Loopdidoo 05:00 Art Attack 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster 05:35 Calmero 05:50 Zou 06:00 Loopdidoo 06:15 Art Attack 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster 06:50 Calmero 07:00 Zou 07:20 Loopdidoo 07:35 Art Attack 08:00 Calmero 08:10 Zou 08:25 Loopdidoo 08:40 Miles From Tomorrow 09:05 Sofia The First 09:30 Goldie & Bear 09:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 10:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 10:35 Doc McStuffins 11:00 Sofia The First 11:30 Goldie & Bear 12:00 Miles From Tomorrow 12:25 Special Agent Oso 12:40 The Hive 12:55 Handy Manny 13:15 Jungle Junction 13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 14:00 Sofia The First 14:25 Goldie & Bear 14:50 Doc McStuffins 15:15 Zou 15:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 15:55 Loopdidoo 16:10 Miles From Tomorrow 16:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 17:00 Sofia The First 17:25 Jungle Cubs 17:50 Aladdin 18:15 Gummi Bears 18:40 Goldie & Bear 19:05 Miles From Tomorrow 19:30 Sofia The First 19:55 Doc McStuffins 20:10 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 20:35 Miles From Tomorrow 21:00 Goldie & Bear 21:30 Sofia The First 22:00 Jungle Cubs 22:25 Aladdin 22:50 Gummi Bears 23:20 Lilo And Stitch 23:45 Cars Toons 23:50 Zou



RUSH HOUR 2 ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

Table listing TV programs for Rush Hour 2 on OSN Movies HD Comedy, including titles like 'Fish Hooks', 'Good Luck Charlie', and 'Dog With A Blog'.

00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show 01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 02:20 E! News 03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills 04:10 Ryan Seacrest With The Kardashians 05:05 E! Entertainment Special 05:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 07:50 Style Star 08:20 E! News 09:15 Giuliana & Bill 10:15 Giuliana & Bill 11:10 Fashion Police 12:05 E! News 13:05 WAGs 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 18:00 E! News 19:00 House Of DVF 20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 21:00 Dash Dolls 22:00 E! News 23:00 WAGs

00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show 01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 02:20 E! News 03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills 04:10 Ryan Seacrest With The Kardashians 05:05 E! Entertainment Special 05:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 07:50 Style Star 08:20 E! News 09:15 Giuliana & Bill 10:15 Giuliana & Bill 11:10 Fashion Police 12:05 E! News 13:05 WAGs 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 18:00 E! News 19:00 House Of DVF 20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 21:00 Dash Dolls 22:00 E! News 23:00 WAGs

itv CHOICE 00:10 The Chase 01:05 Emmerdale 01:30 More Tales From Northumberland... 02:00 Coronation Street 02:30 Murdoch Mysteries 03:25 Cilla 04:20 Blue Go Mad In Ibiza 05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes? 07:05 More Tales From Northumberland... 07:30 Cilla 08:25 Blue Go Mad In Ibiza 09:20 Murdoch Mysteries 10:15 The Chase 11:10 More Tales From Northumberland... 11:35 Come Dine With Me Couples 12:30 Who's Doing The Dishes? 13:25 Emmerdale 13:50 More Tales From Northumberland... 14:20 Coronation Street 14:45 Murdoch Mysteries 15:35 Come Dine With Me Couples 16:30 Royalty Close Up 17:25 Royalty Close Up 18:20 Emmerdale 18:45 More Tales From Northumberland... 19:10 Coronation Street 19:35 Come Dine With Me Couples 20:30 Royalty Close Up 21:25 Royalty Close Up 22:20 Coronation Street 22:50 Emmerdale 23:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?

NAT GEO people HD 00:10 Street Food Around The World 00:35 Street Food Around The World 01:00 Cradle Of Mandopp 01:50 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia 02:15 Eat Street 02:40 Eat Street 03:05 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea 03:55 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet 04:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 04:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 05:10 Street Food Around The World 05:35 Dream Cruises 06:25 A Marriage Of Flavours 06:50 Cradle Of Mandopp 07:40 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia 08:05 Eat Street 08:30 Eat Street 08:55 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea 09:45 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet 10:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 10:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 11:00 Street Food Around The World 11:25 Dream Cruises 12:15 A Marriage Of Flavours 12:40 The Great Food Revolution 13:35 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia 14:00 Eat Street 14:30 Eat Street 14:55 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas! 15:50 Poh & Co. 16:20 Maximum Foodie 16:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 17:15 Street Food Around The World 17:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet 18:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet 18:35 A Marriage Of Flavours 19:05 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas! 20:00 Poh & Co. 20:25 Maximum Foodie 20:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 21:15 Street Food Around The World 21:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet 22:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet 22:30 A Marriage Of Flavours 22:55 The Great Food Revolution 23:45 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia

00:20 Leepu & Pitbull 01:10 Ice Road Truckers 02:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters 02:25 Big Rig Bounty Hunters 03:40 Shipping Wars 04:05 Shipping Wars 04:30 Pawn Stars 05:00 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition... 06:00 Ice Road Truckers 06:50 Duck Dynasty 07:15 Duck Dynasty 07:40 Shipping Wars 08:05 Shipping Wars 08:30 Shipping Wars 08:55 Leepu & Pitbull 09:45 Counting Cars 10:10 Counting Cars 10:35 Aussie Pickers 11:25 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition... 12:15 Pawn Stars 12:40 Pawn Stars 13:05 Shipping Wars 13:30 Shipping Wars 13:55 Counting Cars 14:20 Counting Cars 14:45 Leepu & Pitbull 15:35 Storage Wars 16:00 Aussie Pickers 16:50 Ice Road Truckers 17:40 Duck Dynasty 18:05 Duck Dynasty 18:30 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition... 19:20 Search For The Lost Giants 20:10 Pawn Stars 20:35 Pawn Stars 21:00 Duck Dynasty 21:50 Pawn Stars 22:15 Pawn Stars Australia 22:40 Hoard Hunters 23:00 Duck Dynasty

00:30 Suburgatory 01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore 01:30 Brickleberry 02:00 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll 02:30 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia 03:00 New Girl 03:30 Playing House 04:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter

00:30 Suburgatory 01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore 01:30 Brickleberry 02:00 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll 02:30 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia 03:00 New Girl 03:30 Playing House 04:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter

00:00 The PGA Tour Champions Highlights 01:00 Inside The PGA Tour 01:30 European Tour Weekly 02:00 Premier League Darts 02:30 Golfing World 03:00 Trans World Sport 03:30 European Tour Weekly 04:00 Live PGA European Tour 04:30 Golfing World 05:00 Inside The PGA Tour 05:30 PGA European Tour Highlights 06:00 Trans World Sport 06:30 Welsh Open Snooker 07:30 AFL NAB Challenge 08:00 Trans World Sport 08:30 Gillette World Sport 09:00 Inside The PGA Tour 09:30 European Tour Weekly 10:00 Live PGA Tour 10:30 Trans World Sport 11:00 Trans World Sport 11:30 Trans World Sport 12:00 Trans World Sport 12:30 Trans World Sport 13:00 Trans World Sport 13:30 Trans World Sport 14:00 Trans World Sport 14:30 Trans World Sport 15:00 Trans World Sport 15:30 Trans World Sport 16:00 Trans World Sport 16:30 Trans World Sport 17:00 Trans World Sport 17:30 Trans World Sport 18:00 Trans World Sport 18:30 Trans World Sport 19:00 Trans World Sport 19:30 Trans World Sport 20:00 Trans World Sport 20:30 Trans World Sport 21:00 Trans World Sport 21:30 Trans World Sport 22:00 Trans World Sport

04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 05:30 Modern Family 06:00 \$#! My Dad Says 06:30 Community 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 08:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter 08:30 Breaking In 09:30 New Girl 09:30 The Last Man On Earth 10:00 Hot In Cleveland 10:30 Community 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 12:00 \$#! My Dad Says 12:30 I Hate My Teenage Daughter 13:00 Breaking In 13:30 Community 14:00 Playing House 14:30 The Last Man On Earth 15:00 Hot In Cleveland 15:30 Suburgatory 16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore 16:30 \$#! My Dad Says 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 18:30 New Girl 18:30 Playing House 19:30 Kevin From Work 19:30 Hot In Cleveland 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 21:00 Suburgatory 21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore 22:00 Web Therapy 22:30 Curb Your Enthusiasm 23:00 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

00:15 Escapee 02:00 Guardians Of The Galaxy 04:15 Age Of Dinosaurs 06:10 The X Files 08:00 Abandoned Mine 10:00 The Marine 4: The Moving Target 12:00 Jaws III 14:00 The X Files 16:00 Turbulence 18:00 The Marine 4: The Moving Target 20:00 Hercules 22:00 The Dogs Of War

00:00 Mad Dog And Glory 02:00 Deliver Us From Eva 04:00 Planet 51 06:00 The Love Punch 08:00 Rush Hour 2 10:00 Planet 51 12:00 The Love Punch 14:00 Orange County 16:00 Rush Hour 2 18:00 Roommates 20:00 Cadillac Man 22:00 Seven Psychopaths

01:00 A Valentine's Date 03:00 Ask Me Anything 05:00 Shanghai Calling 07:00 Foreverland 09:00 Paranoia 11:00 Shanghai Calling 13:00 God Help The Girl 15:00 Barefoot 17:00 Paranoia 19:00 Second Coming 21:00 Two Night Stand 23:00 Afternoon Delight

01:15 Grace Of Monaco 03:00 To Write Love On Her Arms 04:45 Great Expectations 07:00 Beaches 09:00 October Sky 11:00 Great Expectations 13:15 We Are Family 14:45 Evita 17:00 October Sky 19:00 Blue Sky 20:45 Jersey Boys 23:00 25th Hour

01:00 Good People 03:00 The Song 05:00 Louder Than Words 07:00 Draft Day 09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 10:45 Big Eyes 12:30 Penguins Of Madagascar 14:15 Transformers: Age Of Extinction 17:00 Blended 19:00 Taken 3 21:00 Horrible Bosses 2 23:00 The Interview

00:00 The PGA Tour Champions Highlights 01:00 Inside The PGA Tour 01:30 European Tour Weekly 02:00 Premier League Darts 02:30 Golfing World 03:00 Trans World Sport 03:30 European Tour Weekly 04:00 Live PGA European Tour 04:30 Golfing World 05:00 Inside The PGA Tour 05:30 PGA European Tour Highlights 06:00 Trans World Sport 06:30 Welsh Open Snooker 07:30 AFL NAB Challenge 08:00 Trans World Sport 08:30 Gillette World Sport 09:00 Inside The PGA Tour 09:30 European Tour Weekly 10:00 Live PGA Tour 10:30 Trans World Sport 11:00 Trans World Sport 11:30 Trans World Sport 12:00 Trans World Sport

00:00 Cycling Tour 01:00 Trans World Sport 02:00 LPGA Tour Highlights 03:00 Asian Tour Highlights 04:00 The PGA Tour Champions Highlights 05:00 PGA Tour Highlights 06:00 Top 14 Highlights 06:30 Golfing World 07:00 Golfing World 08:00 AFL NAB Challenge 10:00 European Tour Weekly 10:30 Gillette World Sport 11:00 Live AFL NAB Challenge 13:30 Trans World Sport 14:30 Gillette World Sport 15:00 Top 14 Highlights 15:30 WWE Vintage 16:30 WWE NXT 19:00 WWE Smackdown 22:00 Live Premier League Darts

WINNER GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS BEST ACTRESS MUSICAL/COMEDY AMY ADAMS Big Eyes A TIM BURTON FILM She created it. He sold it. And everyone's buying it. Amy ADAMS Christoph WALTZ

BIG EYES ON OSN MOVIES HD



# CLASSIFIEDS



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (25/02/2016 TO 02/03/2016)

Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme
12:30 PM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER	1:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	1:00 PM	THE DRESSMAKER	1:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD
2:30 PM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER	1:30 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	1:30 PM	THE DRESSMAKER	1:30 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD
4:30 PM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER	3:30 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	3:30 PM	THE DRESSMAKER	3:30 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD
6:30 PM	CONTAINMENT	5:00 PM	BACKTRACK	5:00 PM	THE DRESSMAKER	5:00 PM	CONTAINMENT
8:15 PM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER	6:45 PM	BACKTRACK	6:45 PM	THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	6:45 PM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER
10:15 PM	CONTAINMENT	8:45 PM	BACKTRACK	8:30 PM	CONTAINMENT	8:30 PM	CONTAINMENT
12:05 AM	CONTAINMENT	10:45 PM	BACKTRACK	10:45 PM	CONTAINMENT	10:45 PM	CONTAINMENT
1:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	12:00 PM	BACKTRACK	12:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	11:30 AM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER
3:00 PM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER	2:00 PM	BACKTRACK	2:30 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	3:00 PM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER
5:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	4:00 PM	BACKTRACK	4:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	5:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD
6:45 PM	BACKTRACK	5:15 PM	BACKTRACK	6:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	6:45 PM	BACKTRACK
8:45 PM	BACKTRACK	7:15 PM	BACKTRACK	8:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	8:45 PM	BACKTRACK
10:45 PM	BACKTRACK	9:30 PM	BACKTRACK	10:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	10:45 PM	BACKTRACK
12:45 AM	BACKTRACK	11:45 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	12:45 AM	BACKTRACK
1:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	12:00 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	1:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD
3:00 PM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER	2:00 PM	BACKTRACK	2:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	3:00 PM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER
5:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	4:00 PM	BACKTRACK	4:15 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	5:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD
6:45 PM	BACKTRACK	5:15 PM	BACKTRACK	6:30 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	6:45 PM	BACKTRACK
8:45 PM	BACKTRACK	7:15 PM	BACKTRACK	8:45 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	8:45 PM	BACKTRACK
10:45 PM	BACKTRACK	9:30 PM	BACKTRACK	11:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	10:45 PM	BACKTRACK
12:45 AM	BACKTRACK	11:45 PM	BACKTRACK	11:15 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	12:45 AM	BACKTRACK
1:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	12:00 PM	BACKTRACK	11:30 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	1:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD
3:00 PM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER	2:00 PM	BACKTRACK	12:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	3:00 PM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER
5:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	4:00 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	5:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD
6:45 PM	BACKTRACK	5:15 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	6:45 PM	BACKTRACK
8:45 PM	BACKTRACK	7:15 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	8:45 PM	BACKTRACK
10:45 PM	BACKTRACK	9:30 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	10:45 PM	BACKTRACK
12:45 AM	BACKTRACK	11:45 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	12:45 AM	BACKTRACK
1:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	12:00 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	1:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD
3:00 PM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER	2:00 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	3:00 PM	HELP   SHRUNK MY TEACHER
5:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	4:00 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	5:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD
6:45 PM	BACKTRACK	5:15 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	6:45 PM	BACKTRACK
8:45 PM	BACKTRACK	7:15 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	8:45 PM	BACKTRACK
10:45 PM	BACKTRACK	9:30 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	10:45 PM	BACKTRACK
12:45 AM	BACKTRACK	11:45 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	12:45 AM	BACKTRACK

### FOR RENT

Villa in NW Sulaibikhat 5 BR, 4 1/2 bath.  
 New deluxe finish with kitchen, C/A.  
 Corner lot with privacy and plenty of parking. Walking distance to the beach water view.  
**Preferably family tenancy.**  
**Contact: 97782977**

### CHANGE OF NAME

I Santos Girlie Macapagal, Philippine Passport No. EC6534457 hereby declare to change my present name to Mckenzie Girlie Santos in my Passport

Anisa Arif Zariwala, Passport No. K3390433, residing at 7, Najam Marg, Bohrawadi, Udaipur - 313001, Rajasthan, India, shall henceforth be known as SAKINA ZARIWALA. **C5138)**  
**24-2-2016**

I, Syed Mohamed Mohideen Kaleel, S/o Mohamed Mohideen, holder of

### EMERGENCY 112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

### Prayer timings

Fajr:	04:59
Shorook	06:18
Duhr:	12:01
Asr:	15:17
Maghrib:	17:44
Isha:	19:01

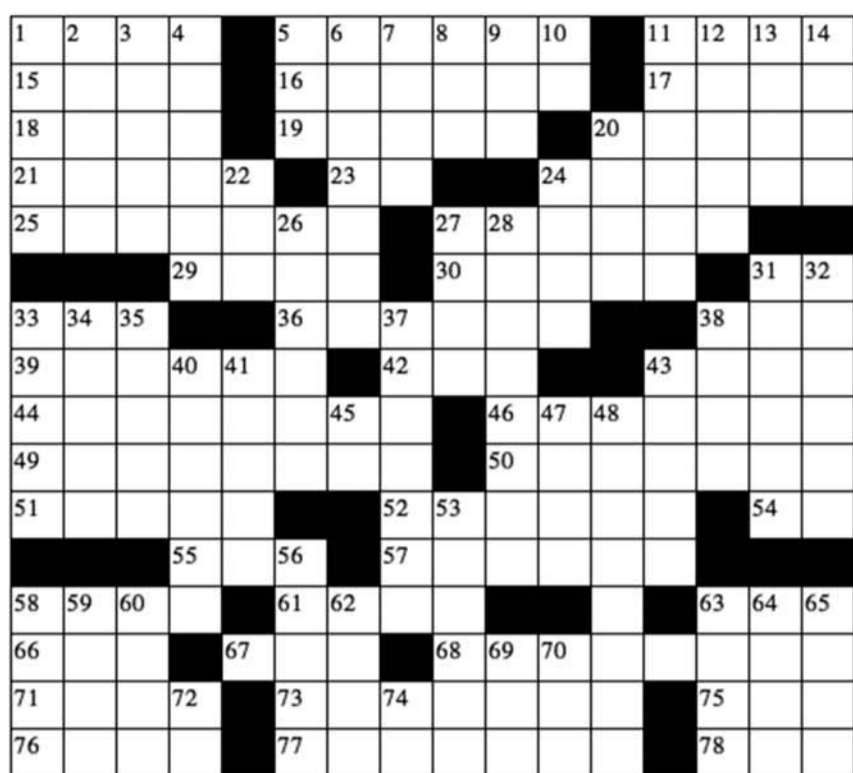
## Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))  
**In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats**

Arrival Flights on Thursday 25/2/2016				Departure Flights on Thursday 25/2/2016			
Airlines	Ft	Route	Time	Airlines	Ft	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:45
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	THY	767	Istanbul	14:45
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KNE	481	Taif	14:50
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	PAL	669	Manila	14:55
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	FDB	8060	Dubai	15:05
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:20
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	JZR	188	Dubai	15:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:45
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	KAC	617	Doha	15:45
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	KAC	741	Dammam	15:50
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:50
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	KAC	613	Bahrain	15:50
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	SVA	505	Jeddah	16:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	KNE	473	Jeddah	16:05
LMU	510	Cairo	04:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:25
QTR	8511	Doha	04:40	OMA	646	Muscat	16:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	JAD	302	Amman	16:40
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	KAC	563	Amman	16:45
JZR	503	Luxor	06:35	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
BAW	157	London	06:40	KNE	475	Jeddah	17:25
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	17:30
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	07:20	FDB	052	Dubai	17:35
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:30	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
MEA	406	Beirut	07:40	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	SAW	702	Dammam	18:10
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	MSR	615	Cairo	18:50
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30	JZR	238	Amman	18:50
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	08:30	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:10
THY	6676	Istanbul	08:30	JZR	554	Alexandria	19:10
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
KAC	362	Colombo	08:40	FDB	8056	Dubai	19:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:25
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:00	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	KAC	353	BLR	20:40
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	QTR	1081	Doha	20:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	351	Kochi	20:50
OMA	641	Muscat	10:05	KAC	543	Dubai	20:55
IRM	1180	Mashhad	10:10	KAC	343	Chennai	21:00
IRA	673	Ahwaz	10:10	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:05
FDB	8057	Dubai	10:15	KNE	461	Riyadh	21:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ABY	122	Sharjah	21:15
SVR	341	Dammam	10:55	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	FDB	062	Dubai	21:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:15	DLH	634	Doha	21:45
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
NIA	151	Cairo	11:55	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
FDB	8061	Dubai	12:20	QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KAC	381	Delhi	22:00
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:10
JZR	241	Amman	12:50	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
THY	766	Istanbul	13:45	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
FDB	8059	Dubai	13:50	QTR	1083	Doha	23:05
KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
JZR	1361	Al Najaf	14:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:10
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:15
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	FDB	8054	Dubai	23:15
				FDB	060	Dubai	23:35
				KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:35
				KAC	415	Kuala Lumpur/Jakarta	23:40

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

CROSSWORD 1179



ACROSS

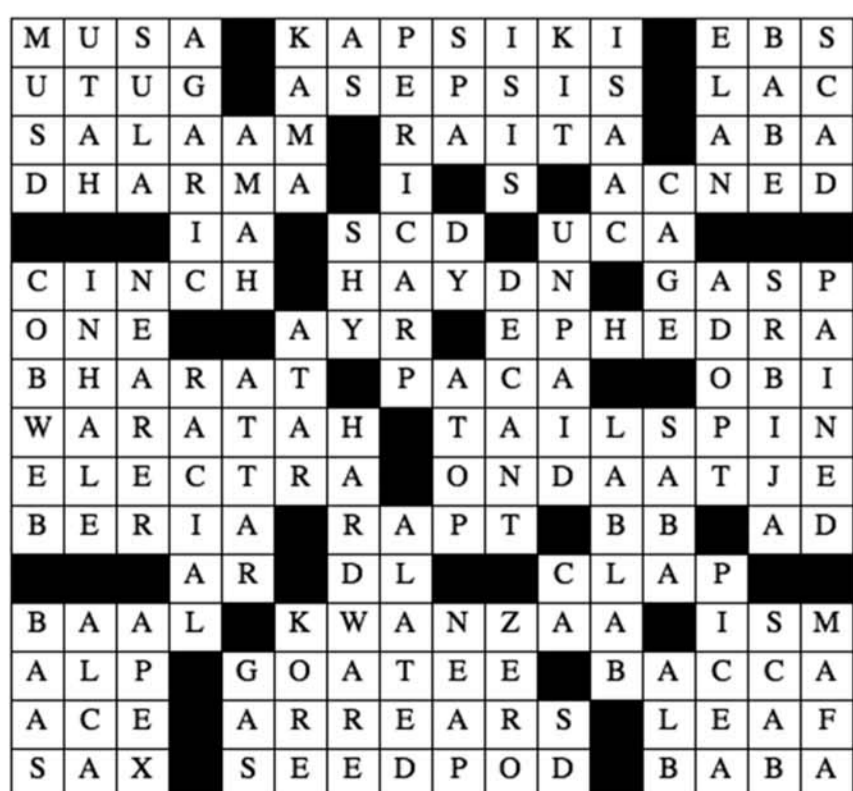
1. Severe diabetes mellitus with an early onset.
5. A spirit believed by Muslims to inhabit the earth and influence mankind by appearing in the form of humans or animals.
11. The basic unit of money in South Africa.
15. Any branch of Shinto other than Kokka.
16. Hired for the exclusive temporary use of a group of travelers.
17. (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
18. Soft white semisolid fat obtained by rendering the fatty tissue of the hog v 1.
19. Selected as the best.
21. (sometimes followed by 'of') Having or showing realization or perception.
23. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
25. Stem of the rattan palm used for making canes and umbrella handles.
29. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
30. A genus of bee.
33. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
36. A lake in northwestern Russia north of St. Petersburg.
39. Relating to or affecting a bursa.
42. 10 hao equal 1 dong.
44. Short account of an incident (especially a biographical one).
46. A naturally occurring weak estrogenic hormone secreted by the mammalian ovary.
49. White Southerner supporting Reconstruction policies after the Civil War usually for self-interest.
50. The longest river of Asia.
51. (Greek mythology) The beautiful daughter of Zeus and Leda who was abducted by Paris.
52. Be a hindrance or obstacle to.
54. A public promotion of some product or service.
55. The network in the reticular formation that serves an alerting or arousal function.
57. Characteristic of or relating to winter.
58. A small cake leavened with yeast.
61. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
66. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
67. An acute febrile highly contagious viral disease.
68. A parenteral cephalosporin (trade name Rocephin) used for severe infection of the lungs or throat or ears or urinary tract.
71. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
73. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
75. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
76. A cord that is drawn through eyelets or around hooks in order to draw together two edges (as of a shoe or garment).
77. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
78. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.

DOWN

1. Muslims collectively and their civilization.
2. An Indian tree of the family Combretaceae that is a source of timber and gum.
3. Of or relating to the dura mater.
4. A state in southeastern India on the Bay of Bengal (south of Andhra Pradesh).

5. A chronic skin disease occurring primarily in women between the ages of 20 and 40.
6. A loose cloak with a hood.
7. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
8. A committee in the executive branch of government that advises the president on foreign and military and national security.
9. Remaining after all deductions.
10. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
11. Any plant of the genus Reseda.
12. (Hindu) A manner of sitting (as in the practice of Yoga).
13. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
14. Two items of the same kind.
20. The second largest of the Hawaiian Islands.
22. (computer science) A coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors.
24. Informal terms for a mother.
26. Lacking experience of life.
27. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
28. A company emblem or device.
31. Type genus of the Pezizaceae.
32. Used of mouth or eyes.
34. A sudden unexpected piece of good fortune.
35. Of or relating to or involving an area.
37. Any member of a Siouan people speaking one of the Dhegiha languages.
38. Disabled in the feet or legs.
40. Whitish fibrous membrane (albuginea) that with the cornea forms the outer covering of the eyeball.
41. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
43. German philosopher whose three stage process of dialectical reasoning was adopted by Karl Marx (1770-1831).
45. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
47. A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
48. Any ameba of the genus Endamoeba.
53. The vein in the center of a leaf.
56. Minute floating marine tunicate having a transparent body with an opening at each end.
59. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
60. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
62. A prearranged fight with deadly weapons by two people (accompanied by seconds) in order to settle a quarrel over a point of honor.
63. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
64. A river that rises in western New Mexico and flows westward through southern Arizona to become a tributary of the Colorado River.
65. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
69. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
70. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
72. A Mid-Atlantic state.
74. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Work is pressing and demanding just now but you are able to move forward with great success-stay aggressive, but polite. Creative visualization can be very relaxing for you during the stressful days. Your creative side is showing but the pressure to develop your work quickly may cause you to risk the quality. There needs to be an understanding-speak up now. The outcome today is nothing but positive, although there may be some hoops to jump through. Later today you may seek out friends who are avant-garde or unconventional in their social behavior, seeking release from the strictures you see others placing on you. It is not a wildly romantic time, but one where small-scale endeavors will meet with success. Jot down notes for tomorrow's plans.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your enthusiasm about your work is positive-you are creative and ready to apply your effort to the present project. If you give your best effort, considerable success will follow. You are buoyed with confidence; make sure however, that both your expectations and abilities are realistic. Any study time that you spent on this project to learn or perhaps update your skills, was well worth the effort. Others can find you shopping this afternoon. You are very sensitive to beauty, but not at all obsessive. You are very aware of value, style, workmanship, etc. Major purchases that could increase in value would be a good bet. Spend time with friends later today-relax and enjoy each other's company. Companionship is most rewarding.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You show a propensity to engage in hard work to obtain financial security. However, this is also a time when you may spend an excessive amount of worry about your monetary position-frequently being thrifty in expenditures. You are strengthened in your desire to succeed, not only financially, but personally as well. At this time, it's best to rely on facts rather than feelings, especially when an expensive mistake might be the outcome. The accent now is on understanding. Trading points of view with others should come easily today for both sides. Also, this is a good day to assess your goals and how they are progressing. Travel is favored, especially if it is for your own rest and relaxation. Play with friends is favored this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You have the patience to tackle most any problem involved with work. This is the time to use your effort constructively; being slow to anger and worry is a good idea. You are filled with the greatest desire to succeed in all spheres of your life. Working with partners in an open, honest environment can bring good fortune to you now. You will be curious and talkative today with many opportunities to show off your skilled problem solving talents. Just after your noon break is the perfect time for the lighter side of life. The heavy stuff can wait, although if you have to tend to some form of business-you pay close attention. This evening you write a poem, take a drive in the country or express your love to someone. A most enjoyable evening is developing.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your response to someone requesting that you do his or her bidding may either be that you will immediately say no or that you will ask for a little thinking time. In the workplace, your job is to keep your eye on the goal-not however, whether it is achieved your way. Being in the spotlight is common to you during this period-you would be wise to realize that it is a good time to be humble and see where you can best help others. There may be many opportunities for you to both succeed and fail in the eyes of others. You will probably attempt to do and take chances that others would not try. Your success ratio is in the upper numbers. You are likely to enjoy considerable success at work. You will teach people confidence. This is a rewarding day.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may feel rebellious today and put a high value on your personal freedom. You will not take kindly to any restrictions. If a loved one, friend or professional comrade becomes too possessive, you will squirm away. You may really wish to help someone because you volunteered. This could mean that you float from one thing to another with regard to a volunteer program. Being flexible and having the ability to move into areas where you think you can be most helpful is just what you like. Working for a non-profit group can be profitable for you. Something electric is in the air this afternoon and your charisma shines! The power of attraction and desire for love is great. You have a lot of inner confidence. Your personal magnetism soars.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may fall under the heavy burden of responsibility today. However, this is a good time for you to show off your capabilities-you are in a high achievement mode. You will find that pleasant surroundings in the workplace or at home today make for good vibrations. You could be in the limelight, especially with superiors or in relation to your work. You may find that you enjoy your job or the responsibility it entails more than usual. New insights or breakthroughs are possible with authorities or someone older. Communal activities, which take place after work, should be both well-attended and successful. Something electric is in the air this afternoon and your charisma shines! If any new friendships are made now, they should last a very long time.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your inquisitive mind is stimulated this morning. You will be discussing ideas with co-workers and higher-ups-this can be most beneficial and rewarding. You could be seen by others as just the person to be put in charge of some project requiring a conservative mind. This is definitely a day to get a lot of things done, especially if you are allowed to lead and can attract people whose passion matches your passion-they all want to work with you. Your drive is high, your mind is clear and communication should not be a problem. If you are still fired up at the end of the day, involve yourself with exercise that moves you forward-like bicycling, walking, running, swimming, yard work, etc. This will also help you balance the extra energy you accumulate.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Today you could be tempted to let office gossip interfere with the normal flow of business. This is an excellent time to emphasize practicality and realism in any endeavor in which you are engaged. It is also important to effectively communicate your ideas to co-workers and those who work under you. Ideas and technologies that change the way people live-not just one person, but many-are a major new focus in your life. Your powers of creativity are vast-making problem-solving difficulties seem a problem for another person. You are particularly witty in social surrounding this evening and make stimulating company. You may seek intellectual stimulation in your social or leisure activities. Do considerate things that will help secure your relationships.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You express profound insights today-you want to improve the world. Be very clear in all the things you do and say. Also, make sure you have complete information before gambling with an investment. You may experience abrupt changes in fortune, good or bad, in a relatively short period of time. You may feel the urge for excitement and should consider traveling-avoid extravagance, however. You become aware of new concepts and ideals. You may spend a great deal of time engaged in intellectual pursuits in the home at this time. You may see the family circle increase in numbers through marriage or birth. Also, love is in full bloom and it's a good time to fully demonstrate the depth of your affection to loved ones.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

An outgoing and very expressive cycle of experience has begun for you. You may have a mad desire to do nothing but communicate and exchange ideas today. You could shoot the breeze with someone for hours, if given the opportunity. There could be a temptation, however, to play devil's advocate or analyze things to death. Just enjoy the exchanges and give the other guy a chance. Also, if too much time is taken up in conversation during your work time, others could be unhappy. You face tremendous responsibilities in relationships with loved ones and are apt to have difficulty expressing wants and desires to your companions. Your ability to perceive others' thoughts and feelings may bring you unexpected rewards-pay attention.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your experiences in the workplace will be out of the ordinary-you will likely feel helpful to others and generous with your time. Your own accomplishments are many. This can also be a financially favorable period. This is a good time to use the home as a vehicle for entertaining family members and friends in a social setting. Additionally, it is favorable to plan a spring-cleaning. This afternoon could be a great opportunity to gather and prepare things for a profitable garage sale. Congeniality and understanding are what makes this day. Though you may prefer to be around old friends this afternoon, you certainly will not close the door on making new ones. However you interact with people today, you are a winner.

WORD SEARCH

Back to School

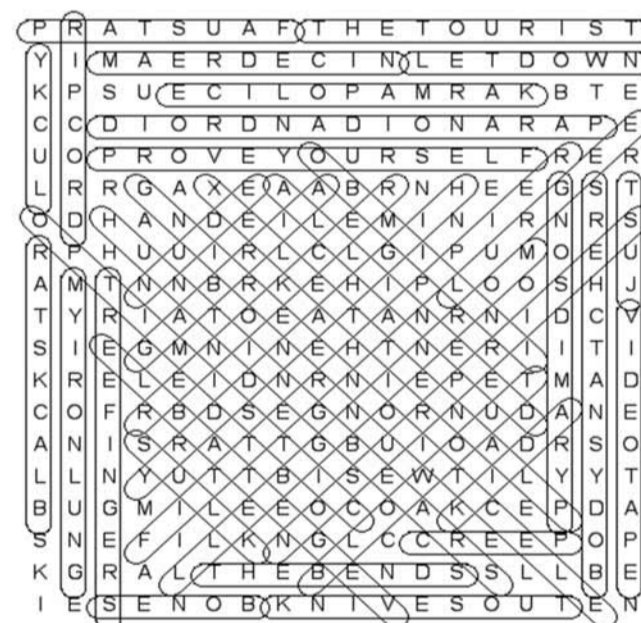
Find and circle all of the School related words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Mark Twain quotation.



- |             |               |             |                |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| ASSIGNMENTS | ERASER        | LUNCHROOM   | ROLL CALL      |
| BACKPACK    | EXAMS         | MATH        | RULES          |
| BATHROOM    | FIRST DAY     | NEW FRIENDS | SCHOOL BUS     |
| BELL        | GYMNASTIUM    | NOTEBOOK    | SCHOOL OFFICE  |
| BINDER      | HALLWAY       | NURSE       | SCHOOLYARD     |
| CAFETERIA   | HOMEWORK      | OLD FRIENDS | SCIENCE        |
| CHALKBOARD  | INTERCOM      | PADLOCK     | SECRETARY      |
| CLASSROOM   | JANITOR       | PAPER       | SEPTEMBER      |
| CLOCK       | LANGUAGE ARTS | PENCILS     | SOCIAL STUDIES |
| COURSES     | LEARNING      | PENS        | STUDENT        |
| DESK        | LIBRARY       | PRINCIPAL   | STUDY          |
| DOORS       | LOCKER        | QUIZZES     | TEACHER        |
| ENROLL      |               |             |                |

Yesterday Solution

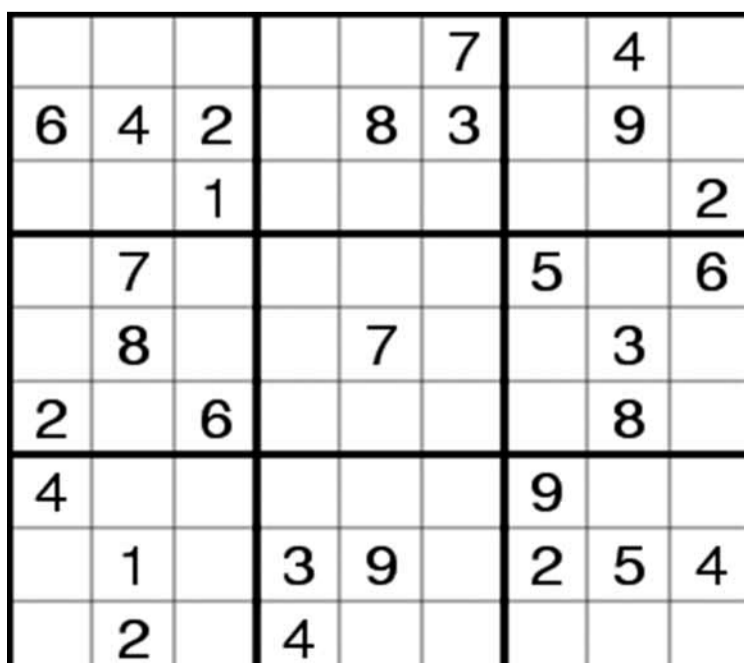
Radiohead Songs



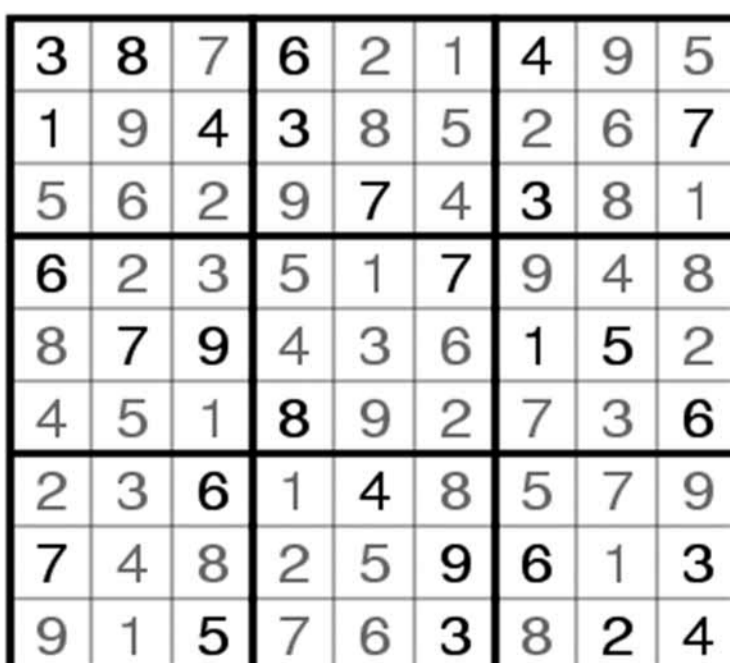
- |                |               |                  |              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| AIRBAG         | HIGH AND DRY  | MORNING BELL     | PYRAMID SONG |
| ALL I NEED     | HUNTING BEARS | MY IRON LUNG     | RECKONER     |
| BLACK STAR     | IN LIMBO      | NICE DREAM       | RIPCORD      |
| BLOW OUT       | JUST          | NO SURPRISES     | SULK         |
| BODYSNATCHERS  | KARMA POLICE  | NUDE             | THE BENDS    |
| BONES          | KID A         | OPTIMISTIC       | THE TOURIST  |
| CREEP          | KNIVES OUT    | PARANOID ANDROID | TREEFINGERS  |
| ELECTIONEERING | LET DOWN      | PLANET TEXEL     | VEGETABLE    |
| FAUST ARP      | LUCY          | PROVE YOURSELF   | VIDEOTAPE    |
| FITTER HAPPIER | LURGE         |                  |              |

The hidden song is: SUBTERRANEAN HOMESICK ALIEN

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

**Hospitals**

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

**Clinics**

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



**PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY**

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

**INTERNATIONAL CALLS**



Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antigua	001268	Malaysia	00660
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Toga	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lithuania	00370		

**STATE OF KUWAIT**  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

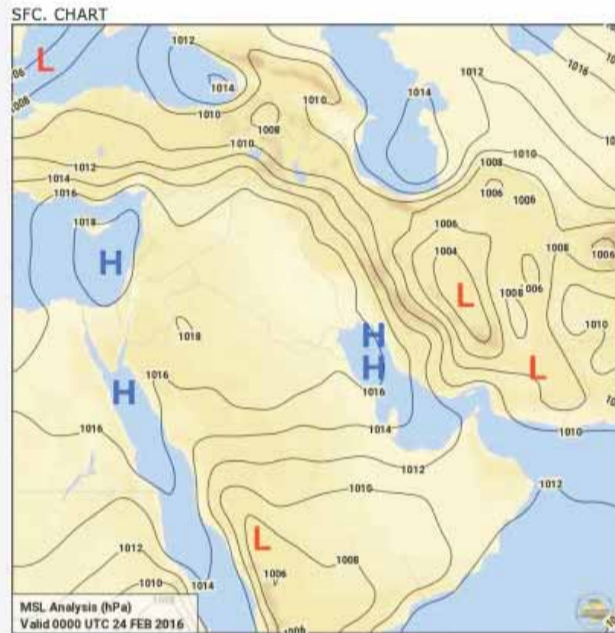


Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

**Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours**  
Issued 24/02/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 25 °C

By Day : Sunny with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h  
By Night : Cool with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h



Four-Day Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather				
Min Temp °C	10	09	11	15
Max Temp °C	26	27	28	25
Wind Direction	north westerly	variable	south easterly	south easterly to easterly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 28	06 - 16	06 - 28	15 - 40

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

**Warnings & Weather Watches**

no warnings or weather watches

**Kuwait Forecast**

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	17	26
KUWAIT AIRPORT	11	25
ABDALLY	12	27
BUBYAN	13	22
JAHRA	13	29
FAILAKA ISLAND	15	25
SALMIYAH	17	23
AHMADI	18	23
JAL ALIYAH	12	28
QAROH ISLAND	18	21
UMM AL-MARADEM	18	21
NUWAISIB	16	31
WAFRA	14	32
MANAGISH	12	29
SALMY	10	22
MUTRIBA	11	26

**Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport**

Max Temp (°C)	30
Min Temp (°C)	18
Max Rel Hum (%)	63
Min Rel Hum (%)	21
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	64 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
Sunrise	06:18
Sunset	17:44

**Prayer Times**

Fajr	04:59
Sunrise	06:18
Zuhr	12:01
Asr	15:17
Sunset	17:44
Isha	19:01



**PRIVATE CLINICS**

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
<b>Ear, Nose &amp; Throat (ENT)</b>	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammed Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
<b>General Practitioners</b>	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	22639920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
<b>Urologists</b>	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupje	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
<b>Dermatology</b>	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
<b>Dentists</b>	
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
<b>Neurologists</b>	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
<b>Gastrologists</b>	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Family Doctor	Psychiatrists	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581	
<b>Psychiatrists</b>		
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047	
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0	
<b>Gynaecologists &amp; Obstetricians</b>		
Dr. Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581	
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321	
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539	
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406	
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272	
Dr. Salem soso	22618787	
<b>General Surgeons</b>		
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044	
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148	
<b>Internists, Chest &amp; Heart</b>		
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939	
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300	
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004	
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515	
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446	
Dr. Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3	

Physiotherapists & VD	Rheumatologists:	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291	
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288	
<b>Rheumatologists:</b>		
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060	
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290	
<b>Internist, Chest &amp; Heart</b>		
DR. Mohammed Akkad	24555050 Ext 210	
<b>Consultant Cardiologist</b>		
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC		
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667	
<b>Consultant Cardiologist</b>		
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555	
Inaya German Medical Center		
Te: 2575077		
Fax: 25723123		



## Mariah Carey planning a 'grand' wedding

The 'Hero' hitmaker - who was previously married to record company boss Tommy Motola and 'America's Got Talent' host Nick Cannon - got engaged to billionaire James Packer last month and they plan to keep their nuptials "very private" and won't be hosting "tons of people". She said: "I'm most excited about the grandeur, darling. It's not gonna be a big wedding. But it's going to be grand. I think the most important thing is the relationship and, you know, just the connection. The love it of all. That's the most important thing, but of course I love a grand moment." The 45-year-old singer - who has four-year-old twins Moroccan and Monroe

with Nick - has kept details of James' proposal under wraps but admitted she was "surprised" when he popped the question. She told 'Access Hollywood': "Darling, it's my engagement ring, we can't know when it's coming." We just have to receive it." And Mariah adores her stunning 35-carat diamond and platinum ring. She joked: "Walking through a crowd with a ring on your finger and a lot of bracelets is a little bit, you know, daunting." But it's hard to take it off cause I love it so much."

## Dion paid tribute to late husband in Vegas return

The 'My Heart Will Go On' hitmaker remembered Rene Angelil, who tragically died last month after a battle with throat cancer, and told the crowd she knows he will be looking down on her proudly. She said: "Through my life I only had eyes for my husband, who sat out here night after night. People thought that I was looking at him but I didn't need to because every time I closed my eyes, I felt Rene on stage with me - whether he was seated in his seat right there, in the balcony, backstage, or at home with the kids. He's always been on stage with me and nothing will ever change that. I might not hear his voice yet, but I talk to him, I think of him all the time. I feel and I know he hears me, one way or another. I know he will give me a sign for his approval or not. And now I can feel that he is telling me to zip it and start singing." The show - which is part of the 47-year-old's residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace Las Vegas Hotel and Casino - began with a short message projected onto a big screen, followed by a montage of photos of Rene throughout his life. The text read: "I understood that my career was in a way his masterpiece, his song, his symphony. The idea of leaving it unfinished would have hurt him terribly. I realized that if he ever left us, I would have to continue without him, for him."



## Kesha thanks fans for support

The 'Tik Tok' hitmaker had asked to be allowed to be dropped from her contract with Sony Music after she made allegations she was sexually abused by producer Dr Luke but was denied at the hearing on Friday. She wrote on Instagram: "I am beyond words in gratitude. thank you is not enough but it is all I have. a million times over and forever thank you. the support I have received has left my face swollen from tears. I love you all so much. a statement too large for this format is coming.... (sic)" Meanwhile, a number of celebrities have come out to support Kesha, including 'Girls' star Lena Dunham who admits she "felt sick" on hearing the news. She said: "When I saw the outcome of Kesha's court case last Friday, I felt sick. Actually sick - I wanted to ask my Uber to pull over so I could throw up in a New York City trash can. "Sony could make this go away. But instead the company has chosen to engage in a protracted legal battle to protect Gottwald's [Dr Luke's] stake in Kesha's future. "Although the company insists that Kesha and Gottwald never need to be in a room together and that he will allow her to record without his direct involvement, they are minimizing what Kesha says regarding how Gottwald's continued involvement in her career would affect her physical well-being and psychological safety."



## Khloe still very much in love with Odom

The former couple has put their divorce on hold while Lamar recovers from his collapse last year and although Khloe still loves the basketball star, she insists it is not romantic. Speaking on 'The Talk', she said: "We're not back together. We're not at all. I love him with every fiber of my being...but we were married and I shared that union with him. I didn't want for our divorce to happen, but it happened for many reasons and that doesn't mean I just forget about this person." "I still believe in my vows of being there for him. I know it's confusing. it's very confusing. It's not a romantic place. It's coming from a place of real care and concern and love." "I don't think love just because we're not romantically involved means I can't care about someone. I find that so simple-minded." Khloe has been caring for Lamar ever since he collapsed at a brothel in Nevada following a drugs and alcohol binge and while he is making good progress, she admitted she was nervous about him attending her brother-in-law Kanye West's recent fashion launch in New York. She explained: "He wanted to go to Kanye's show so badly. I had so many reservations. I was so nervous. I was just so protective. I'm still so protective. "But the fact that he did that and he walked in on his own, with Kanye, and he went to Madison Square Garden where he used to play basketball, it was so just impactful. It was beautiful."



## Robbie parties with Britain's Prince Harry

The 'Suicide Squad' star was pictured in a photobooth with the 31-year-old prince, Cara Delevingne, Sienna Miller and Suki Waterhouse at a house party, but admits she had no clue she was with royalty until half an hour later. She told Entertainment Tonight: "I didn't know it was him for about half an hour talking to him. Suki was having a housewarming party. I was like, 'I'll pop in for 10 minutes.' About six hours later the photo booth happened." Meanwhile, a source previously revealed the Prince and Suki looked "particularly close" at the party. They said at the time: "It was Suki's party and they gave each other a big hug when they saw each other. Harry seemed completely

interested in what she had to say. She was very bubbly and loud while he seemed to be enjoying her zaniness and free-spirited nature. "Everyone was talking about how Suki and Harry seemed particularly close, some even said there was the start of a romance brewing. Suki fits the bill as to what he seems to like in a girl - bubbly, blonde and posh."



## Bobby Brown set to become a father again

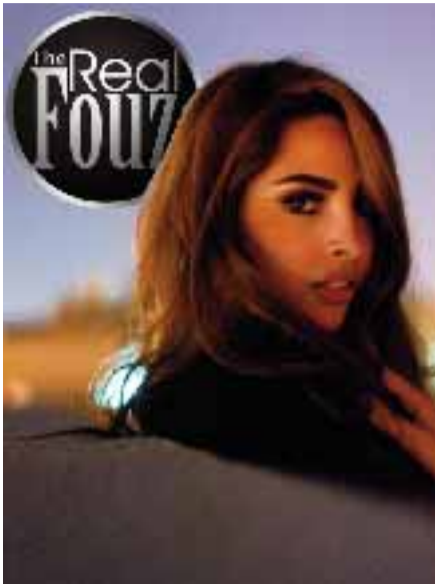
The 47-year-old singer is said to be expecting his third child with his wife Alicia Etheredge, whom he married in 2012, just seven months after they welcomed their daughter Bohdi into the world, according to the New York Daily News newspaper. This will be the seventh time Bobby has become a father as he also has Cassius, six, with Alicia, LaPrincia, 25, Bobby, Jr, 23, from his relationship with Kim Ward, son Landon, 29, from his fling with Melika Payne, and late daughter Bobbi Kristina from his marriage with fallen star Whitney Houston. But, although Bobby is no doubt thrilled about his happy news, the 'My Prerogative' hitmaker has been having a rough time recently as he's still struggling to get over the sudden and tragic death of his daughter Bobbi Kristina. A source said earlier this month: "This has been a difficult year [for Bobby]. When a person goes through something like this it makes you look around and think, 'What the hell is going on?' When you bury your child, it's just really hard - it's not how it's supposed to go. Under the circumstances, he is doing as good as can be expected." Bobbi Kristina passed away last July, aged just 22, following six months in a coma at a hospital in Georgia. The brunette beauty's cause of death still remains a mystery but her final months stemmed from being found unconscious in a bath tub at her home in Atlanta in January 2015.

## Kylie Jenner wants to quit Instagram

The 18-year-old reality TV star - who has 52 million followers on the picture sharing website - claimed that she wants her life to be less public and she might even retire her Instagram page. Speaking in the Spring Fame issue of Wonderland magazine, she said: "It's not that I don't want to do it ... Yeah, actually I kind of just don't want to do it anymore. "Honestly. But I've always been like that. I want to be a businesswoman and be behind-the-scenes. Kylie Jenner needs to retire." And Kylie also opened up about her father Caitlyn Jenner's gender transition last year, insisting that she is happy that it is out in the open and no one is lying to her anymore. She explained: "I mean, obviously I knew about it my whole life, but it was never admitted to and then when it was all said and done, I honestly just wanted to not be lied to... I'm OK with everything, as long as everyone's honest." Meanwhile, Kylie revealed being bullied when she was growing up has made her a stronger person and now she just tries to ignore the haters. She said: "Growing up, I've heard the worst things anyone could ever say about me and bullying was such a big part of my life, with the whole entire world judging me and stuff. "So I started to look towards people with, like, I think, bigger, more real issues than I have. "They inspire me because I was like, 'I'm getting bullied all the time, but they're just haters and [these people] deal with real-life issues."



# Taking precaution with serious medication



I've written several articles about Roaccutane and I'm constantly asked about it. As I said before, I think Roaccutane is one of the most controversial medications known to us, many different people have varied opinions about this drug. When I write my articles I truly write from my heart and my own experiences. Many girls have huge concerns about taking the medication as they think it messes their hormones, makes them go through depression and many huge issues that anyone would feel afraid of trying it.

First of all, Roaccutane is not an over-the-counter drug, you have to see a dermatologist who will tell you if you need it or not. You also have to have your blood drawn before starting the course, and including every end of the month, just to make sure you won't suffer from any complications while on medication. Your liver and kidney must also be checked in advance.

Many people might think Roaccutane is just too harsh on the body, but honestly I think it's because people suffer from severe dehydration as well as breakouts. The thing is though, that is what it's supposed to do, it dries up your body to dry up all the break outs, and during this process you will suffer from a few effects such as an increase in breakouts. This is because it has to get worse to become better. This is in regards to flakey lips, and dry skin etc. However, regardless of the symptoms, people seem to forget that for every problem they encounter there's a solution, and sometimes it might not be easy or comfortable but it will definitely improve your condition.

Many young girls suffer from low self-esteem because of their acne. They don't feel comfortable going out without makeup nor feel confident among friends. I feel that acne is more than a skin-issue but also impacts a person's self-esteem. Many people had severe acne and thank Roaccutane for bringing back their confidence and healthy skin.

My experience with Roaccutane was generally positive. I did suf-

fer from dry lips to a point where it was just painful, flakey skin too, but I cannot be happier with the result it gave me. Being on any sort of medication takes its toll on you, especially if it's one that would eventually affect your appearance.



If you are on Roaccutane there are many things you need to get used to, such as switching up your diet, drinking water throughout the day, working out will help the drug leave your system earlier, using lotions and moisturizers advised by your dermatologist, as well as getting a hold of a great lip balm/moisturizer. If you are a girl, try avoiding make up products such as powder foundations, concealers and blushes and instead use cream-based products. Avoid matte lipsticks as they will not help at all with your dry lips and they will look more noticeably dry. My dermatologist also suggested that I should avoid contact lenses, sunbathing and different masks and facials

because during the course of the medication, your skin will be sensitive as it's going through changes itself.

Always look for the right solution for you; never go for what everyone else is doing, especially when it comes to issues such as



medications. Roaccutane may not work for everyone, maybe you would need something lighter and simpler. It is not a drug to be taken lightly, and most importantly is to explore your options and educate yourself about what you're about to put yourself through. I cannot stress enough how important it is to consult a doctor before taking such decisions. Acne isn't something you would want to mess with to make worse or harm yourself with. Love yourself enough to give yourself nothing but the best, because you deserve it.



A pet cat looks on as a staff member fills up the litter tray.



A pet cat sits in its Purrfection Suite at the Wagington luxury pet hotel in Singapore.



A staff member places a pet cat in its Purrfection Suite.



A pet cat looks out from its Purrfection Suite.— AFP photos

## It's a 'purrfect' life for Singapore's pampered felines

Cats who are tired of the rat race in fast-paced Singapore have a new high-end leisure option—a top-of-the-range hotel complete with designer beds, Roberto Cavalli wallpaper and Swarovski crystal-studded dining ware.

The Purrfection Suites are the ultimate in luxury for fussy felines looking for some quality downtime in the most upmarket surroundings. Purified air is pumped into every room, while some even boast classical music on a Sensurround system to help stressed cats unwind.

The 14-room extension—exclusively for cats—is part of The Wagington, Singapore's first five-star dog hotel housed in a converted British colonial-era bungalow in the heart of the city-state's diplomatic quarter. The Wagington owner Estelle Tayler said that since the opening of the dog hotel in 2014, cat owners have clamoured for a similar style of upmarket lodging for their pets.

"We decided to make a wing dedicated just for our feline friends, with its own private entrance," Tayler said. Apart from lodgings, the hotel offers grooming and spa services at additional cost. It plans to introduce "in-room dining" featuring homecooked food.

While their feline friends remain mostly indoors, The Wagington's doggy guests can frolic in the outdoor bone-shaped swimming pool and work up a sweat on treadmills. Pets are a pampered lot in Singapore, one of Asia's richest cities.

One businessman offers weekend boat cruises for pets and their owners. Pets also have their own obituary section in the country's leading English language newspaper. Room and board in the Purrfection Suites begins at Sg\$39 (\$28) per night. Lawyer Jolene Lim, 26, checked her seven-month-old Persian cat into a cabin suite for five nights when she went on holiday this month.

"For many people, their pets are like their children. I definitely want to give her the best and whatever makes her comfortable," Lim said. "If I'm going off on a holiday and having fun, I want her to feel comfortable and have fun and be at ease as well." — AFP

Pet cats sit in their cabin feline suites at the Wagington luxury pet hotel.



## Classical Indian dance helps trafficking victims to heal

Classical Indian dance could be an effective form of therapy for victims of human trafficking and sexual violence, helping them to overcome their traumatic experiences and gain confidence, a pilot study has shown. The six-month study of 50 female survivors in Kolkata and Mumbai found that dance movement therapy helped ease anxiety, depression, anger and post-traumatic stress when used alongside traditional counseling and other rehabilitation efforts.

"Often, in the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking and sexual violence, the impact on the body can be overlooked," said Sohini Chakraborty, the founder and

director of Kolkata Sanved, a charity which carried out the research. "Dance is about the body, and the women are somewhat familiar with these dance forms, so we can help them heal and create a more positive body image," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The rehabilitation of victims in India is often inadequate and inconsistent in a culture that does not encourage women to speak up or seek counseling, women's rights groups say. Yet gender-based violence remains high in the country, with more than 330,000 reported cases of crimes against women in 2014,

according to the National Crime Records Bureau.

The biggest ever survey of the health of human trafficking victims last year found high levels of abuse and severe physical and psychological health problems among survivors in Southeast Asia. The notion of dance as therapy has been increasingly recognized over the years, due to the efforts of institutions such as the American Dance Therapy Association, founded in 1966. Studies have shown it enhances the emotional, cognitive, physical and social well-being of the individual.

Indian dance forms are uniquely suited to therapy, Chakraborty said, citing the energetic footwork of kathak. Native to the southern state of Kerala, kathak can help release anger, while the elaborate hand and eye movements in bharatnatyam from Tamil Nadu state can help express a range of emotions, she said. Folk dances can also encourage bonding, she added.

The study was necessary to establish the impact of dance therapy through a scientific methodology, improve the quality of rehabilitation and encourage more shelters to provide this alternative to survivors of trafficking and sexual violence, Chakraborty said. Kolkata Sanved's dance movement therapy module was particularly suited to the Indian context, said Dr Upali Dasgupta, principal researcher on the study.

"It's a non-judgmental, non-hierarchical therapy for these women who may otherwise be hesitant to express themselves," she said. "We already knew instinctively that dance had therapeutic effects, but now we know for certain that it does indeed work." — Reuters



## Oscars host Chris Rock faces tricky balancing act

Hosting the Oscars is seen as the ultimate honor in show business but no one has a trickier task of balancing humor, diversity politics and celebrating movies on Sunday than Chris Rock. Rock, a black stand-up comedian and former "Saturday Night Live" cast member, was chosen to host Sunday's Academy Awards for a second time last October — long before the #OscarsSoWhite furor that has overshadowed the biggest annual celebration of the movie industry. He first hosted the awards in 2005. Most award watchers agree he's turned out to be the perfect choice.

"He's really good at skewering show business and at skewering race relations in this country," said Variety's Tim Gray. "I think Chris Rock will address the diversity issue head on, which is exactly what the show and the Academy need."

Rock, 51, has kept silent during the uproar over the 20 all-white actors nominated this year. He declined to join the fray, even after the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, whose 6,200 members vote on the Oscars, announced it would double the number of minorities and women in its ranks in the next four years.

"It's a good idea for him to keep a tight lip and say what he's going to say when he has that big platform of the Oscars stage," said Daniel Montgomery, senior editor of awards website Goldderby.com.

### 'Go for the jugular'

The Academy has drawn on talk show host Ellen DeGeneres and actor Neil Patrick

Harris in the past two years for hosting duties, but this year, having Rock return to the helm gives the Academy a chance to look good in front of a TV audience of some 40 million in America and millions more worldwide. "Making jokes at their expense is going to show they're aware there is a problem. But he can't go for the jugular," said Montgomery.

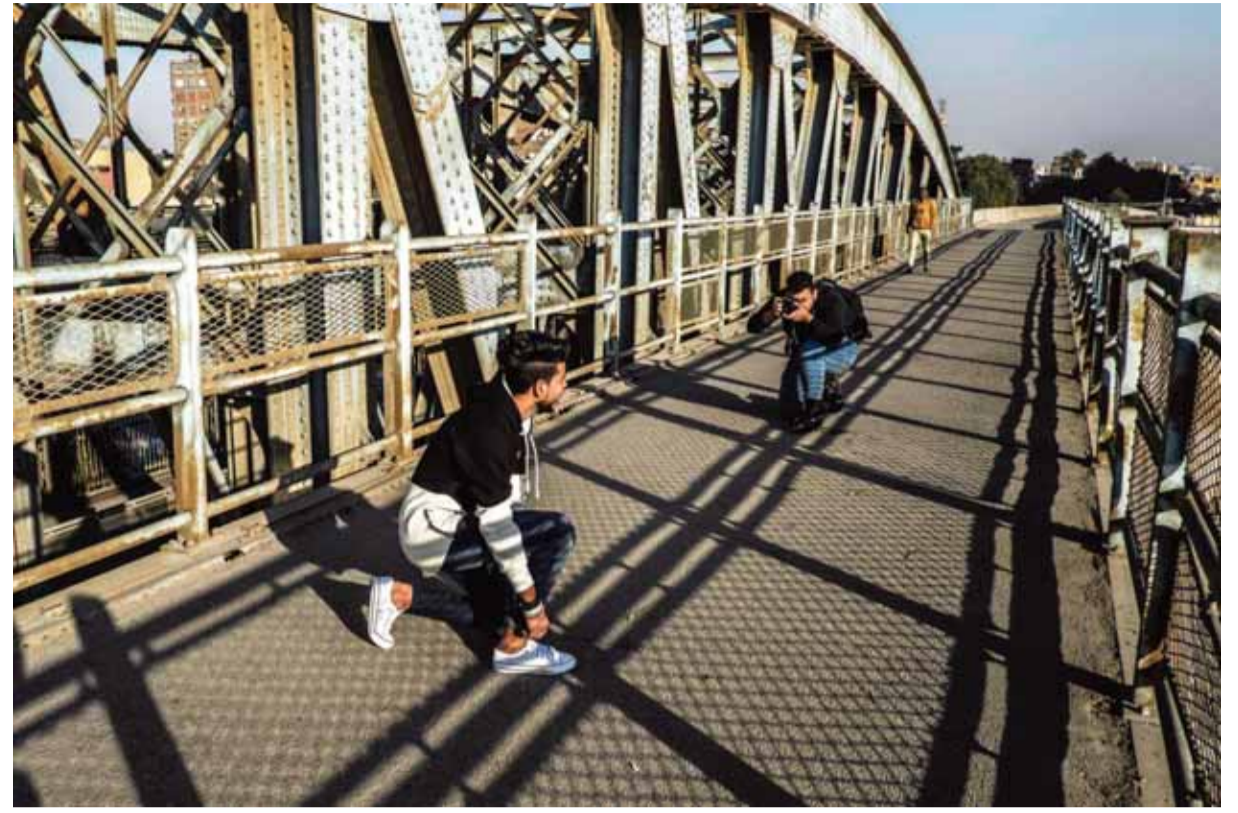
Even in uncontroversial years, hosting the Oscars can be a thankless task in which a good host may be praised briefly but a bad job — like the awkward 2011 stint by Anne Hathaway and James Franco — is remembered for years. Rock also has to keep moving a 3-1/2-hour live show aimed principally at celebrating the year in movies and entertaining Hollywood's biggest players inside the Dolby Theatre, as well as television viewers.

"People sometimes say after they are hired that it's the greatest job in the world, but it's so difficult," said Gray. "Most of the people in the room are nervous because they are either nominated themselves or affiliated with a film or studio, so they are not the most receptive audience."

"And you have to hook the TV viewers in the first 10 minutes to make them stay with the show," Gray added. As for Rock, he has to walk a fine line on Sunday between going too far or not going far enough, Montgomery said. "If he pleases everyone, he wouldn't be doing his job in a year like this." — Reuters



Young Egyptian photographer Abdelazizi Khaled (R) takes photos of his friends during a "fashion photo-shoot" for their social media accounts, outside the Hanging Church in Old Cairo. — AFP photos



Abdelazizi Khaled (R) takes photos of his friend during a "fashion photo-shoot" for the latter's social media account, at the Imbaba Bridge in the Egyptian capital Cairo.

## Egypt teens take to street fashion in search of fame

Egyptian teenager Islam stood shirtless in an upscale Cairo neighborhood wondering what to wear, a turquoise shirt or a black sweater, as he prepared for a photo shoot. "Should I wear a tie as well?" asked Islam, 15, combing back his slick black hair. This is not a regular fashion shoot or a scene being filmed for an Egyptian film.

Behind the camera is one of Islam's friends, who plans to capture the teenager at his best. The idea is to upload Islam's pictures on social media networks like Facebook and Instagram, and collect as many "likes" as possible. Over the past four years, many Egyptian teenagers have become part of a growing circle of such "Famous People" groups on social media networks, some ultimately looking to become celebrities.

Hundreds of youngsters like Islam are a common sight in posh Cairo districts these days, carrying expensive cameras and trendy clothes in their backpacks-ready to pose for a photo shoot wherever possible. Mostly hailing from Cairo's impoverished neighborhoods, they seek out expensive cars and luxury villas as props.

Often dressed provocatively, these teenagers are challenging taboos in a conservative Muslim society. In Egypt, where 30 percent of the 90-million population is aged between 10 and 24, such teenagers can also be seen as challenging a repressive regime that has crushed all opposition and monopolised public space.

### 'Generational conflict'

In the capital's upscale Maadi district where many foreigners live, Islam and nearly a dozen other teenagers from an industrial suburb hunt for locations. Sporting skinny jeans and trendy haircuts, they photograph themselves in front of imposing wrought iron and wooden gates to villas, but often get ejected by guards. "At home they don't think much of my trousers," said Islam. "They say tight clothes are for girls, and my father hates my haircut," said Islam, as two policemen approach to briefly question them.

"People shout at us or threaten to call the police. But we're not doing anything wrong. We just take pictures. It's our passion and we will continue," said Ahmed Amin, 16, who has 1,300 followers on Facebook. After several odd jobs, Amin purchased the SLR camera he now carries and he charges 35 Egyptian pounds (\$4.5) for five photos.

attire in past decades.

"We are in the process of redrawing boundaries of personal freedom," said Akl. "These youngsters feel that anyone can dress the way he wants or have haircuts or tattoos he likes." The trend is worrying the authorities, which like any other "repressive regime would like to control society", Akl said. "The police will

Facebook page.

With his trademark dreadlocks, Diab gained fame through his photographs taken on Cairo streets. He has more than 75,000 followers on Instagram. "I used to be stopped in shopping malls by people keen on taking pictures with me," said Diab, who now wants to make a full-time career in the fashion industry. Diab's



Young Egyptian photographer Abdelazizi Khaled (L) takes photos of his friend during a "fashion photo-shoot" for the latter's social media account, at the square of the Hanging Church.



Abdelazizi Khaled (L) takes photos of his friend during a "fashion photo-shoot" for the latter's social media account, outside the Hanging Church.

Ziad Akl, an expert on political sociology at the Cairo-based Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, describes the trend as a "generational conflict". It is a clash between "youths whose morals and values are evolving and a society that denies change and diversity," Akl said. These youngsters are setting a new trend, just as more and more women and college girls have turned to conservative

continue to resist this phenomenon by using repressive and intimidating means."

Some youngsters have ended up in police stations, but the success of Sonek Diab, 21, keeps them motivated. A trendsetter since high school days, Diab has turned into an idol for many Egyptian youngsters. He has already shot two commercials, including one for a fast food chain that contacted him directly on his

success story serves as a motivator. "I want to become an actor or a model, or do commercials or become a television presenter," said Ahmed Zein, 16, who attends a theatre workshop. "I simply love the camera." — AFP

## Academy Awards may be hooked on 'Oscar bait'

In the Coen brothers' recent 1950s Hollywood satire, "Hail, Caesar!" Ralph Fiennes' ascot-wearing British director Laurence Laurentz is helming a stuffy drawing room drama full of tuxedoed men and ballroom-gowned women.

The movie, "Merrily We Dance," Laurentz declares is a "prestige picture." But it's clear that the Coens think so-called "prestige pictures" can be just as much a joke as any other type of movie. In its day, "Merrily We Dance" would have been destined for Oscars.

Lately, the narrow parameters of movies celebrated by the Academy Awards in the best picture category haven't been quite so funny. Self-serious prestige films have long found a ready seat at the Oscars, while films starring or directed by minorities have struggled to. There are many factors behind what's led to two straight years of all-white acting nominees, but one is the stifling limitation of what gets considered an "Oscar movie." What frequently guides a movie toward a best picture nomination or a star toward an acting nod is a confluence of factors that frequently have only so much to do with quality. Influential is how a movie is released (a prominent festival rollout can pay big dividends), how much support a movie has from its distributor (the parties and advertisements that go into Oscar campaigns are expensive) and how willing the talent is to promote themselves. "It's a racket," says Viggo Mortensen, who was nominated in 2008 for David Cronenberg's "Eastern Promises."

"The nomination process is essentially run by, dictated by money and public relations maneuvering," Mortensen says. "And so that's why every year, there are only a handful of, in my opinion, deserving and enduring nominees of enduring quality."

### Handful out of tradition

This year's best picture nominees boast a handful of films from outside the film academy's traditional comfort zone, most notably George Miller's much-nominated post-apocalyptic chase film "Mad Max: Fury Road." But many of the films that could have put a charge into this year's awards didn't fit the limited confines of Oscar bait. Ryan Coogler's "Creed," while it landed a nod for Sylvester Stallone's supporting performance, had the odds stacked against it.

It's a seventh entry in a franchise and it wasn't much pushed by its studio, Warner Bros. Its humanistic heartbeat is perhaps - like Coogler's previous "Fruitvale Station," also starring Michael B. Jordan - outside the kind of films starring black actors that usually garner academy attention.

Few African American actors have ever won for a film by a black director. (A notable exception is Denzel Washington for Antoine Fuqua's "Training Day.") No black actress has ever won for a film helmed by a black director.

The N.W.A biopic "Straight Outta Compton" -

which lacked a white protagonist or the historical sweep of "12 Years a Slave" - also didn't fit the usual criteria. One academy member, the writer-director Rod Lurie, says he heard numerous academy voters dismiss even screening "Straight Outta Compton." Taste plays a part, but the playing field is uneven. If it wasn't, Melissa McCarthy would have an armful of Oscars by now.

Like many genres, comedy is all but forgotten come awards season. This year, the trend reached a somewhat absurd endpoint when David O. Russell's somber "Joy" and the nerdy space adventure "The Martian" sneaked into the comedy category at the Golden Globes. It's one reason why Leonardo DiCaprio was passed over for his brilliantly outlandish performance in Martin Scorsese's "The Wolf of Wall Street," but is likely to win instead for crawling in mud and eating bison liver in "The Revenant." Only one of the 20 acting nominees this year - Jennifer Jason Leigh in "The Hateful Eight" - is straightforwardly comic. And even she takes a beating. — AP



This photo provided by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Tom Hardy, left, and Charlize Theron in a scene from "Mad Max: Fury Road."



This photo provided by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Michael B Jordan, left, and Sylvester Stallone in a scene from "Creed." — AP photos



US singer Madonna performs during the Rebel Heart World Tour in Macau. — AP

## Madonna makes surprise visits to Manila children's shelters

Madonna made surprise visits to two Manila shelters for orphans and street children, taking selfies with kids a day before the pop star begins her two-night concert stint in the Philippine capital. Pictures on her Instagram account showed her carrying a baby in one arm while holding hands with a girl guiding her on a tour of the Hospicio de San Jose orphanage on Tuesday. At the Bahay Tuluyan shelter for street kids, she sat on a tarpaulin mat with children.

"Chillin' with my Homies at the Bahay Tuluyan Foundation Inc. giving shelter to orphans street children trafficking/abuse victims in Manila!" Madonna captioned a selfie taken with three kids as they lay on the mat.

Officials at the shelter were told Monday that Madonna's dancers were going to visit, but they did not find out that Madonna herself was also coming until an hour before her arrival, said Catherine Scerri, the deputy executive director of Bahay Tuluyan. She said the

children did a couple of dances before being joined by Madonna's dancers.

Madonna asked the officials about the center's program and whether the children attended school, but she spent most of her 45-minute visit with the kids, Scerri added. Anne dela Cruz, an official with the Hospicio de San Jose orphanage, also said Madonna's visit was a surprise, but declined to give further details.

Madonna's staff asked both facilities not to take photos of the visits, officials at the centers said. Madonna plays Manila's Mall of Asia Arena on Wednesday and Thursday, the latest stops on her "Rebel Heart" world tour. This story has been corrected to show that Catherine Scerri is the deputy executive director of the Bahay Tuluyan shelter, not the executive director. — AP

# Milan kicks off fashion week in confident mood



Models present the creations for fashion house Blugirl during the Autumn-Winter 2016 / 2017 Milan Fashion Week. — AFP photos

## Milan Fashion Week



Milan fashion week kicked off on a colorful note on Wednesday as Blugirl designer Anna Molinari extended the hedonistic feel of her spring collection into her outfits for next fall and winter. Three-quarter length raincoats came in floral and other vibrant prints while the collection for the younger sister to Molinari's Blumarine brand was also dotted with bright Nordic-inspired knitwear.

Molinari declared last year that it was time for Italian fashion to loosen up a little and have some fun after years of gloom created by a triple-dip recession and a sense that Milan was losing its edge creatively and in terms of its rivalry with Paris and fast-rising London and New York.

That pessimism appears to have been banished this year with commentators talking up a new generation of younger designers emerging to pick up the baton from veterans such as Molinari, Miuccia Prada and Giorgio Armani.

The upbeat mood has also been bolstered by what many industry insiders see as belated government recognition of the importance of fashion to the Italian economy. The perceived shift in attitude was underlined on Wednesday by the presence of Prime Minister Matteo Renzi at the official opening lunch for the fashion week.

Italy's textiles, clothing, leather goods and footwear sectors generated a remarkable 61.2 billion euros in 2014, the last year for which definitive figures are available. The 2015 figure is forecast to be up on that by between 1.4 percent—the conservative figure from the national chamber of fashion—and the seven percent that independent analysts see as more likely. Around three quarters of all sales are exports.

Top of the pecking order among the young guns is Alessandro Michele whose latest work for Gucci, the global megabrand he is credited with completely reinventing, was the mostly keenly awaited collection due to be unveiled on the first of six days of shows.

### City buzzing

While Michele was putting the final touches to his fashionably delayed catwalk set, Renzi was clinking glasses with designers, manufacturers and representatives from the regions where high value-added textiles are key components of the local economy.

More than 182 collections will be unveiled to buyers, media and fashion obsessive's from all over the world over the course of the next six days with 74 catwalk shows staged in every available venue across Italy's economic capital, itself still buzzing after the success of last year's World Expo.

"It is the highest level of participation we have had since 2009," noted a delighted Carlo Capasa, chairman of the national Chamber of Fashion. The actual number of collections is higher than the 182 registered by the chamber: those outside the official structures include Dolce and Gabbana and many up-and-coming young designers looking for a break.

With Italy returning to, albeit timid, growth last year trade body Sistema Moda Italia (SMI) is predicting a rise in Italian womenswear sales for 2015 of 2.8 percent to 12.8 billion Euros. "The interesting aspect of it is that there has been a revival in the domestic market which is encouraging looking forward to the coming years," said SMI chief Gianfranco di Natale.

"We have felt optimism coming back in the recent trade fairs held in Milan." The city's payoff for hosting hundreds of thousands of extra visitors during the Expo was meanwhile reflected in a recent Boston Consulting Group study for the Italian luxury sector's collective body, Altgamma.

Thanks to the Expo effect, Milan has gone from fifth preferred destination of shoppers for luxury goods to third, with the improvement registered most strongly among prosperous young people who appear to have been convinced that the city is much cooler and trendier than it previously appeared. — AFP



# Lifestyle

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

Egypt teens take to street fashion in search of fame

38



In this Saturday, Jan 9, 2016 file photo, Jacir Eid Al-Hwietat, 15, poses for a photo in Wadi Rum, a scenic desert area of southern Jordan. Jacir and his cousin, both from a Bedouin clan, acted in the film "Theeb" (Wolf), a coming-of-age drama set in 1916, that has emerged as the first Oscar contender of Jordan's nascent film industry. — AP photos

## Bedouin coming-of-age drama vying for Oscar nod

A coming-of-age drama set among Bedouin tribesmen roaming the desert is the first Oscar contender produced by Jordan's nascent film industry. "Theeb" (Wolf), set in 1916, tells the story of a playful 11-year-old Bedouin boy of the same name who gets caught up in his tribe's alliance with the British against Ottoman rulers during the era's Arab Revolt.

two young Jordanians writing and directing their first feature film, making Theeb has already been a wild ride, climaxing in the 2014 world premiere at the Venice Film Festival. That marked the first time the actors left Jordan or saw the entire film.

"They got a 10-minute standing ovation," said director Naji Abu Nowar, who won for best director in the "Orizzonti" (Horizons) category in Venice. "The

### Overnight celebrity

Earlier this year, Abu Nowar and producer Rupert Lloyd won an award from the British Academy of Film and Television, or BAFTA, for Theeb for an outstanding debut by a director or producer. Abu Nowar is also British. The actors have since resumed their lives in Al-Shakriyeh, a small Bedouin village nestled among striking rock formations rising from the desert floor of Wadi Rum, a protected landscape just north of the Red Sea and one of Jordan's main tourist attractions.

Jacir Eid Al-Hwietat, who played Theeb, is now 15, attends 10th grade and has revised his career plans, from police officer to actor. "I'm a celebrity among my friends now," said Jacir, who has morphed from a boy with a sweet smile into a guarded teen. His cousin, Hussein Salameh Al-Sweilhiyeen, who played Theeb's brother Hussein, is back to racing camels and working as a tourist guide. Since Theeb, he has appeared in a German TV documentary about Wadi Rum and a Jordanian tourism commercial, and said he would like to do more acting.

Al-Sweilhiyeen said being involved in Theeb made him aware of the need to protect traditions. Bedouin lifestyles in the area have changed dramatically in the last few decades, with nomads settling down, trading their camels for pickup trucks and living off tourists instead of goat herds.

"Sometimes I say the old life was better," said Al-Sweilhiyeen, sitting on the floor of the carpeted family diwan, or traditional reception area for guests. "The desert teaches you how to depend on yourself. Now we have good services, but we need to protect some old customs." Jacir's father, 42-year-old Eid, still remembers the old ways. He was born in a tent and as a boy rode camels over long distances as his family wandered the desert before settling down about 30 years ago. He dropped out of school as a 15-year-old, taught himself English, began guiding tourists and recently sold his last camels, saying he doesn't have the time and space to care for them properly.

Al-Hwietat became the local point man for the filmmakers, Abu Nowar and Bassel Ghandour, who produced the film and co-wrote the script. The pair lived in al-Shakriyeh for most of 2012, soaking up Bedouin culture, rewriting the script and holding acting workshops for the local cast.

Theeb was filmed over five weeks by veteran Austrian cinematographer Wolfgang Thaler, the most experienced crew member and praised by all involved as the bedrock of the production. Ghandour said Thaler used super-16mm film in part because it cap-

tures the desert's harsh sun and deep shadows more naturally. Theeb, also released commercially, was "definitely low-budget," Ghandour said, but wouldn't reveal how much it cost to make.

### Traces of Lawrence

Half a century before Theeb, scenes of the Oscar-winning epic "Lawrence of Arabia," about maverick British army officer TE Lawrence, were filmed in Wadi Rum, just minutes from where Jacir and his family live. Jacir's grandfather was part of the local support staff for "Lawrence," also set during the Arab Revolt, and the tradition continues. Jacir's father, Eid, has worked on international productions, most recently as a location manager for "The Martian," a 2015 science fiction film starring Matt Damon.

Damon was unpretentious during the shoot, greeting everyone at the start of each day, said al-Hwietat. Providing locations and crew for foreign films remains an important part of Jordan's film work, said George David, general manager of the Royal Film Commission. Major films shot in Jordan also include "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" (1989) and "The Hurt Locker" (2008).

At a time of growing conflict in the region, urban centers in Jordan, seen as relatively safe, are standing in for Baghdad or Beirut, he said, adding that "we have also become the go-to location for Mars and the moon." Over the past decade, the commission has offered workshops on all aspects of film-making, including an annual screenwriters' lab in consultation with the Sundance Institute.

However, budget cuts have forced the closure of a film school, and the commission had to reduce training. "If we, as an industry, tackle the funding issue, I think we will be seeing more Theebs," said David. "Whether it wins or not, we are already very proud of what it has already achieved." Jacir and local resident Hassan Mutlaq al-Maraiyeh, who plays the film's villain, will be attending Sunday's ceremony, along with the director, producers and cinematographer.

Jacir will be wearing a traditional Bedouin robe on the red carpet, albeit one made by a Jordanian fashion designer, said Ghandour. "We want the star to get all the attention because he deserves it," he said of Jacir's planned attire. — AP



Jacir Eid Al-Hwietat, right, and his cousin, Hussein Salameh Al-Sweilhiyeen, pose for a photo.

Billed as a "Bedouin Western" and an authentic portrayal of Bedouin culture, Theeb is one of five movies nominated for best foreign language film. The decision will be announced at Sunday's awards ceremony.

For the amateur cast from a Bedouin clan and for

Bedouins, it's a very macho culture, and you never see anyone cry, even the children ... and to see tears coming out of some of their eyes (during the premiere) was a really powerful moment," he said, speaking from the Palm Springs International Film Festival, a last pre-Oscar opportunity to promote foreign films.



Jacir Eid Al-Hwietat, 15, poses for a photo in Wadi Rum.



Bassel Ghandour, who produced the film and co-wrote the script of "Theeb" (Wolf) speaks during an interview in Amman.



George David, general manager of the Royal Film Commission, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press, in Amman, Jordan.