

**FREE**

# Kuwait Times Friday Times



Min 7°  
Max 21°

www.kuwaittimes.net

NO: 16756- Friday, January 15, 2016

**Hanging from the  
skies; a chat with  
window cleaners**



**Harry Potter  
star Rickman  
dies at 69**

21



**Leicester reboot  
their surprise EPL  
title charge**

45



JAKARTA: Three bodies lie on the street next to a damaged police post after a series of blasts hit the Indonesia capital Jakarta yesterday. — AFP

## BRAZEN 'IS' ATTACKS IN INDONESIA KILL 7

See Page 10

## 'REMEMBER THE AMIR OF HEARTS'

# Kuwait marks 10 years since passing of Amir Sheikh Jaber

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait marks the 10th anniversary of the passing of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on January 15, paying homage to a great legacy that lasted 28 years. Sheikh Jaber was the 13th ruler and third Amir in the constitutional period of the State of Kuwait which began after the creation of the constitution in the reign of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah in 1962.

Since his ascendancy in 1977 and up to his passing in 2006, Sheikh Jaber led Kuwait from a tiny nation in the Arabian Gulf to a political and economic powerhouse. Internationally, its development projects spread out to the far reaches of the globe as its own domestic infrastructure prospered considerably. His reign witnessed domestic crises and regional feuds, but thanks to his wise decision and policy-making Kuwait was able to overcome these challenges.

On May 25, 1985, Sheikh Jaber spoke to the Kuwaiti people after having gone through the terrible ordeal of surviving an assassination attempt on his life carried out by a group of terrorists. Speaking as one of the people in a public address, his words struck a chord with many. "The life of Jaber Al-Ahmad, as long as time stands, is the life of a man which could be lengthened or shortened. But the life of Kuwait is eternal - what is more important is that Kuwait lives and that Kuwait is safe."

His focus on the youth was admirable. "The youth are the rejuvenating tides of the river of life - this river should remain uninterrupted in order to prevent the discontinuation of that strong flow of renewal in our nation," he once said.

The Public Authority for Youth and Sports, which catered to the mental, physical and artistic needs of youngsters, was formed in 1992. Women's affairs were not overlooked during his reign either as he stood a firm supporter of their cause until granting women full political rights in 1999.

Iraq's August 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait is arguably one of the most difficult crises to have affected the country in the modern era. It was his crisis management skills and clever diplomacy that Kuwaitis regained their rightful land.

His determination extended, after Kuwait was freed the following year, to rebuilding efforts as he led his people to a swift recovery which focused on reconstruction plans which cost billions of dollars due to the vast destruction left behind.

He gave special attention to the daughters and sons of martyrs, creating the Martyrs' Office in June, 1991, in honor of their parents' heroic sacrifice and due to his care for their families. His commitment to Kuwaiti POWs was also commendable as he sought to bring up the issue on countless occasions at regional and international forums.

On the regional and international scales, the former Amir was the mastermind of numerous initiatives. It was his idea to form the Gulf Cooperation Council, the geopolitical bloc that groups six oil-producing nations situated within the Arabian Gulf and which is now respected as a major player on global scale economically and politically.

Where the wider Arab region is concerned, he was responsible for the creation of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, a state agency for the provision and administration of financial and technical assistance to developing countries, in 1961. The fund was the first of its kind in the Middle East. In September, 1988 he stood up at the podium of the UN General Assembly to announce that Kuwait would drop the interest of loans it had handed out to impoverished nations. These efforts were evidently noted when he was chosen in 1995 as the humanitarian personality of the year in a poll conducted amongst five million Arabs by a renowned British media company. — KUNA



Word of the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the United Nations in 1990.



The late Amir, HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, decorates former US President George H.W. Bush with the State's Mubarak the Great Medal.

Local Spotlight

# EXPAT DOCTORS UNDER THREAT



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

A week ago I covered the story of a 22-year-old citizen who was arrested at Amiri Hospital for impersonating a doctor. While the health ministry took some disciplinary actions against some staff, everyone is still amazed at the level of carelessness. Today's article is not about the fake doctor who happened to be a Kuwaiti and was well-received just because everyone thought he was from the royal family, but about patients who don't respect expat doctors and treat them badly just because they are non-Kuwaitis, as if these doctors are slaves! This is total discrimination. These doctors face the threat of physical and verbal abuse by those who claim to be sick people!

Two Kuwaiti sisters attacked an Egyptian lady doctor recently at north Sabah Al-Salem health center. These sisters went for medical treatment, but for reasons unknown, a verbal exchange occurred that led to an altercation between the three. A complaint was filed at the police station, but later withdrawn, some say due to wasta.

Respecting expats no matter what nationality they hold can't be enforced by laws. It is clear that respect for others, especially doctors, is missing. A study by InterNations in 2015 named Kuwait as the worst country to work and live for expats (out of 64 countries), after they surveyed over 14,000 expats worldwide. I agree with the study because I feel that everyone here seems to want to start a fight, and doctors are no exceptions. This is shameful.

Those who carry out public services are the most exposed to abuse, especially verbal. We can all see the warning labels in hospital corridors against those who attempt to attack staff, but who cares! No one even bothers to look at them. I don't think we need more laws on how to behave. We need enforcement of laws and preventing wasta against those who misbehave. We also need doctors to reject the apologies of those who only say sorry after humiliating the doctors in front of all their colleagues at their workplaces.

Doctors here, especially expats, are doing the best of their abilities with little appreciation, salaries and lots of pressure. This is a sad fact, but not saying a word about it means more expat doctors will leave Kuwait for next-door countries, not only seeking better salaries, but respect too, something that we really lack here.



Suleiman Al-Suleiman one of "Bisht" tailors

## THE BANNING OF THE 'BISHT'

**KUWAIT:** On January 14th, 1931, the late Amir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah banned wearing "al-bisht" (the cloak) because it was costly and the poor could not afford buying it. That year was metaphorically labeled "the year of al-beshoot." Photo shows bisht tailor, Suleiman Al-Suleiman. — Kuna

Photo of the Day

**KUWAIT:** Students enjoying a movie at the IMAX cinema in Kuwait City. — KUNA/ Jaber Abdulkhaleq



**OUR JOB ORIENTED CURRICULUM RANKED US NO.2\* IN INDIA AMONG TOP EMERGING ENGINEERING INSTITUTIONS.**

**ADMISSIONS OPEN (2016 - 17)**

INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR HINDUSTAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE  
**B.TECH. / B.ARCH. / B.COM. / B.B.A**

**PROGRAMMES OFFERED**

**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY**

**B.Tech.**

(Under Choice Based Credit System with Specialization)

- Aeronautical Engineering
- Aeronautical Engineering (Avionics)
- Aerospace Engineering
- Automobile Engineering
- Automobile Engineering (Motor Sports Engineering)
- Automobile Engineering (Autotronics)
- Biotechnology
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Civil (Construction Engineering & Management)
- Civil (Structural Engineering)
- Civil (Environmental Engineering & Water Resources)
- Computer Science & Engineering (CSE)
- CSE (Enterprise Information Systems)
- CSE (Information Security)
- CSE (Distributed Enterprise System)
- Electrical & Electronics Engineering (EEE)
- EEE (Energy Engineering)
- EEE (Electrical Drives & Control)
- EEE (Power Systems)
- Electronics & Communication Engineering (ECE)
- ECE (Bio Medical Engineering)
- Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering (EIE)
- EIE (Real Time Embedded Systems)

- EIE (Industrial Automation)
- EIE (Real Time Embedded Systems)
- EIE (Industrial Automation)
- EIE (Robotics & Control)
- Mechanical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering (Engineering Design)
- Mechanical Engineering (Material Science)
- Mechatronics Engineering
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Information Technology (IT)
- I T (Cloud Computing)
- I T (Cyber Security)
- I T (Mobile Computing)

**B.Arch.**

**SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

**B.Com. (3 Years)**

- General
- Banking Management

**BBA (3 Years)**

- General
- Bank Management
- International Business
- Integrated Marketing Communication
- Hospital & Healthcare Management
- Sports Management
- Travel and Tourism Management

<b>EXHIBITION</b>	<b>KUWAIT</b> (15th & 16th Jan 2016) Ramada Kuwait Hotel Al Rigga, P.O.Box 1332 Ardiya 92400 Kuwait	<b>MUSCAT</b> (18th & 19th Jan 2016) Hotel Haffa House P.O.Box 1498, P.C. 114, Jibroo, (Opp. Hotel Saravana Bhavan) Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman	<b>DUBAI</b> (21st & 22nd Jan 2016) Crowne Plaza Dubai P.O.Box 23215 Sheikh Zayed Road Dubai, U.A.E
	REGD. & ADMIN OFFICE: No 40, G.S.T Road, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai - 600 016, Tamilnadu, India Ph: +9144 2234 2155 / 0968 / 1389 / 2508 Fax: +9144 2234 2170 Email: info@hindustanuniv.ac.in		



**Exploring Kuwait: An occasional series**

**Getting to know  
Qairawan**



Qairawan is a quiet but mostly cheerful area, with houses painted in bright colors and a pink mosque too!

By Faten Omar

**A**s part of our occasional series exploring the various areas of Kuwait, Kuwait Times visited Qairawan to discover the main features of this area.

Qairawan is a Kuwaiti area characterized by its strategic location between the Fourth and Fifth ring roads. It is a modern area consisting of three residential blocks with 1,700 residential houses and all amenities, with a population of approximately 15,000. Qairawan is named after the historic city of Qairawan in Tunisia, a UNESCO World Heritage site found-

ed by Arabs around 670 AD. Qairawan is located to the west of Kuwait City, and was initially called south Doha as it is bordered to the north by Doha, to the east by Sulaibikhat, the Fifth Ring Road to the south and Doha expressway to the west. It is a small-sized area with a main cooperative society in block 2 and smaller branches in blocks 1 and 3. There are six schools, three for boys and three for girls including all levels of education from elementary to high school in the area, along with a number of private preschools.

*Continued on Page 6*



— Photos by Joseph Shagra



# SHOOT & WIN KUWAIT IN OUR EYES 2016

FROM 5<sup>th</sup> JAN. Till 17<sup>th</sup> MAR.

## Rules & Conditions:

### First prize

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

### Second prize

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

### Third prize

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

### Fourth prize

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

### Fifth prize

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

### Sixth prize

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

All photos should be submitted at the Kuwait Times newspaper before 17th of March 2016.

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

COUPON

**Kuwait Times**  
Established 1961

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

**PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2016**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Civil ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_



In Corporation :

**smart** dots



For a Limited Time Only All Participants Can Get A Special Discount Of 50% For A High Definition Prints, Including Delivery To Their Door Step . Act Now And Use Discount Code (SHOOTWIN) During Checkout. Download Our Free App For Mac and Pc at [www.albumii.com](http://www.albumii.com). For More Information Contact Albumii At (69302526)



**Continued from Page 4**

Qairawan is a quiet but mostly cheerful area, with houses painted in bright colors and a pink mosque too! Qairawan residents are also generous, with a charity refrigerator offering breakfast meals, sweets, soda and water bottles for those in need. Nasser Hamad, who works for the Ministry of Commerce and lives in Qairawan, told Kuwait Times that despite its small size, the area has all services such as a co-operative society, clinic, schools and a police station. "What we need is an exit to the fourth ring road, because it is not very accessible," he said. Hisham Suleiman, a mechanical engineer, agreed with Hamad. Suleiman said the area is a peaceful

one, adding the government has a lot of projects in the works here. Near the co-operative society, one can find the Heritage Village, a park with tents for families to spend their weekends.

Despite all these amenities, some Qairawan residents find the area is not happening enough for them. Umm Mubarak Al-Ghamas, who has been residing in Qairawan since 2002, said that the area is dead. "I cannot find anything special about Qairawan. We want the government to provide more services. We only have one main co-operative society and a few branches. These do not meet our needs for groceries, and we have to go to other areas to get our stuff," she said. Umm Mubarak wants more entertainment places like a mall and more restau-



rants and cafes. She is also not satisfied with the medical clinic that is closed on Fridays and Saturdays, forcing residents to go to Doha or Sabah

Hospital for treatment on weekends.

Ibrahim Al-Hajri also complained of Qairawan's lack of services. "This area has no advantages - only defects. The

sole restaurant of the co-operative society serves uncooked chicken, while the home supply store stocks unwanted things. The tailor and photographer are the worst, the sweetshop has nothing good for my children, the flower shop does not have a large variety of flowers and if he does, the florist sells them at high prices. We do not even have a car insurance office. They just fixed some streets and built new roundabouts in the area, but everything is unfinished," he fumed.

Hajri called on officials for more development in Qairawan, sarcastically suggesting they can start with the sweetshop and force the baker to come up with more sweets instead of making residents go to other areas just to buy cake!



# HANGING FROM THE SKIES

## A CHAT WITH THE WINDOW CLEANERS OF KUWAIT'S SKYSCRAPERS

By Ben Garcia

If you suffer from vertigo, window-cleaning is not the job for you. But for some, it's an everyday task. The job is challenging considering the safety risks for the cleaners, especially in Kuwait where safety precautions are not always implemented or enforced.

Kuwait Times spoke to several window cleaners who work in Kuwait City skyscrapers and was amazed by their bravery. "Yes we are insured and our salary is better than regular cleaners," said Yousef Mazumder, a Bangladeshi supervisor. He told Kuwait Times that in the event of an accident, the worker's family can claim monetary compensation from the company.

"This job is quite dangerous but every worker undergoes a series of training and workshops; we have safety briefings every time they ascend and descend for the job; we prepare them mentally and I always tell them to relax and not have any worries whilst up there," he noted. Mazumder's job is to ensure each and every member of his team is safe at the end of the day. "My job is to keep them safe on the job site and make sure that they are all at ease with each other. Personal problems should be left on the ground," asserted Mazumder.

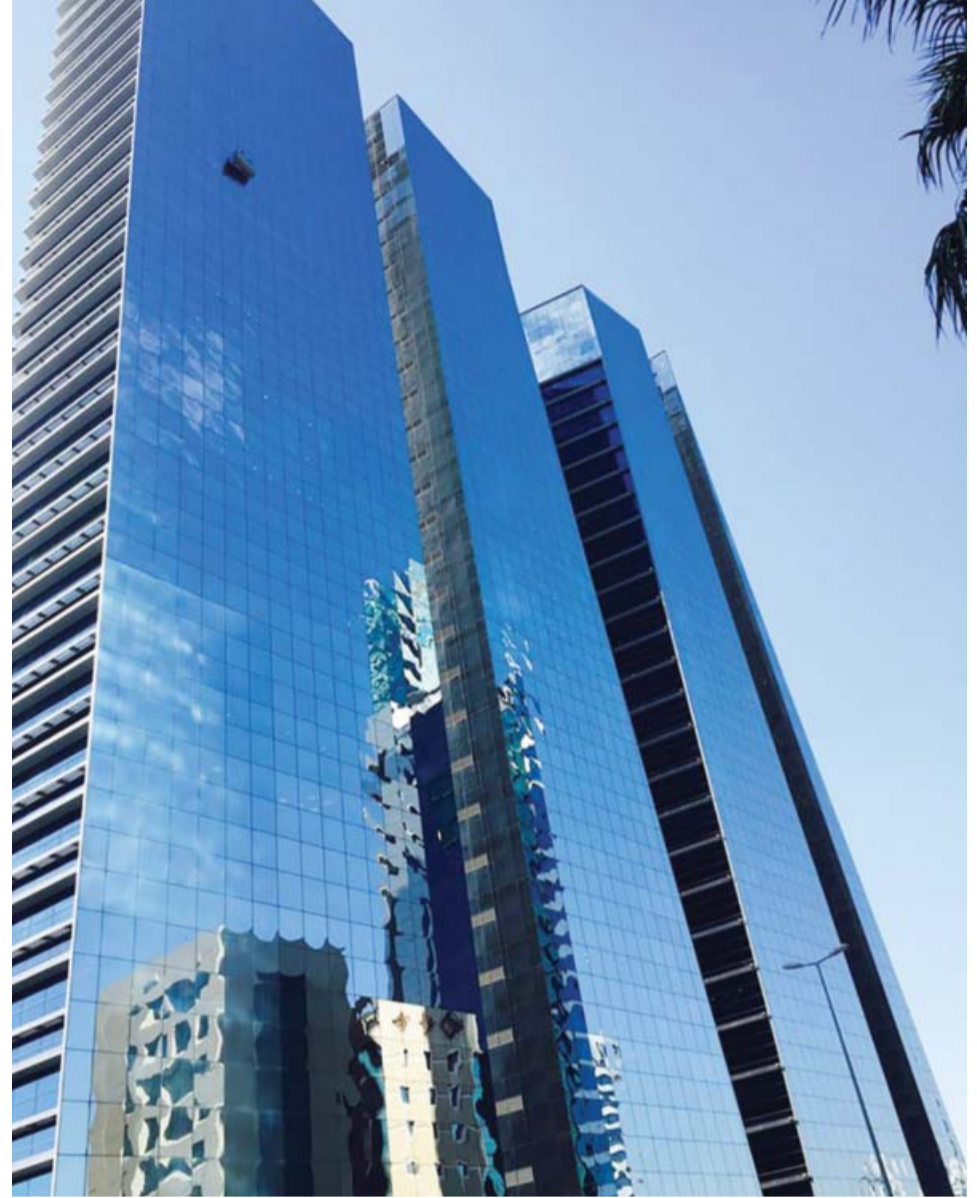
The buildings where they work are equipped with a built-in 'suspended scaffold platforms', commonly known as a 'swing machine'. These machine is regularly maintained and also have locally-based engineers and technicians to help in case of a breakdown. "We have regular checks regardless whether we have a problem or not. The good thing is that they are just a call away. When I call for help, within minutes they are here. My objective every day is to finish the job with zero accidents," Mazumder said.

It can take up to a month to clean the facade windows of a 30-storey glass building. While cleaning glass faced skyscrapers, a team must have at least 10 people plus a supervisor to oversee the process. The suspended scaffold is permitted to carry two to three workers to perform the cleaning job. An operator is usually stationed in the control room to communicate with the cleaners on the swing stage. "We work as a team. It needs coordination. The cleaners can only swing sideways; but lowering or moving the platform is done by the operator in the con-



trol room," Mazumder explained.

The swing stage is also equipped with several safety tools and equipment including built-in harnesses attached to the bodies of the cleaners and the platform. "I instruct them to wear the harness at all times. There are other cables here inside this swing stage; these are used to support the platform to prevent unnecessary movements when a strong wind blows. The rope also serves as a support in the event of a breakdown. They



are also connected to the glass windows in the building, so we are really safe," he assured.

Jenat Ali Sheikh from Bangladesh and Saru Munam from India are two of the window cleaners who scale the heights of some of Kuwait's tallest skyscrapers. "This is my job and I do this every day without fear," Sheikh said. "I am not afraid anymore; in the beginning it was scary, but not now. Anyway, all jobs are dangerous even if you

are in an office; you go out in the street you don't know whether you'll reach home alive," he reasoned.

Munam said they were carefully trained before getting the job as window cleaners. "I underwent training for about one or two months. Initially, we start from the first floor; then every day, if we can tolerate the height, they increased the floors until the top floor; It's a process - you will be replaced if you cannot tolerate heights," Munam said.

The scaffolding carries about five buckets of water and some chemicals to clean the windowpanes. When all the water is consumed, the operator lifts up the swing stage to replenish it. Cleaners perform the job manually using the chemicals and other cleaning tools and equipment. Generally, chemicals are added to water and a brush or cloth-covered wiper is dipped into the resulting solution and used to scrub the glass. A squeegee is then used to sluice the dirt and water mixture from the glass.

Note: Suspended platforms are access platforms for one or more workers with manual or motor driven devices for raising and lowering via ropes. Platforms may be fitted to high rise buildings or skyscrapers, or assembled from components to suit the architecture and nature of work being performed. These can be either temporary or permanent. Both have their own unique governing codes and regulations. Permanent suspended platforms are often known as building maintenance units (BMU) and their platforms are also known as gondolas in Europe.



## KUWAIT WORKING ON 'PEBBLE-RIDDEN' ROADS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait is cooperating with the internationally-renowned Transportation Research Laboratory (TRL) to re-pave the roads with asphalt of higher solidity and quality, a ranking official indicated yesterday. Abdulmohsen Al-Enezi, official spokesman of the Ministry of Public Works, said in a statement that competent authorities had already

obtained some samples of an enhanced mixture of asphalt, testing them on the Sixth Ring Road. He also indicated that the enhanced blend is of better quality and thickness. The tests have been ongoing since October 10, 2015, at several spots. Experts are examining the applied samples to determine impact to heavy weight and high temperature, among

others. He also indicated that efforts are ongoing for further tests ahead of repairing and re-paving all roads and highways.

On Wednesday, Minister of Public Works Ali Al-Omar vowed to punish those responsible for defective roads and recurring accidents caused by flying pebbles. Minister Al-Omar, during a parliamentary session,

affirmed that his ministry is following up on the recurrence of such accidents, emphasizing that any civil servant or official who has not done his job properly in this respect will be punished. Loose pebbles flung by tires of speeding vehicles hit and damage cars' wind screens and may cause other forms of harm to vehicles, or people, on the roads.—KUNA

## INTERIOR WARNS CITIZENS, EXPATS ON 'RESTRICTED AREAS'

**KUWAIT:** Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary For Land Borders Security Maj Gen Sheikh Mohammad Al-Yousuf has warned citizens and expats against approaching 'restricted areas' that were announced earlier in the country's northern and southern borders, adding that radars on the border enjoy a highly technical feature to spot any approach of the borders and they are dealt with instantly. He said the strategy of the Interior Ministry was prepared according an integrated working mechanism be it cautionary a preventive, which contribute to the outstanding security performance at all levels and at all security sectors.

He said the land borders security sector enjoys full support of the senior leadership, adding that his men are in alert and will get anyone on the restricted area. Al-Yousuf said ministerial decree 517/97 designated the restricted area which extends in the northern borders from the nearest Islands on the shore of "Al-Buhaith" area east in the direction of west and southwest to the end of the Kuwait, Saudi and Iraqi borders triangle with a length of 217 Km and maximum width of 5.5 Km from the border line with Saudi Arabia.

The southern borders, which extends from Salmiya Center in the west in the direction of south to the shore of Nuwaiseeb at a length of 217 Km and a width of 3 Km from the border line from Saudi borders, and both areas are surrounded with a wire fence and are entered through official gate. He said (5) citizens were arrested in the area after cutting the fence behind Al-Sukhairi center, and they faced legal action for their offence. — Al-Anbaa

## DISPUTE OVER PHILIPPINE AIRLINES PASSENGER RIGHTS

**KUWAIT:** A crisis may be brewing between the Philippine Airlines and Kuwait days before the Manila-based carrier is set to resume flights to the emirate. According to a Philippine news outlet, the Philippine Airlines has asked the Philippine government to revoke the fifth freedom rights of Kuwait Airways under a bilateral air treaty agreement because the Kuwait government has refused to grant the same privileges to the Philippine Airlines.

Fifth freedom rights allow a carrier to pick up passengers from a foreign country during a multi-leg journey flight. Kuwait Airways has the right, extended by Manila, to pick up passengers in Bangkok on its Kuwait-Bangkok-Manila flight (and the return route as well).

Philippines Airlines has asked for the fifth freedom right to pick up passengers on its Manila-Dubai-Kuwait flight, scheduled to begin service on January 17.

"Similarly, invoking 5th freedom rights, the flag carrier should be allowed to pick up passengers in Dubai to be flown to Kuwait and vice versa," a spokesperson for Philippine Airlines told The Standard. But Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation reportedly rejected the Philippine Airline's request on January 5, essentially barring the Philippines carrier from picking up passengers on its route to Kuwait in Dubai - both coming and returning back to the Philippines.



PAEET Director General Ahmad Al-Athari during a press conference.

## PAAET INKS DEALS WORTH KD 3.3 M

**KUWAIT:** The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) signed five contracts to design new construction projects in the districts of Sabah Al-Ahmad and Jaber Al-Ahmad, of the capacity to host 15,000 students, at a cost of KD 3,366,602. PAAET Director General Ahmad Al-Athari said yesterday, the inked contracts include infrastructure projects, faculties, labs, conference halls, in addition to designing faculties' branches, buildings for the Vocational Training Institute, besides electricity and communications training institutes. The PAAET projects contribute to increasing the accommodation capacity to 55,000 male and female students at the new and expanded buildings, including sports facilities. —KUNA



## UN BUILDS REFUGEE CAMP FINANCED BY KUWAITI DONATION

**IRBIL:** The Refugee Agency has completed the first phase of a refugee camp for Syrians in the Dar Shukran area near Irbil, Kurdistan Iraq, financed by a Kuwaiti donation. The Kuwaiti General Consul in Irbil, Dr. Omar Al-Kandari, made the statement to KUNA on Thursday during a tour in the camp, adding that Kuwait is a major UN partner for supporting Syrian refugees in many countries, including Iraq.

He added that Kurdistan Iraq hosts up to 300,000 Syrians. Al-Kandari noted that he was visiting the camp to have a first-hand experience of the humanitarian conditions there. He also wanted to follow up what has been achieved so far by the UNHCR from the Kuwaiti grant recently offered for the purpose. He noted that Kuwait has hosted the First, Second and Third International Pledging Humanitarian Conference for Syria. The country is also taking part in the fourth conference, slated for February in London.

Al-Kandari noted that Kuwait would carry on with its assistance and support to the Syrian people, to meet their needs and alleviate their sufferings. In addition, he called for more international attention to the refugees and the internally-displaced people. For his part, director of the UNHCR office in Irbil, Joseph Smith expressed gratitude to Kuwait for the donation that helped provide shelter for scores of Syrian refugee families against the freezing winter. The Dar Shukran camp, financed by Kuwaiti donation, includes 500 units, 200 of have already been completed and used, Eng Fyian Rashed, local supervisor of refugee camps said. —KUNA

## 'KUWAIT CYBERCRIME LAW PROTECTS ON-LINE USERS'

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah emphasized yesterday that the new cybercrime law is aimed at protecting society from misuse of the internet and e-media by some users. He made that emphasis as he met with officials of the Ministry of Interior to discuss means of enforcing the cybercrime law, said a press statement by the ministry. He reviewed with the officials details of a nationwide campaign to inform the public with the particulars regarding the law and what entailed of punitive measures against its violators, said the statement. All forms of electronic media like Internet-based news services, bulletins, publications, newspaper and television station portals and commercial services are subject to the new law. — KUNA



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah meets with officials of the Ministry of Interior.—KUNA





# 1,583 'VISA VIOLATORS' NABBED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for General Security Maj Gen Abdelfattah Al-Ali led a security campaign in Jahra industrial area. 1,583 suspected visa violators and wanted persons were arrested. The security forces were stationed on the entrances and exits of the area, and some of them roamed the streets to check the details of workers there. The campaign began at 10 am and lasted one hour during which 1,583 persons were arrested: five wanted, 13 debtors, 248 for not having IDs. Meanwhile those who brought their IDs and documents

were later released, and the number was reduced to 1,079. There were also 39 absconders, 137 violators of labor law. In addition to that, seven wanted cars were impounded. In another development, Residency Affairs Department said the head of a domestic help offices network has been arrested following information about some manipulations.

### Weapons confiscated

The Weapons Collection Team raided several stables in Jahra governorate and confiscate nine shotguns. A 'wanted' man and two other suspects were arrested.



## Crime

Report

### CUSTOMS AGENTS AT AIRPORT BUSTED FOR TAKING BRIBES

**KUWAIT:** Residency Affairs detectives arrested two employees at the airport for their involvement in enabling wanted persons and those with travel bans to leave the country in exchange for money. Both confessed to the charges. The arrest was made following information about the suspected activity. A wanted person was sent to them and an agreement was made to help him leave in exchange for KD 2,000. Both were arrested in the act.

#### Filipina robbed

A Filipina filed a report in Salmiya police station after she was attacked and robbed. She claimed that a man stole her purse, containing KD 450.

#### Drug dealers arrested

Criminals detectives put an end to the activities of a gulf national and his Kuwaiti partner, particularly in shabu and ice, the local names for crystal meth. Both were arrested following a deal to buy 20g of shabu. Detectives learned that a Gulf national was active in selling drugs and always works with a female partner to pass through checkpoints. A warrant was obtained and a deal was made to buy 20g of shabu and the pair was arrested during the exchange. They were sent to Drugs Control General Department.

#### Women fight in Salmiya

A fight broke out between an Egyptian and a Syrian woman in a Salmiya building, so neighbors sought the help of police. The two women engaged in a heated verbal altercation, exchanging indecent insults. Policemen went to the building and neighbors told them this is not the first time. Policemen took the two to the police station and charged them with disturbance of the peace and exchange of obscenities.

## HERBAL MEDICINES ONCE POPULAR IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Tough living conditions Kuwaitis endured in the old times put citizens with limited options as to medical treatment, however patients at these times managed to receive such treatment by a countable number of practitioners of popular medicines, using herbal mixtures. The so called "Al-Hawway" or "Al-Attar" was considered as the second reference for treating illnesses after the doctor-that is in Kuwait modern history, not the very old past. The practitioner collects special kinds of herbs and plants, besides scented oils, and mix them at special rates to present them as popular medicines. In the old times, some elderly, midwives and barbers used to practice the role of doctors to cure some of the known sicknesses which were widely spread by then.

Um Saud, one of the practitioners of popular medicine in Kuwait, said that she gained the experience of traditional medicine from her mother, believing that her herbal mixtures could cure a lot of sicknesses like fever, hemorrhoids and some common infections. "Al-Hawway" purchases plants, herbs available in the wild; beside drugs prescription from wholesalers who bring them from various parts of the world. Local herbs are picked by the "Hawway," personally, from the wild and the Kuwaiti desert. Among the famous practitioners of popular medicines was Ahmad Al-Ghanim, who used to bring curing herbs and plants from abroad, and treated fractured bones, as he was the first Kuwaiti splinting therapist-on record. — KUNA

## GCC PREPARES VAT LAWS

**ABU DHABI:** Gulf Arab states are putting the finishing touches on draft laws on value-added taxes (VAT) of up to 5 percent that could be imposed from 2018 to boost revenues hit by falling oil prices, officials said yesterday. The tax, drawn up in coordination with the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, can be introduced as soon as two GCC members are ready to implement it, they said.

The planned tax on consumer goods and services will be the first such levy in the six oil-producing GCC states that have traditionally been tax-free havens that attracted a large expatriate workforce. But with a sustained slide in oil prices by about 60 percent since June 2014, they see no alternative to tax reform. "Each of the six Gulf states will have their own VAT law that will fall under the broad framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council law," Younis Al-Khouri, under-secretary at the United Arab Emirates finance ministry said. "Any two countries that are ready can begin implementation of VAT from 2018," he said.

Khouri and his fellow finance undersecretaries from Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain - all now in Abu Dhabi for a GCC financial meeting - confirmed to Reuters that VAT laws

were in the final stages of preparation in their countries. The draft legislation was now awaiting final approval from the cabinet or parliament in each country, they said. Kuwait and Qatar are still drawing up their laws, their officials said. The International Monetary Fund expects the six Gulf states to post average fiscal deficits of around 13 percent in 2016 for an estimated \$275 billion shortfall. Introducing VAT across the Gulf could raise up to 2 percent of GDP in revenue, it said.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde urged the GCC countries to introduce a regional VAT as soon as possible when she met their finance ministers in Doha last November. The UAE expects up to 12 billion dirhams (\$3.26 billion) in revenues from a 5 percent VAT in the first year of its implementation, Khouri said, citing a 2014 ministry study. Gulf states will not charge VAT on some key sectors such as healthcare, education and social services or on 94 food items, he said, adding there was still no agreement on whether to include financial services under VAT. "There will be no exceptions, all consumers have to pay VAT once it comes into effect and initially there will be a uniform rate for all goods," he said.—Reuters

# International

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016

**Istanbul attack deals another blow to tourism**



**Briton on trial for helping migrant girl**

13



**'Luxury tax' on samosas sparks row**

16



**JAKARTA: Indonesian police carry a wounded policeman (back center) near dead bodies on the road outside the bomb-damaged traffic police outpost outside a damaged Starbucks coffee shop after a series of explosions yesterday. —AFP**

## IS-LINKED SUICIDE ATTACKERS HIT INDONESIA WAVE OF KILLING BORE HALLMARKS OF PARIS ATTACKS

**JAKARTA:** Islamic State-linked jihadists struck the capital of Muslim-majority Indonesia yesterday, executing a Westerner and blowing up a Starbucks in a wave of killings police said bore the hallmarks of the Paris attacks. The assault on a district packed with malls, embassies and United Nations offices also left an Indonesian man dead and 20 others injured, in what the country's president called "acts of terror".

"Their network has links to ISIS in Raqqa," said Jakarta police Chief Tito Karnavian, referring to the IS group's stronghold in Syria. He indicated that Bahrum Naim, an Indonesian extremist thought to have joined IS in Syria, may have been involved in plotting the assault, saying he had been "planning attacks such as this". The claim of IS involvement will send a chill through Indonesia and other parts of Southeast Asia with Muslim populations, where there are fears extremists bloodied on Middle Eastern battlefields could have brought their jihad home.

Police said the five-strong cell that struck

yesterday included three suicide bombers who initially targeted a Starbucks near a major shopping mall. After the first explosion, men armed with pistols took two foreigners hostage, an Algerian and a man Ottawa said they had been told by Indonesian authorities was a Canadian.

National police spokesman Anton Charliyan said the Algerian managed to escape with bullet wounds, but the Canadian was shot dead on the spot. "Soon afterwards, two men riding.... motorbikes, ran into a police post and blew themselves up," he said, adding four officers had been left in a critical condition.

"From what we see today, this group is following the pattern of the Paris attacks," he added, referring to a wave of killings on the streets of Paris in November that left 130 people dead. An-IS linked news agency, citing an unidentified source, said that the attack was carried out by IS fighters but there was no immediate claim of responsibility from the group itself.

### 'Felt like an earthquake'

Witnesses said the gunman who emerged from Starbucks began firing at bystanders, reloading his weapon as security forces moved in behind the cover of moving vehicles. "I heard a loud bang, boom. It felt like an earthquake. We all went downstairs," said Ruli Koestaman, 32, who had been in a nearby building when the attack started mid-morning. "We then saw that the Starbucks downstairs was destroyed too. I saw a foreigner-Westerner, a man-with a mangled hand but alive. "A Starbucks waiter then ran out with blood coming out of his ear. And I asked anyone hurt inside, he said yes, one. Dead already. "Then everybody gathered and a terrorist appeared. He had a gun and started shooting at us and then at Starbucks. Then the police post... exploded." Graphic photographs from the scene showed the bloodied bodies of what appeared to be two men in civilian clothes lying by the side of a road next to the wrecked police post.

Another body, also apparently male, was

pictured lying on his back in the centre of the street while a fourth, almost naked, lay nearby. Jakarta police chief Karnavian said bombs containing screws and nails were hurled at police during the shootout, and they found six bombs planted in the area after the assault had ended. Starbucks said it was shuttering all branches in the Indonesian capital until further notice "out of an abundance of caution" after the attack.

### IS in Asia

The area is home to several embassies, including those of the United States, France and Spain. A number of United Nations agencies are also housed nearby. The UN Environment Programme said a married Dutch employee had been seriously hurt in the attacks and remained in a critical condition. Britain, Australia and the US advised their nationals to avoid the area.

The US said its embassy would be partially closed today. Indonesian President Joko Widodo urged people to remain calm.—AFP

## SYRIA REGIME BACK ON OFFENSIVE WITH RUSSIA

**BEIRUT:** Last summer, Syria's regime was on the back foot after a series of military defeats, but in recent weeks it has capitalised on a Russian air campaign to recapture territory. The gains have been limited, and have relied heavily on support from mostly Shiite foreign fighters from Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, as well as Afghan and Iraqi forces, and Iranian "advisers". But they have allowed the regime to retake the initiative and go on the offensive after a humiliating string of defeats.

Perhaps the regime's biggest success since Russia began air strikes last September was this week's capture of Salma, a town in coastal Latakia province that became a rebel stronghold after its 2012 capture.

Simultaneously, the army is seeking to encircle the city of Aleppo, advance in the south of central Hama province and east in Homs, and is on the offensive in the key rebel town of Sheikh Miskeen in southern Daraa province. "The Russian intervention has undoubtedly been of immense value to the Syrian regime, which was very much on the back foot in mid-2015," said Torbjorn Soltvedt, head of Middle East and North Africa at the Verisk Maplecroft risk analysis company.

"The intervention has largely succeeded in halting rebel advances led by the FSA (moderate Free Syrian Army rebels) and the Islamist Army of Conquest, and eased mounting pressure on the regime," he said. The Army of Conquest rebel alliance, which

includes Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front, dealt the regime a particularly severe blow last year with the capture of all of Idlib province. But Russia's strikes have brought new pressure to bear on opposition forces, with the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights saying Moscow carried out some 120 strikes on Salma before its capture by Syrian regime forces.

Soltvedt said Russia's air campaign would "continue to play a hugely important role in the conflict," but he cautioned "there is little to suggest that the Syrian army can roll back gains made by the rebels in 2015 in the short term."

"The regime is certainly on the offensive," said Firas Abi Ali, a senior analyst at research firm IHS Janes. "Its

weapons superiority and Russian aerial support mean that the far-more-poorly-equipped insurgents will have to yield territory," he said. "The question is whether the Syrian army has the capability to hold the territory that it takes. Its manpower shortages, and insurgents' access to friendly borders, have limited its ability to do that in the past."

Experts also noted that the regime's gains so far have not been geographically vast. French geographer and Syria expert Fabrice Balanche said the advance in Salma, along with the recapture of the Kweyris military airport in Aleppo and additional wins in southern Aleppo amounted to about 400 square kilometers (155 square miles) of retaken ground. —AFP

## NEW AID CONVOY HEADS TO UNDER SIEGE SYRIAN TOWN

**DAMASCUS:** A convoy carrying desperately needed food and medicine headed to the hunger-stricken Syrian town of Madaya yesterday, the second delivery of aid this week after months of government siege. Dozens of trucks carrying flour and other essentials left Damascus early in the morning for Madaya, where the United Nations says suffering is the worst seen in the nearly five-year-old war. The town's 40,000 residents have endured a crippling siege by pro-government forces that has drawn sharp condemnation from the UN and world powers.

More than two dozen people have reportedly starved to death there since December, sparking a global outcry. A spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross said that a convoy of 44 aid trucks was travelling from Damascus to Madaya. "The priority is wheat flour and washing materials," Pawel Krzysiek told AFP.

Medical teams were aboard the trucks and "the ICRC is also bringing a nutritionist for a proper assessment" of residents, he said. A separate convoy of 17 trucks left the capital for Fuaa and Kafraya, two towns in Syria's northwest encircled by rebels, and the aid will enter all three places simultaneously, Krzysiek added.

It follows a delivery on Monday that was the first humanitarian assistance received by Madaya in nearly four months. The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said a third delivery to the towns would take place "in the following days."

### Evacuations 'in coming days'

Large, white aid trucks emblazoned with the red logo of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent were lined up in the sun along a paved road in the hilly outskirts of Damascus, an AFP photographer said. The convoy was led by smaller vehicles bearing the blue flags of the UN's refugee agency.

"We are encouraged that we have been able to reach these towns, where thousands of people have been trapped for very long periods of time," the UN's humanitarian coordinator for Syria, Yacoub El Hillo, told reporters. El Hillo acknowledged that the deliveries into Fuaa and Kafraya could be delayed because of complex security measures in the area, but said he hoped operations would continue. "We do not want to see this as a one-off," he said. "Ultimately the real solution to this predicament, to the plight of the people besieged in these towns, is for the siege to be lifted."

He said the World Health Organization was in "direct talks" with Syrian authorities to secure the evacuation of Madaya residents in need of urgent medical care. "We found very urgent cases in Madaya that need to be quickly transferred to hospitals for treatment. We hope that this will happen in the coming days," El Hillo said. —AFP

## US, IRAN FORGE NEW DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP AS DEAL ADVANCES

### KERRY TALKING TO ZARIF MORE THAN ANY OTHER LEADER

**WASHINGTON:** For diplomats from countries without diplomatic relations, Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif sure are doing a lot of diplomacy. As Iran races to satisfy the terms of last summer's nuclear deal and the US prepares to suspend sanctions on Tehran as early today, Kerry is talking to Zarif more than any other foreign leader. Those talks included several emergency calls Tuesday to secure the release of 10 US sailors after Iran detained them in the Persian Gulf.

Since the beginning of the year, Kerry and Zarif have spoken by phone at least 11 times, according to the State Department. They've focused on nuclear matters, Iran's worsening rivalry with Saudi Arabia and peace efforts in Syria.

By contrast, America's top diplomat has talked to Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir only twice. He has consulted once each with Saudi Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Jordan's King Abdullah and the foreign ministers of Britain, Egypt, France, Germany, Russia and the European Union. Kerry left Washington Wednesday evening to meet Al-Jubeir in London. He may extend the trip to see Zarif, too, elsewhere in Europe.

### Once hostile foes

Not everyone is happy with the new friendship between the once hostile foes. But the White House, Pentagon, Kerry and Zarif are all crediting the relationship forged over two-and-a-half years of nuclear negotiations with quickly resolving the detention of the sailors, which could have been a new crisis just as President Barack Obama delivered his final State of the Union speech to Congress.

"We can all imagine how a similar situation might have played out three or four years ago, and the fact that today this kind of issue can be resolved peacefully and efficiently is a testament to the critical role diplomacy plays in keeping our country safe, secure and strong," Kerry said Wednesday.

Denis McDonough, the White House chief of staff, said the open lines between Kerry and Zarif are "extraordinarily important." Defense Secretary Ash Carter thanked Kerry for his efforts. And in Tehran, Zarif tweeted that he was "happy to see dialogue and respect, not threats and impetuosity, swiftly resolved

the sailors episode. Let's learn from this latest example." For the Obama administration, the budding Kerry-Zarif relationship offers opportunities and pitfalls. As negotiations with Tehran accelerated in 2013, US officials insisted the diplomacy concerned only ending the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran and shouldn't signal a strategic realignment that would forsake longstanding US allies like Israel or the Gulf state Sunni monarchies.

As the deal came together last July, Obama

international mediation efforts to secure a cease-fire between Assad's government and rebel groups.

Echoing Saudi and Israeli concerns, Republican lawmakers say they're unsettled by the warming ties. They say the nuclear deal that they opposed is preventing Obama from dealing assertively with Iran, because he is more concerned with protecting his signature foreign policy achievement.

Conscious of these perceptions, the admin-



**LONDON:** US Secretary of State John Kerry (right) is pictured during a meeting with Saudi Arabia Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir. US Secretary of State John Kerry met his Saudi counterpart Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir in London yesterday amid concerns over the dramatic breakdown in relations between his country and Iran. —AFP

and his top aides vowed to "double down" on Iran's activities like its support for Syrian leader Bashar Assad's government and anti-Israel and anti-US groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. The record, however, has been mixed.

The US has modestly expanded sanctions on Hezbollah, but hasn't followed through on pledges to impose penalties after a recent ballistic missile test by Iran that violated a UN Security Council ban. Washington also offered no response to an Iranian navy rocket fired near a US warship in the Strait of Hormuz.

At the same time, the US has expanded outreach efforts to Iran. The Obama administration included the Iranians for the first time in

the Saudi-Iran spat that erupted over New Year's weekend. The US did not want to play mediator between a long-time ally in Riyadh and a government that, at least officially, remains hostile to the United States some three-and-a-half decades after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and US Embassy hostage crisis.

But the US has a lot at stake in calming tensions. Saudi Arabia and Iran already are backing opposing sides in Syria and refusing to cooperate against the Islamic State. They're trading accusations over the war in Yemen, where a Saudi-led intervention hasn't uprooted the Iran-backed Houthi rebels. —AP

## THOUSANDS GATHER ON STREETS ON TUNISIA REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

**TUNIS:** Thousands gathered in the Tunisian capital yesterday to mark the fifth anniversary of the overthrow of longtime dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in the uprising that inspired the Arab Spring. Tunisians thronged Habib Bourguiba Avenue, the main thoroughfare in central Tunis and the epicentre of the country's revolution five years ago.

Some attended political rallies, chanting revolutionary slogans like "Work! Freedom! Dignity!", while others listened to concerts or reminisced about the uprising. For many the anniversary raised mixed feelings, with fierce pride at the revolution tempered by concerns over continued economic problems and a rise in jihadist violence.

"The revolution did not help me in any

way—prices went up, many young people are still marginalised," Latifa, a 40-year-old seamstress, told AFP. "But I came to celebrate anyway, because the revolution brought us some democracy, and that's important." There was a heavy police presence at Thursday's celebrations, after Tunisia suffered a wave of deadly jihadist attacks last year.

Ben Ali stepped down on January 14, 2011 after tens of thousands of Tunisians took to the streets to oppose his 23-year rule, and fled to exile in Saudi Arabia, where he remains. The revolution inspired similar uprisings in Egypt, Syria, Libya, Yemen and other Arab countries but only Tunisia is considered a success story of the Arab Spring.

The country organized widely hailed elec-

tions in 2011 and 2014, adopted a new constitution and last year its National Dialogue Quartet—a group of four civil society organizations—was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for helping to save its transition to democracy. The 2014 elections saw the secular Nidaa Tounes led by Beji Caid Essebsi top legislative polls and in December that year Essebsi won Tunisia's first free presidential vote.

But the country has struggled to revive its economy, with poverty and unemployment still high. There has also been a surge in jihadist violence since Ben Ali's overthrow, most dramatically in the attacks on the Bardo museum and on a Mediterranean resort last year that killed a total of 60 people, all but one of them foreign tourists.

"We are proud of the Tunisian exception, which dazzled the world. Tunisia broke once and for all with authoritarianism and tyranny," Prime Minister Habib Essid said in a statement to mark the anniversary. "We are working together to fulfil the many demands of the revolution, especially the guarantee of a dignified life for all," he said, adding that "winning the war on terrorism remains an essential condition". Essid last week announced a major cabinet reshuffle, amid growing public frustration at the lack of progress in improving the economy and at continued jihadist attacks. A ceremony was to take place later Thursday at the presidential palace in Carthage, with Essebsi giving a speech to lawmakers and other public figures. —AFP

## ISTANBUL ATTACK DEALS ANOTHER BLOW TO FRAIL TURKEY TOURISM

### EUROPEAN JITTERS HAMPERING HOLIDAYMAKERS

**ISTANBUL:** This week's suicide attack in Istanbul has dealt a fresh blow to tourism in Turkey, which had already lost holidaymakers due to growing European jitters over terrorism and a spat with Russia, once a top supplier of visitors.

Three months after double suicide bombings in Ankara that killed 103 people, mostly pro-Kurdish activists, Tuesday's attack, which killed 10 Germans, clearly targeted the tourist sector, one of the mainstays in a country

Turkey's own attacks and proximity to Syria, have a detrimental impact on tourism flows towards the country," said Kinda Chebib, an analyst at Euromonitor International market research agency.

The flow of Russian tourists, 4.4 million of whom visited Turkey in 2014, had already slowed significantly in 2015 over the collapse of the ruble. But the shooting down by Turkey's air force of a Russian bomber on the border with Syria in November turned the tap off completely.

is the first time that I've been afraid for my life while on holiday," French tourist Nathalie Julien told AFP after the assault next to the famed Blue Mosque. "I just want to get home now, it's scary," she said. Jean-Pierre Nadir, president of Easyvoyage flight comparison website, was pessimistic about the chances of Turkey rebounding quickly as a destination, after months of making headlines for terror attacks and tensions, including with the country's own Kurdish minority. "This attack, which comes on top of the confusion created by President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan's policies that have tarnished the destination's reputation, puts a stop to (travel to) Turkey," Nadir declared.

#### Mixed messages

The message from Germany was mixed. German tourism giant TUI said customers who had booked trips to Istanbul could cancel or reschedule their trip by January 18 without paying a penalty. Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said there was "no reason to cancel trips to Turkey", even as the foreign ministry advised Germans to avoid tourist attractions in Istanbul. Several European tour operators have already pared back their offerings for Muslim countries in their 2016 summer travel brochures. French holiday club operator Marmara's packages for Turkey, Tunisia and Morocco account for only 20 percent of its selection, down from 45 percent last year.

The losses date back five years, since the start of the Arab Spring in Tunisia. Tunisia's revolution set off a series of uprisings across the Arab world, most of which collapsed into civil war, sectarian strife or autocratic rule, combined with the march of jihadist groups like IS. French tour operators say they have 750,000 fewer takers for package holidays in the Middle East and North Africa compared to a decade ago.

"The destinations now benefitting from the situation and expecting to attract an increasing number of tourists in the forecast are Greece, Spain and Portugal," said Euromonitor's Chebib, listing their main selling points as "competitive prices and political stability." —AFP



**ISTANBUL:** Tourists take pictures of the Byzantine-era Hagia Sophia, near the site of Tuesday's explosion, in the historic Sultanahmet district. —AFP

which was the world's sixth-most visited in 2014.

A record 36.8 million holidaymakers visited Turkey in 2014 according to the World Tourism Organization, with Germans making up the biggest group, followed by Russians and Britons. But the country's tourism appeal started to dim in 2015, with Turkey suffering the same fate as other Muslim countries such as Morocco and Indonesia that are being spurned by Europeans after attacks on tourists in Egypt and Tunisia. "In the mind of the Western tourist, there is no doubt that the potential attacks by an Islamist group on one country will be associated to danger in the whole region. Those attacks, coupled with

#### Instability a turn-off

Incensed by the attack, Russia warned its citizens against all travel to Turkey and recommended they head for the beaches of Russian-annexed Crimea instead. The final tally of tourists received by Turkey in 2015 — and an estimate of their spending—is not yet known. Euromonitor reports that the country's tourism profits fell 4.4 percent in the third quarter of 2015 to 12.29 billion dollars.

The attack in the historic heart of Istanbul, which the government blamed on the Islamic State (IS) group, is expected to have an immediate impact on travel to the bustling metropolis on the Bosphorus, which is a popular weekend destination for Europeans in winter. "This

## TURKISH GROUND FORCES POUND IS JIHADISTS

**ANKARA:** Turkish ground forces pounded Islamic State jihadists in Iraq and Syria after a suicide attack blamed on the group killed 10 German tourists, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said yesterday. "After the heinous attack in Istanbul, our armed forces hit in the last 48 hours some 500 positions of Daesh in Syria and Iraq with artillery and tank fire," Davutoglu told Turkish ambassadors in Ankara, using an Arabic acronym for IS.

Around 200 IS members were killed in the assault, he said. It was not possible to independently verify the toll. "Every attack that targets Turkey's guests will be punished," he added. Turkey has often been criticised by its Western allies for not doing enough to combat IS jihadists who have seized swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq. But Ankara last year stepped up its involvement in the US-led coalition against IS, hosting American war planes at its Incirlik air base for deadly raids against the jihadists and conducting air strikes of its own.

There was no suggestion from Davutoglu that Turkey had carried out air strikes against IS in the past 48 hours and it appeared that all the fire had been from the ground. The premier said Turkey was determined to dislodge IS jihadists fully from the Syrian border, which analysts says they have controlled for much of last year.

"We will continue to fight the Daesh terror organisation in a determined way until it leaves the Turkish border area completely and as long as it behaves in a way that tarnishes the name of our holy religion Islam," he said.

#### 7 suspects arrested

Turkish authorities have identified the Istanbul suicide bomber as a 28-year-old Syrian who entered Turkey on January 5 along with a group of people fleeing the country's civil war. At the border, he was fingerprinted by migration authorities but never placed on any wanted list.

Turkey is currently hosting around 2.2 million refugees who have fled the fighting in Syria, and Davutoglu was quick to warn against seeing all migrants as potential extremists, which he said would be playing into the hands of the "terrorists". So far, a total of seven suspects have been arrested in connection with the bombing, Interior Minister Ekan Ala said yesterday.

In addition, Turkish security forces rounded up over 70 suspected IS members across the country over the last few days, but it was not clear if any of them were directly connected to the Istanbul attack. According to the Anatolia news agency, there are at least six Russian citizens among them. Turkey was hit by three attacks blamed on IS in 2015, including a double suicide bombing in October in Ankara that killed 103 people, the country's worst-ever attack. All those attacks targeted pro-Kurdish groups, who are vehemently opposed to IS. The attack on the German tourists, however, was the first time that foreign visitors have been targeted in the historic heart of Istanbul. —AFP

# BRITON ON TRIAL FOR HELPING MIGRANT GIRL HERO OR SMUGGLER?

**BOULOGNE-SUR-MER, France:** A French court must decide whether a British man who went on trial yesterday is a smuggler or a hero after he tried to spirit a 4-year-old Afghan girl from a squalid migrant camp in the French city of Calais to family members in Britain. Just before the trial, Rob Lawrie appeared with the girl in his arms at a news conference in northern France, pleading for understanding of what he acknowledged was "an irrational choice."

Lawrie's case epitomizes the clash between the heart and the law amid Europe's record-breaking migrant influx. The 49-year-old faces charges of aiding and abetting illegal immigration. If convicted in his one-day trial, he faces a maximum prison term of five years and a 30,000-euro (\$32,000) fine.

"What you're looking at here is a waste of life. She's living in a refugee camp," Lawrie told reporters as young Bahar Ahmadi smiled timidly for the cameras. "People call it smuggling ... I was rescuing the little girl." He agreed, however, that his decision was misguided.

"I'm sorry. I regret it and I wouldn't do it again," he said. After the press conference ended, Bahar ran to her dad, Reza Ahmadi, outside. Lawrie, a former carpet-cleaner and soldier from the Leeds area, had been helping migrants as a volunteer when he was caught Oct 24 by French border police with Bahar Ahmadi tucked away with her teddy bear in a cache in his van.

**'I just couldn't leave her'**

The child had been living in the Calais

camp, which is mired in mud and now home to at least 4,200 migrants trying to sneak into Britain. It is the biggest of several

house in Guiseley, 210 miles north of London. "But half past 10 one rainy night, when she fell asleep on my knee as I was



**BOULOGNE-SUR-MER:** Rob Lawrie, of Britain, holds in his arms Bahar Ahmadi, a 4-year-old Afghan girl, during a press conference. — AP

migrant camps that have sprung up in northern France. "I had told her father 'no' many times," Lawrie said in an interview last week with The Associated Press at his

leaving for the ferry, I just couldn't leave her there anymore. All rational thought left my head."

Lawrie stresses he took no money to

transport Bahar across the English Channel. However, an official connected to the case says the charge against him amounts to alleged smuggling even if it does not involve a network. The official asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak publicly ahead of the trial. That the child was tucked into a small hiding place raised questions in the minds of investigators, the official said.

Lawrie is among hundreds of volunteers helping migrants amid a surge of people fleeing the war in Syria, violence in Afghanistan or poverty in Africa. Lawrie, with four children of his own, said his passion to help was awakened in September after seeing the photo of 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi washed up on a Turkish beach. He raised funds for migrants, traveled to Calais to help them build up the camp. He spent so much time on this his wife left him.

French authorities are trying to crack down on smuggling and deter immigrants from risking the journey, but critics say they are also targeting migrant helpers. A retired university lecturer, Claire Marsoll, transported two Eritreans in France illegally from the Nice train station to another nearby train station. She was convicted in December by a court in Grasse of aiding their travel and fined 1,500 Euros (\$1,639).

"They continue to intimidate volunteers," said Rafael Flichman of Cimade, an association that aids migrants. Two Eritrean migrants had also slipped into the back of Lawrie's vehicle, but Lawrie said he knew nothing about them and police believed him. They are not part of the case.— AP

Kuwait Times

# Premier Brands

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

New Year **GRAND SALE** SHARP

<p><b>SHARP</b> SJ-K385E-SS3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double Door</li> <li>• 348 Ltr</li> <li>• 12 Cu. Ft.</li> <li>• No Frost</li> <li>• Silver Color</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">99% OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">129,000</p>	<p><b>SHARP</b> SJ-K425E-SS3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double Door Refrigerator</li> <li>• 385 Liters</li> <li>• 13 Cubic Feet</li> <li>• Silver</li> <li>• No Frost</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">109% OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">139,000</p>	<p><b>SHARP</b> SJ-KT58R-B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double Door Refrigerator</li> <li>• 530 Liters</li> <li>• 18.7 Cubic Feet</li> <li>• Nano Deodorizer</li> <li>• Key Lock Function</li> <li>• Made in Thailand</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">119% OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">159,000</p>	<p><b>SHARP</b> SJ-KT58R-B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double Door Refrigerator</li> <li>• 530 Liters</li> <li>• 18.7 Cubic Feet</li> <li>• Nano Deodorizer</li> <li>• Key Lock Function</li> <li>• Made in Thailand</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">530</p>
---	---	---	--

**best** يوسفى  
AL-YOUSIFI

Credit, Start from 5KD + up to 48 months + instant approval

1809 809

• Kuwait 1 (St. New etc.) • Kuwait 2 (Pansamm Tower) • Fozail 1 (Tuna etc.) • Fozail 2 (St. Khabbar etc.) • Shuwaib (St. Ring road) • Al-Rai (St. Ring road)  
 • Salmiya (St. Al-Mubarak etc.) • Fawcetta (Behind police Station) • Fatahat (Opp. General Parking) • Jafra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)



**MOSCOW:** Russian Kalmyk businessman mogul Kirsan Ilyumzhinov speaks during an interview. During his controversial 20-year reign as President of FIDE (World Chess Federation), Russian Kalmyk businessman Kirsan Ilyumzhinov met Libyan leader Mouammar Kadhafi, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and he's from now on the US black list for his alleged support to the Syrian regime. —AFP

## CHECK-MATE: RUSSIAN CHESS CHIEF DEFENDS TIES TO ASSAD

**MOSCOW:** As world chess chief, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov rubbed shoulders with the reviled Moamer Kadhafi and Saddam Hussein and says aliens once abducted him, but it is his ties with the Syrian regime that finally landed him on a US blacklist. Two months ago, the colorful Russian business mogul was forced to temporarily transfer to his deputy most of his powers as president of the World Chess Federation (FIDE) for the last 20 years.

"These sanctions are a reward," he said. "Not every person gets to be on a sanctions list." Ilyumzhinov's contact with Syria's embattled President Bashar al-Assad is the latest in a series of scandals and oddities that have marked his tenure as FIDE head and threaten to shake his grip on the sport. But the 53-year-old confirmed Buddhist—who for 17 years headed Kalmykia, Russia's only Buddhist region—appeared undaunted during an interview in his Moscow office, serving tea under the gaze of the Dalai Lama, whose portrait adorns the wall.

In November, the US Treasury added Ilyumzhinov to a punitive list over Syria, accusing him of "materially assisting and acting for or on the behalf of" the Syrian government as well as the central bank and its governor. Ilyumzhinov said he has "very good relations" with the Syrian leadership, having regularly visited the country since the 1990s and hosted youth chess tournaments there. He said he met Assad in 2012 for a three-hour talk during which the Syrian dictator recalled his chess-playing days as a medical student in London.

"I have friends in Libya, Syria, Iraq, France, the US, and I don't hide it," Ilyumzhinov said. "I plan to go to Damascus again to see what the situation is like." The chess boss, who made a fortune in the banking and auto industries

when the Soviet Union collapsed, said he would now seek the "small sum" of \$50 billion in compensation from the United States for his addition to the blacklist. He called the US decision was a "jab at Russia" and his own prestige.

### Chess with Kadhafi

Ilyumzhinov is a divisive and often unpopular figure in the chess world. He famously claimed he was kidnapped by aliens wearing yellow spacesuits in 1997. He says he is also in his "69th life" thanks to reincarnation, and "stretches his days out to 25 hours" thanks to meditation.

He has been harshly criticized by world champions Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov, who ran against him in the 2010 and 2014 FIDE elections, respectively. The chess chief has mixed with some of the world's most dubious leaders, including Assad, Hussein and Kadhafi, precisely as they were facing strong international opposition.

During NATO's bombing of Tripoli in June 2011, Ilyumzhinov travelled to the Libyan capital to play a highly-publicized chess match with Kadhafi, awarding him the title of "International Grandmaster". "Kadhafi and I signed an agreement on chess programs in schools," Ilyumzhinov said. "What's wrong with that? I was impressed with him. Did you know he wrote poetry?"

Ilyumzhinov—who was chess champion of Kalmykia at age 14 but never challenged the sport's greats—boasts he spends his fortune on promoting chess and spirituality instead of buying yachts and mansions on the French Riviera. He views himself as a messenger of peace, likening himself to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. "If you want peace, you have to interact," Ilyumzhinov said. "I believe everything must be resolved

around a chessboard or through negotiation."

### Kasparov feud

Ilyumzhinov denies he is a friend of President Vladimir Putin and claims he has not had close ties with the Russian government since resigning as head of Kalmykia in 2010. "We're colleagues," he said of Putin. "I don't drink tea with him every day." Ilyumzhinov beat Kasparov in the 2014 FIDE elections by a 110-61 vote, condemning his opponent for basing his campaign on anti-Russian sentiment. Kasparov—a firm opponent of Putin's rule—has meanwhile accused Ilyumzhinov of corruption and channeling FIDE money to Russian secret services, charges the FIDE president denied.

"Ilyumzhinov has lied consistently, constantly, since taking over FIDE 20 years ago," Kasparov said in a Facebook post last month. "US and European sanctions have made it harder for the KGB (currently known as the FSB) to move money to its assets and FIDE has proven to be a useful conduit." Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has also accused Ilyumzhinov of involvement in illegal oil trade with the Islamic State (IS) group in Syria, countering Russian allegations that his own family was importing oil from the jihadists.

The sanctions against Ilyumzhinov forbid US individuals or entities from doing business with those on the blacklist, restricting their access to international financial networks. Ilyumzhinov said FIDE would nonetheless declare 2016 the "Year of Chess" in the United States. He added he was also contemplating opening a pro-democracy foundation there. "I don't consider that the US is against me," Ilyumzhinov said. "I'm in favor of America. They gave me sanctions, I gave them 30 chess tournaments." —AFP

## THREE WINNERS HIT \$1.6 BN US LOTTERY JACKPOT

**LOS ANGELES:** Three winning tickets shared a \$1.6 billion bonanza in the US Powerball lottery on Wednesday, after millions of people tuned in to see the fate of the world-record jackpot live on TV. The winning numbers were 4, 8, 19, 27 and 34, with a 10 as the so-called Powerball number. Lottery fever gripped the United States, with people forming long lines outside stores to buy tickets and then frantically checking their \$2 slips to see if they had hit the mammoth jackpot. "It's official! There were 3 jackpot-winning tickets in tonight's Powerball draw: California, Florida & Tennessee," California Lottery tweeted. Local television showed swarms of people, many cheering and chanting, descending on the Los Angeles convenience store where the California ticket was sold. The jackpot, which had stood at \$1.5 billion for much of the day, eventually crept up to nearly \$1.59 billion, a record in the US lottery industry. The three winners will rake in an eye-watering \$528.8 million each, NBC News said, although the taxman will soon come calling.

The odds of winning were at least one in 292 million. There was a windfall too for Balbir Atwal, owner of a 7-Eleven franchise in Chino Hills, a Los Angeles suburb, who will pocket a \$1 million bonus for selling a winning ticket. "I didn't expect this big crowd but my Chino Hills customers love me, and I love them," he told CNN, grinning broadly. Despite the minuscule chances of hitting the jackpot, shops all over the United States did a roaring trade in frenzied last-minute ticket sales in the final hours before the live draw. Office workers dashed out between meetings to buy tickets, fantasizing about what they would do with the winnings, and commuters in New York joked about scooping the jackpot to save them from the deep freeze of winter.

### Record sales

For days, the talk of the nation, from coast to coast, and even from Canada to Mexico, was: will someone finally win the first Powerball in two months and, if you were to win, how would you spend such a whopping jackpot? "I'm not a regular, but why not? Like the commercial says, 'Hey, you never know,'" said Nick Friedberg, a carpenter and father of two drinking coffee on a bitterly cold street in Manhattan. "Non-stop, everyone's talking about it," he said, running through a list of things he would like to buy. "Do the world, that's for sure. 'I'd love to go to Europe, never been. There are a lot of stuff over there I'd like to see, Italy and all that history. I like all that stuff,'" he said. Lottery executives say ticket sales reached record levels, generating more than \$1 million an hour in Texas alone in the final build-up to the draw. Wednesday's jackpot started at \$40 million on November 7 and was the result of 20 draws with no overall winner. "Sales are doing exponentially more than we've ever done before," Gary Grief, chair of the Powerball game group, told AFP on Tuesday. "I'm hearing anecdotally and through news outlets, millions of people who have never played Powerball before are indeed purchasing a ticket." It was a bonanza of sorts for retailers too, particularly those in US states bordering the handful that do not participate in the game. The lottery had anticipated that 85 percent of all possible combinations would be wagered on so there was an 85 percent likelihood of a jackpot winner on Wednesday night. The previous US jackpot record of \$656 million, on March 30, 2012, was scooped up by three winners from North Carolina, Puerto Rico and Texas. The world's richest lottery is Spain's annual Christmas "El Gordo," which in 2015 handed out 2.2 billion Euros (\$2.4 billion) but which capped individual wins at 400,000 Euros and handed out thousands of smaller prizes. —AFP



**TAMPA:** Ryan McGuinness, (left) and Shane Krugman display 3,000 Powerball lottery tickets that they had purchased from the Metro Market. —AP

## AL-JAZEERA PULLS THE PLUG ON STRUGGLING US NEWS CHANNEL

**WASHINGTON:** Cable channel Al-Jazeera America, launched with great fanfare in 2013 by the global Qatar-based media group, will be shut down April 30, the company said Wednesday. The move comes after an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars in the channel failed to attract more than a minuscule audience.

An internal memo from director general Mostefa Souag said the decision was "driven by the fact that our business model is simply not sustainable in light of the economic challenges in the US media marketplace."

Souag said the shutdown would be accompanied by an expansion of Al-Jazeera's digital services "to broaden our multi-platform presence in the United States." Al-Jazeera paid some \$500 million to launch the cable news operation aimed at rivaling CNN, Fox News and MSNBC. In mid-2013, the channel went live after hiring some 850 staff and opening 12 bureaus in the United States and a state-of-the-art studio in New York.

The wind-down of Al-Jazeera America will not affect the group's other global media operations, the memo said. Al-Jazeera America chief executive Al Anstey told staff that he recognized the shutdown "will be a massive disappointment for everyone here who has worked tirelessly for our long-term future," adding that "the decision was no reflection on the work of that staff." Excerpts of his comments appeared on Al-Jazeera's website.

### Going digital

Anstey noted that the reorganization would help Al-Jazeera invest in expanded



**NEW YORK:** The logo for Al Jazeera America is displayed outside of the cable news channel's offices. — AFP

digital operations. "As audiences increasingly turn to multiple platforms, including mobile devices, for news and information, this expansion will allow US and non-US consumers alike to access the network's journalism and content wherever and whenever they want," he said.

The move comes amid a growing shift of TV viewers to digital platforms, including news startups like Vice Media, BuzzFeed and the Huffington Post's Huffpost Live. Media watchers said AJAM, as it was known, failed to stand out in a crowded field of competi-

"The underlying philosophy of AJAM was that quality journalism would trump all, but little about its journalism was especially distinctive," said David Uberti, a Delacorte fellow at Columbia University, in a blog for the Columbia Journalism Review. "Add to that conventional packaging, distribution across an aging medium, and weak brand recognition and you get a cable network shutting the door."

Al-Jazeera acquired its US cable channel from Current TV, a group that included former US vice president Al Gore and reached some 40 million households. The new chan-

nel hired high-profile journalists from CNN and other networks and began with 14 hours of daily news programming.

But the channel failed to attract a critical mass of viewers, crimping its ability to earn advertising revenue. No viewership figures were publicly released but some reports said the audience was only around 30,000 for the key prime-time hours.

From the start, Al-Jazeera faced a tough sell to US audiences because of its history in the Middle East, where it was the outlet for videos distributed by Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. Some conservatives claim it is still anti-Western. "Staffers have long claimed that Americans just won't watch a news source that is named Al-Jazeera," said Poynter Institute faculty member Al Tomkins in a blog post.

AJAM also faced lawsuits alleging an inhospitable work environment and has been embroiled in a battle over a report linking NFL star Peyton Manning to a banned growth hormone. While its channel struggled to reach viewers, Al-Jazeera's journalism won a number of awards including commendations from Peabody, Emmy, Gracie, Eppy and DuPont.

Anstey said the channel's quality would not wane in its final months. "Between now and April, we will continue to show America why AJAM has won respect and the fierce loyalty of so many of our viewers," he said in the memo. On Twitter, several staffers lamented the demise of the news channel. "Even though it's over, working at @AJAM was the wildest most intense rollercoaster ride in media. I don't regret a moment," wrote senior producer Paul Harris. — AFP

## OBAMA TAKES STATE OF UNION ADDRESS THEMES TO NEBRASKA

**OMAHA:** Stressing themes from his State of the Union address, President Barack Obama on Wednesday urged the country to respond to economic and other societal changes with confidence instead of fear.

Alluding to the fierce campaign to succeed him that's taking place in neighboring Iowa, Obama told a crowd of 11,000 at the University of Nebraska-Omaha that "I like talking about hope and all the good stuff that's going on." The first votes in the 2016 presidential campaign will be cast in the Iowa caucuses on Feb 1.

"Then you look at some of these ads, it's some doom and some gloom," he said referring to "depressing" campaign ads by Republican presidential candidates that are blanketing the region's airwaves in the run-up to voting. Obama said the ideas GOP candidates are emphasizing - that America is in decline and everything is scary - isn't the attitude that helped America overcome numerous challenges throughout its history.

"That's not the spirit that brought America so far," he said. "That's not how we traveled so far. And it's not what I see every day." Obama said America is experiencing "extraordinary change, and that's always a little bit unsettling." But he urged the audience to reject the vision of America that he says Republicans

want them to see.

"Do we respond to these changes with fear and do we turn on each other, or do we face the future with confidence in who we are and what we stand for?" he said, offering a condensed version of the nearly hour-long speech he delivered to a joint session of Congress and the nation Tuesday night.

### Rancor and suspicion

Obama arrived in Republican-leaning Nebraska the day after saying in the State of the Union that one regret of his presidency is that the level of rancor and suspicion between Republicans and Democrats had worsened. He said in the speech that he would try to do better to bridge the divide.

Obama on Wednesday hit many of the same themes of the speech, in which he called for tolerance toward people of different faiths, recounted what he's doing to protect America from the spread of Islamic State-inspired terrorism and described an economic rebound that has seen the national unemployment rate drop to 5 percent, half of what it was when he took office in 2009.

He opened the two-day trip in the living room of Lisa Martin, a high school English teacher and mother of a 1-year-old son. She wrote to him a

year ago to express concern about the America her son will grow up in. The White House released a copy of the letter.

Martin later introduced Obama at the University of Nebraska. The White House said Obama was visiting Nebraska and Louisiana because the states are good illustrations of how his policies are helping people. Unemployment in both states has fallen significantly since he took office and more than 2.5 million residents have gained coverage under his health care law, which the Republican presidential candidates unanimously oppose and have voted to repeal if elected.

### Take advantage

Obama wants more states to take advantage of the Affordable Care Act and the federal government's offer to pay the cost of expanding Medicaid to provide health insurance to more people who currently lack coverage. Trying to convince more states to adopt the Medicaid expansion, Obama will ask Congress to provide full federal funding for the first three years after those states expand their programs.

The proposal, unveiled by the White House early yesterday, will be part of the president's budget. Under Obama's health care law, full federal



**OMAHA:** President Barack Obama waves before speaking at Baxter Arena. — AP

funding currently goes only through 2016, gradually phasing down to a 90 percent share after that. The latest Medicaid proposal doesn't seem likely to gain much traction in the Republican-led Congress, which just voted to repeal "Obamacare." Polishing the edges of the health care law is one area of focus for Obama in his final year.

Both of the states he is visiting this week are moving in that direction. On his first full day in office Tuesday, Louisiana's new Democratic governor, John Bel Edwards, signed an executive order to begin the process of expanding Medicaid. An additional 42,000

people stand to benefit, said White House press secretary Josh Earnest.

In Nebraska, despite opposition from Gov. Pete Ricketts, some Republican lawmakers are expected to try again to get a Medicaid expansion bill through the legislature. In the Omaha suburb of Papillion, Obama chatted with Martin, her husband, Jeff, and others about their concerns. After she saw the size of the press pool that trekked through her snowy backyard into her living room, she told Obama that he had "quite an entourage." He replied somewhat dryly: "It's the strangest thing about being president." — AP



**MANILA:** Protesters rally in front of the US embassy against the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA). The Philippines is set to offer the US military use of eight bases, a military spokesman said on January 13, after the country's Supreme Court upheld a security agreement with Washington forged in the face of rising tensions with China. — AFP

## PHILIPPINES SEEKS JOINT PATROLS WITH US IN DISPUTED CHINA SEA

**MANILA:** The Philippines has called for joint patrols with the United States in the disputed South China Sea, where Manila has festering territorial dispute with Beijing, a defense department spokesman said yesterday. The remarks came after the Philippine's Supreme Court upheld a 10-year security agreement opening the door for the US to operate more troops and equipment out of the Southeast Asian archipelago.

"There is a need for more collaborative presence in the South China Sea. Thus, in addition to freedom of navigation operations of the US, we are also suggesting that we patrol the area together," spokesman Peter Paul Galvez told reporters. Galvez did not specify where in the South China Sea the joint

patrols would be conducted. China has conflicting territorial claims with the Philippines in the waters, as well as Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

While the United States does not support any of the claims, it has warned China against trying to restrict air and sea passage through the Sea—a major shipping lane, rich fishing ground and potential source of mineral resources. Tensions flared last month when the US flew two B-52 bombers close to flash-point islands that have been artificially built up by China, reportedly by mistake.

Philippine and US foreign and defense secretaries have also just concluded a meeting in Washington to discuss their security ties. The Philippine

defense department said in a statement the meeting had concluded "with the US side reiterating the US ironclad commitment to the defense of the Philippines."

"The US side emphasized that it will not allow China to control the South China Sea and will act to ensure that freedom of navigation is respected," it added. The Philippines, which has one of the weakest militaries in the region, has been seeking closer defense ties with the US, accusing China of increased aggressiveness in the disputed waters. In April 2012, after a tense stand-off with Philippine ships, Chinese vessels took control of a shoal just 220 kilometers off the main Philippine island of Luzon. — AFP

## US TOURIST DROWNS IN GOA RICE PADDY

**MUMBAI:** An American tourist has drowned in a rice paddy in the Indian resort state of Goa, according to reports, with the US consulate saying yesterday it was working with police on the case. Caitanya Holt, 30, was being chased by local villagers and police in northern Goa on Tuesday night when he fell into the field and died after inhaling muddy water, according to the reports.

The American was reportedly being chased by locals because he was suspected of being a thief. "We are aware of this case," Heidi Hattenbach, a spokesperson for the US consulate in Mumbai, said via email yesterday. "Our consular staff has been in contact with the family, and is actively working with Indian government and police officials," she added. The incident happened in Korgao village, in Pernem, close to the border with the neighboring state of Maharashtra, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI). The news agency, citing north Goa superintendent of police Umesh Gaonkar, reported that the locals started chasing the tourist because they suspected him of being a thief.

"We have sent the body for post-mortem. Only after getting the report, we will be able to know the exact cause of his death," PTI quoted Gaonkar as saying in a report late on Wednesday. Goa Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar said police had also been chasing Holt and that he had died after "inhaling sludge". "What I was told is that he was chased by people and police. He got afraid and started running. He fell in a paddy field and died after inhaling sludge," said Parsekar, according to PTI. — AFP

## INDIAN STUDENTS WALK BAREFOOT ON GLASS

**AHMEDABAD:** About 70 Indian students walked barefoot over broken glass in an apparent bid to overcome exam phobia and stage fright, sparking a probe into the unusual character-building exercise. Children as young as 12 took part in the ceremony on Wednesday intended to boost their mental health at a private coaching centre in the western state of Gujarat. Video footage, picked up by TV channels, shows students slowly stepping along about a metre-long line of thick, broken glass. There were no injuries reported from the incident. "We have ordered a probe into the incident where a private tutor is instructing students to walk on broken glass," state education minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama told reporters on Wednesday.

Rakesh Patel, who runs the coaching centre in the city of Vadodra, defended the exercise, saying "there is a science behind it." "This will remove fear and disbelief from the students' minds," he told reporters. "This workshop was held to get rid of the problems of kids related to stage fear, exam phobia among others," he said. Parents were also asked to take part in the ceremony. Hitesh Panchal, who did the walk along with his 12-year-old son, said he was initially horrified at the idea. "But once you undergo the demonstration, your confidence level increases," Panchal told reporters. "After my son, two girls also got the courage to walk on the glass pieces." — AFP

## INDIAN STATE'S 'LUXURY TAX' ON SAMOSAS SPARKS ROW

**NEW DELHI:** One of India's poorest states has said it will impose a "luxury tax" on samosas—one of the country's most popular snacks—sparking widespread outrage. The Bihar government announced plans this week for the new levy to offset an anticipated plunge in the state's revenues when a ban on alcohol sales comes into force in April.

Cosmetics, perfumes and some sweets were also among the "luxury" items to be taxed at 13.5 percent, but the decision to include the much-loved pastry snack was met with bafflement on social media. "Weird tax alert! Ready for samosa politics?" Twitter user Shruti Malhotra wrote, while Azeem Shaikh posted: "Eh? Please leave the humble #samosa alone."

Opposition politicians in the eastern state, which is also one of India's most populous, warned the tax would hurt ordinary people. "This is a foolish, anti-people idea that will hurt the masses," Devesh Kumar, spokesman for the Bharatiya Janata Party in Bihar, said.

"Besides exposing the state's precarious financial situation, a luxury tax on popular snacks like samosas and kachoris also exposes a lack of ideas," he said. The row recalls the 2012 controversy over Britain's plan to extend levies on takeaway food to Cornish pasties and other hot snacks. The government was forced to back down after a public outcry over what became known as the "pasty tax". — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** An Indian vendor prepares samosas at a roadside stall. — AFP



## NEPAL REBUILDING WILL TAKE YEARS

**KATHMANDU:** Tens of thousands of Nepalis left homeless after April's massive earthquake will have to spend years living in temporary shelters, the country's reconstruction chief has said. Sushil Gyewali said it would take another two to three years to rebuild houses damaged or destroyed in the April 25 earthquake, which killed nearly 9,000 people.

"Certain people might be in a situation to rebuild their houses before monsoon season but we cannot expect that all the houses will be reconstructed... it will take around two to three years (more)", said Gyewali, head of the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA). He said in an interview late Wednesday that the first house will be inaugurated in March.

Tens of thousands of quake survivors are still living in flimsy tents in subzero temperatures nearly nine months after the 7.8-magnitude quake, which destroyed more than half a million homes in the Himalayan country. A \$4.1 billion reconstruction fund was set up in June, but work on rebuilding was delayed by lawmakers' failure to pass a bill conferring legal status on the NRA.

Gyewali will oversee the fund and has vowed swift action to help quake victims, who have received little aid beyond an initial \$150-per-household government payout. "Certainly (reconstruction)... has been delayed-it is true and everyone knows it. But we have to start immediately and we have to make up the time," he said.

Over the next few weeks, some 1,500 engineers and 200 surveyors will fan out across quake-devastated villages and towns to assess damage and draw up lists of victims before the NRA can disburse aid worth \$2,000 per household. The damage assessment, which will conclude by the first anniversary of the quake, will go hand in hand with rebuilding and grant distribution, Gyewali said.

The government vowed in June to set up the NRA to oversee rebuilding and ensure that all aid went to victims, as part of its bid to attract funding from skeptical foreign donors. But progress on rebuilding was held up by political wrangling between the Nepal's ruling party and the opposition over leadership of the NRA. —AFP



**KATHMANDU:** In this photograph taken on January 13, 2016, newly-appointed Nepalese reconstruction authority chief Sushil Gyewali talks during an interview. — AFP



**MUMBAI:** Indian protestors shout slogans holding placards with pictures of Pakistani Mujahiddeen leader Masood Azhar, left and Jama'at-ud-Da'wah chief Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, right, as they condemn the attack on the Pathankot air force base. — AP

## INDIA, PAKISTAN POSTPONE HIGH-LEVEL PEACE TALKS

### SEEKING ROADMAP ON KASHMIR, OTHER IRRITANTS

**NEW DELHI:** India rescheduled high-level peace talks with Pakistan yesterday while it evaluated actions taken by Islamabad against Pakistan-based insurgents it blames for an attack on an Indian air force base earlier this month. Top diplomats were scheduled to meet in the Pakistani capital today to set out a roadmap for talks on settling the Kashmir dispute and other irritants in their ties. Vikas Swarup, India's External Affairs Ministry spokesman, told reporters that the meeting will now be held in "the very near future."

He denied speculation that the talks would collapse because of the attack. In Islamabad, Foreign Ministry spokesman Qazi Khallullah said Pakistan and India had agreed to reschedule the foreign secretary-level talks in the very near future. He refused to provide any further details. India welcomed Pakistan's

announcement on Wednesday of the arrest of several people from an outlawed Islamic militant group believed to be linked to the assault in Pathankot close to India's border with Pakistan. Seven Indian soldiers and six attackers died. "The (Pakistani) statement conveys that considerable progress has been made in the investigations being carried out against terrorist elements linked to the Pathankot incident," Indian spokesman Swarup said. "The action against the Jaish-e-Mohammad (group) is an important and positive first step," he said.

He also said India was looking forward to a possible visit by a team of Pakistani investigating agencies to probe the attack on the air base. India has long accused Pakistan of turning a blind eye to Islamic militants who have staged cross-border attacks and battled

Indian forces in the disputed Kashmir region.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a surprise visit to Pakistan last month which was seen as a potential sign of thawing relations between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. The two heads of government also had an unscheduled meeting at the Paris climate change talks last month. Since gaining independence from Britain in 1947, India and Pakistan have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir, the Himalayan region that both countries claim.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training insurgents fighting for the independence of Indian-controlled Kashmir or its merger with Pakistan. Pakistan denies the charge and says it only provides moral and diplomatic support to the rebels. — AP

## AUSTRALIA REJECTS US REQUEST FOR IS HELP

**SYDNEY:** Australia has formally rejected a request from the United States for more military help to tackle the Islamic State group, arguing it had already made a "substantial" contribution to the fight. US Defense Secretary Ash Carter in December asked coalition partners battling the jihadists and other militants in Iraq and Syria for a greater commitment following the Paris attacks in which 130 people were killed.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull signaled at the time that there was no appetite for such a move and Defense Minister Marise Payne said Australia's cur-

rent commitment was sufficient. "Australia has considered the request from US Secretary of Defence Ash Carter in light of the substantial contributions we are already making to train Iraqi security forces and to the air campaign," she said in a statement late Wednesday. "The government has advised Secretary Carter that our existing contributions will continue."

The decision comes just days ahead of Turnbull meeting US President Barack Obama in Washington on a trip focused on terrorism and territorial disputes. During the visit, he will deliver a national security address at the Centre for Strategic and

International Studies. Australia has some 780 defense personnel in the Middle East supporting its operation against IS and has been active in Iraq for months.

Many are based in Iraq with 400 attached to the Air Task Group flying six F/A-18 Hornets on bombing missions. Another 300 are in Baghdad helping train Iraqi security forces while 80 are advising and assisting on counter-terrorism operations with the Iraqi military.

Late last year Australia started carrying out air strikes against IS targets in Syria as part of a 60-nation, US-led coalition against the jihadists. Payne said that while there

would be no change in Australia's current military commitments, it would offer more airlift support on humanitarian efforts while keeping its options under review.

In Australia, authorities have been on alert for potential terrorist attacks since late 2014, when it raised its alert level to high. Canberra has since introduced new national security laws and conducted a string of counter-terrorism raids. Six attacks have been foiled on home soil over the past year, according to the government. But several have taken place, including the terror-linked murder of police employee Curtis Cheng in October. — AFP



SEOUL: This picture taken on December 22, 2015 shows South Korean father Kim Jin-Sung holding his son Won-Woo as his daughter Na-Eun plays at their apartment. — AFP

## S KOREA'S 'BRAVE' HOME FATHERS RULE THE ROOST

### HALTING CAREERS TO BRING UP THEIR CHILDREN

SEOUL: When Kim Jin-Sung applied for paternity leave to care for his two young children, the response from senior management at the company he worked for ranged from shock and disbelief to outright anger. "They asked me hundreds of times if I was being serious," the 40-year-old, Seoul-based IT salesman said.

The reaction from friends was equally incredulous, with most struggling to comprehend why Kim would disrupt his career to do "the wife's job." But Kim was determined and, after months of pleading with management, he was finally granted a year-long paternity leave—the first in the 15-year history of his employer. "It was a very difficult process, but I was really lucky to get it at all," he said in the toy-strewn living room of his apartment in Seoul.

Kim is one of a growing number of South Korea fathers opting to take a break from their careers to help bring up their children—an unthinkable idea until recently in a male-dominated society where daily childcare has always been considered a woman's responsibility. But a rock-bottom birthrate, fuelled in part by a growing reluctance among women to accept traditional roles, has spurred the government to push for societal changes that will help couples to have larger families.

The multi-billion campaign has included subsidies to encourage more men to take paternity leave—despite resistance from the corporate world. Fathers like Kim forsake their company salary but receive a government handout equivalent to 40 percent of their monthly income—capped at 1.0 million won (\$840). By law men and women are entitled to up to one year maternity or paternity leave.

#### Rapidly ageing society

South Korea has a fertility rate of 1.19

births per woman as of 2013 — the lowest among OECD member nations and far below the OECD average of 1.67. This is forcing a worrying demographic shift in Asia's fourth-largest economy, as the pool of young, working-age South Koreans shrinks in contrast to a burgeoning elderly population.

Sky-high property prices and narrowing job prospects are causing many young South Koreans of both sexes to delay marriage or shun it completely. But women are becoming particularly resistant, rebelling against the traditional norm of the stay-at-home mother, with sole responsibility for all household duties.

South Korea men spend an average of 45 minutes a day on household chores including childcare—the lowest among OECD member nations. "Our mindset is still stuck in the old days when men were sole breadwinners," President Park Geun-Hye said last month during a meeting with experts to discuss the low birthrate. "We need to ... educate more fathers to create a culture where they can naturally take part in childcare," she said, urging local companies to cut "unnecessary long office hours and after-hour drinking sessions."

#### Grueling work culture

South Korea's intense work culture was a major factor behind Kim's decision to take his year off to be with his five-year-old daughter and three-year-old son. "I used to come home from work at eight or nine on a few lucky days ... and it was impossible to find enough time to play with or read to my kids," he said. And he isn't alone.

The number of South Korean fathers taking paternity leave in the first half of 2015 jumped 40 percent from the same 2014 period—albeit off a very low base—to 2,212.

But men still only represented five percent of requests for parental leave, compared to more than 40 percent in countries like Sweden. South Korea still has a "long, long way to go," said Hong Seung-Ah, researcher at Korea Women's Development Institute. "It's a brave father who asks for a paternity leave in South Korea, but things are changing in a positive way," Hong said. The "brave" tag, which has been actively promoted by the government, references the concern fathers have of the career consequences.

#### Fears of demotion

A recent survey showed nearly 80 percent of South Korean fathers wanted to take paternity leave, but half were too worried about the risk of being laid off or demoted when they returned to work. There are signs that the business world is beginning to accept the need for change, even at major conglomerates like Samsung or Hyundai which are notorious for their long office hours and conservative work cultures.

Lee Dong-Hoon, a manager at Hyundai Development Company, decided to become a stay-at-home dad for his baby twins for a year after his wife completed a year-long maternity leave. Lee's supervisors let him go with little objection, the 38-year-old said—although he was still the first male employee to take such a long parental break in the firm's 40-year history.

And though many family members and friends doubted the wisdom of his move, Lee said the time he earned with his daughter and son was more than worth it. "When they learned how to speak, they even said 'dada' before saying 'mama,'" he said, bursting into laughter. "When they smile at me and say 'dada' in my arms ... a moment like that is just priceless." — AFP

## CHINA LACKING GOOD OPTIONS IN TAIWAN ELECTION RESULTS

BEIJING: China isn't going to be happy with the likely victory for Taiwan's pro-independence opposition in this weekend's presidential election, but it has limited options to respond: Any angry reaction could further alienate the island's public, while a passive response could weaken Beijing's influence there.

Beijing may wait and see, and impose economic and diplomatic pressure gradually if a new Taiwanese administration does too much to carve out an identity separate from the mainland. China views the island, which split from the mainland in 1949 amid civil war, as part of its territory that must be reclaimed, by force if necessary. The two sides have grown closer in recent years amid increased travel, communication and trade under the outgoing Nationalist President Ma Ying-jeou, who pushed for warmer ties. But fears about the economic threat posed by China, from the mainland's rising technology capabilities to its large pool of college graduates willing to work for less, have pushed many Taiwanese voters toward the opposition Democratic Progressive Party and fueled a "Sunflower Movement" of student protesters who oppose closer relations with the mainland.

#### Status quo

Although DPP candidate Tsai Ing-wen has pledged to maintain the status quo, she has refused to endorse a previous consensus between her predecessor and Beijing that considers Taiwan to be a part of China — something Beijing insists is a bottom line to talks between the sides. Beijing seems resigned to Tsai's victory, and is not likely to take any drastic action initially.

"There will be an observation period," said Dali Yang, an expert on Chinese politics at the University of Chicago. Most surveys on the island show Tsai holding a commanding lead over the Nationalist Party's Eric Chu. China has largely kept quiet during the campaign, although its chief official for Taiwan affairs spoke this month of "new challenges" in the year ahead. Beijing's reticence is a tacit acknowledgement that it has little sway over electoral realities in Taiwan, including the Nationalists' weakness and the newly emboldened youth movement.

Tsai has also been careful not to push Beijing's buttons with inflammatory rhetoric. In fact, she has avoided making Taiwan's national identity a key issue in the election, leaving herself room for post-election adjustments, said Peking University China expert Niu Jun. The election comes barely two months after a historic meeting in Singapore between Ma, the outgoing president, and China's Xi Jinping, the first face-to-face encounter between the sides' heads of state since they split in 1949 amid a bitter civil war.

The symbolic meeting was widely seen as an attempt by Beijing to elevate the status of the presidential office and lock-in high-level contacts between the sides before a change of administration. China hoped that would set an important precedent and offered extraordinary concessions to make it happen, including agreeing not to use formal titles or have Chinese flags in the room. A major meltdown in relations could scupper hopes for another such encounter while making Xi's flexibility look ill-advised, said University of Virginia China scholar Brantly Womack.

#### Another crisis

Beijing "will lose face if the handshake proves to (have been) a mistake," Womack said. China isn't spoiling for yet another crisis, with a stock market in free-fall, sharpening maritime disputes, an ongoing campaign against corruption and unrest among Uighur Muslims in the northwestern Xinjiang region. China this year will also undertake an ambitious streamlining of the 2.3 million-member People's Liberation Army that will see hundreds of thousands job cuts. Still, China can't afford to be wholly passive and see its relevance to Taiwan erode. If Tsai continues to reject the so-called "One China Policy," roll-back Ma's pro-China agenda or aggressively seek to expand Taiwan's international presence, a response could be in the offing. Beijing could initially suspend contacts between the bodies tasked with negotiating trade and travel agreements. Or it could exclude Taiwan or restricting its participation in international organizations, especially China's newly established Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

China might also start pressing countries that have diplomatic ties with Taiwan — 22 at present to sever relations. Beijing will "test Tsai and if it concludes that Tsai is 'responding inappropriately,' it will get more negative," said Steve Tsang, senior fellow at the University of Nottingham's China Policy Institute. Chinese authorities could also reduce the number of mainland tourists it allows to visit Taiwan, or shift some of its state companies' large orders to firms from other countries, although most observers say economic measures are unlikely. — AP

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016

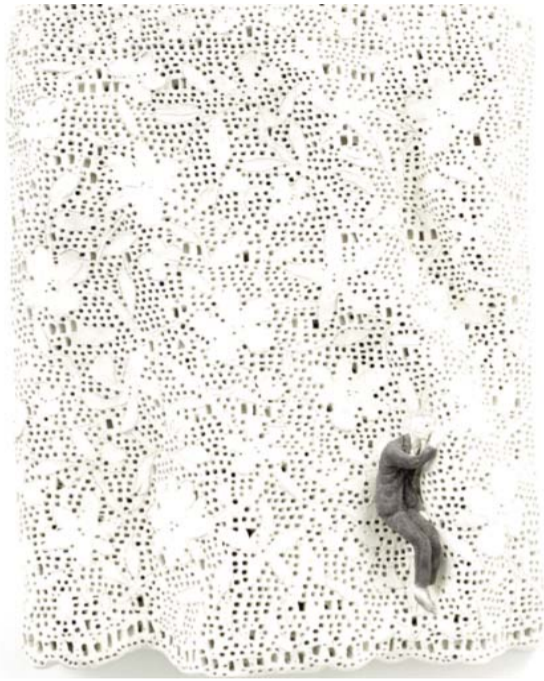
Friday Times

# Lifestyle

[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)



**Alan Rickman, star of stage and 'Harry Potter' dies at 69**



Photos show artworks from the exhibition.

## Pino Deodato presents 'The Universe Is A Blue Tree' in Kuwait

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

**"T**he Universe Is A Blue Tree" is a metaphoric expression of the strong bond and an undeniable relationship linking the globe with the color blue, everything on this earth and even the sky. On the other side, the tree symbolizes the steadfastness, the everlasting deep rooted and sophisticated connection between humans and the whole universe." These are the words of the Italian Artist Pino Deodato who opened his exhibition on Thursday, 13 January 2016 at the Contemporary Art Platform (CAP Kuwait) in the presence of the Italian Ambassador Giuseppe Scognamiglio and a number of Kuwaiti fine artists.

"Deodato - a humanist and picture alchemist works tirelessly in transit between painting and sculpture, in-between drawing and installation, but also in-between concept and emotion. He was born 1950 in Nao di Jonadi in Vibo Valentia, Italy. After earning a diploma in arts, he moved to Milan in 1967 to study at the Brera Academy. Exhibitions of his work have been held at the Musee D'Art Moderne in Paris, Musee du Luxembourg, Quadriennale d'Arte Nazionale in Rome, Murat Castle in Pizzo Calabro and the Gagliardi Palace in Vibo Valentia, amongst others.

Notable commissions include the Coni, Foro Italico in Rome, the Paolo Pini Museum in Milan, the Manifesto d'artista by the city of Turin and more. With his mixed media techniques, he formed a variety of small pastel colored sculptures hanging on the walls of the main exhibition area that incarnate a man and an countable number of books who's in a constant wonder and search of answers is pondering at his surroundings. The exhibition will be opened to public until the 20 of February 2016 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in CAP KUWAIT at Life Centre, Shuwaikh Industrial Area.



Photo shows Italian artist Pino Deodato. —Photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi



(From left) Photo show Kuwaiti artists Sami Mohammed and Thuraya Al-Baqсами.

## Sole search: Taiwan's giant 'shoe church' gains foothold

**A** giant blue stiletto heel dubbed Taiwan's "shoe church" is bringing a touch of oversized glamour to the island's southern coast. The shoe is not a place of worship but its creators hope it will attract enamored couples as a backdrop for their wedding photos, hence the name. It is the latest bid from authorities to boost tourism to the area and lies just a 40-minute drive from the newly opened branch of Taiwan's famous National Palace Museum.

But in contrast to the museum's historic objects, the shoe is a glitzy modern sculpture made from blue glass and steel. It stands 17 meters (56 feet) high at a coastal park in southern Chiayi county. Despite some criticism that it is at odds with the natural environment, authorities say it will be an asset to the area. "We have faith it will become a new sightseeing landmark," Hung Chao-chang, spokesman for the Southwest Coast National Scenic Area, told AFP.

"The design itself is unique. Most brides

love to wear high-heel shoes and I believe this building will match their imagination. Actually we already got lots of phone calls asking when it will be open." The sculpture will open to the public next month. It follows the success of another government-built glass installation nearby—a double arch known as the "crystal church"—which has become a favorite backdrop for wedding photos. However the shoe—which cost local authorities Tw\$23 million (\$686,500) to build—is also a testament to tragedy.

In the 1950s, villagers in coastal areas in the south developed blackfoot disease from drinking underground water with high levels of arsenic. Subsequently some patients had their feet amputated to save their lives. Hundreds were affected by the disease. "This shoe structure is to mark the end of the tragedies," said Hung.—AFP



Tourists take pictures in front of a shoe-shaped church in southern Chiayi.—AFP



In a file picture taken on July 9, 2009 British actor Alan Rickman arrives at the New York premier of Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince in New York. —AP/AFP photos

# Alan Rickman, star of stage and 'Harry Potter' dies at 69

**B**ritish actor Alan Rickman, whose career ranged from the Royal Shakespeare Company to the "Harry Potter" films, has died. He was 69. Rickman's family said yesterday that the actor had died after a battle with cancer. Trained at the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Rickman was often cast as the bad guy; with his rich, languid voice he could invest evil with wicked, irresistible relish. His breakout role was as scheming French aristocrat the Vicomte de Valmont in an acclaimed 1985 RSC production of Christopher Hampton's "Les Liaisons Dangereuses."

Film roles included the villain Hans Gruber in "Die Hard" in 1988; a deceased lover who consoles his bereaved partner in 1990's "Truly Madly Deeply"; the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham in "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" in 1991; and a wayward husband in 2003 romantic comedy "Love Actually." Millions know him from the Potter films, in which he played the Dark Arts teacher Severus Snape, who was either a nemesis or an ally - possibly both - to the titular teenage wizard. Rickman is survived by his partner of 50 years, Rima Horton, whom he married recently.—AP



In this Jan 10, 2008 file photo, from left to right, British actor Alan Rickman, British director Tim Burton, British actress Helena Bonham Carter, US actor Johnny Depp and British actor Timothy Spall pose for photographers, at the premiere of Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, in London.



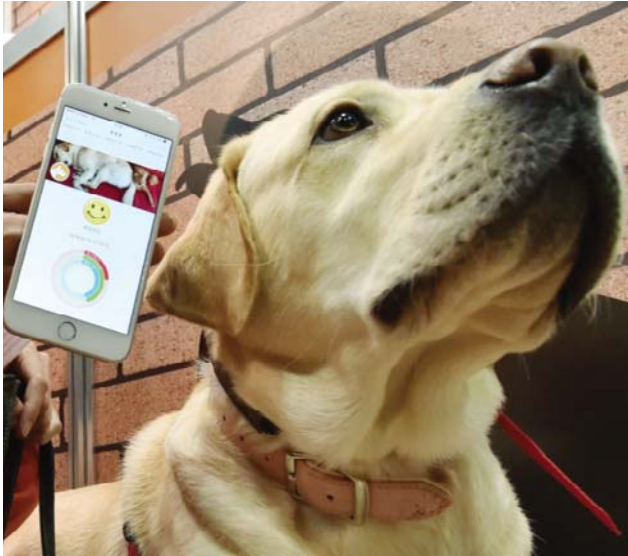
In a file picture taken on December 3, 2007 British actor Alan Rickman arrives for the premiere of "Sweeney Todd the Demon Barber of Fleet Street" in New York.



In this Oct 16, 1998 file photo, British actors Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman act, during a photocall rehearsal for 'Anthony and Cleopatra' at the Olivier Theatre on London's South Bank.



In this Feb 9, 2006 file photo, US actress Sigourney Weaver, left, and British actor Alan Rickman pose during a photocall for their movie 'Snow Cake' at the Berlinale in Berlin.



A dog wears a communication device called the 'Internet of Animals', developed by Japanese electronics venture Anicall at the Wearable Device Technology Expo in Tokyo yesterday.—AFP

## The truth about cats and dogs: Japan firm has an app for that

Ever wonder what your pet Fido or feline is really thinking when you stroke or walk them? A Japanese company has developed a small device that, when attached to the necks of dogs and cats, it says can analyse more than 40 kinds of movements to discern their emotions. Owners can tell if their pets are happy, relaxed, want to play or are annoyed by using a smartphone application that links to the device, according to maker Anicall. "We have more pets than kids in Japan," Takuya Fuma, a manager in the company's development unit, said yesterday at the Wearable Expo in Tokyo. "We see a big market in the pet industry," he added. "People spend money on pets."

The number of pet cats and dogs in the country in 2014 totaled 20 million, according to Japan Pet Food Association, higher than the nation's 16.2 million children under 15. Anicall's gizmo is different from rivals as it can be used on cats as well as dogs, which Fuma said should allow the company to cash in on the soaring popularity of felines in Japan.

Currently, the device only works when owners are near their pets with their smartphones, but Fuma said the company hopes to make it possible to monitor their emotions remotely in the future by using another device to send signals over long distances. For now, he still thinks they offer a greater insight into pet's emotions than the naked eye. "It's possible you think pets are relaxed, but actually they aren't," Fuma said. The device is scheduled to hit the market around April at price of 9,000 yen (\$75). More than 200 companies from Japan, South Korea, the United States and elsewhere are taking part in the three-day Wearable Expo, which kicked off Wednesday, to showcase their latest technologies.—AFP

## Rio gets first 'ice bar'- just in time for Olympics



A staffer prepares special cold weather clothes for the clients of the Rio Ice Bar.



A barman (right) makes drinks for the clients of the Rio Ice Bar.

Outside, workers are sweating in the tropical heat as they rush to finish building Rio de Janeiro's Olympic venues. But inside the Brazilian city's newest bar, you need a parka and gloves to keep your fingers from freezing to your drink. Using 130 tons of ice, a supermarket chain has built Rio's first "ice bar" in the upscale beachside neighborhood of Barra da Tijuca, complete with ice sculptures of the Christ the Redeemer statue and Sugarloaf mountain, two icons of the city.

Brazilians are known for saying they like their drink "stupidly cold," but the bar takes that to a whole new level: the temperature dips as low as -10 degrees Celsius (14 Fahrenheit). The thermometer outside meanwhile registers temperatures in the 40s (over 100 Fahrenheit). Similar bars have already been launched in other parts of the world, but never in the tropical swelter of Rio.

"This is an idea we brought over from London... from European cities, mainly. The big difference, the funny part, is doing it in a city like Rio," said Jose Rafael Vazquez, director general of the supermarket chain behind the bar, Prezunic. Admission is by invitation only. To get an invite, shoppers have to buy about \$15 worth of the drink that sponsors the bar. Patrons get a parka and gloves when they arrive, then proceed to an intermediary room heated to 17 degrees.

After getting acclimated for five minutes, they enter the frosty realm of the purple- and blue-hewed bar, where the chairs, couches and tables are all made of ice. Just 20 clients at a time can enter the bar, which is near the 2016 Olympic park, and they can only stay for 20 minutes. Prezunic says it is expecting 20,000 visitors in two months.—AFP



The Rio Ice Bar.



A barman makes drinks for the clients of the Rio Ice Bar.



7-Eleven store clerk M Farouqi celebrates with customers after learning the store sold a winning Powerball ticket on Wednesday in Chino Hills, Calif.—AP

## Three winners hit \$1.6 bn US lottery jackpot

Three winning tickets shared a \$1.6 billion bonanza in the US Powerball lottery on Wednesday, after millions of people tuned in to see the fate of the world-record jackpot live on TV. The winning numbers were 4, 8, 19, 27 and 34, with a 10 as the so-called Powerball number. Lottery fever gripped the United States, with people forming long lines outside stores to buy tickets and then frantically checking their \$2 slips to see if they had hit the mammoth jackpot.

"It's official! There were 3 jackpot-winning tickets in tonight's Powerball draw: California, Florida & Tennessee," California Lottery tweeted. Local television showed swarms of people, many cheering and chanting, descending on the Los Angeles convenience store where the California ticket was sold. The jackpot, which had stood at \$1.5 billion for much of the day, eventually crept up to nearly \$1.59 billion, a record in the US lottery industry.

The three winners will rake in an eye-watering \$528.8 million each, NBC News said, although the taxman will soon come calling. The odds of winning were at least one in 292 million. There was a windfall too for Balbir Atwal, owner of a 7-Eleven franchise in Chino Hills, a Los Angeles suburb, who will pocket a \$1 million bonus for selling a winning ticket. "I didn't expect this big crowd but my Chino Hills customers love me, and I love them," he told CNN, grinning broadly.

Despite the minuscule chances of hitting the jackpot, shops all over the United States did a roaring trade in frenzied last-minute ticket sales in the final hours before the live raw. Office workers dashed out between meetings to buy tickets, fantasizing about what they would do with the winnings, and commuters in New York joked about scooping the jackpot to save them from the deep freeze of winter.—AFP

## Nominees in main Oscars categories

### Best picture:

"The Big Short"  
"Bridge of Spies"  
"Brooklyn"  
"Mad Max: Fury Road"  
"The Martian"  
"The Revenant"  
"Room"  
"Spotlight"

### Best director:

Adam McKay, "The Big Short"  
George Miller, "Mad Max: Fury Road"  
Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, "The Revenant"  
Lenny Abrahamson, "Room"  
Tom McCarthy, "Spotlight"

### Best actor:

Bryan Cranston, "Trumbo"  
Matt Damon, "The Martian"  
Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Revenant"  
Michael Fassbender, "Steve Jobs"  
Eddie Redmayne, "The Danish Girl"

### Best actress:

Cate Blanchett, "Carol"  
Brie Larson, "Room"  
Jennifer Lawrence, "Joy"  
Charlotte Rampling, "45 Years"  
Saoirse Ronan, "Brooklyn"

### Best supporting actor:

Christian Bale, "The Big Short"  
Tom Hardy, "The Revenant"  
Mark Ruffalo, "Spotlight"  
Mark Rylance, "Bridge of Spies"  
Sylvester Stallone, "Creed"

### Best supporting actress:

Jennifer Jason Leigh, "The Hateful Eight"  
Rooney Mara, "Carol"  
Rachel McAdams, "Spotlight"  
Alicia Vikander, "The Danish Girl"  
Kate Winslet, "Steve Jobs"

### Best foreign language film:

"Embrace of the Serpent" (Colombia)  
"Mustang" (France)  
"Son of Saul" (Hungary)  
"Theeb" (Jordan)  
"A War" (Denmark)  
Best animated feature:  
"Anomalisa"  
"Boy and the World"  
"Inside Out"  
"Shaun the Sheep Movie"  
"When Marnie Was There".—AP



This photo provided by courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox shows, Leonardo DiCaprio as Hugh Glass, in a scene from the film, "The Revenant."—AP photos

## Leonardo DiCaprio's silent, frozen 'Revenant' puts Oscar in sight

Leonardo DiCaprio sent girls swooning in "Titanic," swaggered as "The Wolf of Wall Street," and creeped audiences out as reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes. But it took a seven-month, sub-zero shoot, and a role in which he barely speaks to give him his best shot at finally winning an Oscar. DiCaprio, 41, and still a bachelor, received his fifth Oscar yesterday, this time for his lead role in "The Revenant." The pioneer-era revenge drama led all contenders with 12 nominations. DiCaprio plays Hugh Glass, a taciturn, greasy-haired 1820s fur trapper left for dead in the wilderness by his own hunting team after being mauled by a bear that rips his throat. In a fight for survival, Glass treks through snow-covered forests, gets swept away in a waterfall, sleeps inside the carcass of a disemboweled horse and hungrily eats raw bison liver before making it back to his camp.

DiCaprio has already won a Golden Globe for the role, and he tops pundits' forecasts to take home the best actor Oscar at the Feb 28 Academy Awards ceremony. "I think his performance has to be seen by hopefully millions of people, (and) I'm sure they will be emotionally involved and happy about seeing Leo in this caliber," Alejandro G Inarritu, director of "The Revenant," told Reuters. DiCaprio, who has dated a string of supermodels, has matured into one of the world's most admired actors, as well as a champion of environmental causes ranging from marine reserves to the rights of indigenous people.

### Not 100 but 300 percent

"Hollywood's accepting the fact that Leo is a grown-up now and that his wayward randy bachelor days have calmed down," said Tom O'Neil, founder of awards website goldderby.com. "He's now a producer, and he's expanding his authority as a filmmaker of note." As a blue-eyed teen, DiCaprio won his first Oscar nomination in 1994 for his supporting role as a mentally challenged boy in "What's Eating Gilbert Grape."

His romantic "Romeo + Juliet" and "Titanic" roles went unrecognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and it was another 10 years before his obsessive-compulsive Hughes in "The Aviator" brought a second Oscar nod. Nominations for 2006's "Blood Diamond" and 2013's "The Wolf of Wall Street" came and went without DiCaprio taking home the most coveted trophy in show business. Stefano Tonchi, editor of W magazine, said that in "The Revenant," DiCaprio put in "not 100 percent but 300 percent." "I know how dedicated he is to saving the planet," Tonchi said, "... and I think to spend so much time immersed in this kind of wild nature and working in such a constrained environment ... brought out a really great performance."

### Pre-dawn ceremony

In second place was dystopian action film "Mad Max: Fury Road" with 10 nominations, followed by "The Martian" with seven. The Academy Awards—the pinnacle of Hollywood's awards season—will be handed out on February 28. Steven



US actor Leonardo DiCaprio poses as he arrives to attend a party for the premiere of the film 'The Wolf of Wall Street'.—AP/AFP photos

Spielberg's "Bridge of Spies" received six nominations, including for best picture, and lesbian drama "Carol" starring Cate Blanchett received six nominations, including for best actress and best supporting actress. "Spotlight," about journalists from The Boston Globe who uncovered sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, also received six nods including for best picture and director. "The Big Short," about the subprime mortgage crisis, and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" each got five nods. The nominated films, actors and filmmakers were revealed at a pre-dawn ceremony in Beverly Hills.—Agencies



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Jennifer Lawrence in a scene from the film, "Joy."



This image released by Focus Features shows Eddie Redmayne in a scene from "The Danish Girl."



This photo released by 20th Century Fox shows Matt Damon in a scene from the film, 'The Martian.'

## A retrospective on the films of Quentin Tarantino

By Aakash Bakaya

### Introduction

**W**ith the release of 'Hateful Eight' this week, I decided that there's no better way to build up the excitement to Quentin Tarantino's next feature film than re-watching his entire film catalogue once again.

Quentin Tarantino has been breaking boundaries and enhancing the landscape of cinema ever since his first breakout film

are both high marks only a handful of directors have achieved.

Like many iconic directors, Tarantino has always dared to branch out and do something new. His first three films (which I call 'The LA Trilogy' solely because they are set in Los Angeles) may share similar themes, but are all throwbacks to different genres. While everything after 'Kill Bill' was a straight up homage to film genres he admires the most. Regardless, they are all entirely unique experiences which deserve to be watched no



'Reservoir Dogs' back in 1992. His ultra-cool dialogues, in conjunction with his stylistic and abundant use of violence, have created a legion of fans and inspired a vast number of filmmakers both old and new. His films show that you don't need blockbuster special effects or simplistic scripts to make riveting movies that are able to entertain the masses. All it takes is the perfect balance of intrigue, panache and passion to create something truly engrossing.

Tarantino has made a name for himself with his unique dialogue and characters but it doesn't outshine his other great skills. His dedication to getting the right shot whenever possible along with his dedication to his actors that have constantly given rewarded him with career defining performances

matter what your preferences are.

What are constants throughout these films however are his brilliant uses of pre-recorded songs as well as his numerous pop culture references spread throughout. Every soundtrack compilation from his movies is worth checking out and mentioning his numerous throwbacks to both famous and obscure films of old will make me repeat myself much more than I would like.

His films have been a personal inspiration to me. I wouldn't be writing this if I hadn't switched on 'Reservoir Dogs' at a much too young age and got completely sucked in. So as a show of gratitude, this is my small tribute to the crazy-man who got me here.

Now without further ado - let's get started.



### Writer's Note:

**F**or this retrospective, I am focusing on his seven feature films and consider 'Kill Bill Vol.1' and 'Kill Bill Vol. 2' has two separate films. 'Death Proof' came out with the double-feature 'Grindhouse' and even though it can be viewed as

a standalone film, it deserves to be seen as it was intended along with the rest of the 'Grindhouse' package. I am aware that 'Kill Bill' was also intended to be a single long film and even though I look at it as a single feature in this piece - the limited pages make be unable to include 'Death Proof'.





## 1 Reservoir Dogs (1992)

**"Are you gonna bark all day little doggie? Or are you gonna bite?" - Mr Blonde**

In what is considered to be one of the best debut films in cinema history, 'Reservoir Dogs' remains Tarantino's grittiest, best-paced and most definitely one of his most violent films. For a director who's made his mark with his liberal use of bloodshed, it was his first film that made audiences around the world clutch their seat in agony. Released over 24 years ago, the startling acts of violence still hold up tremendously and with its raw, realistic atmosphere, 'Reservoir Dogs' continues to be a powerful film even after several viewings.

The film's story revolves around a group of seasoned criminals and



The twist is that there's an informant within the group and no one knows which one is the rat. Tensions are high, people are dead or dying and no one trusts anyone. Who is the rat? And most importantly - who will make it out alive?

Clocking in around 90 minutes, it is Tarantino's shortest film to date and is paced to absolute perfection. The script doesn't give the audience a second to breathe and when the

dramatic moments of violence begin - you don't know whether to laugh or look away. It's this method of manipulation that would define Tarantino's film career. He's very aware you're squirming in your seat and uses that tension to build up the scene to a crescendo of blood, dialogue and music.

Madsen all give iconic performances that all somehow just suit them. From Buscemi's eccentric Mr Pink that pleads for professionalism to Madsen's chilly, nerve-racking role as Mr Blonde, Tarantino's ability to create realistic characters that are both memorable and deplorable at the same time never shines as bright as it did in his first two films.

The director was an unknown a year prior to making this film but once his script got out - almost every big-name star wanted to be a part of it. This is a trend that continues with Tarantino's scripts today. Harvey Keitel, Steve Buscemi, Tim Roth and Michael

The term 'masterpiece' is often attributed to his follow-up film 'Pulp Fiction', and even though I agree with that sentiment, 'Reservoir Dogs' remains a flawless film in almost every department. Funny, smart and shockingly violent - It's not a film you would recommend to everyone but it is nonetheless required viewing for any movie fan.

their attempt at a diamond heist that goes horribly wrong. After a calm introduction at a cafe where our protagonists speak about Madonna and the principle of tipping (our first introduction to classic Tarantino dialogue), it immediately cuts to Mr Orange (Tim Roth) screaming in the backseat of a car lying in a pool of blood. From there, the film follows the events that take place at the warehouse rendezvous spot while intercutting in between with the backstories of our key characters.



2 **Pulp Fiction (1994)**

**“If my answers frighten you then you should cease asking scary questions”-Jules Winnfield**



There are a little more than a handful of movies that I would blindly give a 10/10 rating for and from the moment I finished watching 'Pulp Fiction', I knew it was one of them. It is the movie that legitimized Tarantino in cinematic folklore and ripped an enormous hole through the center of the pop culture map. Its release can be described as a 'cinematic explosion' and its influence and stature is still felt in the film industry today.

There are a few timestamps in cinema, let's call them 'before and after'. 'The Godfather' was one of them in terms of gangster and studio films, '2001: A Space Odyssey' is another in

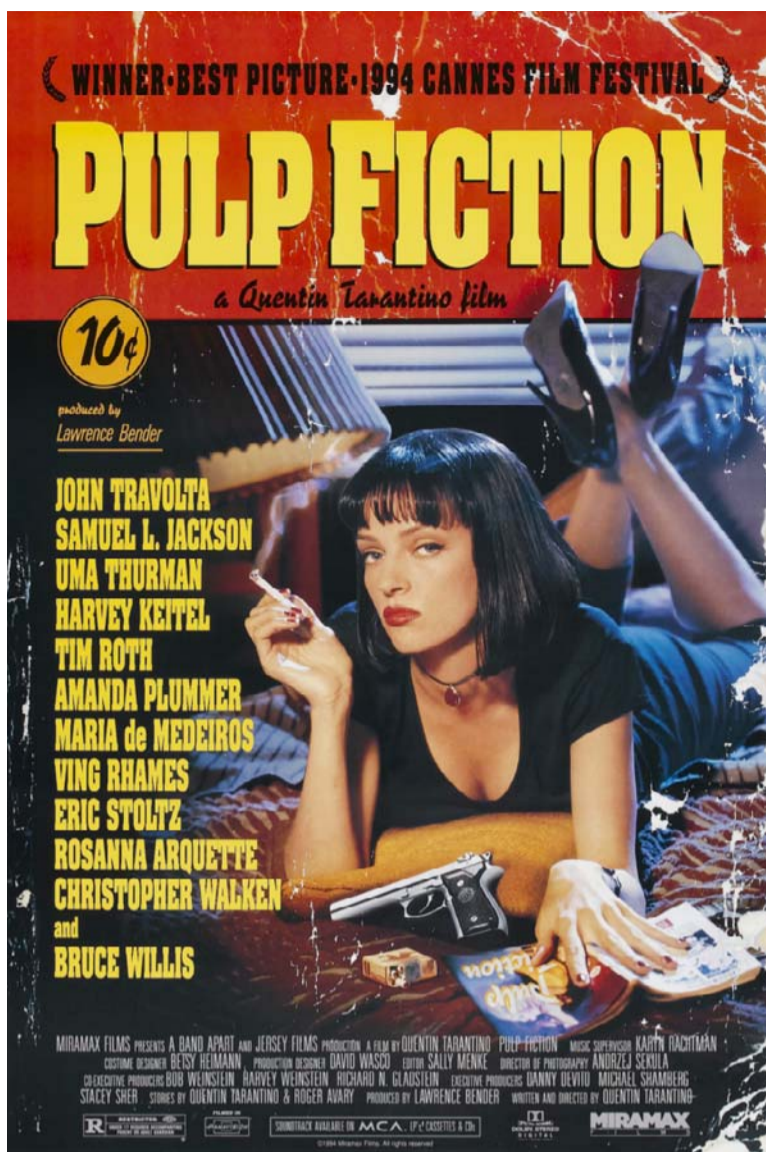


terms of science-fiction story-telling and without 'Jaws', we wouldn't have a summer blockbuster season that we have today. 'Pulp Fiction' on the other hand single-handedly cemented the growing independent cinema scene into the mainstream and resurrected the notion of film as the work of an auteur.

There are a multitude of works, essays and breakdowns that have been done on this film so I wouldn't (and simply couldn't) add anything new that hasn't been said before. Rewatching it for the fourth time for this piece, it's easily Tarantino's most entertaining and laugh out loud funniest movie to date. At times, the dia-

logue is delivered with such wit and humor I had to pause the film to refrain myself from laughing. 'The clock story' recited by Christopher Walken is comedy gold while the film itself contains more hilarious moments than full-length comedy films.

The plot is a complex, non-linear narrative with a large cast of characters that weave in and out of each other's stories and paths. It jumps forward and backward in time with no clear indication to the audience of where exactly in the timeline they are. Don't let that deter you though, it's still pretty clear and only enhances the enthralling ride the movie takes you on. Revolving around two hit



men, their boss, his wife, an ageing boxer and a number of memorable small parts - 'Pulp Fiction' is an essential lesson to character building for aspiring writers and filmmakers alike.

Samuel L Jackson as Jules Winnfield in a career defining role as the menacing but spiritual gangster gives one of cinema's most unforgettable speeches while Vincent Vega (John Travolta), Bruce Coolidge (Bruce Willis) and Mia Wallace (Uma Thurman) are some of cinema's most quoted characters. For all that 'Pulp Fiction' encapsulates, its undeniable mark on pop culture's landscape is one of its most distinguished achievements, which is a list that include the Palm D'Or and an Academy Award.

Tarantino's knack of writing every day, naturally spoken dialogue was perfected here and its effect is continued to be felt and cheaply imitated in the crime genre today. When it came out in 1994, 'Pulp Fiction' was not only an example of what a film can do but it was also a wake-up call to every director working in the industry. Tarantino, still a relative newcomer then, raised the bar to astonishing heights which many directors are still trying to reach today.

Twenty-three years after its release, 'Pulp Fiction' remains

Tarantino's quintessential 'master-piece'. A unique, barrier-breaking film that goes above and beyond the confines of its genre or any genre for that matter, you wouldn't believe it came from someone who had only one film under his belt. Whether you're a



Tarantino fan or not, 'Pulp Fiction' is a film almost anyone can relish in and a cinematic powerhouse that simultaneously defines and re-defines everything great about the movies.

**3** Jackie Brown (1997)

**“Is white guilt supposed to make me forget that I run a business?” - Max Cherry**



**T**arantino's third feature is his most overlooked and underrated flick in his filmography. On the surface, it's not difficult to figure out why. It's his only film adaptation based on a novel by esteemed crime writer Elmore Leonard, while also being his most subdued work. But beneath the surface lies a deep, superbly written love-letter to 1970's 'blaxploitation' cinema that sticks in your mind long after it's finished.

The film boasts another stellar cast led by the legendary Pam Grier as the title character with Samuel L. Jackson, Robert De Niro and Michel Keaton in supporting roles. Once again, Tarantino puts forward a lesson to budding filmmakers in how to write immensely memorable characters, even when adapting them from a source material.

Like his previous films, the story revolves around crime, murder and redemption. This time however, Tarantino brings subtle elements of class struggles, morality and police ethics into the mix which elevates the film into a much bigger sum of its part. Subtle is the key word here as it was the first (and only) film in which you can say Tarantino restrained himself - both in terms of violence and long-winded dialogue. Every scene of bloodshed is performed off camera and crucial points in the story are given a fade-out instead of watching characters explain the plot. Simply put, it works extremely well and you wish more directors respected their audience as much as 'Jackie Brown' does.

Even though Tarantino is adapting these characters for the screen, he effortlessly makes them his own. He took 'Rum Punch' (the original



name of the novel) and transformed into a worthy homage to popular black cinema of the '70s. The changes were so good that even the author himself called it 'the best script he's ever read'. The biggest surprise for me though was the stellar romance subplot that Tarantino builds alongside the main plot. The budding relationship between Jackie Brown and Max Cherry (Robert Forster) as the 50-plus bondsman is one of the best character pairing Tarantino's ever written. It's a poignant, slow-building relationship that is believable and heart-achingly sweet. If you thought a director like Tarantino would be unable to write a good love-story, this film proves you very wrong.

As the credits rolled, 'Jackie Brown' shared a similar feeling to when you put down a great, well-written book. At no point did the

characters betray themselves to the confines of expectation or convenience, nor does the script treat its audience like children. Tarantino has said on a number of occasions that after directing, he wants to write novels and plays, and it is evident here that as much as he's a film buff, he's an avid reader as well.

'Jackie Brown' may lack the wit and bombastic nature of other films in his catalogue but Tarantino created something completely unique with his only adaptation - he made his most mature film to date. Strong, realistic and well-rounded characters placed into compelling crime drama complete Tarantino's 'LA trilogy' in the most fitting manner. After this, he would explore this theme of homage films in a much more direct fashion, but as a fan, I would love to see him tackle the streets of Los Angeles once again.



4 5

## Kill Bill (2003, 2004)

***“Do you find me sadistic? You know, Kiddo, I’d like to believe that you’re aware enough even now to know that there’s nothing sadistic in my actions. At this moment, this is me at my most masochistic”. — Bill***

I want to make something clear right at the start - ‘Kill Bill Vol. 1’ and ‘Vol. 2’ are my least favorite Tarantino films. It doesn’t make them bad films though - in many ways they are brilliant films and will stand the test of time as one of the best action films ever made. Regardless, unlike his other films, ‘Kill Bill’ simply never left a lasting impression on me. It definitely has its moments but the overall package, especially when put together, is great but slightly flawed.

I might have already lost most of you but let me reiterate - I love these films. Tarantino’s ability to suck viewers into a massive universe is awe-inspiring and even after four hours, you will be begging for more. It’s a bloody and enthralling affair whose overblown action set pieces have become the stuff of legends. Everything holds up a decade later but his follow-up features which had revenge as a driving plot point proved he could do better.

Tarantino is the definition of polarizing. All his films carry similar themes and motifs and he’s shown a deft touch at re-creating and paying homage to genres that have inspired him. Being a crime and Western fan, both his ‘LA Trilogy’ and ‘Django Unchained’ are both closer to my own tastes and even though ‘Kill Bill’ does wear those Western influences on its sleeves - it’s still a bit underwhelming, especially by the end.

‘Kill Bill’ tells the story of the Bride (Uma Thurman), who is betrayed on her wedding day and left to die by her old team of assassins called the ‘Deadly Viper Assassination Squad’. Their leader Bill (David Carradine) is responsible for organizing this set-up and personally puts a bullet into Brides’ head. Unfortunately for him however, this only puts her into a coma and after four years in bed, the Bride wakes up and has only one thing on her mind - revenge.



If the plot sounds like an old B-movie, it’s because it is. The difference here is that Quentin Tarantino is no B-movie director. From the very start, he throws everything at the viewer and no matter how much blood is spilt (at one point, there are literally pools of blood) the tacky, over-the-top nature of everything shouldn’t be taken seriously. The climax of Volume 1 is indeed tremendously violent - there are so many disembodied limbs, it makes ‘Saving Private Ryan’ look like a kids’ show. But for all the controversy it brought up when it was released, it still doesn’t match the brutality of the ‘Reservoir Dogs’ torture scene - it’s simply too comical for that.

Volume 2 on the other hand is

severely toned-down. Whether this was due to production delays or the negative publicity of the violence in the first film, it’s definitely a different beast than its predecessor. If the first film lacked Tarantino’s signature dialogue for long stretches at a time, then Volume 2 brings it back with aplomb. What’s also noticeable in Volume 1 was the lack of really memorable side characters. Apart from the Bride and O-Ren (Lucy Liu), everyone else seems underused. Volume 2 rectifies that with a wider but still restrained look at Bill while introducing us to one of Tarantino’s most delightful creations - Kung Fu master Pai Mei (Gordon Liu). The 10



minutes of screen time dedicated to him is my favorite segment in either film.

Ultimately that’s what the films boil down to. Apart from the first and final chapter, the story is basically broken down into five different assassination attempts that can be viewed in pretty much any order. This is both a show of Tarantino’s tremendous abilities as a storyteller and one of my personal biggest gripe with the films - it’s devoid of tension. This can be attributed to the ‘revenge’ genre as a whole but at no point did I think the Bride was in any serious danger. Yes, this



includes her being buried alive and setup against a small Japanese army. No matter how many times I re-watch Tarantino films, that palpable tension still lingers. In ‘Kill Bill’ however, it feels surprisingly flat. This minor criticism aside, ‘Kill Bill’ Volume 1 and 2 are highly entertaining films. Not only does it contain some of Tarantino’s best action scenes, it’s also his best film

from a cinematography perspective. The fifth chapter ‘Showdown at House of Blue Leaves’ in particular is a marvel of action cinema. If you haven’t watched these films yet and you’re not of the faint of heart - a ‘Kill Bill’ double feature will make for an unforgettable movie night.



## 6 Inglorious Basterds (2009)

**“You know somethin’, Utivich? I think this just might be my masterpiece.” - Lt Aldo Raine**

Like all of Tarantino’s films, ‘Inglorious Basterds’ cannot be described as any set genre. It’s not a traditional war film in any sense and is even further away from being an historic drama. A more fitting description for it would be a ‘Tarantino film set during World War 2’. Working at a real point of history for the first time, Tarantino doesn’t let any textbooks get in his way here. From gritty guerrilla warfare to the in-depth running of an old-school cinema - Tarantino revels in all the war and western films he grew up with and gives us a cinematic feast of epic proportions.

The opening scene introduces us to one of cinema’s greatest villains - Colonel Hans Landa, the Jew hunter, performed impeccably by Christoph Waltz. Before I continue, I want to confirm that whatever



Oscar-worthy performance is under-stating it.

Like many Tarantino films, ‘Inglorious Basterds’ is a combina-

locking story focuses on Hans Landa hunt for the ‘Basterds’ and a secret British mission termed ‘Operation Kino’.

From that description you can tell that this film covers not only a ton of ground but also tries to encompass many sides of the war. At 150 minutes, it never feels drawn-out and not even a second of screen-time is wasted. It’s also one of Tarantino’s most dialogue-heavy features. Several scenes flow based on the dialogue that is both long-winded and thoroughly engaging. There are no pop-culture references here but Tarantino still manages to keep the viewer on their toes throughout as the threat of violence is so often looming.

What makes all this come together so amazingly well are the characters. Once again Tarantino shows how the little touches are able to create a bigger picture especially when it comes to dialogue. Raine’s southern drawl is hard to understand at times but it really gives a unique light-hearted dynamic to every scene he’s in. Special mention must also be given Michael Fassbender’s Lt. Archie Hicox. His suave English soldier is border-line caricature but is an absolute delight to watch.

‘Inglorious Basterds’ does several things well and manages to keep juggling its various plots with ease.



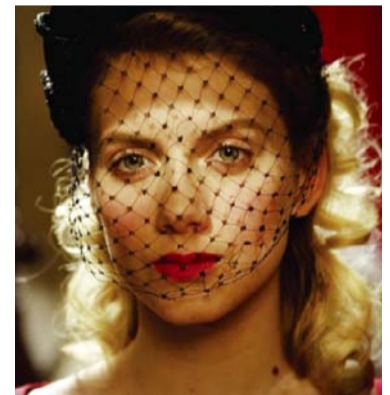
you’ve heard about this performance is completely true. Waltz’s terrifying portrayal of a Nazi officer assigned to hunt down unaccounted for Jewish families is without a single fault. The way he never lets the characters or the audience sit comfortably even for a second is absolutely gripping and his sudden, subtle manipulations of his facial expressions is an ideal showcase of an actor’s craft. Even calling it an

tion of several stories taking place alongside each other. The three key plots are Lt Aldo Raine’s (Brad Pitt) guerrilla squad simple called ‘The Basterds’ who are assigned to go behind enemy-lines and kill as many Nazi soldiers as possible. The other focuses on Shosanna Dreyfus (Melanie Laurent), a French-Jew in hiding who runs an old cinema in Paris and catches the eye of a popular Nazi war hero. The final inter-



**AN INGLORIOUS, UPROARIOUS THRILL-RIDE OF VENGEANCE**

A few characters could have used a little more screen-time but by the end everything closes in an emphatic, confident fashion. Tarantino’s alternate take on history here - especially the ending - may err some the wrong way but it’s impossible to deny the creative and artistic talent that makes it so satisfying. It may sound overzealous but it truly is a film only Quentin Tarentino could pull off. And like all his previous works, he leaves a giant footprint on the genre that won’t be washed away anytime soon.



7 **Django Unchained**

***“Seventy-six years, Stephen. How many n\*\*\*ers you think you seen come and go? Seven thousand? Eight thousand? Nine thousand? Nine thousand nine hundred and ninety nine? Every single word that came out of Calvin Candie’s mouth was nothing but hors-es\*\*t, but he was right about one thing: I am that one n\*\*\*er in ten thousand.” — Django***

THE D IS SILENT. PAYBACK WON'T BE.



After an entire week of watching Tarantino films one after the other, one would assume the filmmakers’ style and narratives would get redundant. On the contrary, ‘Django Unchained’ turned out to be the film I appreciated the most after a re-watch and now stands as my favorite Tarantino film after ‘Pulp Fiction’. At his first crack at his beloved Western, he not only deconstructs the genre - he makes the film a strong critique against both the aspects of a Western while holding a mirror towards America’s horrific past. Clint Eastwood’s ‘Unforgiven’ may have been the first to break the genre’s moulds but here Tarantino uses those tropes and injects a grueling facet of history into the mix.

The film tells the story of a slave



named Django (Jamie Foxx) who is given his freedom by German bounty hunter Dr King Schultz (Christoph Waltz). Schultz frees Django because he needs him to identify three outlaw brothers he’s currently hunting. A life of killing white slavers unsurprisingly excites Django quite a bit and after a few missions together, Schultz decides to take him under his wing. After a winter of training, the pair decides to free Django’s wife Broomhilda von Shaft (Kerry Washington) from one of



Mississippi’s largest plantations - Candyland. It’s Tarantino’s most straight-forward plot since ‘Reservoir Dogs’ and apart from a minor unnecessary scene, the script is nothing short of a masterpiece. After several tributes to old-school film genres, from blaxploitation to kung-fu, Tarantino finally perfects the formula here. It never loses its focus on its main characters and when the primary antagonist is introduced, you won’t notice an hour of film has already flown by.

And what a villain Tarantino has created in the form of Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio). There are no grey spots here - Calvin Candie is a ruthless, disgusting human being and Tarantino holds nothing back as

he makes you despise the very ground he walks on. Almost every-one at the Candyland plantation is there to make the audience feel uncomfortable and almost every second at this estate is an absolute rollercoaster of emotions.

Make no mistake - the director is urging you to feel as uncomfortable as possible. Tarantino’s flair for violence reaches a pinnacle here and the moments they hit will haunt your imaginations for days. All these scenes resonate all the more longer because of how close to actual history they are. African-Americans were treated worse than beasts in the deep-south of post-independence America and the camera makes you a helpless witness to the cruelty they

were forced to endure. More than a few scenes are both heart-wrenching and rage inducing. After a particular act of brutality, Candie asks Django why Dr Schultz is more shaken by the act than he is - to which he replies “I’m just a little more used to Americans than he is.” Tarantino adds these sharp critiques throughout the film and it propels it to the utmost pinnacles of the genre.

In my introduction, I said I won’t particularly mention soundtracks as all his films have stellar music. But I have to go against that rule in this case. Primarily because the music here is the best music Tarantino has put in a film.

The soundtrack bounces from modern rap to southern blues to

Italian operatic and every single track works seamlessly with the scenes they are in. If you’re looking at reasons why Tarantino is often called a master at his craft, his music choices here are a shining testament to that fact. Superbly cast, brilliantly written and an immensely entertaining film in every department, ‘Django Unchained’ will make you run of adjectives to describe this film. In his 7th feature, Tarantino gives us his usual fresh take of a tired genre and also a fresh take from our own expectations from both the filmmaker and film as a whole. This week has been a cinematic feast of the most epic proportions and I can’t wait to dive into whatever Tarantino cooks up in his eight feature film ‘The Hateful Eight’.



WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Meryl Streep Movies

Find and circle all of the Meryl Streep movies that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 40 letters spell an additional Meryl Streep movie.

L D E A T H B E C O M E S H E R E E  
M A C R Y I N T H E D A R K T O N F  
S P S R E T T A M K R A D R Y A J I  
S B L A S T A I M A M M A M C U O L  
K T M E N N S H E D E V I L N B R  
R S I A N H I U C K H E R I E E E U  
A T I L L T G S H E A F A T F C V O  
M S M L L R Y U H R A E R O I M O Y  
E H A R K O O T L F E U R O I A L G  
R E R D E W F F O T E E H S D N N N  
V A V G A O O T S T A C D E O H I I  
S R I N C P U O H N S G E E F A G D  
K T N I P O T I D E O W N U H T N N  
R B S N R N N A I O N I F I O T I E  
A U R E I G F H T O U I L R C A L F  
M R O V M T P T R I U B G N A N L E  
E N O E E O T I E E O V T H E N A D  
R T M R S N O I T I D N E R T S F D

- |                     |                    |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| A CRY IN THE DARK   | HEARTBURN          | OUT OF AFRICA      |
| ADAPTATION          | IRONWEED           | PLENTY             |
| BEFORE AND AFTER    | JULIA              | PRIME              |
| DANCING AT LUGHNASA | KRAMER VS. KRAMER  | RENDITION          |
| DARK MATTER         | LIONS FOR LAMBS    | SHE-DEVIL          |
| DEATH BECOMES HER   | MAMMA MIA          | SILKWOOD           |
| DEFENDING YOUR LIFE | MANHATTAN          | SOPHIE'S CHOICE    |
| DOUBT               | MARVIN'S ROOM      | STILL OF THE NIGHT |
| EVENING             | MUSIC OF THE HEART | THE DEER HUNTER    |
| FALLING IN LOVE     | ONE TRUE THING     |                    |

Yesterday's Solution

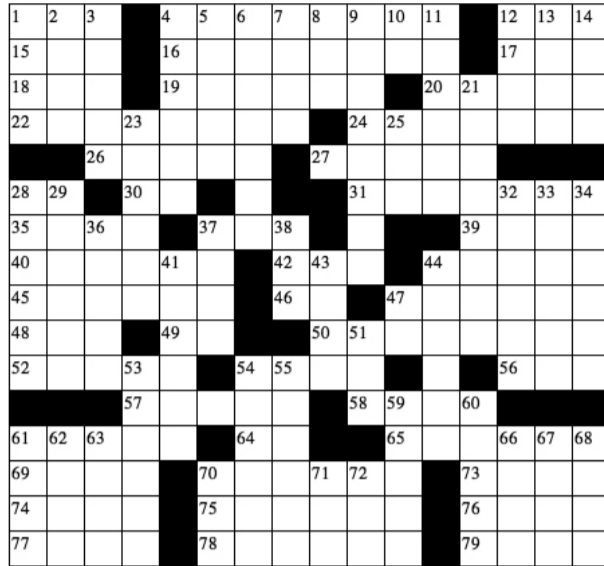
Canada

T P L O O N I E A T R O I C T V W U S H  
E C R T U V A N U N H S B C A H M N R P A  
U O B T R A C N E I E O H E I T A L V T  
L E I B E N C I S A I T A C T A T V L V T  
Y S A R O G O O M W R A E C R A D A F  
O E R T M D A E O P P H L Y C O O P A F  
T T G A I S R I T D L E C S A E O O P A F  
W U O H C O E I E A R S A V I W O I L  
A R R C E T I N A R T O R M Y T K A E K U A  
O I L C O E G O F E N F D A R J S N U A H  
Q N Q U T P C E B E D U Q U E S I P H S B  
U E E M R I C I T O R O N T O L S N Q  
E U E B E N I R E G T N A M B E C A O C S  
L I O I B N C I F A E L E L P A M N B T  
S E K A L I M Y E L L O W K N I F E D A  
W O N S A W P R C T W S N U R B W E N Y  
N O R T H W E S T E R R I T O R I E S

- |                  |               |                       |              |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| ALBERTA          | HOCKEY        | NEWFOUNDLAND          | REGINA       |
| BEARS            | IQUALUIT      | NORTHWEST TERRITORIES | SASKATCHEWAN |
| BEAVERS          | LABRADOR      | NOVA SCOTIA           | SNOW         |
| BRITISH COLUMBIA | LAKES         | NUNAVUT               | ST. JOHN'S   |
| CARIBOU          | LOONIE        | OIL                   | TOQUE        |
| CHARLOTTETOWN    | MANITOBA      | ONTARIO               | TORONTO      |
| CURLING          | MAPLE LEAF    | OTTAWA                | VICTORIA     |
| EDMONTON         | MAPLE SYRUP   | PRAIRIES              | WHITEHORSE   |
| FORESTS          | MOOSE         | PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  | WINNIPEG     |
| FREDERICTON      | MOUNTAINS     | QUEBEC                | YELLOWKNIFE  |
| GEESE            | NEW BRUNSWICK | RCMP                  | YUKON        |
| HALIFAX          |               |                       |              |

The hidden message is:  
THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC IS QUEBEC CITY

CROSSWORD 1138



ACROSS

- The rate at which energy is drawn from a source that produces a flow of electricity in a circuit.
- Having an illustrious reputation.
- American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
- A great rani.
- (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
- Any seed plant yielding balsam.
- Lighted up by or as by fire or flame.
- A city in central Myanmar north of Rangoon.
- Of or coming from the middle of a region or country.
- (Roman mythology) Goddess of agriculture.
- East Indian cereal grass whose seed yield a somewhat bitter flour, a staple in the Orient.
- A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- A state in northwestern North America.
- French naturalist who proposed that evolution resulted from the inheritance of acquired characteristics (1744-1829).
- Not far distant in time or space or degree or circumstances.
- A digestive juice secreted by the liver and stored in the gallbladder.
- A nettle yielding fiber resembling flax.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- Read anew.
- The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
- Black tropical American cuckoo.
- A state in New England.
- High status importance owing to marked superiority.
- A small Asian country high in the Himalayas between India and Tibet.
- A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
- Russian country house.
- South African term for 'boss'.
- The ninth month of the Hindu calendar.
- A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- Atlantic coast round clams with hard shells.

- Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
- Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
- (Norse mythology) Goddess of old age who defeated Thor in a wrestling match.
- African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
- On or toward the lee.
- Fallow deer.
- A member of the Algonquian people of southern Ontario.
- Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.

DOWN

- Electronic warfare undertaken to insure effective friendly use of the electromagnetic spectrum in spite of the enemy's use of electronic warfare.
- Type genus of the Majidae.
- The basic monetary unit in many countries.
- Go on board.
- A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
- Herbs of temperate regions.
- Posing no difficulty.
- A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
- Warm-blooded vertebrates characterized by mammary glands in the female.
- Half the width of an em.
- An ornamental jewelled headdress signifying sovereignty.
- Type genus of the Amiidae.
- Acquire or gain knowledge or skills.
- Made agreeably cold (especially by ice).
- Hairy perennial Eurasian herb with yellow daisylike flowers reputed to destroy or drive away fleas.
- A special loved one.
- One of the most common of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
- Characterized by absence of emotional agitation.
- A ribbon used as a decoration.
- A waste pipe that carries away sewage or surface water.
- The inner and usually edible part of a seed or grain or nut or fruit stone.
- (nautical) Of an anchor.
- A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
- The cry made by sheep.
- (Arthurian legend) The battlefield where King Arthur was mortally wounded.
- The function or position properly or customarily occupied or served by another.
- Soviet physicist who worked on low temperature physics (1908-1968).
- Being one more than one hundred.
- A state-chartered savings bank owned by its depositors and managed by a board of trustees.
- A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
- A republic in the Asian subcontinent in southern Asia.
- Stocky coarse-furred burrowing rodent with a short bushy tail found throughout the northern hemisphere.
- Jordan's port.
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- Offering fun and gaiety.
- Stems of beans and peas and potatoes and grasses collectively as used for thatching and bedding.
- An interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
- A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Common black-and-gray Eurasian bird noted for thievery.

Daily SuDoku

			2	5	9	6		
	6			7		9	5	
	7		6					
	3					8		4
8	2					5		3
6	4							9
					3			8
	4	8		6				7
		7	9	4	8			

very hard

Yesterday's Solution

8	4	1	7	2	3	5	9	6
9	5	7	4	1	6	3	8	2
2	3	6	8	9	5	7	1	4
3	2	9	6	5	7	1	4	8
6	8	5	1	4	2	9	7	3
1	7	4	9	3	8	6	2	5
4	1	8	5	6	9	2	3	7
7	6	3	2	8	1	4	5	9
5	9	2	3	7	4	8	6	1

medium

Yesterday's Solution

M	O	L		A	R	E	T	H	U	S	A		F	D	A
A	P	E		S	A	P	R	O	P	E	L		R	A	D
L	E	N	S		S	I	F	T		T	U	G	E	L	A
S	C	A	M		T	C		E	M	U	L	A	T	O	R
				I	G	A		S	I	N	B	A	D		
A	T	O	L	E				D		A	R	I	O	S	E
X	E	R	O	T	E	S		B	B	L		D	I	O	L
E	R	A				R	A	J	A			S	A	L	M
N	E	T	M	A	I	L		A	M	A	Z	E		A	D
I	S	O	E	T	E	S		A	L	I		A	L	E	
C	A	R	A	T		A	S	C	H		L	A	M	I	A
				D	A	H		P		A	H	A	B		
N	O	T	E	C	A	S	E			A	R	O	U	E	T
A	B	A		A	V	O	C	E	T		D	A	N	T	E
D	O	L		P	E	D	I	C	A	B		R	A	N	A
A	E	C		A	N	A	E	M	I	A		D	U	A	L



00:20 Misfit Garage  
01:10 What On Earth?  
02:00 Deadly Islands  
02:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island  
03:40 Storage Hunters UK  
04:05 The Liquidator  
04:30 Storage Wars Canada  
05:00 What Happened Next?  
05:30 How Machines Work  
06:00 Mythbusters  
06:50 The Carbonaro Effect  
07:15 The Carbonaro Effect  
07:40 You Have Been Warned  
08:30 Bride Of Jaws  
09:20 Dual Survival  
10:10 River Monsters  
11:00 What On Earth?  
11:50 Deadly Islands  
12:40 Treasure Quest: Snake Island  
13:30 Misfit Garage  
14:20 Street Outlaws  
15:10 Engine Addict With Jimmy De Ville  
16:00 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert  
20:10 Misfit Garage  
21:00 Misfit Garage  
21:50 Street Outlaws  
22:40 Engine Addict With Jimmy De Ville



00:35 Mythbusters  
01:20 How It's Made  
01:44 How It's Made  
02:08 How The Universe Works  
02:55 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
03:42 How The Universe Works  
04:29 Mythbusters  
05:16 How The Universe Works  
06:03 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
06:50 Mega Builders  
07:37 How Do They Do It?  
08:00 How Do They Do It?  
08:23 Mythbusters  
09:08 How The Universe Works  
09:53 Mega Builders  
10:38 How It's Made  
11:00 How It's Made  
11:23 Strip The Cosmos  
12:08 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
12:53 Mega Builders  
13:38 Mythbusters  
14:23 How It's Made  
14:46 How It's Made  
15:10 How The Universe Works  
15:57 Strip The Cosmos  
16:44 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
17:31 Mega Builders  
18:18 How The Universe Works  
19:05 Mythbusters  
19:50 Strangest Weather On Earth  
20:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
21:25 How It's Made  
21:50 How It's Made  
22:15 How The Universe Works  
23:00 Strangest Weather On Earth  
23:45 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?



00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
01:30 The Haunted  
02:20 Ghost Lab  
03:10 Deadly Affairs  
04:00 Swamp Murders  
04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
05:30 The Haunted  
06:20 Deadly Affairs  
07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
08:00 Dr. G: Medical Examiner  
08:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
09:40 Fatal Encounters  
10:30 Murder Shift  
11:20 Deadly Affairs  
12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
13:00 The Will  
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
14:40 California Investigator

15:05 Dr. G: Medical Examiner  
15:55 Fatal Encounters  
16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
17:35 Murder Shift  
18:25 I Almost Got Away With It  
19:15 The Will  
20:05 Deadly Affairs  
20:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
21:45 California Investigator  
22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
23:00 Serial Killers  
23:50 Deadly Devotion



00:00 Violetta  
00:45 The Hive  
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Wolfblood  
02:05 Wolfblood  
02:30 Violetta  
03:15 The Hive  
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
04:10 Wolfblood  
04:35 Wolfblood  
05:00 Violetta  
05:45 The Hive  
05:50 Mouk  
06:00 Lolirock  
06:25 Hank Zipzer  
06:50 Girl Meets World  
07:15 H2O: Just Add Water  
07:40 H2O: Just Add Water  
08:05 Austin & Ally  
08:30 Austin & Ally  
08:55 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
09:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
09:45 Jessie  
10:10 Jessie  
10:35 Cadet Kelly  
12:20 Hank Zipzer  
12:45 I Didn't Do It  
13:10 I Didn't Do It  
13:35 Liv And Maddie  
14:00 Liv And Maddie  
14:30 H2O  
14:55 H2O  
15:20 Jessie  
15:45 Jessie  
16:10 Violetta  
17:00 I Love Violetta  
17:10 Mulan 2  
18:25 The Good Dinosaur Movie

Special  
18:40 I Didn't Do It  
19:05 First Class Chefs  
19:30 Violetta  
20:20 I Love Violetta  
20:30 Mickey, Donald, Goofy In The Three Musketeers  
22:00 Binny And The Ghost  
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:10 Wolfblood  
23:35 Wolfblood



00:00 Christina Milian Turned Up  
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show  
01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
02:20 E! News  
03:15 Giuliana & Bill  
04:10 E! Entertainment Special  
05:05 Pop Innovators  
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
06:55 Kourtney & Kim Take New York  
07:50 Style Star  
08:20 E! News  
09:15 Giuliana & Bill  
10:15 Giuliana & Bill  
11:10 The Grace Helbig Show  
11:35 The Grace Helbig Show  
12:05 E! News  
13:05 Live From The Red Carpet  
15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
16:00 Dash Dolls  
17:00 Dash Dolls  
18:00 E! News  
19:00 Hollywood Cycle  
20:00 WAGs  
21:00 Fashion Bloggers  
21:30 Fashion Bloggers  
22:00 E! News  
23:00 House Of DVF



00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
01:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers  
01:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers  
02:00 Dinner At Tiffani's  
02:30 Dinner At Tiffani's  
03:00 Man Fire Food  
03:30 Man Fire Food  
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games

06:00 Chopped  
07:00 Man Fire Food  
07:30 Man Fire Food  
08:00 Chopped  
09:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
10:00 The Kitchen  
11:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
11:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
12:00 Chopped  
13:00 Guy's Big Bite  
13:30 Guy's Big Bite  
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
15:00 Man Fire Food  
15:30 Man Fire Food  
16:00 Chopped  
17:00 The Kitchen  
18:00 Siba's Table  
18:30 Grandma's Secret Cookbook  
19:00 Chopped  
20:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
21:00 Australian Food Adventures With Matt Moran  
22:00 Jenny Morris Cooks The Riviera  
22:30 Jenny Morris Cooks The Riviera  
23:00 The Freshman Class  
23:30 The Freshman Class



00:10 Pick Me!  
01:05 Emmerdale  
01:30 Coach Trip  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 Murdoch Mysteries  
03:25 Midsomer Murders  
05:15 The Chase  
06:10 Paddock To Plate  
07:05 Coach Trip  
07:30 Midsomer Murders  
09:20 Murdoch Mysteries  
10:15 The Chase  
11:10 Coach Trip  
11:35 Pick Me!  
12:30 Paddock To Plate  
13:25 Emmerdale  
13:50 Emmerdale  
14:20 Coronation Street  
14:45 Murdoch Mysteries  
15:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
16:30 Grantchester  
17:25 The Syndicate  
18:20 Paddock To Plate  
19:10 Coronation Street  
19:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
20:30 Grantchester  
21:25 The Syndicate  
22:20 Coronation Street  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Emmerdale



00:30 Cristela  
01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
02:30 The Big C  
04:00 Men At Work  
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
05:30 Young & Hungry  
06:00 Til Death  
06:30 New Girl  
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
08:00 Men At Work  
08:30 Young & Hungry  
10:30 New Girl  
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
12:00 Til Death  
13:00 Young & Hungry  
13:30 New Girl  
15:30 Cristela  
16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
16:30 Til Death  
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
18:00 Fresh Off The Boat  
18:30 Black-ish  
19:00 Parks And Recreation  
19:30 Baby Daddy  
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
21:00 Cristela  
21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
22:30 Girls  
23:00 The Big C  
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:00 Salem  
01:00 Blindspot  
02:00 Empire  
03:00 Secrets And Lies  
04:00 American Idol  
05:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
06:00 Covert Affairs  
07:00 Switched At Birth  
08:00 Odyssey  
09:00 American Idol  
10:00 Covert Affairs  
11:00 Switched At Birth  
12:00 Top Gear (US)  
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
14:00 Odyssey  
15:00 Live Good Morning America  
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
18:00 Odyssey  
19:00 American Idol  
21:00 Grey's Anatomy



00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
01:00 Good Morning America  
03:00 Downton Abbey  
04:00 Grimm  
05:00 Good Morning America  
07:00 Top Gear (UK)  
08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
09:00 Supernatural  
10:00 Top Gear (UK)  
11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
12:00 C.S.I.  
13:00 Shark Tank  
14:00 Supernatural  
15:00 Franklin & Bash  
16:00 The Voice  
17:00 C.S.I.  
18:00 Shark Tank  
19:00 Supernatural  
20:00 C.S.I.  
21:00 Shark Tank  
22:00 Downton Abbey  
23:00 Grimm



02:00 John Wick  
04:00 Jack The Giant Killer  
06:00 Assassin's Bullet  
08:00 Dying Of The Light  
10:00 Special ID  
12:00 Jack The Giant Killer  
14:00 Bloodsport  
16:00 Dying Of The Light  
18:00 Special ID  
20:00 Sabotage  
22:00 Transit



00:00 John Wick-18  
02:00 Jack The Giant Killer-PG15  
04:00 Assassin's Bullet-PG15  
06:00 Dying Of The Light-PG15  
08:00 Special ID-PG15  
10:00 Jack The Giant Killer-PG15  
12:00 Bloodsport-PG15  
14:00 Dying Of The Light-PG15  
16:00 Special ID-PG15  
18:00 Sabotage-PG15  
20:00 Transit-PG15  
22:00 The Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day-18



00:00 Duets  
02:00 Until She Came Along  
04:00 Almost Christmas  
06:00 A Simple Twist Of Fate  
08:00 Renaissance Man  
10:15 Until She Came Along  
12:00 Rush Hour  
14:00 Big Fat Liar  
15:45 Renaissance Man  
18:00 Rush Hour 2  
20:00 The Hot Chick  
22:00 Dumb And Dumber To



01:00 Two Men In Town-PG15  
03:00 Every Day-PG15  
04:45 A Promise-PG15  
06:30 For Greater Glory-PG15  
09:00 The Trouble With Bliss-PG15  
11:00 A Promise-PG15  
13:00 My Piece Of The Pie-PG15  
15:00 Second Coming-PG15  
17:00 The Trouble With Bliss-PG15  
19:00 Begin Again-PG15  
21:00 Very Good Girls-PG15  
23:00 Two Mothers-18



01:00 Julie And Julia  
03:15 Waitress  
05:15 Serial (Bad) Weddings  
07:00 Escobar: Paradise Lost  
09:00 October Sky  
11:00 Serial (Bad) Weddings  
12:45 Mood Indigo  
15:00 Against The Ropes  
17:00 October Sky



THE BOONDOCK SAINTS 2: ALL SAINTS DAY ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016

19:00 Jersey Boys  
21:15 Boyhood

## OSN MOVIES HD

01:00 Sniper: Legacy-PG15  
03:00 Transcendence-PG15  
05:15 Non-Stop-PG15  
07:00 The Intruders-PG15  
09:00 Big Hero 6-PG  
11:00 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes-PG15  
13:15 So Undercover-PG15  
15:00 Million Dollar Arm-PG15  
17:15 Big Hero 6-PG  
19:00 Paddington-PG  
21:00 Dolphin Tale 2-PG  
23:00 Transformers: Age Of Extinction-PG15

## OSN MOVIES HD

KIDS

01:15 Hatching  
02:45 The Three Dogateers  
04:30 Marvel's Ultimate Avengers I  
06:00 Miffy The Movie  
08:00 Bolts And Blip  
10:00 Echo Planet  
11:30 Jingle All The Way 2  
13:15 The Three Dogateers  
14:45 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble  
16:15 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie  
18:00 Echo Planet  
20:00 Sophia Grace And Rosie's Royal Adventure  
22:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble  
23:30 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie

## OSN MOVIES HD

PREMIERE

00:00 Sabotage-PG15  
02:00 Tactical Force-PG15  
04:00 For Better Or For Worse-PG15  
06:00 Escape From Planet Earth-PG  
08:00 Planes: Fire And Rescue-PG  
10:00 Son Of Batman-PG15  
12:00 Maleficent-PG  
14:00 Bears-PG  
16:00 Planes: Fire And Rescue-PG  
18:00 Parkland-PG15  
20:00 The Last Of Robin Hood-PG15  
22:00 Black Rock-18



04:10 Dirty Rotten Scoundrels  
06:00 Clifford  
07:30 Mannequin  
09:00 The Watsons Go To Birmingham  
10:30 Follow That Dream  
12:20 Seven Years In Tibet  
14:35 Beat Street  
16:20 A Star For Two  
17:55 The Great Escape  
20:45 Big Screen  
21:00 Road House  
22:55 Desperately Seeking Susan  
00:40 Les Miserables (1998)



03:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover  
04:00 Private Crimes  
04:30 Private Crimes  
05:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
07:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
08:00 Surveillance Oz  
09:00 Surveillance Oz  
10:00 Frenemies  
11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
12:00 Crime Stories  
13:00 Homicide Hunter  
14:00 I Survived  
15:00 Frenemies  
16:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
17:00 Crime Stories  
18:00 The First 48  
19:00 I Survived  
20:00 Homicide Hunter  
21:00 Crime Stories  
22:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
23:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
01:00 My Crazy Ex  
02:00 I Was Possessed



JOHN WICK ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



03:05 Calimero  
03:20 Zou  
03:30 Loopdidoo  
03:45 Art Attack  
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:20 Calimero  
04:35 Zou  
04:45 Loopdidoo  
05:00 Art Attack  
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:35 Calimero  
05:50 Zou  
06:00 Loopdidoo  
06:15 Art Attack  
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
06:50 Calimero  
07:00 Zou  
07:20 Loopdidoo  
07:35 Art Attack  
08:00 Calimero  
08:10 Zou  
08:25 Loopdidoo  
08:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
09:05 Sofia The First  
09:30 Miles From Tomorrow  
10:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
10:35 Doc McStuffins  
11:00 Sofia The First  
11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
12:00 Miles From Tomorrow  
12:25 Special Agent Oso  
12:40 The Hive  
12:50 Handy Manny  
13:15 Jungle Junction  
13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
14:00 Sofia The First  
14:25 Sofia The First  
14:50 Miles From Tomorrow  
15:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
16:05 The Adventures Of The Disney...  
16:35 Miles From Tomorrow  
17:00 Sofia The First  
17:25 Aladdin  
17:50 Gummi Bears  
18:15 Chip 'n' Dale's Rescue Rangers  
18:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
19:05 Miles From Tomorrow

19:30 Sofia The First  
19:55 Doc McStuffins  
20:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
20:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
21:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
21:35 Sofia The First  
22:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
22:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
22:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
23:20 Lilo And Stitch  
23:45 Cars Toons  
23:50 Zou  
00:05 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:20 Calimero  
00:35 Zou  
00:50 Loopdidoo  
01:05 Art Attack  
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:45 Calimero  
02:00 Zou  
02:15 Loopdidoo  
02:30 Art Attack  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster



07:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero  
07:25 Boyster  
07:50 Supa Strikas  
08:15 Lab Rats  
08:40 K. C. Undercover  
09:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
09:35 Kirby Buckets  
10:00 Lab Rats  
10:25 Kickin' It  
10:50 Mighty Med  
11:20 Supa Strikas  
11:45 K. C. Undercover  
12:10 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero  
12:35 Annedroids  
13:00 Skyrunners  
14:30 Phineas And Ferb  
14:45 Phineas And Ferb  
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
15:15 Rocket Monkeys  
15:40 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero  
16:05 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
16:30 Kirby Buckets  
16:55 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
17:25 K. C. Undercover  
17:50 Supa Strikas

18:15 Lab Rats  
18:40 Mighty Med  
19:10 Annedroids  
19:35 Kickin' It  
20:00 K. C. Undercover  
20:25 Supa Strikas  
20:55 Lab Rats  
21:20 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
21:45 Kickin' It  
22:10 Phineas And Ferb  
22:40 Super Matrak  
23:05 Super Matrak  
23:30 Boyster  
00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am  
KSA



03:00 Leepu & Pitbull  
04:00 American Daredevils  
04:30 American Daredevils  
05:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters  
05:50 American Pickers  
06:45 American Restoration  
07:10 American Restoration  
07:35 Shipping Wars  
08:00 Shipping Wars  
08:25 Counting Cars  
08:50 Counting Cars  
09:15 Mountain Men  
10:05 Shipping Wars  
10:30 Shipping Wars  
11:00 Leepu & Pitbull  
12:00 Counting Cars  
12:30 Counting Cars  
13:00 American Pickers  
14:00 Storage Wars  
14:30 Storage Wars  
15:00 Pawn Stars  
15:30 Pawn Stars  
16:00 Shipping Wars  
16:30 Shipping Wars  
17:00 Counting Cars  
17:30 Counting Cars  
18:00 Leepu & Pitbull  
19:00 American Pickers  
20:00 Storage Wars  
20:30 Storage Wars  
21:00 Alone  
22:00 Pawn Stars  
22:30 Pawn Stars  
23:00 Outlaw Chronicles: Hells Angels  
00:00 Pawn Stars  
00:30 Pawn Stars

## nickelodeon HD

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
03:48 Henry Danger  
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways  
05:00 Winx Club  
05:24 Sanjay And Craig  
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants  
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
07:48 Sanjay And Craig  
08:12 Harvey Beaks  
08:36 Breadwinners  
09:00 Get Blake  
09:24 Rabbids Invasion  
09:48 Henry Danger  
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways  
11:00 Winx Club  
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
13:00 Breadwinners  
13:24 Breadwinners  
13:48 Get Blake  
14:12 Rabbids Invasion  
14:36 Henry Danger  
15:00 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
16:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
17:00 Sanjay And Craig  
17:24 Harvey Beaks  
17:48 Breadwinners  
18:12 Henry Danger  
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
19:00 The Haunted Hathaways  
19:24 Max & Shred  
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
20:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
21:00 Breadwinners  
21:24 Breadwinners  
21:48 Sanjay And Craig  
22:12 Sanjay And Craig  
22:36 SpongeBob SquarePants  
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants  
23:24 Henry Danger  
23:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
00:12 Max & Shred  
00:36 The Haunted Hathaways  
01:00 Sanjay And Craig

01:24 Sanjay And Craig  
01:48 Sanjay And Craig  
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants  
Sundance Channel HD  
03:55 Mary Is Happy, Mary Is Happy  
06:00 The Red Road  
07:00 Rake  
08:00 Good Rockin' Tonight: Legacy Sun Records  
10:00 Edge Of Outside  
11:05 Banksy Does New York  
12:25 Produced By George Martin  
13:55 Marc Bolan: The Final Word  
14:50 Adopt A Sailor  
16:20 In Conversation With  
16:50 Edge Of Outside  
17:55 Banksy Does New York  
19:15 Battle For Britain  
19:30 Produced By George Martin  
21:00 The Great Train Robbery Pt.1  
22:30 The Great Train Robbery Pt.2  
00:00 Theatreland  
00:30 Hollywood's Best Film Directors  
01:00 Mrs. Brown  
02:50 Frida



03:40 World's Worst Mum  
04:30 Jon & Kate Plus 8  
05:00 Little People, Big World  
05:30 Cake Boss  
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Äi Bridesmaids  
06:25 Cake Boss  
08:05 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners  
08:55 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners  
09:45 Catwalk 30+  
10:35 Curvy Brides  
11:00 Curvy Brides  
13:30 Belief  
14:20 Oprah: Where Are They Now?  
15:10 Little People, Big World  
17:15 Extreme I Do's  
18:05 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day  
18:55 Cake Boss  
19:20 My Big Fat Fabulous Life  
19:45 My Big Fat Fabulous Life  
20:10 Kate Plus 8  
21:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life  
21:50 7 Little Johnstons  
22:40 Long Island Medium



**Aries (March 21-April 19)**

Complaints or a general irritable attitude needs to be exercised through contemplation and physical exercise this morning. Keep your emotional thoughts to yourself when you are with your co-workers today. You may feel that your responsibilities are too many and you could find yourself revising the demands upon your time. Allocating jobs may be a wise choice. There is time to tie up loose ends and complete past projects. Good changes in your financial status are in the offing-less taxes, good investments, debts paid, or legacies may play a part in this. Be wise and economize. You could come up with new creative ideas or inventions while playing with some hobby of yours this afternoon. Intimate times can be sensational.



**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**

Progress at work may have to remain incomplete due to the many interruptions today. A co-worker friend may have some good techniques to use toward solving any problems. Of course, you will need to find time to discover just what type of technique you will need to learn. Later today the frustration of delay may again creep up when you have to weigh one decision against another. You will intuitively know the right path to take. It is important to have patience with yourself. Harmonious times with family members are rewarding this afternoon. It is easy to get your ideas and thoughts across to these loved ones. You may be helping with some project later this evening and, if you have kids, or friends with kids, you help with their school work.



**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**

A group meeting today is not organized-you may find it difficult to express yourself. You look for ways to stop the confusion and free the blockage-focus. This would be a good time to take notes in order to bring about an improvement for future meetings. Later this morning you will have an opportunity to use your great wit. This is a good time to write and communicate with real originality. Use your practical vision and common sense to create some recognition in your career. A gathering of a few neighbors or friends creates the opportunity to share some fun times and build fun memories. You may have some psychic and spiritual awareness just now. There are some fun conversations about dreams. Your dreams may be insightful-keep a dream diary.



**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**

The arousal of deep feelings can come to your attention at the drop of a hat. You pay attention to the insights you have and can see an opening to speak up and ask for a job advance or a raise at the right time. Your professional standing is positive. There is an opportunity to get acquainted with someone new at your lunch break. A healthy cleansing happens when you take the right nutrition and combination that you may need. Sometimes intense laughter will cause a release of tension, for you or someone else. Memories of past events will meet the present and your abilities to come to an understanding will leave the future open to freedom. Fun times are ahead this evening with your friends and big plans are in the makings for another get-together soon.



**Leo (July 23-August 22)**

You have an instinctive imperative to be powerful and in control-pulling the strings, as it were. This may lead to a greater interest or experience in healing and investing. Even though you may find yourself crying over someone or something with which you have experienced a closure, there will also be a feeling of having peace of mind. You exert a special confidence today-you realize you are in control of your own life. You can rise above the feelings of being manipulated if you set clear limitations on your own personal energies. A boost of encouragement will come your way this evening and harmony will prevail. Family and home are in a flux of change for the positive. New habits, new friends and a new you will find you looking forward to new goals.



**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**

Learn how to handle interruptions and avoid overwork that leads to stress. You cannot avoid stress but you can handle it. Your success the next few weeks will be large in measure. The word for the day is pace. Although this is not the most stressful of days, it can be taxing. After lunch the pressures ease a bit and you will be able to enjoy your own life situation. A friend or loved one will get your attention in the afternoon-someone needs your advice. People value your ability to make practical decisions, so... Separate yourself emotionally from your personal needs and desires of the moment and go forward with what needs to be done. This evening brings clear communication with your loved ones. Forgiveness and understanding is possible.



**Libra (September 23-October 22)**

A temperamental colleague may keep you quite busy today. You may want to plot your path in the workplace to make better headway with some projects that are pending. World affairs, perhaps environmental, may bring up some spiritual subjects today. Although it is a good idea to keep politics and spiritual matters at a distance in most cases, a co-worker friend and you may find yourself involved in a spiritual discussion. Some friends or co-workers may seek you out for your advice and counsel regarding very personal and emotional issues. You will be able to be understanding and handle some very touchy subjects. You are able to cut through the confusion and find the truth behind a situation. You and your loved one find a special connection tonight.



**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

Long-delayed projects will finally have a positive boost this month. These projects could be in publishing, artistic endeavors or cultural matters. This is a great time to be with others and to work together. Being appreciated and admired for your special abilities is a powerful answer to a deep need for acknowledgment. Taking chances can bring big rewards. Your creative imagination will bring you a high level of success and rewards for your hard work. Joint finances can be a source of difficulty, especially if you are not telling important details to your partner or your partner to you. You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation. Laughing is more fun with two. A good conversation with a loved one is possible this evening.



**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**

The morning is full of wonderful insights and you will not forget those invigorating energies that come along with the feeling of learning. When a co-worker lacks ideas this afternoon you may have to pull on your patience and take a little time to help this person with some work issues or projects. This could mean merging a new technique or method. Finances may be a big issue today-a co-investor may have some answers-listen carefully. A healing takes place between friends today. It is time to forgive-let go and move forward. The holiest of all the spots on earth is where an ancient hatred has become a present love. A gathering of friends this evening will bring some fun times. Sharing interests and ideas boosts the spirits of all the participants.



**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**

Make sure your expectations are realistic. Avenues for improvement are available through discipline. Now is the time to concentrate on whatever job is before you. A happy home and a successful career life are your goals this year-you are motivated to see this transpire. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on an emotional significance now. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need. Communicating feelings is very important this evening. Desire, charisma and passion come into play when you have your focus on romance. If you are looking, someone new and fun will come into your life today. This may be any positive type of encounter. This should be a memorable birthday.



**Aquarius (January 20- February 18)**

There is a need to do your own thing today and if allowed to do so, you will make a great deal of progress with whatever you set your mind to accomplish. Perhaps you will be able to ease up on the pressure you have put on yourself in the past. You will be paying a debt from last year and clearing away paperwork as well. Old business that was not finished at the end of last year can be completed now. New ways to communicate or an easy manner will make conversations and interactions go well. A dialogue with an older person may take place this afternoon-insights are possible. There is new information coming your way regarding health care. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities this evening.



**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**

Those wonderful ideas of yours could benefit you and others if you could write them down when they come to you. You are empowered with greater mental insight and you can perceive an unusual opportunity for good investments or for any other moneymaking opportunity. Today you may look into a couple of investment choices and choose accordingly. Others could learn from your detective work. Your effervescent personality makes you almost magnetic this afternoon when it comes to making new neighbors feel at home. You might cook or pick up some sort of food dish, along with a list, map or layout of the area in order to help them with an easier transition. If you take the initiative, a goal that seemed beyond your reach is obtainable.

**COUNTRY CODES**

Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Bahamas	001242	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahrain	00973	Martinique	00596
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritania	00222
Barbados	001246	Mauritius	00230
Belarus	00375	Mayotte	00269
Belgium	0032	Mexico	0052
Belize	00501	Micronesia	00691
Benin	00229	Moldova	00373
Bermuda	001441	Monaco	00377
Bhutan	00975	Mongolia	00976
Bolivia	00591	Montserrat	001664
Bosnia	00387	Morocco	00212
Botswana	00267	Mozambique	00258
Brazil	0055	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brunei	00673	Namibia	00264
Bulgaria	00359	Nepal	00977
Burkina	00226	Netherlands	0031
Burundi	00257	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Cambodia	00855	New Caledonia	00687
Cameroon	00237	New Zealand	0064
Canada	001	Nicaragua	00505
Cape Verde	00238	Niger	00227
Cayman Islands	001345	Nigeria	00234
Central African	00236	Niue	00683
Chad	00235	Norfolk Island	00672
Chile	0056	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
China	0086	North Korea	00850
Colombia	0057	Norway	0047
Comoros	00269	Oman	00968
Congo	00242	Pakistan	0092
Cook Islands	00682	Palau	00680
Costa Rica	00506	Panama	00507
Croatia	00385	Papua New Guinea	00675
Cuba	0053	Paraguay	00595
Cyprus	00357	Peru	0051
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Philippines	0063
Czech Republic	00420	Poland	0048
Denmark	0045	Portugal	00351
Diego Garcia	00246	Puerto Rico	001787
Djibouti	00253	Qatar	00974
Dominica	001767	Romania	0040
Dominican Republic	001809	Russian Federation	007
Ecuador	00593	Rwanda	00250
Egypt	0020	Saint Helena	00290
El Salvador	00503	Saint Kitts	001869
England (UK)	0044	Saint Lucia	001758
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Pierre	00508
Eritrea	00291	Saint Vincent	001784
Estonia	00372	Samoa US	00684
Ethiopia	00251	Samoa West	00685
Falkland Islands	00500	San Marino	00378
Faroe Islands	00298	Sao Tome	00239
Fiji	00679	Saudi Arabia	00966
Finland	00358	Scotland (UK)	0044
France	0033	Senegal	00221
French Guiana	00594	Seychelles	00284
French Polynesia	00689	Sierra Leone	00232
Gabon	00241	Singapore	0065
Gambia	00220	Slovakia	00421
Georgia	00995	Slovenia	00386
Germany	0049	Solomon Islands	00677
Ghana	00233	Somalia	00252
Gibraltar	00350	South Africa	0027
Greece	0030	South Korea	0082
Greenland	00299	Spain	0034
Grenada	001473	Sri Lanka	0094
Guadeloupe	00590	Sudan	00249
Guam	001671	Suriname	00597
Guatemala	00502	Swaziland	00268
Guinea	00224	Sweden	0046
Guyana	00592	Switzerland	0041
Haiti	00509	Syria	00963
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Serbia	00381
Honduras	00504	Taiwan	00886
Hong Kong	00852	Tanzania	00255
Hungary	0036	Thailand	0066
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Toga	00228
Iceland	00354	Tonga	00676
India	0091	Tokelau	00690
Indian Ocean	00873	Trinidad	001868
Indonesia	0062	Tunisia	00216
Iran	0098	Turkey	0090
Iraq	00964	Tuvalu	00688
Ireland	00353	Uganda	00256
Italy	0039	Ukraine	00380
Ivory Coast	00225	United Arab Emirates	00976
Jamaica	001876	United Kingdom	0044
Japan	0081	Uruguay	00598
Jordan	00962	USA	001
Kazakhstan	007	Uzbekistan	00998
Kenya	00254	Vanuatu	00678
Kiribati	00686	Venezuela	00582
Kuwait	00965	Vietnam	0084
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Laos	00856	Virgin Islands US	001340
Latvia	00371	Wales (UK)	0044
Lebanon	00961	Yemen	00967
Liberia	00231	Yugoslavia	00381
Libya	00218	Zambia	00260
		Zimbabwe	00263

# LIBERIA DECLARED EBOLA-FREE

## LIBERIA EBOLA FREE FOR 42 DAYS, ACCORDING TO WHO

**MONROVIA:** Liberia was declared free of the Ebola virus by global health experts yesterday, a milestone that signalled an end to an epidemic in West Africa that has killed more than 11,300 people.

But the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned there could still be flare-ups of the disease in the region, which has suffered the world's deadliest outbreak over the past two years, as survivors can carry the virus for many months and could pass it on. Health specialists cautioned against complacency, saying the world was still underprepared for any future outbreaks of the disease.

Liberia was the last affected country to get the all-clear, with no cases of Ebola for 42 days, twice the length of the virus's "incubation period" - the time elapsed between transmission of the disease and the appearance of symptoms. "All known chains of transmission have been stopped in West Africa," the WHO, a UN agency, said yesterday. The other affected countries, Guinea and Sierra Leone, were declared Ebola-free late last year. There were cases in seven other countries including Nigeria, the United States and Spain, but almost all the deaths were in the West African nations.

"It is the first time since the start of the ... epidemic in West Africa two years ago that the three hardest-hit countries had zero cases for at least 42 days," said WHO's Liberia representative Alex Gasasira. The



**MONROVIA:** Children walk past a slogan painted on a wall reading "Ebola" in Monrovia. The World Health Organization (WHO) announced yesterday that the Ebola epidemic that has ravaged west Africa for two years was over after Liberia, the last affected country, received the all-clear. — AFP

WHO announcement on Thursday is a major step in the fight against a disease that began in the forests of eastern Guinea in December 2013 before spreading to Liberia and Sierra Leone. It overwhelmed medical infrastructure in the region which was ill-equipped to deal with the outbreak, and at its height in late 2014 sparked global fears among the general public. However the agency urged caution - Liberia had previously twice been declared virus-free, in May and September of 2015, but each time a fresh cluster of cases unexpectedly emerged.

Experts said progress had been made in the region's response to

Ebola, with new cases having dwindled due to public health campaigns, efforts to trace and isolate potential sufferers and the safe treatment and burial of patients and victims.

But it said the countries would still struggle to deal with any future large outbreak of Ebola, which is passed on through blood and bodily fluids and killed around 40 per cent of those who contracted the virus. Hundreds of healthcare workers in both urban and rural communities were among those killed by the disease, a major blow to medical systems in countries which already had among the lowest numbers of doctors per head of

population in the world.

### 'WE MUST LEARN'

"Today's WHO announcement is welcome news but we must learn from Ebola's devastating impact and ensure we are better prepared for infectious disease outbreaks," said Dr Seth Berkley, head of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, an organisation that aims to increase access to vaccines in poor countries.

"The world is still worryingly underprepared for potential future health threats and a change of mind-set is required to ensure we invest in research and development today to protect ourselves in years to come."

Experts also warned other tropical diseases posed future threats, including the previously little known mosquito-borne Zika virus, which has been linked to head-related birth defects and is spreading in South America.

Hilde de Clerck, a doctor with Medecins Sans Frontieres who has assisted with five Ebola outbreaks including in Congo, Uganda and the latest epidemic in West Africa, said vigilance was crucial to prevent the re-emergence of the disease, for which there is no universally effective treatment and no fully proven vaccine. "I think we should not forget about the risk of other outbreaks," she said. "I am most concerned about some of the basics: hygiene, equipment and training." — Reuters

## EBOLA ORPHANS STRUGGLE TO RESUME THEIR LIVES

**CONAKRY:** Saa Mathias Lenoh, a high school student in the Guinean capital Conakry, says he's "learning to smile little by little," like thousands of other youngsters orphaned by Ebola in west Africa. According to the United Nations, more than 22,000 children lost at least one parent to the deadliest Ebola outbreak in history whose epicentre lay in the west African countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. "The children really suffered at the start. The moment one came to know of illness in the family, they were automatically stigmatised," said Yaya Diallo, an official with Plan International, a leading global NGO. "The neighbors and even neighborhood children who would play with them and went to school with them were forbidden by their parents to do so," he said.

"Their own parents in turn would virtually lock them up at home or send them to communities very far away so that they would not have to suffer," Diallo said. The outbreak, which had its origins in Guinea, infected almost 29,000 people and claimed 11,315 lives, according to official data which most experts accept represents a significant underestimate. The World Health Organization will on Thursday declare an official end to this outbreak. It initially led to a knee-jerk reaction from locals, and children from affected families often bore the brunt of ignorance and prejudice. In one particularly horrific case in neighbouring Liberia, 12-year-old Fatu Sherrif was locked into her home with her dead mother in the quarantined hamlet of Ballajah, 150 kilometres (90 miles) from the capital Monrovia, as panicked neighbours fled to the forest.

Her cries could be heard for several days by the few who had stayed in the abandoned village before she died alone, without food or water. International organisations deplored the lack of traditional solidarity to those affected this time round in contrast to earlier times, such as when AIDS had ravaged the continent. But since then, nearly all those children have been taken in by foster families or are in care, the UN children's agency UNICEF noted. — AFP

CLINIC  
PAGE



Kuwait Times

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (14/01/2016 TO 20/01/2016)

**SHARQIA-1**  
KUNG FU STYLE 1:00 PM  
KUNG FU STYLE 3:00 PM  
FORECLOSURE 5:00 PM  
THE HATEFUL EIGHT 7:00 PM  
FORECLOSURE 10:15 PM  
THE HATEFUL EIGHT 12:15 AM

**SHARQIA-2**  
THE 5TH WAVE 11:30 AM  
RIDE ALONG 2 1:45 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 3:45 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 5:30 PM  
THE 5TH WAVE 7:30 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 10:00 PM  
THE 5TH WAVE 12:05 AM

**SHARQIA-3**  
THE REVENANT 12:30 PM  
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD 1:30 PM  
THE REVENANT 3:30 PM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 3:30 PM  
THE REVENANT 6:30 PM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 6:45 PM  
THE REVENANT 9:30 PM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 10:00 PM  
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD 12:30 AM  
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD 1:15 AM

**MUHALAB-1**  
KUNG FU STYLE 1:00 PM  
KUNG FU STYLE 3:00 PM  
KUNG FU STYLE 5:00 PM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 7:00 PM  
DILWALE - Hindi 7:00 PM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 10:15 PM  
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD 1:30 AM

**MUHALAB-2**  
THE 5TH WAVE 12:45 PM  
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD 1:30 PM  
THE REVENANT 3:30 PM  
SOGGADE CHINNI NAYANA -Telugu 3:30 PM  
THE REVENANT 6:30 PM  
SOGGADE CHINNI NAYANA -Telugu 6:30 PM  
SOGGADE CHINNI NAYANA -Telugu 9:30 PM

**MUHALAB-3**  
RIDE ALONG 2 11:30 AM  
THE REVENANT 1:30 PM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 1:30 PM  
THE REVENANT 4:30 PM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 4:45 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 8:00 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 9:45 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 11:30 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 1:15 AM

**FANAR-1**  
DADDY'S HOME 11:30 AM  
DADDY'S HOME 1:30 PM  
THE REVENANT 3:30 PM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 3:30 PM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 6:30 PM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 9:45 PM  
DADDY'S HOME 1:00 AM

**FANAR-2**  
THE HATEFUL EIGHT 11:30 AM  
FORECLOSURE 2:45 PM  
THE HATEFUL EIGHT 4:30 PM  
FORECLOSURE 7:45 PM  
FORECLOSURE 9:45 PM  
THE HATEFUL EIGHT 11:45 PM

**FANAR-3**  
KUNG FU STYLE 12:15 PM  
KUNG FU STYLE 2:15 PM  
KUNG FU STYLE 4:15 PM  
THE REVENANT 6:15 PM  
THE REVENANT 9:15 PM  
THE REVENANT 12:15 AM

**FANAR-4**  
RIDE ALONG 2 12:15 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 2:15 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 4:15 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 6:15 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 8:15 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 10:15 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 12:15 AM

**FANAR-5**  
THE 5TH WAVE 11:30 AM  
THE 5TH WAVE 1:45 PM  
THE 5TH WAVE 4:15 PM  
DILWALE - Hindi 6:45 PM  
THE 5TH WAVE 9:45 PM  
THE 5TH WAVE 12:45 AM

**MARINA-1**  
FORECLOSURE 1:00 PM

THE 5TH WAVE 3:00 PM  
FORECLOSURE 5:30 PM  
THE 5TH WAVE 7:30 PM  
FORECLOSURE 10:00 PM  
THE 5TH WAVE 12:05 AM

**MARINA-2**  
RIDE ALONG 2 12:45 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 2:45 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 4:45 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 6:45 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 8:45 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 10:45 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 12:45 AM

**MARINA-3**  
KUNG FU STYLE 11:45 AM  
KUNG FU STYLE 1:45 PM  
KUNG FU STYLE 3:45 PM  
THE REVENANT 5:45 PM  
THE REVENANT 8:45 PM  
THE REVENANT 11:45 PM

**AVENUES-1**  
DILWALE - Hindi 12:45 PM  
DILWALE - Hindi 3:45 PM  
SOGGADE CHINNI NAYANA -Telugu 3:45 PM  
DILWALE - Hindi 6:45 PM  
SOGGADE CHINNI NAYANA -Telugu 6:45 PM  
DILWALE - Hindi 9:45 PM  
SOGGADE CHINNI NAYANA -Telugu 9:45 PM  
THE 5TH WAVE 12:45 AM

**AVENUES-2**  
KUNG FU STYLE 11:30 AM  
KUNG FU STYLE 1:30 PM  
KUNG FU STYLE 3:30 PM  
KUNG FU STYLE 5:30 PM  
KUNG FU STYLE 7:30 PM  
DADDY'S HOME 9:30 PM  
DADDY'S HOME 11:45 PM

**AVENUES-3**  
THE 5TH WAVE 1:15 PM  
EXTRACTION 1:45 PM  
THE 5TH WAVE 3:45 PM  
THE 5TH WAVE 6:15 PM  
THE 5TH WAVE 8:45 PM  
THE 5TH WAVE 11:15 PM

**AVENUES-4**  
THE REVENANT 11:30 AM  
THE REVENANT 2:45 PM  
DILWALE - Hindi 5:45 PM  
THE REVENANT 9:00 PM  
THE REVENANT 12:15 AM

**AVENUES-5**  
RIDE ALONG 2 12:30 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 2:30 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 4:30 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 6:30 PM  
THE 5TH WAVE 8:30 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 10:45 PM  
RIDE ALONG 2 12:45 AM

**AVENUES-6**  
DADDY'S HOME 12:00 PM  
DADDY'S HOME 2:15 PM  
DADDY'S HOME 2:00 PM  
DADDY'S HOME 4:30 PM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 4:00 PM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 7:00 PM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 10:15 PM  
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD 1:30 AM

**AVENUES-7**  
FORECLOSURE 12:00 PM  
FORECLOSURE 2:00 PM  
FORECLOSURE 4:00 PM  
FORECLOSURE 6:00 PM  
FORECLOSURE 8:00 PM  
FORECLOSURE 10:00 PM  
FORECLOSURE 12:05 AM

**360°-1**  
THE REVENANT 11:30 AM  
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu 1:45 PM  
THE REVENANT 2:30 PM  
THE REVENANT 5:45 PM  
THE REVENANT 9:00 PM  
THE REVENANT 12:15 AM

**360°-2**  
CHALK N DUSTER - Hindi 11:30 AM  
CHALK N DUSTER - Hindi 2:00 PM  
DILWALE - Hindi 4:45 PM  
DILWALE - Hindi 8:00 PM  
DILWALE - Hindi 11:15 PM

**360°-3**  
EXTRACTION 12:00 PM

## For Rent in Jabriya

**A full floor in house in Jabriya**  
300m<sup>2</sup>, first floor, 4 rooms, 4bathrooms, reception, big hall, fully equipped kitchen, large balcony, maid's room, central satellite, parking lot, built-in closets in every room. **Rent 900KD**

**Call: 99074424**

## WANTED

*For a men's health club and a saloon*

**Massage, Pedicure and manicure workers**

*Transferable visa No salary 50:50*

Tel: **66816800**  
**99211879**

## VILLA for RENT

Small Elegant VILLA  
In SURRA Easy  
Access For more  
information please

Contact: 99753197

## Prayer timings

**Fajr: 05:20**  
**Shorook 06:44**  
**Duhr: 11:57**  
**Asr: 14:52**  
**Maghrib: 17:11**  
**Isha: 18:33p**



## Hospitals

<b>Sabah Hospital</b>	<b>24812000</b>
<b>Amiri Hospital</b>	<b>22450005</b>
<b>Maternity Hospital</b>	<b>24843100</b>
<b>Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital</b>	<b>25312700</b>
<b>Chest Hospital</b>	<b>24849400</b>
<b>Farwaniya Hospital</b>	<b>24892010</b>
<b>Adan Hospital</b>	<b>23940620</b>
<b>Ibn Sina Hospital</b>	<b>24840300</b>
<b>Al-Razi Hospital</b>	<b>24846000</b>
<b>Physiotherapy Hospital</b>	<b>24874330/9</b>

## Clinics

<b>Kaizen center</b>	<b>25716707</b>
<b>Rawda</b>	<b>22517733</b>
<b>Adaliya</b>	<b>22517144</b>
<b>Khaldiya</b>	<b>24848075</b>
<b>Kaifan</b>	<b>24849807</b>
<b>Shamiya</b>	<b>24848913</b>
<b>Shuwaikh</b>	<b>24814507</b>
<b>Abdullah Salem</b>	<b>22549134</b>
<b>Nuzha</b>	<b>22526804</b>
<b>Industrial Shuwaikh</b>	<b>24814764</b>
<b>Qadsiya</b>	<b>22515088</b>
<b>Dasmah</b>	<b>22532265</b>
<b>Bneid Al-Gar</b>	<b>22531908</b>
<b>Shaab</b>	<b>22518752</b>
<b>Qibla</b>	<b>22459381</b>

# Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016



German economy notches up solid growth in 2015

US JOBLESS CLAIMS RISE; IMPORT PRICES DECLINE Page 38

Page 40



BEIJING: A group of workers rest outside a securities company in Beijing yesterday. China logged its worst economic performance since the global financial crisis in the third quarter of 2015, with gross domestic product (GDP) rising just 6.9 percent its lowest rate in six years. —AFP

## SAUDI, GULF GROWTH FORECASTS CUT GCC STATES TO AVOID RECESSION: ANALYSTS

**DUBAI:** Analysts have cut their forecasts for economic growth in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf's other rich oil states this year but still expect the region to avoid recession by a comfortable margin, a Reuters poll found. The median forecast of 22 economists surveyed by Reuters is for gross domestic product growth in Saudi Arabia, the region's biggest economy, to slow to 1.9 percent in 2016. That is down from a forecast of 2.5 percent in the last Reuters poll, conducted three months ago.

But only one economist expects GDP to shrink this year, and the median forecast is for growth to pick up slightly in 2017, to 2.2 percent. The region's second biggest economy, the United Arab Emirates, is expected to fare better because it has stronger government finances and a diversified business landscape which relies less on oil. The UAE is expected to expand 3.0 percent this year, slowing only moderately from an estimated 3.3 percent last year and compared to a 2016 forecast of 3.3 percent in October's poll. The median forecast for next year's growth has been kept unchanged at 3.4 percent. The plunge of the Brent crude oil price to a 12-year low below \$30 a barrel, from around \$110 just 18 months ago, has given the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries with their biggest economic challenge in more than a decade. Although their oil sectors have continued growing as production has increased, the price drop has slashed governments' income, forcing them to cut spending and plan to raise taxes. In the last few months, this has started

to hurt private sector growth in the region, and pressure is expected to increase in coming months.

London-based Capital Economics said spending cuts in Saudi Arabia would help to reduce its big budget and current account deficits this year, allowing Riyadh to adjust to low oil prices without devaluing its riyal currency, but added: "All of this will come at the expense of weaker economic growth. We have pencilled in GDP growth of 1.5 percent this year, down from the 3.4 percent recorded in 2015."

The poll shows analysts reducing their 2016 GDP growth forecasts for Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain only moderately, even though all of them have begun constraining state spending and most are considering tougher fiscal reforms. Most GCC governments are expected to reduce their budget deficits this year through austerity measures, but in some cases the deficits will remain high enough to continue causing concern in financial markets, the poll indicated. Saudi Arabia's fiscal deficit is forecast to edge down to 14.1 percent of GDP this year and 10.3 percent next year from an estimated 16.8 percent in 2015. The UAE is projected to shrink its deficit to 3.8 percent in 2016 and just 0.6 percent in 2017 from 4.7 percent in 2015. But the two financially weakest governments in the GCC, Oman and Bahrain, are expected to continue to struggle, posting deficits of 14.6 percent and 11.9 percent this year - huge gaps in relation to the size of their economies. —Reuters

## SAUDI SINKS 2%, KSE INDICES CLOSE IN RED

**DUBAI:** Stock markets in Saudi Arabia and Egypt fell sharply early yesterday after Brent oil dropped below \$30 a barrel to 12-year lows and global equity markets resumed their downtrend.

Petrochemical stocks pulled the Saudi stock index 2.0 percent lower in the first half hour of trade. Saudi Kayan Petrochemical tumbled 6.4 percent after it reported a net loss for the fourth quarter - its largest since it listed in 2007, according to a note by NCB Capital.

The company is an affiliate of Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC), whose shares fell 2.2 percent.

Major lenders National Commercial Bank and Banque Saudi Fransi rose 1.0 and 0.2 percent respectively after their quarterly earnings beat forecasts. But the balance sheets of both recorded falls in deposits in the last three months of 2015, showing how lower oil prices are squeezing lenders' liquidity.

Food producer Halwani Brothers climbed 5.0 percent after reporting a 63 percent rise

in net profit.

Cairo's benchmark index extended Wednesday's sharp sell-off, falling 3.1 percent and taking its yearly losses to around 14 percent. All stocks retreated as foreign funds resumed Wednesday's aggressive redemptions. Western asset managers' favourites Commercial International Bank and Global Telecom tumbled 4.5 and 2.9 percent.

"The local and regional traders are too scared to enter and buy up the stocks that are being dumped, because they are waiting for the panic sell-off triggered by the foreign funds to settle," said a Cairo-based trader.

Kuwait Stock Exchange ended yesterday in the red zone as the price index bled 87.02 points reaching 5,265.94 points, the weighted index lost 7.86 points reaching 355.39 points and the KXS 15 dropped 23.34 points reaching 828.38 points. The number of trades was 3,271 transactions with a value of KD 18,019,759.63 and a volume of 124,164,618 shares. —Agencies

## EGYPT'S ECONOMY TO GROW JUST OVER 4% IN FY2015/16

**CAIRO:** Egypt's economy is set to grow 4.1 percent this financial year, marginally weaker than the previous year and short of the government's own growth expectations, a Reuters poll found. Egypt has been struggling to revive its economy since a 2011 uprising toppled Hosni Mubarak, causing political and economic turmoil that deterred foreign investors and tourists and put a strain on the country's foreign reserves.

Foreign reserves have been cut by more than half since 2011, falling from \$36 billion to

\$16.44 billion in December. The government's decision to hold the tightly managed currency flat against the dollar is a troubling development, economists at HSBC wrote in a note to clients. "The controls have left Egypt with a significant dollar shortage, undermining activity as firms struggle to access imports," wrote Simon Williams and Razan Nasser. "The FX shortages have also served to discourage investment from home and overseas." Economists in the survey expect growth for the financial year 2016/17 to

be 3.5 percent and 4.0 percent for 2017/18. The government said the economy grew around 4.2 percent last year while its 2015/2016 budget projects growth of 5 percent for the financial year ending June.

A poll in October showed analysts expected Egypt's economy to grow 4.3 percent in the year ending June 2016 and for the following two years. The central bank has been trying to balance the need for economic growth while keeping inflation risks at bay, but in December

it raised key interest rates by 50 basis points, citing inflationary pressures. The lending rate hike to 10.25 percent was the first since July 2014.

Analysts in the poll were reluctant to provide forecasts for monetary policy. Three of five respondents expected the lending rate would stay at its current level across the poll horizon, one said the central bank would continue hiking while one priced in a further 25 basis point hike before the end of the 2016/17 fiscal year. —Reuters



**SEOUL:** Pedestrians walk past a Seoul City Tour Bus (C-red) along a crosswalk in downtown Seoul yesterday. South Korea's central bank cut its economic growth outlook for 2016 to three percent, citing lingering "uncertainties" over a slowdown in key export markets and the won currency. —AFP

# US JOBLESS CLAIMS RISE; IMPORT PRICES DECLINE

## OIL PRICE DROP LEADS TO TAME INFLATION

**WASHINGTON:** The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits unexpectedly rose last week, but remained below levels associated with a healthy labor market.

Other data yesterday showed import prices tumbled in December for a sixth straight month as the cost of petroleum and a range of other goods fell further, suggesting a tame inflation environment could persist in the near term. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits increased 7,000 to a seasonally adjusted 284,000 for the week ended Jan. 9, the Labor Department said. Still, it was the 45th consecutive week that claims remained below the 300,000 mark, which is associated with strong labor market conditions. That is the longest such stretch since the early 1970s.

Economists had forecast claims slipping to 275,000 last week. The increase likely reflects volatility rather than a change in labor market conditions, as the data is difficult to adjust during holidays. Claims also tend to increase at the start of each quarter.

The four-week moving average of claims, considered a better measure of labor market trends as it strips out week-to-week volatility, rose 3,000 to 278,750 last week. US stock

index futures were trading higher after the data, while the dollar was slightly weaker against a basket of currencies. Prices for US Treasury debt fell.

The labor market has largely shrugged off weakness in the economy, with nonfarm payrolls surging in December. Economic growth has been hit by a strong dollar, slowing global demand, efforts by businesses to slim an inventory bloat, and spending cuts by energy companies.

### BENIGN INFLATION

In another report, the Labor Department said import prices decreased 1.2 percent last month after dropping 0.5 percent in November. Import prices have now declined in 16 of the last 18 months, a sign they will continue to weigh on consumer goods prices. For all of 2015, import prices fell 8.2 percent, the largest calendar-year decrease since 2008.

The strong dollar and a sharp drop in oil prices are keeping imported inflation subdued, leaving overall inflation well below the Federal Reserve's 2 percent target.

With the dollar continuing to rise against major currencies and oil prices hovering at 12-year lows, inflation will probably remain

benign for a while. Economists say weak inflation together with slowing domestic and global growth could make the Fed cautious about increasing interest rates at its March policy meeting, despite tightening labor market conditions.

The US central bank last month raised its benchmark overnight interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point to between 0.25 percent and 0.50 percent, the first rate hike in nearly a decade.

In November, imported petroleum prices plunged 10 percent after sliding 3.6 percent in November. Excluding petroleum, import prices slipped 0.4 percent after falling 0.3 percent in November.

The dollar's 21.7 percent appreciation against the currencies of the United States' main trading partners over the last 20 months has made imported goods cheaper. Prices for industrial supplies excluding petroleum fell 1.4 percent, while the cost of imported capital goods slipped 0.3 percent. The report also showed export prices dropping 1.1 percent last month after sliding 0.7 percent in November. Export prices fell 6.5 percent in 2015, the largest calendar-year drop since the index was first published in 1983. —Reuters

## News

in brief

### US dollar stable against Kuwait dinar at 0.303

**KUWAIT:** The exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar yesterday was stable at KD 0.303, while the euro went up to KD 0.330 compared to the exchange rates for Wednesday, said a statement by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). According to the CBK, the exchange rate of the Sterling pound went down to KD 0.437 and the Swiss franc to KD 0.301. Exchange rate of the Japanese yen remained the same at KD 0.002.

### Barwa Real Estate signs \$444.3m Islamic loan Jan

**DOHA:** Qatar's Barwa Real Estate yesterday said it had signed a \$444.3 million Sharia-compliant loan with Islamic bank Masraf Al-Rayan. The loan is for 5-7 years and will be used to refinance earlier borrowings, Barwa said in a statement to Doha's bourse.

### Al-Hilal Bank closes \$175m two-year Islamic loan

**DUBAI:** Abu Dhabi's government-owned Al Hilal Bank has closed a \$175 million Islamic loan transaction with three banks, sources aware of the matter told Reuters yesterday. The loan has a life span of two years, three sources with direct knowledge of the deal said, on condition of anonymity as the information is not public. The transaction was arranged by Commerzbank, Emirates NBD and National Bank of Abu Dhabi, they added. Al Hilal Bank's spokesman declined to comment. The sharia-compliant lender is one of a number of Gulf-based banks seeking funds to help ease a squeeze on liquidity caused by lower oil prices. The sources yesterday declined to give the pricing of the loan, although bankers told Reuters in November that Al Hilal Bank was marketing the loan with all-in pricing of 150 basis points over the London interbank offered rate (Libor).

### Egyptian pound steady at forex sale

**CAIRO:** Egypt's central bank kept the pound steady against the dollar at its official foreign currency auction yesterday, and the currency also held steady on the black market. Egypt, which depends on imported food and energy, is facing a dollar shortage and increasing pressure to devalue the pound. The central bank surprised markets when it strengthened the pound on Nov. 11 by 20 piasters against the dollar and has bucked expectations by holding it steady ever since. The central bank sold \$39.4 million at a cut-off price of 7.7301 pounds to the dollar, unchanged from the previous auction.

### Islamic Development Bank in talks for Q1 sukuk issue

**DUBAI:** Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has invited banks to pitch for roles in arranging a potential dollar-denominated sukuk, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters yesterday. The AAA-rated IDB is planning a benchmark-sized sukuk offering in the first quarter, two sources with direct knowledge of the deal said, on condition of anonymity as the information is not yet public. Benchmark size is traditionally understood to be upwards of \$500 million. IDB was not immediately available for comment. IDB, which last issued a \$1 billion five-year Islamic bond in March, is looking to increase its issuance of sukuk, partly to raise its profile among international investors and to secure similar pricing levels to other development banks.

## FRESH ROUT RESUMES ON WORLD STOCK MARKETS

**LONDON:** Another fierce global selloff gripped Asia and Europe yesterday as investors seized on tumbling oil prices and intensifying concerns over the darkening world outlook. Heavy Wall Street losses on Wednesday cut short a two-day rally and smothered hopes of a sustained turnaround on battered global markets.

Oil collapsed this week to 12-year lows below \$30 a barrel, wracked by oversupply and demand fears linked to China's economic slowdown, sending shockwaves across trading floors.

"The rout across global stock markets resumed again today as investors remain on edge," said analyst Manoj Ladwa at brokerage TJM Partners. "A continued weakness in the price of oil and mounting growth concerns are all weighing heavy on equity prices," he told AFP.

Paris stocks nosedived 3.1 percent, hit also by a 20-percent drop in Renault's share price after unions reported anti-fraud raids at the French carmaker.

Frankfurt tumbled 2.9 percent as investors digested news that the eurozone's largest economy grew by about 0.25 percent in the fourth quarter, after expansion of 0.3 percent in the previous three months. 'Fragile and uncertain' markets -

London equities shed 2.0 percent before an interest rate decision from the Bank of England, which is forecast to keep British borrowing costs at a record-low 0.50 percent. Elsewhere, Madrid dropped 2.2 percent and Milan dipped 2.0 percent. "This appears just to be an extension of the sell-off in the US and Asia overnight and reflects the fragile and uncertain nature of the markets at the moment," said Oanda analyst Craig Erlam.

He added that investors appeared to be "very nervous" but sounded a note of caution.

"I do not think it's as bad as this at this stage and while it may result in a healthy and natural correction in the markets, I don't anticipate the kind of carnage that some foresee."



**TOKYO:** A man is reflected on an electronic stock indicator of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. —AP

However, most Asian markets sank yesterday, tracking Wall Street, as hopes evaporated of a recovery from the recent stocks bloodbath for the region.

Tokyo plunged almost four percent in the first hour and Shanghai fell below its lowest levels of the summer rout. The broad-based sell-off in Asia came after Wall Street's three main indexes saw big losses, with energy firms taking a hammering

again as oil prices hit lows not seen since the first half of 2004.

Adding to the gloom, the Federal Reserve's Beige Book survey of regional economic conditions stoked jitters over the world economy. Japan's Nikkei dived 2.7 percent, Sydney shed 1.6 percent and Hong Kong lost 0.6 percent, while Shanghai ended 2.0 percent higher on bargain hunting.

### Oil firms after slump

News of rising US stockpiles sent Brent oil prices tumbling underneath \$30 per barrel on Wednesday for the first time since 2004. New York crude had already breached the key psychological barrier on Tuesday. However, the oil market crept back towards \$31 in morning deals yesterday.

"Last night's sell-off on Wall Street, and concerns as to just how far oil prices will slide, continue to rattle investor confidence on a global scale," added TrustNet analyst Tony Cross. Lower oil prices weigh heavily on the energy sector because they eat into profits and revenues.

Sentiment was also hit by news that suicide attackers struck the Indonesian capital Jakarta yesterday, killing at least seven people. The blasts came after Istanbul was rocked by a deadly suicide bombing carried out by an Islamic State (IS) jihadist that killed 10 German tourists.

Growing evidence of a slowdown in China remains at the forefront of market worries, according to Erlam.

"Oil prices, terror attacks and heightened geopolitical risk are additional factors weighing on sentiment right now-but I think the main concern is around China and emerging markets and the threat they pose to the global economy," he said. —AFP

## WEF WARNS OF GROWING ARRAY OF GLOBAL RISKS

**LONDON:** The global economy faces a worrying array of risks, from natural disasters related to climate change to the rise of the Islamic State group and hacking, according to experts polled by the World Economic Forum, which organizes the gathering of political and business leaders in the Swiss resort of Davos. In a bleak assessment published Thursday ahead of next week's discussions in Davos, the WEF said its survey found that a failure to deal with and prepare for climate change is potentially the most costly risk over the next ten years.

That's the first time that an environmental concern has topped the list of global risks in the 11 years the organization has carried out the survey.

"Climate change is exacerbating more risks than ever before in terms of water crises, food shortages, constrained economic growth, weaker social cohesion and increased security risks," said Cecilia Reyes, chief risk officer at Zurich Insurance, which helped develop the annual Global Risks Report.

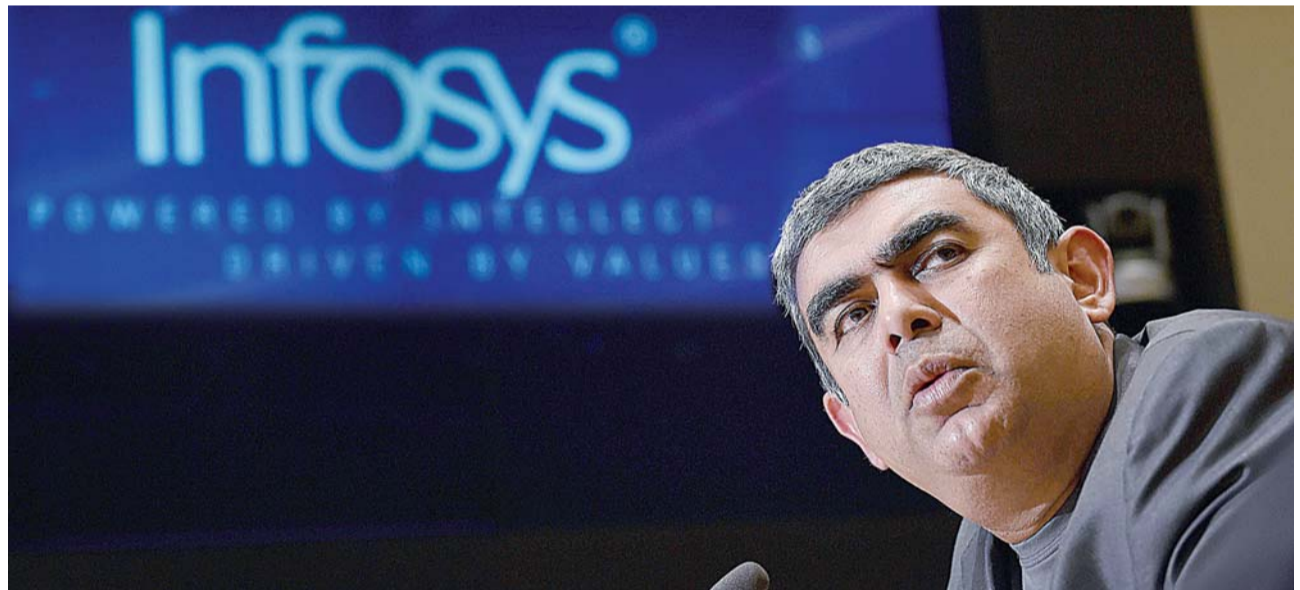
The survey of almost 750 experts and decision-makers from a variety of fields, locations and ages was conducted in the autumn of 2015 before the global warming targets agreed on in Paris in December.

John Drzik, president of global risk at insurance broker Marsh, which also helped develop the report, conceded that climate change might have been lower down the list - but still high given 2015 was the hottest year on record - if the poll had been conducted after the Paris Agreement. The deal saw nearly 200 countries agree to keep global temperatures from rising another degree Celsius (1.8 Fahrenheit) between now and 2100.

### Refugee crisis

Drzik said the 2016 report has the "broadest array" of risks facing the global economy in the survey's 11-year history. However, he said the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, which saw the collapse of numerous banks around the world and the deepest global recession since World War II, may have seen leaders more concerned about the future.

"Events such as Europe's refugee crisis and terrorist attacks have raised global political instability to its highest level since the Cold War," Drzik said. In its survey, the WEF found that large-scale involuntary migration - not just in Europe but within regions, including the Middle East - was the most likely risk, as opposed to potential impact, to the stability of the global economy. —AP



**BANGALORE:** CEO of Infosys Technologies Limited Vishal Sikka announces the 3rd quarter results of the company at a press conference held at Infosys headquarters in Bangalore yesterday. —AFP

## EDISON LOOKS TO SELL PART OF EGYPT'S ABU QIR FIELD

### KUWAIT'S KUFPEC AMONG PROSPECTIVE BUYERS

**MILAN:** Edison, Italy's No 2 energy company owned by France's EDF, is trying to sell part of its Abu Qir field in Egypt and has opened the books to prospective buyers including Kuwait's KUFPEC, people familiar with the matter said. Edison, which paid around \$1.4 billion for the field in 2009, owns all exploration and production rights at Abu Qir but manages it in a joint venture with Egypt's EGPC.

"The data room is open and KUFPEC is one of at least four companies that have had a look," one source said. A second source also reported the Kuwaiti company's interest along with others but said the fall in oil prices was slowing the process.

In comments sent to Reuters, Edison said it might reduce its stake in Abu Qir while remaining operator of the concession.

"Within its portfolio management activity, Edison is consid-

ering reducing its stake in Abu Qir, but keeping the majority and remaining in Egypt as long-term operator," a spokeswoman said.

Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), owned by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, was not available for comment. Last year, Edison's then CEO Bruno Lescoeur said Egypt was a key market for the international activities of the company which had invested \$2 billion in upgrading business there.

But EDF is selling billions of euros of assets to bolster its balance sheet and fund nuclear and renewable energy operations, and analysts believe upstream oil and gas operations could be sold.

Abu Qir currently produces around 45,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day. Its gas production has doubled from 140 to 270 million cubic feet per day. —Reuters

## FRENCH FM TOUTS JOBS PLAN AND DEFICIT DIP

**PARIS:** French President Francois Hollande, now in his last full year in office before 2017 elections, will present a job creation plan on Monday that temporarily subsidises low-wage workers at a cost to the state of around 2 billion euros (\$2.2 billion).

Finance Minister Michel Sapin said the plan would be funded by savings in other areas of public spending. A source familiar with the matter but who asked to remain anonymous said it would involve a one-off state payout of 2,000 euros to companies employing low earners, reducing the expense for firms of such hires.

Hollande has said he will not consider running for a second term if he cannot claim to have made inroads against a jobless rate of more than 10 percent. Many economists believe a modest, if unimpressive, pickup in economic growth should permit a small drop in unemployment over the year ahead.

Sapin, asked by local radio station Europe 1 if the employment plan would cost something like two billion euros, replied that that figure was "not far from reality".

A past Socialist government sought to combat unemployment by providing tax rebates to low-wage workers to encourage them to stay working rather than relying on benefit. But such a system takes longer to feed through to people in a country where income tax and rebates are calculated with a lag of a year or more.

Sapin also highlighted at a news conference that France's central government budget, a key part of the total public deficit, had turned out 4 billion euros lower than forecast for 2015, at a level of around 70 billion euros. Official figures later confirmed the deficit at 70.5 billion, reduced by spending cuts and higher tax receipts.

The deficit was now at its lowest since before the global financial crisis in 2008 and would allow France to honour fiscal commitments for the first time in a long time, he said.

"The figures published this morning .. allow us to finance additional spending, especially on security, while also reducing our deficit," Sapin said. "We will keep reducing our deficit in 2016 and 2017 as we promised." France aims to cut its overall public deficit - comprising welfare and local authority finances in addition to the central government budget - to 3.3 percent of economic output in 2016 and bring it in line with an EU-agreed limit of 3.0 percent in 2017, when presidential and parliamentary elections take place. — Reuters

## BOE KEEPS RECORD LOW INTEREST RATE

**LONDON:** The Bank of England yesterday decided to keep its main interest rate at a record-low 0.50 percent against a backdrop of low inflation and growth in Britain.

The BoE's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) left its key rate at 0.5 percent, where it has stood since March 2009, it said in minutes from the latest two-day monthly gathering. The bank maintained also the level of cash stimulus, or quantitative easing (QE), pumping around the British economy at £375 billion (\$541 billion, 495 billion euros). The rate-setting MPC panel "voted by a majority of 8-1 to maintain bank rate at 0.5 percent", the bank said in the minutes. It voted unanimously to keep QE unchanged.

"Recent volatility in financial markets has underlined the downside risks to global growth, primarily emanating from emerging markets," the BoE said yesterday.

It added that recent "declines in oil prices will depress global inflation in the near term".

The BoE's main task is to try and keep 12-month inflation close to a government-set target of 2.0 percent. The most recent official data showed that the Consumer Price Index rose by 0.1 percent in November.

Bank of England policymakers expect the recent plunge in oil prices will weigh a bit on British inflation in the coming months but said it remains unclear if the impact would be lasting.

The Bank also said economic growth looks like it will be a bit slower than it previously forecast. However, the fall in oil prices might boost economic growth in Britain and other economies, the central bank said on Thursday as it announced its monthly rate decision, keeping its options open ahead of a new set of forecasts due next month. — Agencies



**COLOGNE:** Containers are stacked at the harbor in Cologne, Germany. The German economy, Europe's biggest, grew by 1.7 percent last year, authorities said yesterday, a performance that was fueled mainly by domestic demand and was in line with the government's forecast. — AP

## GERMAN ECONOMY NOTCHES UP SOLID GROWTH IN 2015

### RATES, INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT AT RECORD LOW LEVELS

**BERLIN:** The German economy, Europe's biggest, shrugged off the Greek crisis, the economic slowdown in China and geopolitical uncertainties to notch up "solid and consistent growth" in 2015, the federal statistics office said yesterday.

With interest rates, inflation and unemployment all around record low levels, domestic demand has become the main growth driver, analysts said. And in the short term at least, the massive inflow of more than one million asylum seekers into the country will boost demand further this year, the analysts predicted. According to a preliminary estimate by Destatis, German gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 1.7 percent in 2015, fractionally faster than the 1.6 percent recorded in 2014.

At the same time, Germany clocked up a surplus on its public budget of 16.4 billion euros (\$17.9 billion), equivalent to 0.5 percent of GDP and the second year in a row that Germany's public finances have been firmly in the black, the office said.

Eurozone countries are not allowed to run up deficits in excess of 3.0 percent of GDP and must aim for a balanced budget for even a surplus in the longer-term.

"The economic situation in Germany in 2015 was characterized by solid and consistent growth," said Destatis president Dieter Sarreither.

"Almost all industrial sectors saw growth," he said. And the increase in economic activity was driven primarily by domestic demand, Sarreither continued.

"Consumption was the most important growth engine in the Germany economy. Investment and foreign trade helped support the positive trend, too, but to a much smaller extent."

Among the different GDP components, private consumption was up 1.9 percent in 2015 and government spending grew by 2.8 percent; investment in machinery and equipment advanced by 3.6 percent; exports were up 5.4 percent and imports expanded by 5.7 percent.

In concrete terms, GDP amounted to 3.027 trillion euros in 2015, the first time ever that it has topped the three-trillion mark, and it was generated by more than 43 million people in employment, the highest level since unification in 1990, Destatis said.

The statisticians did not provide any precise growth figures for the fourth quarter alone, which are not scheduled to be released until February 12.

But in a very rough estimate, Destatis said it was pencilling in growth of "about a quarter of a percent" for the last three months of 2015, compared with 0.3 percent in the preceding quarter.

### Defies headwinds

Economists welcomed the overall data. "2015 was the year... in which the German economy, despite many headwinds like the Greek crisis, the slowdown in emerging markets and China and increased geopolitical uncertainties, continued its recovery," said ING DiBa economist Carsten Brzeski.

"Looking ahead, the two-speeded recovery, with strong consumption and services on the one hand and sluggish industrial production and exports on the other hand, should continue in 2016," the expert continued. Consumption should receive a boost from the record influx of refugees, at least in the short term, the analyst argued. At the same time, low interest rates, low inflation and high employment should also boost growth.

BayernLB economist Stefan Kipar was similarly confident. "We're projecting a continuation of the moderate growth trend this year, as well," he said, forecasting annual average growth of 1.8 percent. UniCredit economist Andreas Rees said that "going forward, we think that there is more to come both in terms of private and public consumer expenditures. We expect GDP growth of 'about' two percent for this year."

Berenberg Bank economist Holger Schmieding was also optimistic. "With a fiscal stimulus of at least 0.5 percent due mostly to extra spending on refugees, Germany may even manage to marginally surpass the (growth) for 2015, despite likely declines in exports to China and to some other emerging markets."

The lagged impact of the weaker euro and gains in demand from developed countries such as the United States and Britain, as well as many of Germany's eurozone neighbors "will likely offset the hit to exports from countries further away," Schmieding said. — AFP





**BEIJING:** People sit in front of an electronic board displaying stock prices at a brokerage house in Beijing yesterday. Asian stock markets sank across the board yesterday as pessimistic sentiment following sustained weakness in oil prices and a dive on Wall Street prevailed over data showing economies on the mend. — AP

# MARKET CRISIS BATTERS FAITH IN CHINA'S MANAGEMENT SKILLS

## TURBULENCE A BLEMISH ON RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT

**BEIJING:** Stock market and currency turmoil has battered Chinese leaders' reputation as shrewd economic managers and fed doubts about their willingness to push through more wrenching reforms.

In the stock market, a "circuit breaker" to suspend trading in the event of wide price swings backfired and fueled steeper falls. It was withdrawn after just four days. That followed complaints curbs on stock sales and other emergency measures imposed to stop last year's market plunge were clumsy and fueled investor panic. In currency markets, Beijing has struggled to squelch expectations it plans to devalue the yuan. That has forced the government to spend tens of billions of dollars to defend the exchange rate.

Such volatility is common in developing countries, but China's status as the world's second-largest economy and biggest trader mean missteps cause global shockwaves. And the latest turmoil has a political tinge because it comes as Beijing is promoting a bigger role for itself as a regional military power and in managing international trade and finance.

The Communist Party under President Xi Jinping wants the prosperity that comes from free-market competition and has promised entrepreneurs a bigger role in the state-dominated economy. But when stock prices plunged last June, the party reached back to the era of central planning for the sledgehammer of direct government control. It banned sales by large shareholders and ordered state companies to buy.

### Greater play

Forecasters who expect China to keep growing at a healthy rate "pinned that expectation on a belief that market forces will be given greater play," said Mark Williams, chief Asia economist for Capital Economics. "If the government cannot bring itself to allow market forces to be felt in

China, then the outlook is a lot grimmer."

The party has won praise for making it easier to start and run a private business. But it has yet to act on what the World Bank and other reform advocates say is the most pressing issue: Cutting monopolies and other privileges of state companies that control industries from banking to energy to telecoms and are a drag on China's steadily slowing economic growth. That reflects the intense political forces opposed to reducing the state's role in the economy, especially from the party's own factions that see a threat to the flow of money and other resources they can extract from government industries.

Beijing's moves on stocks and currency "are indicative of tension between the leadership's desire for market-oriented reform and the apparent fundamental objective of control," said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics in a report. "How this tension will be resolved in the coming years will be central to China's economic development and thus will have major global ramifications."

The latest turbulence is a blemish on an acclaimed record of achievement as party leaders steered China through two decades of explosive growth to become the world's second-largest economy.

A society of farmers and factory workers who lived in state housing evolved in little over a decade into a nation of homeowners. After the 2008 crisis, China rebounded quickly while Western countries struggled. China emerged as the most important growth market for designer clothes, Hollywood movies and smartphones.

But now, the World Bank and other advisers say China has reached a point where the economy no longer can be micro-managed by bureaucrats if it is to keep growing.

Last year's economic growth, due to be reported next week, is forecast to have

slowed to 7 percent or below. That still would be the world's second-highest, surpassed only by India, which is one-tenth China's size. But growth is forecast to fall further this year and economists say it will dwindle to dangerously low levels without more private competition. That raises the risk of job losses and political unrest.

For investors abroad who lack a detailed understanding of Chinese economic management, the stock market rout shook their confidence in China's leaders, said Bernard Aw, a strategist for IG in Singapore.

"Of course, the backtracking on the circuit breakers, that kind of news makes the misunderstanding even deeper," said Aw. "It also creates the impression that, Oh, they are doing trial and error, they don't know what they are doing."

Investor trust also has been eroded by the Communist Party's reflexive secrecy and abrupt policy changes with little warning.

In August, the central bank startled global markets by announcing it would use a new mechanism to make yuan's state-set exchange rate more market-oriented. The People's Bank of China gave few details and allowed the yuan to fall 2 percent against the dollar the first day, stirring fears of a steeper decline and possible competitive devaluations by other governments.

After weeks of uncertainty, Premier Li Keqiang tried to mollify concern by telling an audience of businesspeople Sept. 9 that Beijing had no plans for a "continuous devaluation." But over the four months since then, the central bank appeared to contradict that by allowing the yuan to fall another 3.4 percent to a five-year low against the dollar. The uncertainty has led to a capital outflow of tens of billions of dollars a month. Financial analysts say investors don't believe repeated promises to avoid a bigger decline, so they are shifting assets abroad before anything valued in yuan loses value. — AP

## HI-TECH, COFFEE AND CABS HELP PUSH CHINA 2015 FDI UP 6.4%

**BEIJING:** China attracted \$126.3 billion, or 781.4 billion yuan, in non-financial foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2015, up 6.4 percent from 2014, despite its cooling economy.

With traditional heavy industries facing persistent weakness, foreign investors favoured the more robust services sector and higher-value, hi-tech manufacturing last year, data from commerce ministry showed yesterday.

The services sector has utilized \$77.2 billion, or 477.1 billion yuan of foreign investment, up 17.3 percent from 2014. United States ride-hailing firm Uber has committed to invest 6.3 billion yuan (\$956.33 million) in China as it aims to break into its huge tourism industry with businesses ranging from transportation services to automotive financing. The world's largest coffee chain, Starbucks Corp, said on Tuesday it aims to open 500 stores in China this year, its largest market outside of the US, and aims to create 10,000 jobs in China every year through 2019.

At present, investment from overseas companies contributes to half of all foreign trade in China, one-quarter of industrial output, one-seventh of urban employment and one-fifth of tax income, the ministry statement said. While FDI is a key measure of general overseas investment interest in China, it is a small factor within overall capital flows and when compared to the huge export sector.

The ministry has yet to release December FDI figures and outbound investment figures, but according to Reuters calculations, China attracted \$12.23 billion, or 77.02 billion yuan, in non-financial FDI in December.

High-tech manufacturing accounted for \$9.41 billion, or 58.35 billion yuan, of foreign direct investment in 2015, up 9.5 percent from 2014 and accounting for 23.8 percent of investment in China's manufacturing sector, according to the commerce ministry's statement.

Almost no FDI was approved for industries suffering from overcapacity such as steel, cement and ship-building, the statement said. Free trade zones in Guangdong, Tianjin and Fujian attracted investment of 445.81 billion yuan from 6,040 overseas companies between January and November 2015, according to the statement.

The government has encouraged firms recently to expand investment abroad to gain global competitiveness. — Reuters

## EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK DIVIDED OVER CHINA RISKS

**FRANKFURT:** Policymakers at the European Central Bank disagreed at their last meeting over how big a threat turmoil in China and other emerging markets posed to Europe's modest economic recovery. The written summary of the Dec 3 meeting released yesterday also shows members of the 25-member governing council took different views on inflation, which the bank is struggling to push up closer to its goal of just under 2 percent.

The result of the debate was a decision to add less stimulus than many market participants had expected. The ECB cut the deposit rate for funds held by banks and extended its bond-buying stimulus program. Some member thought that worries about China, a key export market for the 19-country eurozone, "had not been borne out."

The bank's decision took the deposit rate for funds left at the central bank by commercial banks to minus 0.30 percent from minus 0.20 percent. The negative rate is intended to push banks to loan the money rather than hoard it at the super-safe central bank deposit facility. The ECB also extended its 60 billion euros per month in bond purchases by six months, through March 2017. The stimulus is aimed at increasing inflation, considered too low at 0.2 percent, and stimulating the economy. Growth is increasing but unemployment remains high in the currency union. ECB President Mario Draghi had expressed concern that slowing growth and financial turmoil in emerging markets such as China could hurt the recovery and delay progress in returning inflation toward the bank's goal. Low inflation is a sign of economic weakness and can kill off growth and investment if it becomes entrenched.

The approved stimulus reflected the proposal submitted by council member Peter Praet, who as one of the six member executive board is responsible for economics. Some board members called for adding more stimulus by increasing the cut in the deposit rate to 0.2 percentage points. At least one and possibly more members wanted to increase the size of the monthly bond purchases, but remained in the minority.

The written summary leaves out names and results of any voting to avoid putting political pressure on council members who are also heads of their national central banks. They are supposed to decide monetary policy for the eurozone as a whole, not favoring any one country. — AP

# INJURY CRISIS HITS AUSTRALIAN OPEN BUILD-UP

**MELBOURNE:** A catalogue of injuries threatens to play havoc with the Australian Open and put more pressure on women's tour organizers to reform the playing schedule. Injuries or illness have felled most of the women's top 10 in recent weeks, in what is either a hefty dose of bad luck or something more avoidable. World number one Serena Williams is chief among the injury concerns after she pulled out of the Hopman Cup exhibition tournament with a sore knee.

But the 21-time Grand Slam-winner is not alone, with only her sister Venus and Flavia Pennetta—who has retired—unscathed among the women's top 10. Simona Halep, Garbine Muguruza, Agnieszka Radwanska and Maria Sharapova have all pulled out of build-up tournaments because of injury concerns. Meanwhile Petra Kvitova and Angelique Kerber have been hit by gastroenteritis, while Lucie Safarova is skipping Melbourne because of a problems linked to a bacterial infection. While illness is largely uncontrollable, Williams, Halep and Sharapova are all still hampered by injuries which affected them last season, whose tail-end was unusually busy.

Problems on the men's side are also comparatively light, suggesting a link between the injuries and the women's tour-whose schedule has repeatedly been criticized by players. Incoming Women's Tennis Association Steve Simon has already promised "fundamental changes" to the demanding calendar after a rash of injuries and withdrawals towards the



This combo shows the top five women's seeds for the 2016 Australian Open - (left to right) Serena Williams of the US, Simona Halep of Romania, Garbine Muguruza of Spain, Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland and Maria Sharapova of Russia. The Australian Open, the first Grand Slam tournament of the tennis season, starts in Melbourne on January 18, 2016. — AFP

end of last season. "Clearly one of the big issues that we have right now is dealing with... getting our athletes through the season healthy," he said at the WTA Finals in Singapore.

#### Pushed to the limits

The women's season is particularly busy during its final months, when an "Asian swing" kicks in after the year's last Grand Slam, the US Open. Last year, places were up for grabs until the last minute at the lucrative, eight-woman WTA Finals, prompting players to push themselves to the limits in a late dash for qualifying points.

Whether injuries have a major impact on the Australian Open remains to be seen, but there are certainly concerns over Williams, who has not played a competitive match since September. The American great retired during her only match at the Hopman Cup in Perth, and Australian Open organizers will hope she meant what she said when she insisted she was "feeling great now". Sharapova, injured for much of last season, has also expressed confidence about her recovery from a forearm problem which first surfaced in September and forced her to drop out of Brisbane.

Second-ranked Halep is having trouble

shaking off an achilles injury which also affected her last year, but after withdrawing from Brisbane she played this week in Sydney. World number three Muguruza retired from her first match in Brisbane with a foot problem, and fourth-ranked Radwanska withdrew from Sydney with a leg injury. For women's legend Martina Navratilova, whose playing career lasted into her late 40s, "the number of injuries withdrawals is still too high". "You got to think long-term. Maybe it's great to have all these tournaments but at the end of the day, if you don't have enough players playing, you got a problem," she said at the WTA Finals. — AFP

## SERENA HAS QUESTIONS TO ANSWER IN MELBOURNE

**MELBOURNE:** Defending champion Serena Williams insists she is fighting fit in her bid for a seventh Australian Open crown despite an injury scare and lack of match practice. The world number one has barely played since the US Open in September, when Roberta Vinci shattered her dream of a calendar-year Grand Slam in a heart-breaking semi-final defeat. Williams attempted a comeback at this month's Hopman Cup mixed-team tournament in Perth but retired with soreness in her left knee, sparking speculation that at 34, she could be past her peak.

But the American 21-time Grand Slam champion, who also battled knee problems in the latter half of 2015, insists she is "ready to go" at the Melbourne Park tournament starting Monday. "My body is feeling great now," she said this week. "Obviously I had a hiccup but right now it is doing much better. I've had a few days of training so it's looking good." She added: "I know what I need to do on and off the court to win big tournaments." Melbourne Park has been a happy hunting ground for Williams. She claimed her first Australian Open title way back in 2003, beating elder sister Venus in the final, and reached her sixth last year when she toppled arch-rival Maria Sharapova.

Williams is not the only player struggling ahead of the opening Grand Slam of the season, with injuries taking their toll on many of the leading names. Despite the new season being barely underway, the women's top five have all had troubled lead-ups to their first major test of 2016.

World number two Simona Halep (achilles), Garbine Muguruza (foot), Agnieszka Radwanska (leg) and Maria Sharapova (forearm) have all been battling niggling problems that forced them out of warm-up tournaments. The world numbers six and seven, Petra Kvitova and Angelique Kerber, joined them in the sick bay suffering gastrointestinal illness, leaving the Melbourne showpiece unpredictable.

#### Injury list

Like Williams, Sharapova, who won her only Australian Open title in 2008, will enter this year's tournament with little match practice, although she called her decision not to play last week's Brisbane International precautionary and declared on Tuesday she was now healthy. It follows her second half of 2015 being wrecked by injuries, first to her right leg which forced her to miss the US Open. She then retired from her comeback match at September's Wuhan Open with a left forearm injury. Romanian pocket-rocket Halep also withdrew from Brisbane but was playing this week in Sydney, and knows she has a huge task ahead to win her maiden Grand Slam, seeded to meet Williams in the final.

"I beat Serena once in my life, so it's really important for me," said Halep, who has won just one of seven matches against the American and admitted her achilles injury was "still there but now I don't feel pain any more". "To meet Serena, it means that I have to do finals. So let's go there in Melbourne to see if I can be there," she added. The early-season injury list has opened the door for two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka, now fully fit after two troubled seasons, who beat Germany's Kerber to claim the Brisbane crown.

It was the resurgent Belarusian's first piece of WTA silverware in two-and-a-half years and sent her soaring up the world rankings to 16, a timely confidence boost. In Brisbane, Azarenka dropped just 17 games in four matches and appears to be getting back to her best. "I'm definitely a lot more comfortable, a lot more calm, a lot more aware. Happy. Very happy," said the former world number one. American Sloane Stephens, who made the Australian Open semis in 2013, is also in good form, winning the lead-up ASB Classic in Auckland. But she too then succumbed to illness, withdrawing from the WTA event in Hobart this week. — AFP

## AZARENKA BACK IN THE OPEN FRAME AFTER TROUBLED YEARS

**MELBOURNE:** Eager to make up for two troubled years on and off the court, Victoria Azarenka is once again being talked about as a genuine title threat at the Australian Open after the Belarusian's Brisbane International win yesterday. The 26-year-old won her first tournament in 2-1/2 years when she beat world number 10 Angelique Kerber 6-3 6-1 at Brisbane and was then seeded 16th on Thursday for the season-opening grand slam at Melbourne Park. Kerber was the highest seed left in the tournament after Maria Sharapova and world number two Simona Halep, who Azarenka would have met in the second round, pulled out while Garbine Muguruza retired hurt early on.

While those absences may have smoothed Azarenka's path to the title, there is no doubt her game is returning to levels that helped her reach world number one and win back to back Australian Open titles in 2012 and 2013. She dropped just 17 games over five matches during the tournament to claim her first title since the Cincinnati Masters in August 2013. Azarenka, who has recently spoken about her battle with depression, said that while the victory would give her the spark to go on and achieve more, she had managed to keep a wider perspective during the tournament. "I'm not sure I feel relief," she told reporters after the win. "I wanted to win the title, but I didn't feel, if this doesn't happen the world is going to end."

#### "Breakdown, breakup

After sustaining a foot injury that restricted her to just nine tournaments in 2014, Azarenka was forced to face higher seeds early on in tournaments over the last two years, which resulted in frustrating losses and a drop in the rankings. The slump also coincided with the break-up of her relationship with American musician Redfoo

and her constant injury battles led to bouts of depression. She entered last year's Australian Open ranked 44th in the world and faced three seeds in the first four rounds, exiting at the hands of 2014 finalist Dominika Cibulkova in the fourth round. She managed to play 14 tournaments last year but was again beset by injuries and said after Brisbane she was "hurt" and "in pain" for virtually the whole of 2015.

In a bid to get back to her best, Azarenka recognized the need to get proper treatment and rehabilitation. Her move to take on a new coach and hitting partner last year is also paying off, while taking stock of her life away from the court has helped her on it, she has said. If Azarenka has consigned her problems to the past, she could be a serious threat in Australia and is one of the few players with the power and speed to consistently challenge world number one Serena Williams. The 34-year-old American has won four of the last five grand slams but has been battling a long-standing knee injury.

They played three times last year, and while Williams won them all each went to a decider with the American having to battle back from a set down to win two of the matches. Former world number one Chris Evert believes the American's biggest challenger in Melbourne could be the rejuvenated Azarenka. "I think she's a player we should be talking about and focusing on right now," Evert said. "She certainly loves Australia. She's won it twice. She definitely last year played really well, but kept bumping into Serena. She challenged her more than any other player. "She's got to be one of the two or three favorites for winning the Australian Open. I always thought she has a champions' mentality," she added. The Australian Open begins on Monday. — Reuters

# NUGGETS HAND WARRIORS 3RD DEFEAT OF THE SEASON

**DENVER:** Danilo Gallinari scored 28 points and the Denver Nuggets withstood a 38-point performance by Stephen Curry to hand the Golden State Warriors their third loss of the season, 112-110 on Wednesday night. The defending NBA champion Warriors (36-3) had won seven straight since their previous defeat, 114-91 at Dallas on Dec 30. Harrison Barnes added 18 points and Klay Thompson had 17 for the Warriors. Will Barton scored 21 for the Nuggets, who snapped a four-game losing streak to the Warriors. Gary Harris added 18 points. Denver outscored Golden State 19-5 over the last 5 1/2 minutes of the third quarter to take a 10-point lead into the fourth. Curry scored 20 points in the final period.

## CLIPPERS 104, HEAT 90

Backup center Cole Aldrich had 19 points and seven rebounds in place of ailing DeAndre Jordan, and Los Angeles used a third-quarter surge to beat Miami for its 10th straight victory. Jordan was sidelined because of pneumonia, ending the NBA's longest active consecutive games played streak at 360. The eight-year veteran, who led the league in rebounding the past two seasons, had the second-longest streak in franchise history behind Randy Smith's 595 straight games with the Buffalo Braves. Chris Paul had 15 points and 12 assists for Los Angeles, which is 9-0 since leading scorer Blake Griffin went down with a partially torn tendon in his left quad. Aldrich, a five-year veteran making his first start in 17 games with the Clippers, made seven of 14 shots while playing a season-high 24 minutes. Miami (22-17) is the only team the Clippers have faced during their winning streak that currently has a record of .500 or better. Reserve guard Gerald Green led the Heat with 19 points and Dwyane Wade added 16 points and eight assists. Miami's third straight loss equaled its longest skid of the season.

## THUNDER 108, MAVERICKS 89

Kevin Durant had 29 points and 10 rebounds, and Oklahoma City romped when Dallas sat out its usual starters. Thunder star Russell Westbrook was ejected in the second quarter after getting his second technical foul following skirmishes with JJ Barea. Westbrook went scoreless. The Mavericks played the second night of a back-to-back after an overtime loss to Cleveland and coach Rick Carlisle chose not to use his five regular starters - Dirk Nowitzki, Wesley Matthews, Chandler Parsons, Deron Williams and Zaza Pachulia.

## CELTICS 103, PACERS 94

Isaiah Thomas scored 28 points, Jae Crowder matched his career high with 25 and Boston snapped a four-game losing streak with a win over Indiana. Amir Johnson had a season-high 18 rebounds and scored 14 points for the Celtics, who beat the Pacers for the first time this season after losing the first two meetings. Paul George led Indiana 23 points. George Hill had 13 for the Pacers, who wore their old-fashioned Hickory High School uniforms from the movie "Hoosiers." Boston closed with a 12-0 run over the final 1:46.

## NETS 110, KNICKS 104

Brook Lopez scored 20 points, Thaddeus Young had 19 points and 11 rebounds, and Brooklyn ended its 10-game home losing streak with a victory over New York. The Nets also snapped a five-game overall skid with their first victory under interim coach Tony Brown, who took over when coach Lionel Hollins was fired and general manager Billy King was reassigned on Sunday. Joe Johnson made two key jumpers in the final 2 minutes and finished with 14 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Nets in their first home victory since beating Philadelphia on Dec 10. Derrick Williams tied his career high with 31 points for the Knicks, who played without leading scorer Carmelo Anthony (sprained ankle) and had their two-game win streak snapped. Kristaps



**CHARLOTTE:** Atlanta Hawks' Justin Holiday (7) and Charlotte Hornets' Cody Zeller (40) battle for a loose ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, NC on Wednesday, Jan 13, 2016. The Hornets won 107-84. — AP

Porzingis shot 5 for 17 on his way to 12 points and 10 rebounds. The Knicks had a two-point lead with 5 minutes to play before the Nets took control with a 10-2 run.

## WIZARDS 106, BUCKS 101

John Wall scored 19 points and backcourt mate Bradley Beal had 11 in his return from injury to help Washington beat Milwaukee. Beal came off the bench and played 22 minutes in his first game since Dec 9. He had been sidelined with a stress reaction in his lower right leg. Ramon Sessions added 15 points and Jared Dudley had 13 for the Wizards, including two late 3-pointers to help preserve a third straight win. Khris Middleton scored 25 points to lead Milwaukee, which allowed 36 points off a season-high 27 turnovers in its fourth loss in the last six games. Greg Monroe added 21 points and 12 rebounds.

## ROCKETS 107, TIMBERWOLVES 104

James Harden had 27 points and 11 assists as

Houston won its season-high fifth in a row. Minnesota lost its season-worst eighth straight. Dwight Howard added 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Terrence Jones came off the bench to score 16 with nine rebounds for the Rockets. Andrew Wiggins had 28 for the Timberwolves.

## HORNETS 107, HAWKS 84

Kemba Walker scored 23 points and Charlotte pulled away from Atlanta to stop a seven-game losing streak. Cody Zeller added 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Jeremy Lin had 19 points for the Hornets. Paul Millsap scored 20 points for the Hawks.

## TRAIL BLAZERS 99, JAZZ 85

Damian Lillard had 21 points and 10 assists, and Portland shook off a slow first half to beat Utah. CJ McCollum added 15 points and eight assists for the Trail Blazers, who led by as many as 20 in the second half after the teams traded the lead in the first. It was Portland's second consecu-

tive victory following a three-game losing streak. Gordon Hayward had 19 points for Utah, which had won two straight. The Jazz have not strung together three consecutive wins this season.

## PELICANS 109, KINGS 97

Eric Gordon made six 3-pointers and scored 24 points, Anthony Davis also had 24 and New Orleans snapped a four-game skid by beating Sacramento. The Pelicans tied a team record by hitting 16 3-pointers. Gordon was 6 for 12 from long range and New Orleans went 16 for 33 overall. New Orleans led by 15 at halftime and used a 15-0 run in the third quarter. Norris Cole had a season-high 18 points and Ryan Anderson hit four 3-pointers and scored 18 for the Pelicans, who had lost six of seven. Davis (bruised back) missed the previous two games and his status was questionable earlier in the day. He had 10 rebounds and two steals. DeMarcus Cousins had 32 points and 12 rebounds for the Kings. Rajon Rondo added 17 points and 10 assists. — AP

# FLAMES OVERWHELM PANTHERS 6-0

**CALGARY:** Rookie Sam Bennett had a first-period hat trick and four goals total, Jonas Hiller made 15 saves and the Calgary Flames beat the Panthers 6-0 on Wednesday night to give Florida its first regulation loss in 14 games. Bennett is the first Flames player to score four goals in a game since Jarome Iginla on Feb 23, 2003, according to the NHL. At 19 years and six months, he's the youngest Flame to get a hat trick. Johnny Gaudreau and Mason Raymond also scored. Florida had been the NHL's hottest team, going 12-0-1 since losing in regulation to Boston on Dec 12. Playing their fifth game in nine days, the Panthers ran out of gas and were outshot 36-15. This was Hiller's first appearance since Dec 12. He entered the night with an ugly .862 save percentage. Roberto Luongo, replaced by Al Montoya to start the second period, yielded four goals on 15 shots.

## BLUE JACKETS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 1

Rookie Joonas Korpisalo made 41 saves and

last-place Columbus snapped a four-game skid with a win over Toronto. The 21-year-old Korpisalo entered with just one win in six starts this season and had a 3.69 goals-against average and .882 save percentage. Boone Jenner, Alexander Wennberg and Brandon Dubinsky scored for the Blue Jackets. Brad Boyes scored late for the Maple Leafs. Toronto has totaled just two goals while losing its past three games. Toronto's James Reimer stopped 19 of 21 shots.

## FLYERS 3, BRUINS 2

Mark Streit and Wayne Simmonds scored third-period goals to lead Philadelphia to a comeback victory over Boston for its fourth straight win. Jakub Voracek had a goal and two assists and Claude Giroux assisted on all three goals for Philadelphia. The Flyers won their sixth straight at home. Loui Eriksson and Kevan Miller scored for Boston, which has just two wins in its last 10 games. Simmonds tied it with 9:50 left and Streit scored 1:22 later on a rebound that

beat goalie Tuukka Rask from a sharp angle. It was Streit's fourth goal of the season. The defenseman missed six weeks in November and December following groin surgery. Steve Mason made 30 saves for the Flyers, and Rask stopped 18 shots.

## DUCKS 4, SENATORS 1

Shea Theodore put Anaheim ahead late in the third period with his first NHL goal, Frederik Andersen made 24 saves and the Ducks beat Ottawa. Andrew Cogliano, Carl Hagelin and Jacob Silfverberg also scored. This was Andersen's first start since Jan. 1 and gave Anaheim its third win in five games. Theodore scored on the power play, taking a pass from Ryan Getzlaf and putting a wrist shot under Craig Anderson's right armpit. Hagelin and Silfverberg scored soon afterward to finally give an Anaheim offense that has struggled for much of the season some breathing room. Curtis Lazar scored for Ottawa, and Anderson turned away 34 shots. — AP

French cup roundup

## MARSEILLE OUT OF LEAGUE CUP, PSG ADVANCES TO SEMIFINALS

**PARIS:** Marseille's lackluster season took another turn for the worse as the nine-time French champions bowed out of the League Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday while bitter rival Paris Saint-Germain advanced with a 2-1 win over Lyon. Substitute Martin Braithwaite scored an extra-time solo goal to give Toulouse a 2-1 win over Marseille, which has managed to win just one match over the past month. "We struggled to keep the ball and lacked precision in the first half," Marseille coach Michel said. "This is disappointing, especially because we felt quite at ease when playing away over the past few weeks."

Without many first-choice players including Remy Cabella and Romain Alessandrini, Marseille put on another disappointing display that won't ease the growing crisis at the southern club. Marseille has been struggling since former coach Marcelo Bielsa's departure last summer, with Michel unable to find a winning formula. Marseille has failed to win any of its last eight league games at home and sits in 11th place in the standings, 28 points behind leader PSG. Braithwaite, who has now scored three goals in his last three games with Toulouse in all competitions, beat two defenders before slotting the ball through goalkeeper Yohann Pele's legs in the 99th minute.

Striker Wissam Ben Yedder gave Toulouse the lead in the 25th with his eighth goal in five games. Controlling a pass from midfielder Oscar Trejo with his left foot just inside the penalty area, he expertly beat Pele with his right. Ben Yedder, who has been linked with a potential move to Marseille during the transfer window, did not celebrate his goal. Michel recently said he hopes to sign the player. Two minutes later, Marseille equalized when winger Georges-Kevin N'Koudou struck from the left of the penalty area.

Pele twice saved headers from midfielder Tongo Hamed Doumbia after the break. "We finished the match with eight players aged under 23," Michel said when asked about possible arrivals at the club during the January transfer window. "This statistic speaks volume, but we need to come to terms with it. (Marseille) officials are aware of the problem and are trying to solve it. But we need to consider every aspect of the situation: the players who are available, as well as the economic situation."

Substitute Lucas Moura scored the winner from Angel Di Maria's assist at the Parc des Princes just seven minutes after replacing Ezequiel Lavezzi as PSG remained undefeated this season on the domestic stage. Adrien Rabiot had given the host the lead in the 17th minute but Corentin Tolisso pulled the teams level with a superb half-volley three minutes before halftime. Lille also advanced with a 4-2 win on penalties over Guingamp after the teams drew 0-0. Bordeaux reached the semifinals with a 2-0 win over Lorient on Tuesday. —AP



**BARCELONA:** FC Barcelona's Aleix Vidal (rear) duels for the ball against Espanyol's goalkeeper Felipe Caicedo during a Copa del Rey soccer match at RCDE stadium in Barcelona on Wednesday, Jan 13, 2016. —AP

Spanish cup roundup

## BARCELONA CRUISE INTO CUP QUARTERS WITH A DERBY WIN

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona ended a three-game series of bad-tempered derbies against Espanyol on top by sealing their place in the Copa del Rey quarter-finals 6-1 on aggregate courtesy of a 2-0 win at Cornellà-El Prat on Wednesday. Fresh from picking up his record fifth Ballon d'Or, Lionel Messi was once again Barca's inspiration as he brilliantly picked out Munir El Haddadi to open the scoring before the youngster tapped home his second of the night late on.

There was less aggression on the field than in the previous two meetings between the sides in the past 10 days, however Espanyol could be punished for offensive banners towards Colombian popstar Shakira - the partner of Barca defender Gerard Pique - and Luis Suarez. Athletic Bilbao, Celta Vigo and Las Palmas also booked their place in the last eight to join Sevilla and Mirandes, who qualified on Tuesday, for Friday's quarter-final draw. La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid host Rayo Vallecano on Thursday tied at 1-1, whilst Gary Neville's Valencia have one foot in the

quarters as they lead Granada 4-0. "Today everything was a lot calmer, partly because of the result," said Barca boss Luis Enrique.

"The only game that got out of hand was the first, but I am not the one to analyze it. The second had what a derby should have and in the third it was harder for them to press us. "When one side plays to an elevated level it eventually wears them down." Suarez was banned for confronting Espanyol players in the tunnel after last week's first-leg in which the visitors had two men sent-off. Enrique also handed Neymar, Pique, Sergio Busquets and Andres Iniesta a rest, but Messi captained the side just two days after regaining his title of World Player of the Year. Francesco Bardì produced a brilliant save to prevent the Argentine opening the scoring with a fierce volley on 11 minutes.

However, the Espanyol 'keeper was left helpless when El Haddadi galloped onto Messi's inch-perfect through ball to round Bardì before slotting into an empty net. Alvaro Gonzalez unceremoniously

chopped down Messi and Felipe Caicedo charged into Marc-Andre ter Stegen as the game threatened to boil over. Yet, Ter Stegen had his revenge as he stood up well to turn Caicedo's chipped effort over moments later. With the tie clearly headed in Barca's favor, the second-half was largely a non-event, but the European champions did add a second two minutes from time when Aleix Vidal squared for El Haddadi to tap home.

Last season's finalists Athletic Bilbao completed a 4-2 aggregate victory over Villarreal thanks to Inaki Williams's neat turn and finish to claim a 1-0 win on the night at El Madrigal. Celta Vigo shrugged off their poor La Liga form of late to end Cadiz's Cup reprieve after they advanced to the last-16 due to Real Madrid's expulsion from the competition for fielding an ineligible player. John Guidetti's third goal of the tie and Dejan Drazic's late strike sealed a 2-0 win to progress 5-0 on aggregate. And Las Palmas edged a goalfest against Eibar 6-4 on aggregate thanks to their second 3-2 win of the tie. —AFP

## MILAN BOOK CUP SEMIS

**MILAN:** AC Milan became the first team into the Italian Cup semi-finals after holding on for a 2-1 win over Carpi at the San Siro on Wednesday. The seven-time European champions, who have fallen on hard times in recent seasons, took a two-goal half-time lead through Carlos Bacca and M'baye Niang but Matteo Mancosu's strike early in the second period kept things interesting until the final whistle.

In truth, Milan should have won by more but with just one goal in it remained vulnerable. Milan were well on top in the first period, taking the lead on 14 minutes when Bacca finished from Japanese playmaker Keisuke Honda's pass to notch his 10th goal of the season. Slovak Juraj Kucka should have doubled the advantage five minutes later but Serbian goalkeeper Zejlko Brkic, who had earlier parried a Honda free-kick, made a wonder save to

deny him. Bacca turned provider just before the half-hour mark as he teed up M'baye Niang to fire home the second. The hosts appeared to be in cruise control but five minutes into the second period, Kevin Lasagna played Mancosu in one-on-one with goalkeeper Christian Abbiati and the forward finished with aplomb.

Kucka could have extended Milan's advantage but again he came up short, firing off target just past the hour mark. Milan kept wasting

chances to kill the game as Giacomo Bonaventura blazed wastefully off target late on while Honda's shot was deflected behind for a corner with Brkic AWOL. But the rossoneri held on to reach the last four. The three other quarter-finals take place next week with Napoli hosting Inter Milan and Juventus travelling to Lazio while there will be one lower league outfit in the semi-finals as second division Spezia host third tier Alessandria. —AFP

## FIFA FINES HONG KONG OVER BOOING FANS

**HONG KONG:** FIFA has fined Hong Kong after fans jeered the Chinese national anthem during a crunch World Cup qualifier last year, the city's football authorities said yesterday, the second penalty in four months for such an offence. Hong Kong fans jeered and turned their backs during the "March of the Volunteers" anthem, which the semi-autonomous territory shares with China, at a match between the city's side and the Chinese national team last November that ended in a goalless draw.

They also held up white signs saying "boo" in English at the city's Mong Kok Stadium, which segregated fans from both teams using separate entrances and even different toilets in a bid to head off any potential trouble. "The Hong Kong Football Association has been fined 10,000 Swiss francs (\$9,911) regarding the incident of the booing of the national anthem by the Hong Kong fans," said a statement published on the Association's website yesterday, citing a FIFA notification.

"The HKFA is liable for the improper

conduct among the supporters of its team," the statement said, adding that any future infringements "will lead to harsher sanctions". The fine is double the amount of a previous fine issued in October when the HKFA was charged 5,000 Swiss francs after fans again jeered the Chinese national anthem and threw a drink at a rival player during a September match. The joint 2018 World Cup and 2019 Asian Cup qualifiers follows the "Umbrella Movement" pro-democracy protests in 2014, which gripped the city and underlined discon-

tent with Beijing's rule.

Fans' anger against China was also stoked in June of last year when a promotional poster used by the China Football Association described the city's team as "black skinned, white skinned and yellow skinned," which Hong Kong supporters criticized as racist. China's perennially underachieving national team sacked its national coach Alain Perrin last Friday after a disappointing run of results left their World Cup qualifying campaign hanging by a thread. — AFP

## SOUTHAMPTON SINK WATFORD



**SOUTHAMPTON:** Shane Long and Dusan Tadic scored in each half as Southampton steadied the ship with a 2-0 home win over dangerous Watford in the Premier League on Wednesday. Ronald Koeman's side had won just one of their previous eight league games, losing six, and were knocked out of the FA Cup by Crystal Palace at the weekend. But Irish striker Long's 17th-minute header set them on their way to victory at a rain-soaked St Mary's. Tadic replaced Sadio Mane in the 71st minute and scored within two minutes to complete a victory that lifted Southampton up to 12th place, two points below 10th-place Watford, who are winless in four league games.

Southampton, who welcomed back goalkeeper Fraser Forster after 10 months out with a knee injury, went ahead when Long headed in his eighth goal of the season from left-back Matt Targett's inviting cross. Watford's away form has been key to their successful readaptation to top-flight football, but they were forced to mount a rearguard action as Southampton looked to press home their advantage. Visiting goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes thwarted first Mane and then Long, while Mane wasted a great chance when he hit the post after intercepting a Jose Manuel Jurado pass intended for Sebastian Prodl.

Southampton centre-back Jose Fonte also sent a shot over the bar from marauding right-back Cedric Soares's cut-back. Watford manager Quique Sanchez Flores sent on Ikechi Anya in place of Almen Abdi just after the hour, but still Southampton came, Mane shooting just wide from Long's pass. Mane made way for Tadic moments later, but any hopes Watford may have harbored that the Senegalese's exit would end their torment were dashed by his replacement within two minutes. From Steven Davis's flick, Tadic picked up possession, shifted the ball past Prodl and Anya and fired a shot beyond Gomes from 10 yards. In a further boost to Saints fans, striker Graziano Pelle made his comeback as a late substitute after four games out with a knee injury. — AFP



**LONDON:** Leicester City's Danny Drinkwater (center) goes to clear the ball under pressure from Tottenham Hotspur's Toby Alderweireld during their English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Leicester City at the White Hart Lane stadium in London on Wednesday. — AP

## LEICESTER DESERVE TOP 4: POCHETTINO



**LONDON:** Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino believes that his side's defeat by Leicester City proves that Claudio Ranieri's men deserve to finish in the top four of the Premier League. Spurs could have moved to within a point of Leicester had they clinched victory at White Hart Lane on Wednesday, but instead they sit seven points behind their visitors after falling to Robert Huth's late header. Leicester's 1-0 victory moved them level on points with leaders Arsenal at the summit of the division, as they ended their run of three games without a goal or a win.

The prospect of Champions League football remains a strong possibility for both clubs, with Pochettino striving to put Spurs back among Europe's elite for the first time in six years. But it is Leicester who are best-placed to achieve that and the Spurs manager believes they will finish

in the top four, less than a year after their dramatic escape from relegation last season. "I think they deserve it," said Pochettino when asked if he thought Ranieri's side could maintain their form. "Full credit to them. I'm very disappointed, but I think they deserve to finish in the place that they are. Leicester play their way, but they deserve full credit for the way that they believe on the pitch. It's unbelievable."

Pochettino thinks that the inexperience of his own squad is hindering their consistency in key matches, with Dele Alli, Christian Eriksen, Harry Kane and Erik Lamela all vital to the team's potency, but under 24 years of age. "I think it's difficult to explain to supporters that they should take this defeat in a positive way," added Pochettino, after his team's five-match unbeaten league run came to an end. "We need to learn a lot. We are very young. When we get positive results, I try to explain that we are very young and need to learn." His team dominated possession and created most of the chances, but the visitors always looked dangerous with their counter-attacking style and Pochettino hinted at a naivety among his squad.

### 'Crazy, crazy league'

"We can play really well and believe in your philosophy, and need to accept that another

team can play in a different way," he said. "We need to be stronger. We were missing something at set-pieces and we had chances to score." Spurs remain fourth after the defeat, a point clear of fifth-place West Ham United. Ranieri still refuses to accept that this result provided evidence that his team can win the division. "Tottenham in my opinion are one of the best teams in the division and have some great players," said the Leicester manager. "It's only January, it's not May. It's good, but we must continue to work hard and keep our feet on the ground. This is a crazy, crazy league this year. "A lot of people say, 'What happened with Leicester, what can they do?' The answer is I don't know. It's my first season with them, but we are very solid." Asked what he said to people who claimed Leicester could win the title, the Italian replied: "I laugh!" He added: "We now focus on our match on Saturday. Aston Villa won their match (against Crystal Palace) and they don't want to be relegated and they will fight." Jamie Vardy returned from minor groin surgery in the victory, but was substituted for the final 20 minutes. Ranieri believes it bodes well that his side can win games without the England striker, who has scored 15 Premier League goals this season. "Vardy and (Riyad) Mahrez are very important for us and if we can score without Mahrez and Vardy then that's good," he said. —AFP

## DEFOE TREBLE FIRES SUNDERLAND'S SURVIVAL BID



**SWANSEA:** Jermain Defoe hit a crucial hat-trick as Sunderland boosted their bid to avoid relegation from the Premier League with a 4-2 victory at fellow strugglers Swansea on Wednesday. Defoe's first Premier League treble since November 2009 gave Sunderland their second successive league win and first at Swansea since November 1963. Sam Allardyce's side remain in the relegation zone, but they are now only one point and one place behind

Swansea, whose misery continues with a third successive defeat in all competitions.

In a contentious encounter at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea played over half the match with 10 men following Kyle Naughton's controversial red card. Defoe had given Sunderland the lead, then Gylfi Sigurdsson's dubious penalty levelled. Andre Ayew put Swansea ahead after Naughton's dismissal, but Patrick Van Aanholt equalised to set the stage for Defoe's heroics in Allardyce's 450th match as a Premier League match.

After being dumped out of the FA Cup with a shock third round defeat at fourth tier Oxford on Sunday, Swansea desperately needed a strong start. But it was Sunderland who seized the initiative thanks to a mistake by Swansea goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski in the third minute. Fabianski's woeful goal kick only reached

Adam Johnson and he picked out Fabio Borini, whose low shot was pushed weakly out by Fabianski for Defoe, ignoring Swansea's offside appeals, to claim his 10th goal of the season with a close-range finish. When Ayew tricked his way past Wes Brown into the penalty area in the 21st minute, the forward appeared to stumble over his own feet as he prepared to shoot.

Much to the disgust of Allardyce, referee Graham Scott decided Brown had fouled Ayew and awarded a penalty which Sigurdsson coolly converted. If Allardyce was aggrieved by that controversial decision, he was much happier in the 37th minute when Scott sent off Naughton for a foul on Yann M'Vila. Naughton's foot was high, but he clearly got the ball and this time it was Swansea's turn to complain. The hosts initially coped well with 10 men

and when a long punt by Fabianski found Ayew, the Ghana winger accelerated away from Brown before blasting into the far corner. But Sunderland drew level four minutes into the second half through Dutch defender Van Aanholt, whose powerful drive took a deflection before crashing in off a post.

In the 61st minute, Johnson had time and space on the halfway line to thread a ball towards Defoe, who sprinted clear of Swansea's defenders as they appealed for offside before slotting past Fabianski. Swansea's fury was mounting and there were more protests by the home team when Angel Rangel turned the ball in after a mistake by Sunderland goalkeeper Vito Mannone, only to see his effort ruled out for offside. Defoe made them pay when he completed his treble in the 85th minute to seal the points. — AFP

## WENGER FRUSTRATED; ARSENAL SQUANDER TITLE MOMENTUM



**LIVERPOOL:** Arsene Wenger couldn't conceal his frustration after Arsenal's dramatic 3-3 draw at Liverpool saw the Gunners waste an opportunity to consolidate their position at the top of the Premier League. But Wenger claimed Wednesday's thrilling contest at Anfield underlined his team's title credentials as he challenged his players to use their disappointment as a motivation for a first English crown in 12 years.

After chief rivals Manchester City were held at home to Everton, the Arsenal manager saw Joe Allen's last-minute equalizer cost his team two points to leave them ahead of second placed Leicester only on goal differ-

ence. "I am frustrated by the result and not disappointed by the performance, even if we started a bit apprehensively," said Wenger. "The frustration comes from the fact that at 3-2 we had three situations when we could have made it 4-2 and made a bad decision.

"That was a frustration for me but that can happen in England but overall a game between two teams who gave absolutely everything. Look at the results tonight it showed everywhere is even. "I feel they need to transform that frustration into more motivation for the next game because there are more positives than negatives tonight. "What happened tonight strengthened my belief we can have a big part to play in this league."

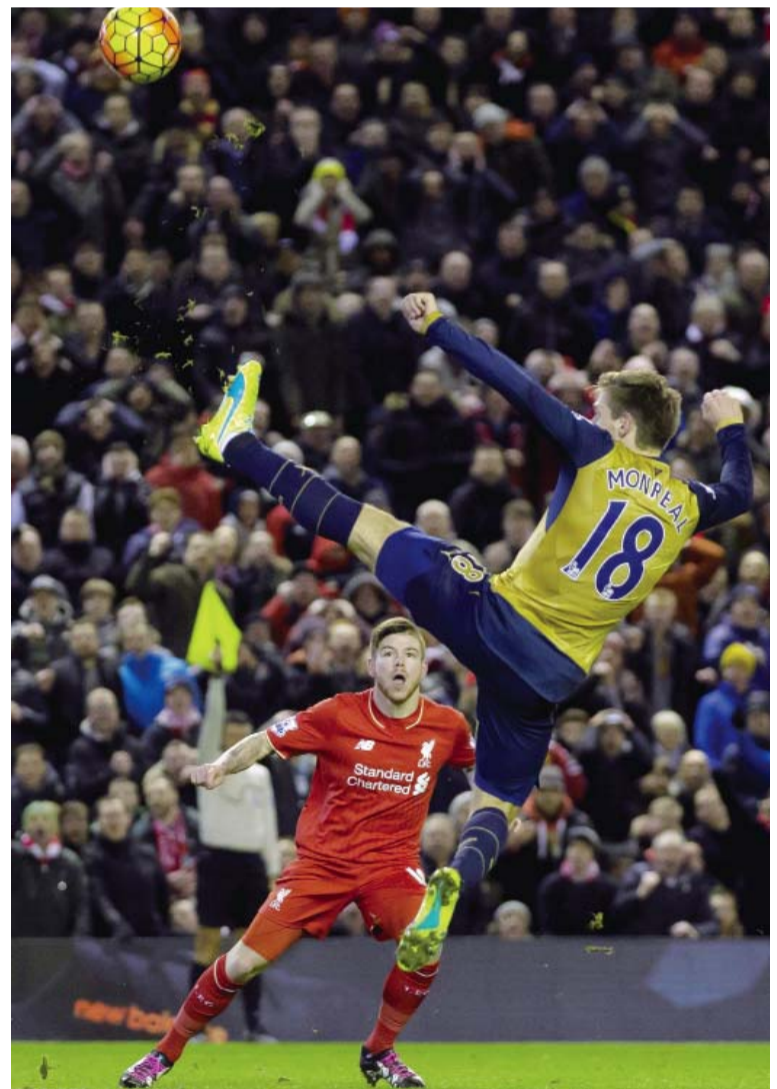
Wenger hopes he can bolster his team before the weekend visit to Stoke, traditionally a tough fixture for his team, with the injured Alexis Sanchez and new signing Mohamed Elneny both potentially in contention. "I am a bit cautious now," said Wenger

of Sanchez and his hamstring injury. "There is an opportunity he will be involved in the squad on Sunday. Friday and Saturday will be two important days. "Elneny has joined us and we will see if he can qualify for Sunday." Liverpool twice led with goals through Roberto Firmino only for Aaron Ramsey and Olivier Giroud to cancel them out on each occasion.

### Verbal exchange

The impressive Giroud gave Arsenal a second half lead but Allen netted in the 90th minute to earn Liverpool a point. The game also featured a verbal exchange between Wenger and Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp on the touchline, although both made light of the incident after the game. "I told him to just calm down or I will send you to stands," joked Wenger. "I don't know really why. At Liverpool it is very tight, you are very close to each other.

"He had a little problem with the fourth official, he can explain better than I. It was all right. There was no



**LIVERPOOL:** Arsenal's Nacho Monreal (right) clears the ball away from Liverpool's Alberto Moreno during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Arsenal at Anfield Stadium on Wednesday, Jan 13, 2016. — AP

## STOKE STORM PAST 10-MAN NORWICH



**STOKE-ON-TRENT:** Swashbuckling Stoke City beat 10-man Norwich City 3-1 at the Britannia Stadium in the Premier League on Wednesday as Mark Hughes's side continue to impress. Goals from Stoke's John Walters and Joselu were capped by an astonishing own goal from Ryan Bennett late on, while the visitors scored through Jonathan Howson.

Hughes's men now have 32 points from 21 games and are in

seventh place, just four points adrift of the Champions League places. Stoke have produced some thrilling wins against the likes of Chelsea, Manchester City and Manchester United this season and few would have backed struggling Norwich to get a result at the Potteries. And when Norwich defender Gary O'Neil got a straight red for an ill-advised, two-footed tackle from behind after half an hour the die appeared cast. Norwich had kept the marauding Stoke forward line at bay in the first period but Walters got the opener when he threw himself at Marko Arnautovic's inviting cross just after the restart.

Howson then bagged his fourth goal of the season with

some style as Vadis Odjidja Ofie chested down a raking ball from Wes Hoolahan into the midfielder's path to hit an unstoppable shot on the bounce past goalkeeper Declan Rudd 55 minutes in. Joselu took an opportunistic pot shot from 20-yards out on 67 minutes and Stoke pressure soon saw a spectacular Bennett own goal that would have done a striker proud and had the home fans singing his name. Ibrahim Afellay whipped in a cross that Bennett back-headed over Rudd. Norwich, wearing a flashy yellow, orange and green striped-shirt came into the game sixth from bottom despite successive home victories over Aston Villa and Southampton and remain there, just five points above the drop zone. — AFP

bad feeling." Klopp has made a habit of asserting his larger than life personality on proceedings in the Premier League and was recently involved in a war of words with Sunderland manager Sam Allardyce. "I told Arsene why I was a little bit emotional," said Klopp. "Like we say in Germany, I was on the tree. It was a clear throw-in for us in a good moment, a good phase.

"The fourth official, I asked what he was doing. I said what I said, he said what he said. We had nothing, but I had nothing with Sam Allardyce. I had nothing with Arsene Wenger. "I said

what I said, obviously it was too much and he told the ref and after five minutes he came and spoke." The German was far happier and more forthcoming when discussing the form of Brazilian Firmino, however, after he scored his first home goals for the club. "I could talk about this for half an hour," he said. "He doesn't know how good he is. If you are good, you have to show it. "All of them were really good, perfect goals, the first goal was really good, the second spectacular, brilliant. He had a really good game, but he was not the only one." — AFP

# HIDDINK HAPPY TO WORK WITH FEISTY COSTA



**LONDON:** Guus Hiddink insists he would rather have players with Diego Costa's feisty personality than work with a squad that needed firing up. Costa was involved in a series of spats during Chelsea's 2-2 draw with West Bromwich Albion on Wednesday, with the volatile striker's temper boiling over after the final whistle at Stamford Bridge when he confronted Albion goalkeeper Boaz Myhill.

The Spain international, last week involved in a training ground row with Chelsea team-mate Oscar, was clearly frustrated as he left the pitch and could be heard striking the inside of the players tunnel as he made his way back to the dressing room. But Chelsea interim manager Hiddink is satisfied his player did not cross the line during an ill-tempered game despite being booked for a nasty challenge on Craig Gardner early in the second half.

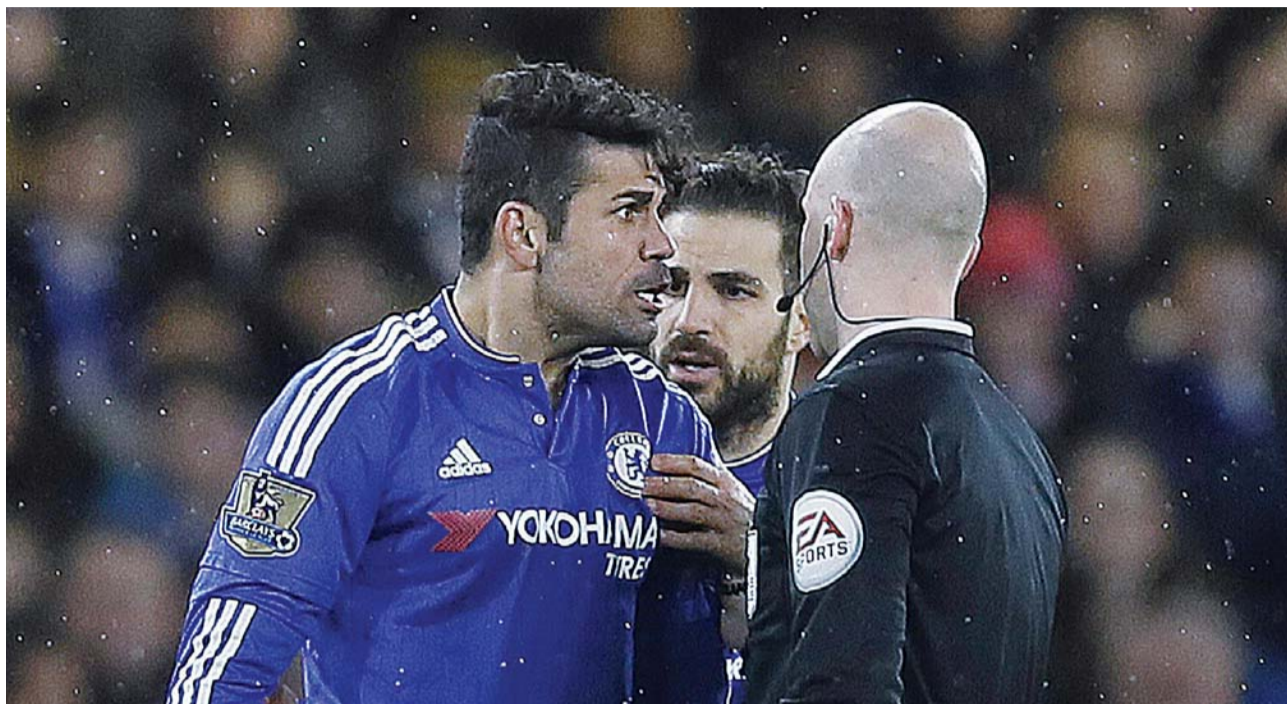
And the Dutchman believes the forward's approach helps make him a more dangerous player. "Did he cross the line? I think there was room to spare," Hiddink said. "Diego and the defenders were challenging each other. If you look closely they were provoking each other and those flashes were normal. "I didn't see anything bad. It was a challenge at high men level. "We can always repair the tunnel! He is an emotional guy and I like it very much. "If you have to push the players it is difficult to survive in the Premier League. But every now and then if you have to control them it is even better. "He is always dangerous in play. He is vertical in his actions and that is very good to see."

## Severe blow

Chelsea twice took the lead, first through Cesar Azpilicueta and then through a Gareth McAuley own-goal with Craig Gardner and James McClean equalising for Albion. McClean's goal came four minutes from time and brought the visitors a deserved point. And Hiddink admitted that the draw dealt a severe blow to Chelsea's hopes of forcing their way back into contention for a top four finish. Last season's champions remain in 14th place, just six points clear of the bottom three and 12 points behind Tottenham in fourth. And Hiddink admitted they have no margin for error if they are to stage an astonishing turnaround in the second half of the season.

"We have said before as long as it is mathematically possible to get the fourth position and Champions League then we go for it. But then we have to win all those games at home," he said. "At the end I think it was a fair result although I think we had a few good chances to make it 2-0 which didn't happen. "Then we conceded an unfortunate goal, we let them penetrate too easily and have shots from outside the box. "The home crowd always like to win but I think it was a very entertaining game, high intensity, high speed and high tempo. So it was an entertaining game. "But we wanted to win. It would have been the perfect week if we could have won all three games this week."

West Brom manager Tony Pulis was relieved to finally break his duck at Stamford Bridge, claiming his first point at Chelsea in seven league visits. "I've had some bad luck here. I was here with Stoke winning 1-0 and they scored two right at the death," he said. "I thought I'd take that one to my grave. We have tremendous respect for Chelsea but we felt we might cause them problems. "We tried to press them early on and I'm pleased we got something out of it. "We are pleased to get the point and come away with everybody fit apart from James Morrison who felt his hamstring right away. He felt it before the game. "We need 13 points to get to 40 and it's such a relentless league. Every game is tough." —AFP



**LONDON:** Chelsea's Diego Costa talks to the referee during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and West Bromwich Albion at Stamford Bridge stadium on Wednesday, Jan 13, 2016. —AP



# PELLEGRINI FUMES AFTER MAN CITY DRAW BLANK

**MANCHESTER:** Manuel Pellegrini rued a late penalty call after a 0-0 draw with Everton saw Manchester City spurn a chance to close on Premier League leaders Arsenal and Leicester City. Raheem Sterling went down under a challenge from John Stones in the last minute of Wednesday's game at the Etihad Stadium, but referee Roger East ignored City's appeals and the game ended goalless. "I don't think I need to give my thoughts about that action," said City manager Pellegrini. "The whole stadium could see it was a penalty. "It was so clear, so near for the referee, and both legs of Raheem were taken and it was a clear foul from Stones. But if the referee doesn't whistle for it, we can't say anything about that."

City's failure to score at home in the league for the first time since losing 2-0 to Arsenal on January 18 last year left them three points behind both Leicester, who won 1-0 at Tottenham Hotspur, and Arsenal, who drew 3-3 at Liverpool. City were unable to make almost constant second-half pressure count as they drew at home for the first time this season. "For different reasons we couldn't score and of course if you drop two points here and other teams around us win away, it's not a good game for us," added Pellegrini.

"But we have another 17 games and the important thing is to continue in the way we are. "Normally we score. It's really unbelievable, with the amount of saves and shots we had in the second half, not to score. "We did enough to win the game, especially in the second half. It was complete dominance by us, of possession, of shots, of saves from their goalkeeper, so I think we did enough to merit winning the game. "I am happy about the performance, although I am disappointed with the result. But nothing is finished yet. "We are not thinking about that (Arsenal and Leicester results). Of course it's better to keep the same amount of points between us and Arsenal. "We still have to play them here at home, but the most important thing is for us to continue this level of performance."

## English Premier League table

LONDON: English Premier League table after Wednesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Arsenal	21	13	4	4	37	21	43
Leicester	21	12	7	2	38	25	43
Man City	21	12	4	5	39	21	40
Tottenham	21	9	9	3	34	17	36
West Ham	21	9	8	4	33	24	35
Man Utd	21	9	7	5	27	20	34
Stoke	21	9	5	7	24	22	32
Crystal Palace	21	9	4	8	23	20	31
Liverpool	21	8	7	6	25	27	31
Watford	21	8	5	8	25	24	29
Everton	21	6	10	5	36	29	28
Southampton	21	7	6	8	28	24	27
West Brom	21	7	6	8	22	27	27
Chelsea	21	6	6	9	28	31	24
Norwich	21	6	5	10	24	35	23
Bournemouth	21	5	6	10	23	37	21
Swansea	21	4	7	10	19	30	19
Sunderland	21	5	3	13	26	41	18
Newcastle	21	4	6	11	22	38	18
Aston Villa	21	2	5	14	17	37	11

## 'Incredible satisfaction'

Everton manager Roberto Martinez felt that the referee made the right decision in not awarding a penalty and praised his side's resilience in keeping City at bay. Mid-table Everton have won just once in their last eight league games, but know a repeat of this result in a fortnight's time will take them to the final of the League Cup at Wembley after they beat City 2-1 in the first leg of their semi-final a week ago.

"Not long ago we were on the receiving end of a really poor decision right at the end in the last minute against Stoke (a 4-3 home defeat)," said Martinez. "It was the wrong decision at that time. What you want as a manager is a referee that is 100 percent when he gives that sort of decision. "I am pleased that as a referee sometimes you get emotional, you go with the crowd and you go with some of an action and you give a decision that is not the right one."

"I don't think the referee could have done it any better. If you're not certain, you don't want to gamble with a decision that could have been so damaging from our point of view. I just felt Roger made the right call there." Martinez added: "It's over a year since City failed to score at home and we take that as an incredible satisfaction of how well we defended. To have that resilience and defensive ability we had was very pleasing. "Of course it can give you confidence, but I can guarantee it will be a totally different game next time." —AFP

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016

Friday Times

# Sports

www.kuwaittimes.net

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's English defender Nathaniel Clyne (top) is tackled by Arsenal's Costa Rican striker Joel Campbell during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Arsenal at Anfield stadium in Liverpool on January 13, 2016. — AFP

## Arsenal squander title momentum