THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016** 

**Tourism in** Kuwait can generate 30,000 jobs in 10 years

**Clinton counters** Sanders 'revolution' with her experience



Kuwait experience highlighted in Boumedjeria's maiden book



Djokovic, Serena star at scandal-hit Aussie Open

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# KPC BOARD RESHUFFLES KEY POSTS IN OIL SECTOR

TERMS OF OFFICE END FOR MANY TOP OFFICIALS

07:50 & 18:59 **Low Tide** 01:18 & 13:01

**Min** 10°

**Max** 26° **High Tide** 

### KIA REFUSING TO COOPERATE IN SALE PROBE

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Head of the National Assembly's public funds protection committee MP Abdullah Al-Turaiji yesterday accused the state-run Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) of refusing to cooperate with the panel's investigation. Turaiji said the committee met yesterday to discuss the issue of selling a real estate services company by KIA in a suspicious way that "serves the relatives of the KIA director". He said that the director refused to provide the committee with documents of that sale and also refused to provide the documents to the Audit Bureau.

The committee intends to write a letter to the Assembly speaker stating that KIA has refused to cooperate with the panel's investigation and also with the Audit Bureau, and "we have the evidence of that and the cheques of the sale", the lawmaker said. Turaiji also warned the finance minister, who supervises KIA, that the authority is committing a serious mistake of refusing to cooperate with an Assembly panel.

**Continued on Page 13** 

### 4 KIDS KILLED IN FARWANIYA BLAZE





KUWAIT: Four children were killed in a fire in a sixth-floor flat in Farwaniya yesterday. Furniture, mattresses and other objects in the stairwell hindered firemen as they tried to reach the affected apartment, while residents of the building were evacuated. One fireman was injured. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's Board of Directors, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh, yesterday conducted a reshuffle of major posts in affiliate companies. The board discussed nominations for the major posts in the oil sector as the term of office ended for a host of top officials, spokesman of the sector Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said in a press statement. Directors and their deputies were appointed at KPC, as well as CEOs of subsidiary companies, he added.

Hashim Sayed Hashim was appointed managing director of KPC, entrusted with management and implementation of the integration project between refining and petrochemical operations. Jamal Abdulaziz Jaafar was appointed CEO of the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC). Mohammad Abdulatif Al-Farhoud and Abdulnasser Yusuf Al-Fluij were appointed CEOs of the Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) and the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) respectively. Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled noted that the KPC also appointed members of the boards of directors in all the KPC affiliated companies for the coming three years, after discussing the relevant criteria and regulations.

Kuwait's previous oil minister Ali Al-Omair was moved to the Public Works Ministry after a row with senior oil execs over his plan to reshuffle oil companies' leadership. He was appointed in Jan 2014 but faced repeated controversies during his tenure and fierce opposition to his plans to swap the CEOs of two state-owned oil company subsidiaries. KPC CEO Nezar Al-Adasani refused in November last year to make the swap as Omair decreed, instead arguing that the minister had no power over such decisions. — KUNA



LEEDS: British Prime Minister David Cameron (center) talks with Imam Qari Asim and Shabana Muneer, a member of the mosque's women's group, as he visits Makkah Masjid yesterday. — AFP

#### **CAMERON WARNS MUSLIM WOMEN:** LEARN ENGLISH OR RISK DEPORTATION

**LONDON:** Muslim women who fail to learn English to a high enough standard could face deportation from Britain, Prime Minister David Cameron announced yesterday. He also suggested that poor English skills can leave people "more susceptible" to the messages of groups like Islamic State (IS). Cameron's comments came as his center-right Conservatives launched a £20 million (\$28.5 million) language fund for women in isolated communities as part of a drive to build community integration.

Immigration rules already force spouses to speak English before they come to Britain to live with their

partners. But Cameron said they would also face further tests after two and a half years in the country to make sure their language skills were improving. "You can't guarantee you will be able to stay if you are not improving your language," he told BBC radio. "People coming to our country, they have responsibilities too." Cameron's government estimates that around 190,000 Muslim women in England - about 22 percent of the total - speak little or no English. There are estimated to be around 2.7 million Muslims in England out of a total population of some 53 million.

**Continued on Page 13** 

### WORLD TENNIS ROCKED BY MATCH-FIXING BOMBSHELL

MELBOURNE: A bombshell report alleging widespread corruption in tennis cast a shadow over the start of the Australian Open yesterday as officials vigorously denied suppressing evidence of match-fixing. The BBC and BuzzFeed reported that a "core group" of 16 players who reached the top 50 in the past decade, including Grand Slam title-winners, had repeatedly caused suspicion but never faced action. The claims, citing a leaked cache of secret files, broke as the year's first Grand Slam got underway in Melbourne, and prompted a swift response from tennis officials, with British Prime Minister David Cameron also calling for a full investigation by the sport's governing bodies.

As speculation swirled over the identities of the players under suspicion - eight of whom are reportedly in Melbourne - world number one Novak Djokovic said he was once approached to fix a match. The men's tour and the sport's anti-corruption body, the Tennis Integrity Unit, as well as Tennis Australia firmly rejected suggestions that any evidence was deliberately suppressed. "The Tennis Integrity Unit and the tennis authorities absolutely reject any suggestion that evidence of match-fixing has been suppressed for any reason or isn't being thoroughly investigated," men's tour chief Chris Kermode told reporters.

**Continued on Page 13** 









# AMIR MEETS AZHAR GRAND IMAM, LONDON MAYOR

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmed El-Tayeb, at Seif Palace yesterday. Tayeb is visiting the country to present His Highness the Amir with a medal for his appreciative endeavors in the field of religion. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Ahmed El-Tayeb.

Tayeb later met with is his Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud, as well as Secretary General of National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Ali Hussain Al-Yoha, and NCCAL's assistant Secretary General for culture sector Dr Bader Faisal Al-Duwaish attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received Lord Mayor of London Jeffrey Evans, in presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The meeting was attended by head of honorary mission and Governor of Hawally retired Lieutenant General Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. In other news, His Highness the Crown Prince received Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Acting Minister of Oil Anas Khaled Al-Saleh, as well as Minister of health Dr Ali Saad Al-Obaidi, and President of the National Security Apparatus Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Minister of health Dr Ali Saad Al-Obaidi.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmed El-Tayeb.



KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works Dr Ali Al-Omair, Ambassador of Sudan to Kuwait Mohi Al-Deen Salim Ahmed and other officials cut the ceremony's cake.

— Photos by Joseph Shagra



Sudanese ambassador Mohi Al-Deen Salim Ahmed welcomes Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexey Solomatin.

# MINISTRIES SHOULD FOLLOW AMIR'S FOOTSTEPS: OMAIR

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Ali Al-Omair said His Highness the Amir's orders to cut down the Amiri Diwan's expenses in view of the deteriorating oil prices was "an insinuation to all state departments to follow the same steps."

Dr Omair made those statements to reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony

organized by the Sudanese Embassy in Kuwait to celebrate Sudan's National Day. The minister also commented on the absence of some MPs from a recent parliament session, saying that it was unlikely to affect the parliament-government relation. He also stressed that Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem 'did his best' to contain the problem. Meanwhile, Omair noted that the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) security pact is on the parliament's agenda and would be discussed in due time.

# PHILIPPINE AIRLINES STARTS KUWAIT OPERATIONS

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** The maiden flight of Philippine Airlines landed in Kuwait yesterday and was accorded a traditional welcome by Kuwait airport officials. The inaugural flight to Kuwait carried passengers and several Philippines Airlines officials including Vice President for Sales Ryan Uy and Senior Assistant Vice President Genaro Velasquez. The first return flight took off yesterday afternoon. Abdullah Al-Rajhi, the superintendent of Air Transport for International Relations, welcomed the airline officials and passengers. "We welcome Philippine Airlines in Kuwait and we are hoping for the success of our business venture together. As part of the Kuwait Airport management, we are very happy over this new wonderful development," said Rajhi.

#### Warm welcome

Uy thanked Kuwait and its people for the warm welcome accorded to Philippine Airlines. "On behalf of Lucio Tan, Chairman and CEO of Philippine Airlines, and Jaime Bautista, President and Chief Operating Officer, I would like to thank the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the management of Kuwait International Airport and people of Kuwait for this wonderful reception," he said. "We are honored by the special attention and indeed your effusive welcome matches the warmth of your bright and sunny weather in Kuwait. I also bring you warm greetings from Manila," he noted.

The inaugural flight, according to Uy, was the first of many PAL flights that will bind Kuwait City and Manila closer together. "It took us a while to arrive here - in fact 75 years, or since PAL was founded in 1941. We consider you as a friend; Kuwaitis and Filipinos have been interacting since early 1960s when a newly-indepen-



DGCA's Director of the Department of Air Transport Abdullah Al-Rajhi with Philippine Airlinesí Vice President for Sales Ryan Uy.

dent Kuwait emerged as one of the world's major oil players in the world,' he added. He mentioned that Filipinos were among the first to work in the oilfields and refineries in the country.

#### 200,000 Filipinos

"With 200,000 Filipinos in Kuwait, it is high time that their flag carrier, the airline they trust, flies to their workplace to serve their travel needs. Of course PAL being an international carrier, we serve all nationalities. Our Kuwaiti friends and foreign expatriates based in Kuwait are most welcome as our guests, and indeed there are many reasons why PAL chose to fly to Kuwait. One and most important is the strong

and enthusiastic support from various sectors," Uy disclosed.

After Kuwait, Philippine Airlines will start operations to Jeddah from today, bringing to seven the flag carrier's total number of Middle East destinations which also includes Abu Dhabi, Doha, Dammam, Dubai and Riyadh. PR 668 departs Manila at 10:00 pm every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday and arrives in Kuwait the following day at 6:55 am local time; PR669 departs Kuwait at 2:55 pm local time every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and arrives in Manila at 8:15 am the following day. PAL's new A330-300 will be the fleet for the new Mideast routes.



KUWAIT: DGCA's Director of the Department of Air Transport Abdullah Al-Rajhi with Philippine Airlines officials in a group photo. —KUNA

FINANCIAL HUMANITARIAN AID GAP RISING: UN CHIEF

DUBAI: Amiri Diwan Advisor Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq greets UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon. —KUNA

**DUBAI:** Despite the generosity of donor countries, the gap of financial humanitarian assistance is on the rise, UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon stressed late Sunday. Ki-moon made this remark at an official launch

al Ban Ki-moon stressed late Sunday. Ki-moon made this remark at an official launch of a report on humanitarian aid financing at International Humanitarian City in Dubai.

The one-day event, which highlighted the role of UAE in taking up international humanitarian causes, was opened by UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon and was under the sponsorship of Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Ki-moon pointed out "The gap between the increasing numbers of people in need of assistance and sufficient resources to provide relief is rising. The world today spends close to USD 25 billion annually to provide part of the required assistance to save lives and the people in need. Despite the generosity of many donors, there still remains a gap in the financing of humanitarian aid estimated at USD 15 billion."

Sheikh Mohammad Al Maktoum lauded the UN decision to launch the report in UAE, as it has topped the list of donor countries. He stressed that joint international action is essential in narrowing humanitarian financing gap worldwide.

"To bridge the gap in humanitarian aid, it is necessary to consolidate international efforts, improve efficiency of humanitarian work, involve the private sector and establish good governance in the countries that

need help," said Sheikh Mohammad Al Maktoum said.

Meanwhile, Chairperson of International Humanitarian City Princess Haya Bint Al Hussain, wife of Sheikh Mohammad Al Maktoum said with the number of refugees and asylum seekers and internally displaced people in the world touching nearly 50 million. There are 125 million people around the world who are affected by lack of basic needs such as food, clean water resources, health and education, she added.—KUNA

# CABINET CONDEMNS TERRORIST ATTACKS IN TURKEY, INDONESIA

#### CABINET NAMES SENIOR OFFICIALS TO NEW POSTS

**KUWAIT:** The cabinet yesterday condemned the recent 'criminal act' that hit Turkey 'terrorist attacks' snd in Indonesia. Last Tuesday, a suicide attack struck the historical Sultanahmet Square in Istanbul, leaving many killed, mostly Germans, and wounded. Two days later, gun and bomb attacks targeted the Indonesian capital of Jakarta killing several people and wounding many others.

During a meeting held at Seif Palace and chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the cabinet expressed condolences to the two countries, and families of the victims, wishing the injured speedy recovery.

The cabinet reiterated Kuwait's unwavering stance, urging the international community to counter that "abominable phenomenon" that targets people's safety and stability worldwide, regardless of ethnicity or religion.

It also stressed Kuwait's firm rejection of all forms of terrorism, denounced by all faiths and human values and conventions. The country supports efforts seeking to vanquish the phenomenon, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-

#### Diwan budget

As yesterday's weekly meeting started, the cabinet was informed of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's orders on rationalization of the budget of the Amiri Diwan, and affiliated

The ministers pointed out that His Highness the Amir's initiative offers a significant all-inclusive message, amid the

unprecedented falls of oil prices, prompting the entire society, individuals and institutions, to proceed and face the challenge, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah added.

His Highness the Prime Minister urged Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Khaled Al-Saleh to coordinate with the concerned government bodies on the necessary measures and steps to enforce His Highness the Amir's directives, for rational-



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah chair's the cabinet's meeting yesterday. — KUNA

izing expenditure, responding to requirements of current conditions, for the sake of public interests.

Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak then notified the cabinet of a message His Highness the Amir received from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, also chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). In the message, Abbas expressed high appreciation for Kuwait's stances in support of the

Palestinian people and their just cause. He addressed means of boosting bilateral cooperation in all fields. the post of Director General of Kuwait Municipality, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah announced. He also indicated

His Highness the Prime Minister also apprised the ministers of a message from the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to His Highness the Amir inviting him to attend the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, on May 23-24.

First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the meeting on his participation in the 4th session of Kuwait-Qatar Joint Committee that recently reviewed means of enhancing bilateral ties in all fields. In addition, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled gave notice of his meeting with Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani during his visit to the country last week. The Doha talks addressed the deep-rooted bilateral ties

#### Obaidi's grilling

Meanwhile, the cabinet lauded the argument of Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi in reply to a grilling motion submitted against him last week. The ministers stressed how Al-Obaidi disproved pivots of the grilling through facts and documents.

The cabinet reiterated keenness on public interests and enforcing real parliamentary practices, that require constructive and fruitful cooperation between the Legislative and Executive Authorities, to realize security and prosperity for "dear Kuwait." The meeting was concluded with a review of the political developments on the Arab and international arenas.

#### Senior officials

Separately, the cabinet agreed to assign Engineer Ahmad Abdullah Al-Manfouhi to

the post of Director General of Kuwait Municipality, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah announced. He also indicated that the cabinet has appointed Dr Khaled Abdelsahab Mahdi as Secretary General of the Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD).

Moreover, the cabinet has appointed Faisal Saoud Al-Hasawi as Director General of Fish Resources at Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources Affairs while Mohammad Rashed Al-Hamad was assigned the post of Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice

Meanwhile, Waleed Abdulaziz Al-Ammar was named Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. Mohammad Bader bin Naji has been assigned the post of Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information while Fatma Mohammad Al-Snan was named Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Higher Education.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah also announced that Hamad Abdullatif Al-Barjas has been assigned the post of Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Minor Affairs (PAMA). Haifa Abdulaziz Al-Mudhaf was named Assistant Secretary General of the Secretariat of SCPD.

Mahmoud Hamad Al-Qattan was given the post of Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) while Mohammad Bahman has been transferred from PAHW to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) while retaining the same post. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah also announced that Hadeel Abdellatif bin Naji has been transferred from Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) to PAHW, while retaining the same post. —KUNA

In my **vie** 

# CHINESE PRESIDENT EMBARKS ON 5-DAY MIDDLE EAST TRIP



**By Javaid Ahmad** 

omorrow, Chinese President Xi Jinping is embarking on a five-day trip to the Middle East. His trip to the region is going begin in Egypt, where he will meet his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. Xi is expected to discuss with Sisi bilateral and other regional issues such as Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen. Xi is also expected to discuss terrorism and the ways and means to counter this menace.

The Chinese present's visit to Egypt is on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relationship between the countries. It is also expected that Xi will sign almost 51 bilateral agreements with the government of Egypt. Diplomatic relationship between the two countries is important as China has launched one of the most important and ambitious project of the 21stcentury known as 'One Belt, One Road', in which Egypt has a very important role.

On the second leg of his is visit, Xi will be in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is one of the important regional countries on which China is largely dependent on for imports of crude oil. During his visit to Saudi Arabia, the Chinese president is expected to further strengthen bilateral trade and commercial relationship between China and Saudi Arabia.

Xi is also expected to visit Iran on the final leg of his visit to the region, where he is expected to discuss the 'One Belt, One Road' with the Iranian government. Iran is an important country that plays an important part in this ambitious plan. China recently opened the Asian Infrastructure investment Bank (AIIB) in which Iran's membership has been approved. China is not only importing crude oil from Iran, but is looking forward to further strengthen trade, commercial and diplomatic relationships with Iran. The lifting of sanctions on Iran may likely provide an opportunity for China to invest in Iran, and Beijing is likely to be interested to benefit from this opportunity.

Xi's visit to the region is occurring at the time when the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia is tense. But the Chinese president's visit to the region was planned last year, and diplomatic sources are very optimistic about his visit. China may play an important role towards reducing the tension in the region and may help warring countries open diplomatic windows towards regional peace and stability. China considers Middle East's political stability is not only important for the region, but also very important for the interests of China.

Last month, the Syrian foreign minister and a Syrian opposition group were invited to visit China. Since the Syrian war started, it is expected that China has lost almost \$5 billion in investments in the oil sector. Last month, Iraq's prime minister visited China, where their bilateral relationship was upgraded. Iraq has been considered as a 'strategic partner' of China and in the near future, China is also looking to invest in Iraq and China has signed several agreements with the Iraqi government.

The fact of the matter is that China is slowly and gradually increasing its economic and political role in the region, and it seems likely in the near future that China could be play an important and leading political role along with other regional players such as the US, Russia, France and Britain. China can be counted as an important, emerging and trusted player in the region.



Report



# CHILD KILLED IN ACCIDENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A child was killed in a car accident reported on Abdaly road yesterday. Abdaly firemen who responded to the call found that four injured people were trapped, so they freed and handed them over to paramedics, including the four-year-old Kuwaiti girl who died en route to hospital. In a separate accident, a vehicle flipped over on Salmy road, prompting the Salmy fire center to respond. Trapped people in the vehicle were freed. No injuries were reported.



No injuries in fires

Jahra occupational fire department tackled a blaze in a vehicle in Saad Al-Abdullah. Firemen prevented the flames from spreading, bearing in mind that one of the vehicles had a gas cylinder in it. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, a fire broke out in the kitchen of a flat in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, prompting Jleeb fire center to respond. The fire was contained to keep it from spreading and was put out without injuries. In the meantime, Jleeb fire men fought a fire in a main transformer in cooperation with electricity emergency. One electricity emergency worker was injured and taken by paramedics. Separately, fire broke in a vehicle in Mahboula behind Alia towers. Mangaf fire center responded and the fire was put out promptly. Fire also broke out in the 'Green Tower' in Fahaheel. The fire was limited, and was contained and put out. No injuries were reported.

#### Liquor smuggling foiled

Detectives and customs officers foiled an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of liquor hidden in a container loaded with oranges. Official papers indicated it belonged to a company and contained oranges, but a source said Shuwaikh Port detectives became suspicious. When the container was searched, they found 200 cartons of liquor. A Pakistani mandoub was arrested when he went to clear the shipment and was sent for questioning.

#### PIC ACQUIRES 25% OF SOUTH KOREAN COMPANY

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Petrochemicals Industries Company (PIC) signed an agreement to acquire 25 percent in South Korea's SK Gas Company, according to a statement by a senior official. The deal includes a propylene factory in South Korea with a production rate of 600,000 ton per year, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh said yesterday.

Meanwhile, PIC's CEO Asaad Al-Saad stressed on the importance of this agreement in developing the oil sector in Kuwait and expanding investment in East Asia. He also said that SK Gas is one of the top partners of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), adding that petrochemical industries play a key role in supporting Kuwait's economy and petroleum resources. — KUNA



Anas Al-Saleh



KUWAIT: Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah is seen during his visit to the elections affairs department yesterday. — KUNA photos

### INTERIOR MINISTER INSPECTS ELECTIONS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

#### FIRST FEMALE CANDIDATE REGISTERS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah yesterday visited the elections affairs department to review the latest developments and preparations for by-elections in the third constituency. The Ministry of Interior's Assistant Undersecretary for Research and Legal Studies Major General Asaad A-Rowayyeh urged candidates to formally apply to the department and Kaifan police station to get permission to set up their campaign headquarters.

The elections department manager Lieutenant Colonel Salah Al-Shatti invited candidates wishing to hold seminars and rallies to use Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor halls and school theatres after paying a deposit of KD 3,000 that would be refunded after getting clearance from the schools and the area's police station. Shatti added that the total number of candidates reached 35 including the

first female candidate Amani Al-Saleh, who registered yesterday along with four candidates. The four other candidates are Khaled Al-Daihani, Khalifa Al-Khaddah, Sami Al-Sharida and Faraj Al-Khadri.

#### Court date set

The court of appeal yesterday set a hearing on Jan 25 to pass its verdict in a case filed against Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahd for slandering the judiciary. The court had reviewed an appeal made by Sheikh Ahmad over a pervious verdict sentencing him to six months with labor and KD 1,000 to suspend the verdict.

#### Blogger sentenced

The criminal court yesterday sentenced a blogger known as 'Carlos' to five years with labor over a case filed against him by the state security for slandering HH the Amir and Saudi Arabia.

#### Life in prison

The criminal court yesterday sen-

tenced a citizen to life in prison for murdering his friend during a fight involving others in a Salmiya apartment. Notably, a fight had started amongst a number of citizens in an apartment overlooking the Fifth Ring Road, where the defendant used his gun to shoot his friend in the head and injured another.

#### Ramadan donations

Informed sources at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor said that the ministry was in the process of preparing a system to collect donations during Ramadan and make sure those donations actually reach deserving people. The sources added that charities wishing to collect charity donations during Ramadan will, as usual, have to apply to get the ministry's approval and abide by the conditions and regulations to do so. The sources underlined that donations would not be collected through text messages or social media sites.

# ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP HAILS BLOCKING FALCONS' SMUGGLING

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Green Line Environmental Group (GLG) expressed high appreciation Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah's instruction on the need to protect Kuwait's environment and fully respect the environment law regulations made by Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahd. GLG stressed that thanks to coastguard alertness, an Iranian boat was recently stopped on attempting to smuggle 23 rare falcons into Kuwait. "This is the largest number of falcons smugglers tried to smuggle into Kuwait," GLG said, warning that the current season was one during which falcon smugglers were very active to sell them in black markets in GCC states. GLG added that falcons were amongst endangered species included in the CITES international treaty that Kuwait joined in 2003. "This operation confirms Kuwait's commitment to the treaty," GLG highlighted, adding that falcons breed in over 25 European and Asian countries and migrate amongst 59 European, Asian and African ones during winter.

#### MPs commend Amir

MP Kamel Al-Awadhi praised HH the Amir's instructions to cut the Amiri Diwan expenses and wished other ministries and government establishments would follow in view of the sharp fall in oil prices. "Rationalization is not only a patriotic duty, it is also a religious one because Islam teaches us not to be wasteful," he underlined. MP Abdulhameed Dashti also praised HH the Amir's instructions. "This step should be a role model for us all including ministries and various government bodies and establishments," he underlined, pointing out that such a step would help stop wasteful and unjustified spending as well as fight public fund violations and corruption.



Five candidates who registered yesterday for by-elections in the third constituency.



KUWAIT: The Information Ministry's Undersecretary Faisal Al-Mutalagem, Leaders Group's General Manager Nabila Al-Anjari and Officials cut the ceremonial cake. other officials inaugurate the Horeca Kuwait 2016 exhibition. —Photos by Joseph Shagra





Information Ministry's Undersecretary Faisal Al-Mutalaqem and Leaders Group's General Manager Nabila Al-Anjari visit a company's pavilion at the exhibition.



Chefs prepare food items during the event.



Statues made from chocolate on display at the exhibition.

## TOURISM IN KUWAIT COULD GENERATE 30,000 JOBS OVER 10 YRS: OFFICIAL

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Kuwait will raise the standard of the tourism sector, which can provide around 30,000 job opportunities over the next 10 years, with an annual investment capacity of over KD 700 million, according to a senior official. The Information Ministry's Undersecretary for External Media Affairs and Acting Undersecretary for Tourism Faisal Al-Mutalagem was speaking to reporters during the opening of Horeca Kuwait 2016, a two-day food, beverage and hospitality exhibition at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel.

Dubbed as one of the biggest annual hospitality expos, Horeca Kuwait has attracted several international brands from various countries around the world to display their products and services. The expo also hosts various side events such as a live cooking demo, fruit and vegetable carving, culinary expo, sushi, burger, ice carving, wedding and decorative competitions among others.

#### **Pivotal role**

Mutalagem said the tourism sector will assume a pivotal role in the diversification of resources and in the reduction of the likely state budget deficit in the event of a persistent drop in oil prices. He underlined the ministry will be assuming its role in this endeavor, focusing its efforts on raising the standards of and transforming the tourism industry into a dynamic source of

This strategy carries a rather large responsibility, he said, as promoting the country as a tourist destination requires huge commitment to

tourism and development projects in the country and opening more job opportunities for the youth, amid public and private sector coordination, he said. Citing Kuwait's successful participation in the global sociocultural Milan Expo 2015, the official urged the need for "specialized" exhibitions, which he said support development plans, reinvigorate trade and offer a dynamic role in encouraging youth to engage in businesses through support of SMEs.

Expected at the expo are culinary stars from various countries including Karlheinz Haase, Andre Shellenberg, Christelle Brua, Tareq Ibrahim, Luccien Veillet, Yousef Akiki, Lorenzo Cogo, Shaman Hilal and Yasser Jad. The event is organized by Leaders Group Company for Consulting and Development in collaboration with the Hospitality Services Company.



Information Ministry's Undersecretary Faisal Al-Mutalagem and Leaders Group's General Manager Nabila Al-Anjari tour the exhibition.

#### KUWAIT LOOKING INTO LATEST RENEWABLE **ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES: SHEIKH MOHAMMAD**

**ABU DHABI:** Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah said yesterday that Kuwait is keen



**Sheikh Mohammad** Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah

on looking into renewable energy's latest technologies. The Minister made this remark to KUNA upon arrival to UAE to partake in a two-day World Future Energy Summit (WFES).

Sheikh Mohammad said that Kuwait has practically started following serious measures in shifting to renewable energy, especially in the field of solar energy and hydroelectric, which would greatly improve the quality of the environment and save in energy cost.

The distinguished participation of Arab and international figures in the summit gave a great change to discuss means of activating clean energy technology in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, the Minister added.

The Ministry of Electricity and Water in cooperation Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation with are setting medium and long-term plans in order to achieve applying renewable energy in Kuwait. There are a number of renewable energy projects to be announced soon, he said.—KUNA



**KUWAIT: Australian Ambassador to Kuwait Warren Hauck** speaks at a dinner reception held last Sunday at his residence.



Australian Ambassador to Kuwait Warren Hauck is pictured with some guests at the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

#### AGRICULTURAL BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT STARTS ACROSS KUWAIT



**KUWAIT:** The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) said that yesterday marked its new agricultural beautification phase of roads across Kuwait. The project will focus on suburban roads and highways with a budget worth over KD 2 million for each area, PAAAFR official Faisal Al-Sadiqi said. Sadiqi mentioned that past mistakes will not be repeated - whereby tenders were granted to less-expensive firms with lower capabilities. These negative circumstances will not be repeated, and the tender process will ensure better-equipped companies that have had past dealings with the

authority, he added. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Scenes from agricultural beautification projects previously carried out in Kuwait. —KUNA



Ambassador Hauck participates in meat grilling held during Chefs cook a variety of Australian meat. the reception.

# GUESTS ENJOY AUSTRALIAN MEAT AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Australian Ambassador to Kuwait Warren Hauck hosted a dinner reception on Sunday for dignitaries and invited guests to taste a variety of Australian meat (Wagyu beef/steak/tenderloin and lamb chops) at his residence in Adailiya. The event was also attended by David Beatty, Regional Manager of Dubai-based Meat and Livestock Australia, who led a delegation of businessmen from 'True Aussie Beef and

Lamb' Australia, who are participating in the Horeca exhibition at Jumeirah Hotel.

Australian beef/lamb takes pride of its 100 percent 'halal to the bone' meat, as sheep and cattle are slaughtered according to sharia law by Muslims. "We are happy to share with you the best of our meat from Australia. We have here with us famous Arab chef Tareq, and he's the ambassador of Meat Australia. He is the best person to showcase the best of Aussie beef and lamb. This is a rare opportunity to share right at my doorstep the best

of Australian meat," Hauck said.

According to the ambassador, Kuwait is the largest market for Australian meat, especially live sheep. "We are getting a lot of fresh meat in the market. We attribute the growing meat products here from Australia to the growth of direct flights to Australia and region - 163 flights per week between Australia and GCC countries," Hauck added. The value of live sheep trade alone is at \$80 million per year. Chef Tareq Ibrahim then held a live cooking demo.









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**Al-Qabas** 

#### **ABDELHUSSAIN** ABDELREDHA'S HONORING, LONG OVERDUE

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

uwait enjoys an abundance of innovations in diplomacy, judiciary, poetry, music, film directors, humanitarian aid, business management, acting, medicine, security and sports along with other innovations, and their numbers are much more than Kuwait's geographic size, and it was possible for the number of these to increase much more if it was not for the fundamentalist attack that invaded us with its ideology, and consequently everything went backward.

All of us, along with those innovators, owe to one or more of those distinguished with something in making our life more beautiful and enriched, and our physical and mental health better, while our lives more secure and our mornings brighter. With all due respect to all Kuwaiti innovators and artists, the personality that the majority of Kuwaitis and a large portion of Gulf nationals and Arabs agree upon, and were influenced with some degree or another over the past half century, is the outstanding actor Abdelhussain Abdelredha!

Yes, we are in need of one who maintains the security of our country, and who treats us if we become sick, and who plays a piece of music if we become sick, and who writes us a beautiful novel to keep us away from our problems, and someone who produces an excellent movie that entertains us and documents our history, but we are in more need of one who puts the smile on our faces and gets happiness into our hearts, and gets happy tears out of our eyes, so our insides get rid of worries and prisons, and there is no better that what the comedians t do, and those are headed by the outstanding actor who is still at the peak of his career, Abdelredha.

Kuwait planned a celebration, in an unprecedented move under the patronage of HH the Prime Minister, as part of the Al-Qurain cultural festival celebrations, to name Salmiya theater after Abdelhussain Adelredha in appreciation of his major artistic role and his contribution in making Kuwait more civilized and its people happier and proud of him. We hope the government continues to name other state facilities after outstanding innovators, and rids us from the naming randomness, and honors innovators while they are still alive to be happy about it. We should not forget to commemorate the late Khalid Al-Nafisi and Abdelamir Al-Torky, in addition to actors Saad Al-Faraj, Suad Abdullah, Ghanima Al-Fahd and others whose names we cannot fit here. Finally: We wish Abdelredha a longer life and continued contributions, and congratulate him for this deserved honoring, and congratulate ourselves for his existence among us.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



### NEW FLOORS TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS' INCREASE

the Ministry of Education is considering the addition of extra floors to the new schools in the intermediate and secondary stages to face the rising number of student, particularly in new cities.

The ministry's planning and information department carried out a study and survey on schools in new and old residential areas which are suffering from high student density, according to sources. The study

KUWAIT: Concerned authorities at showed the existence of high densities even in areas which were built few years ago, they added. The sources said that new areas, in addition to some old one suffer an increase in student densities in all

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry announced the need for "Educational Technologies supervisors" at the Educational Development and activities sector of the educational technologies department.

#### 1,450 schools

In other news, recent statistics showed that the total number of schools in Kuwait rose to 1,450, including public, private, special and religious education schools. The statistic also showed that the number of classrooms reached Meanwhile, the stats showed that the number of students in all schools reached 647,238 while the number of teachers of both genders reached 81,404. — Al-Jarida, Al-Qabas

#### ONLINE HOUSE LOAN APPLICATION SOON

total invested value reached KD 13

**KUWAIT:** Director General of Kuwait ing of a KCB branch in Ghirnata Credit Bank (KCB) Salah Al-Mudhaf Sunday, Mudhaf said the percentage said investment in bonds has made of returns from Dec 14, 2014 until 4 percent returns, adding that the last Saturday reached 16 percent with a total value of KD 2 million. He

service to provide the KD 70,000 housing loan electronically, in order to save citizens' time and effort. "Efforts continue to ease procedures and relieve burdens on citizens who million. Speaking during the openalso said that the bank will launch a apply for a loan," he said. — Al-Qabas

# OOREDOO KUWAIT PUMPS UP VOLUME OF RETAIL OUTLETS WITH ALFA PARTNERSHIP

24/7 ACCESS TO MOBILE SERVICES



**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, member of international Ooredoo Group, is offering customers 24/7 mobile services, in addition to the latest services and promotions at two locations within Alfa petrol stations. This follows an agreement that will see pumps outfitted with hi-tech Ooredoo Express Shops which will feature exciting promotions as well as a test zone

so customers can trial the latest technologies whilst they wait their car to be serviced. The Express Shops will be staffed by experienced Ooredoo Kuwait ensuring the highest quality, morning, noon or midnight.

Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "This is the first time that round-the-clock



mobile services have been offered in Kuwait and we are grateful to the management of The Sultan Centre for their selection of Ooredoo as sole telecom operator within their shops and helping us introduce our Express Shops across the country. We are sure our customers will appreciate being able to try and buy at any time, seven days a week."

Alfa Fuel Services is part of SOOR Fuel Marketing Company (S.A.K), which was established in 2005. Following its incorporation and the constituent general assembly where it was declared finally established, the company acquired from Kuwaiti National Petroleum Company a set of 42 stations, and started operating by May, 2006.









KUWAIT: Director General of Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) Major General Yousuf Al-Ansari lauded the role of the private sector in the success of the directorate's department plan, especially the import of vehicles and new boats that were launched on the last day of 2015. The latest experiment was carried out three days ago in a practical exercise to pump water and foam through hoses in a building under construction with a height of 164 meters which is equal to 47 floors. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

#### الانياء

#### IS' 7 BENEFITS FOR ISLAM AND SUNNIS

By Sami Al-Nisf

■he benefits brought about by IS and its sister organizations like Al-Qaeda, Zarqawi and all militias flocking out of their nations' legitimacy in the name of Islam, are countless for Islam in general, and Sunni Arabs in particular. Some of these benefits are as follows:

1. Distorting Islam's image before the whole world, making it appear as a religion of terrorism, decapitations, hatred and retardation through terrible crimes committed by IS and its sister organizations and putting them on

2. Destroying Muslim countries, particularly Sunni regions, by occupying them and making them targets for airborne and land strikes by Western and Oriental powers in collaboration with the fighters, tanks and troops of official armies in concerned states, such as Syria and Iraq.

3. Placing Muslims, namely Sunni Arabs, under criticism of national partners and fellow-citizens by destroying worship and holy places belonging to the followers of other religions and doctrines, which instigates them. They also do so through suicide bombings in marketplaces, schools, colleges and congregations and immediately claim responsibility for such brutal actions that are motivated and funded by ghosts and paid for by the innocent. None of the suicide bombers is the son of any of IS or similar organizations' leaders.

4. Inciting world nations against Muslims, namely Sunni Arabs, through terrorist operations committed in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas, to which IS always claims responsibility very fast to hinder any efforts to defend Muslims.

5. IS and its likes do not settle for harming and making Sunni Arabs jobless in their countries and turning those countries into war-afflicted wastelands - they also pursue them in countries they immigrate to and commit the same crimes to have everybody mistrust them and refrain from employing them.

6. IS and its likes deliberately wage consecutive wars that displace millions of Muslims, namely Sunni Arabs and deprive them from education and physical and psychological healthcare, which ends up creating generations of ignorant people who later on contribute to destroying various countries. What would one expect from millions of children deprived from school and proper food and dumped into crowded refugee camps except growing up into future killing and devastation tools?!

7. IS and its likes did not settle for destroying the present and future of the Muslim nation, it also destroyed it past trough destroying temples and human heritage that had existed on those lands for thousands of years and had not been touched by the Righteous Caliphs. Thus, they strike several birds with one stone by erasing the past, provoking millions of followers of other religions and doctrines, proving that Arabs and Muslims are not fit enough to run their own countries and give enough excuses for those wishing to eradicate what is left of Arab and Muslim legacy and worship places using the 'same treatment' principle.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

#### Crime

Report

#### Wife beaten for smoking shisha

**KUWAIT:** An Egyptian woman was beaten by her husband who said he saw her smoking shisha. The woman went to the police station and submitted a medical report from Adan Hospital stating she had grazes and bruises, and claimed they were caused by her husband. The husband justified his action by saying he saw his wife smoking and lost his head. A complaint was lodged and investigations

#### Fake cop caught

Jahra police arrested a former police officer who claimed to be a detective and placed a flasher on his car, claiming it was his brother's. Police patrols noticed the car with the flashing light on it, and when they asked the driver for his ID, he told police: "I am your colleague from the detectives' department." Policemen insisted on seeing his ID, but he attempted to escape. Policemen caught him while he was resisting. He was taken to Jahra police station for further questioning.

#### **Search for swindler**

A female citizen accused a Syrian man of swindling her out of KD 7,200 she had set aside for purchasing beauty salon equipment. The woman told Jabriya police that the suspect told her about the equipment as she was preparing to open the salon, but took the money and disappeared. Hawally detectives are investigating.

#### Fight

Hawally police broke up a bloody fight between two citizens following a verbal dispute over a traffic disagreement. A security source said the Interior Ministry received a call about the fight, so police went to the scene and broke up the fight. They found one of the men with a wound on the head as a result of a strike with a sharp object. He was taken to Mubarak Hospital while the other man was taken to Maidan Hawally police station. — Al-Rai

#### HAWALLI STRUCTURAL STUDY SHOWS DETERIORATED **INFRASTRUCTURE**

KUWAIT: A study recently conducted by Hawalli traffic department showed a great deal of deterioration in infrastructure in the area, and that most of its lands were used by public and private schools. The study stresses the need to approve a special plan to execute major and minor renovations and development in order to reduce the negative impacts on the roads network created by the presence of several schools in the area. The study added that the parking of vehicles in 'unofficial' parking places and yards is considered a major challenge in Hawalli's design.

Further, the study stressed that most facilities and infrastructure services were too old, outdated and in bad need for renovation, development and upgrading in order to absorb current and future population growth, which has already been overburdening electricity, water and drainage systems beyond their capacity.

The study was prepared by the Organizational Structure Department at the Hawalli traffic department and will soon be referred by Kuwait Municipality's Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi to the Municipal Council for approval. — Al-Qabas

# Kuwait Times International

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#### WHERE NEXT FOR US-IRAN TIES?



Bitter cold strikes Northern Plains, **Great Lakes regions** 

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بنک بروت BURGAN BANK





(Left) Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz welcomes Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif ahead of their meeting in the capital Riyadh. (Right) Russian President Vladimir Putin shakes hands with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani during a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday. — AFP photos

## PAK VOICES 'DEEP CONCERN' OVER SAUDI-IRAN TENSIONS

#### Putin, Qatari Emir Talk Syria, economic ties

RIYADH/MOSCOW: Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday expressed "deep concern" to Saudi King Salman over escalating tensions between the Sunni kingdom and predominantly Shiite Iran. Sharif visited Riyadh in an effort to ease those tensions and is to head today to Saudi's rival Iran where he is expected to meet President Hassan Rouhani. "The prime minister expressed our deep concern on the recent escalation of tensions" between Riyadh and Tehran, Islamabad's foreign ministry spokesman Qazi Khalilullah said. "He also called for an early resolution of differences through peaceful means, in the larger interest of ummah (the Islamic nation), particularly during these challenging times."

According to the Saudi Press Agency, King Salman "welcomed the prime minister of Pakistan and his delegation" to his palace. The report gave no details of their discussions, which SPA earlier said were to touch on regional as well as bilateral issues. "The purpose of the visit is to mediate and to end the standoff between the two countries," a Pakistani government official told AFP, requesting anonymity, before the prime minister arrived. SPA said the prime minister was accompanied by Pakistan's powerful army chief, General Raheel Sharif. During yesterday's meeting, Pakistan "assured the kingdom of its support" for a Saudi coalition of 34 nations to combat "terrorism" in the Islamic world, the Pakistani statement said. "It was agreed that both countries would work together to defeat our common enemy terrorism and extremism."

Separately, Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Emir of Qatar yesterday discussed the Syrian crisis, as global powers seek to push the warring sides towards the negotiating table. "Russia plays a main role when it comes to stability in the world," Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani said at the start of the meeting at the Kremlin. "We very much want to develop relations with Russia and find a solution to a number of problems related to stability in some countries of our region," he added in translated remarks released by the Kremlin.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said both Moscow and Doha were expecting that, in accordance with a UN-backed plan, talks between the Syrian government and the opposition would begin "in the nearest future, already this month." Lavrov said Russia and Qatar had also agreed to step up measures to battle terrorism. "Concrete steps that can facilitate this have been agreed," he said in televised remarks, without elaborat-

The two countries also agreed to ramp up economic cooperation, with Putin telling Sheikh Tamim that Russia is keen to coordinate efforts in energy, "especially in the gas sphere." "I am hoping that all the efforts we've made over the past years to build our ties will serve a good basis for further steps," Putin said. "Investment cooperation is deemed to be very important," the Qatari ruler said for his part. Amid persisting tensions with the West over the Ukraine crisis, Russia has over the past few years has sought to forge closer ties with Middle East powers including Qatar. — Agencies

# IRAQ, US SEARCH FOR 3 ABDUCTED AMERICANS

**BAGHDAD:** Search operations were underway yesterday for three Americans kidnapped from a "suspicious apartment" in Baghdad, in a rare abduction of Western nationals in the Iragi capital. Kidnappers in Iraq have recently seized groups of Qataris and Turks, but it has been years since Americans were abducted, with Iragis suffering the most from kidnappings for ransoms or to settle scores. The Islamic State group, which overran large areas in 2014, has abducted thousands of people in Iraq, while Shiite paramilitary forces opposed to the jihadists have also carried out kidnappings.

"Three people carrying American nationality were kidnapped while they were in Dura... inside a suspicious apartment," a spokesman for the Baghdad security command said in a statement. "Security forces have begun searching for them," he said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the abductions and the identities and employment of the victims were unclear. A police colonel said on condition of anonymity that an Iraqi translator took the Americans for "drinking and women" at an apartment in the Dura area.

Militiamen "attacked the place", the colonel said, adding that "they were kidnapped from inside the apartment, not from the street". They were apparently taken to another area, as Dura was searched and they were not found, the officer said. He said that the translator was also kidnapped.

#### Rise in Kidnappings

Brothels and alcohol shops have been repeatedly targeted by powerful Shiite militia groups in Baghdad over the years. Iraqi parliament speaker Salim Al-Juburi condemned the rise in "cases of foreigners being kidnapped in Iraq," saying it would harm the country's relations with other states. "The kidnapping of the American citizens yesterday, and before them the Qatari hunters, whose fate is still unknown, without a doubt indicates the increasing work of organized gangs in Iraq," Juburi said in a statement. US State Department spokesman John Kirby said Sunday that the US was "working with the full cooperation of the Iraqi authorities to locate and recover the individuals". Both Juburi and the police colonel said the kidnappings took place Sunday, but some reports indicated they happened earlier. Iraq turned to paramilitary forces dominated by Iran-backed Shiite militias in 2014 to help combat IS jihadists.

These groups, which fall under an umbrella organization known as the Hashed al-Shaabi, or Popular Mobilization units, have played a key role in the fight against IS. But they and their affiliates have also been accused of abuses including summary executions, kidnappings and destruction of property. The US is leading a coalition of countries that have bombed thousands of IS targets in Iraq and Syria and which are providing training to Baghdad's forces. Washington has also dispatched special forces to Iraq to carry out raids against the jihadists. — AFP





# US RELEASES ACCOUNT OF SAILORS' IRAN DETENTION

**WASHINGTON:** In its first official account released Monday said the US sailors were of Iran's seizure and subsequent release of 10 US sailors in the Arabian Gulf, the US military said yesterday the only items found missing from their two recovered boats were SIM cards for two satellite phones. But key questions, such as why the sailors had deviated from their planned route to enter Iranian territorial waters, remain unanswered in the account released by US Central Command. It's calling the description a preliminary timeline of the events of Jan

"A Navy command investigation initiated Jan 14 will provide a more complete accounting of events," Central Command said. The investigation will focus on the US sailors' treatment while in custody, including any interrogation by Iranian personnel, the command said. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said last week while visiting Central Command headquarters in Florida that the boat crews had "misnavigated". He did not say how that mistake happened or provide other substantial details about an episode that posed a potential complication to efforts by Washington and Tehran to establish better relations.

The boat seizure happened just hours before President Barack Obama delivered his State of the Union address and just days before implementation of the Iran nuclear deal with the West. The implementation triggered the end of crippling international sanctions on Iran and a US-Iran prisoner exchange. The timeline not mistreated during approximately 15 hours in Iranian hands. It said a postrecovery inventory of the boats found that all weapons, ammunition and communications gear was accounted for, minus two SIM cards apparently removed from two handheld satellite phones.

The sailors were traveling in small armed vessels known as riverine command boats, headed from Kuwait to Bahrain, which is the location of the Navy's 5th Fleet. "The planned transit path for the mission was down the middle of the Gulf and not through the territorial waters of any country other than Kuwait and Bahrain," the account said. The boats were seized by Iran and escorted at gunpoint to Farsi Island, which is in the middle of the Gulf and home to an Iranian military facility.

Along the approximately 80-km journey they were to have refueled by linking up with a US Coast Guard vessel, the Monomoy, in international waters. The timeline said that approximately 10 minutes after the scheduled refueling, Central Command's naval headquarters at Bahrain received a report that the boats were being questioned by Iranians. The account does not explain who sent this report or whether it included other

About 19 minutes later, the naval headquarters "was advised of degraded communications with" the two boats, the account added. After an additional 26 minutes, the naval headquarters was notified of a total loss of communications sels. Central Command's naval headquarwith the boats. It does not explain who advised the headquarters of this problem or its apparent cause. A large-scale

ters at Bahrain attempted to contact Iranian military units operating near Farsi Island by using marine radio to broadcast



This Nov 2, 2015, image shows Riverine Command Boat (RCB) 805 in the Arabian Gulf. —AP

search-and-rescue mission was undertaken at that point, but it is not clear whether the Americans had by this time already been taken ashore on Farsi Island. Aircraft from the USS Harry S Truman aircraft carrier, which was operating 72 km southeast of Farsi Island, participated in the search, along with Air Force planes and vessels of the US Coast Guard, the British Royal Navy and other US Navy vesinformation about the search-and-rescue operation. Separately, the US notified Iranian coast guard units via telephone. About four hours after the US first heard that the sailors were being questioned by Iranians, the US Navy cruiser USS Anzio received word from the Iranians that the sailors were in Iranian custody. The Iranians described the 10 as "safe and healthy", according to the US account.

In the hours after the seizure of the Americans became public on Jan 12, there were conflicting reports about what caused the sailors to stray off their intended course. Yesterday's official account did not explain the reason. It said only that the crews "deviated" from their planned course. It made no reference to the navigation error cited by Carter last week. "At some point one (of the two boats) had indications of a mechanical issue in a diesel engine which caused the crews to stop and begin troubleshooting," the account said. Because the boats were traveling together, the other boat also stopped. At this point they were in Iranian territorial waters, "although it's not clear the crew was aware of their exact location," it added.

While the boats were stopped and the crew was trying to assess the mechanical problem, Iranian boats approached. First to arrive were two small Iranian craft with armed personnel aboard. Soon after, they were joined by two more Iranian military vessels. A verbal exchange ensued between the Iranians and Americans, but there was no gunfire. Armed Iranian military personnel then boarded the US boats while other Iranian personnel aboard other armed vessels monitored the situation. At gunpoint the US boats and their crews were escorted to a small port facility on Farsi Island, where the Americans went ashore and were detained, the account said. The sailors were released the following morning aboard their boats. — AP



graph "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima" displayed on a building in the Iranian capital. —AFP

# Where next for US-Iran ties?

#### Nuke deal and prisoner swap a start

and Washington's surprise prisoner swap with Tehran the final high point of a one-off diplomatic initiative or the start of a real realignment? Some 35 years after US-Iran ties were broken amid the chaos of the Tehran hostage crisis, might the Great Satan and the Axis of Evil lynchpin be on the brink of real detente? Most experts see a formal restoration of diplomatic ties as far off and progress as fragile, but Washington at least is ready to see how far the diplomatic track will take it.

"We do believe we should test whether or not there can be additional cooperation, or at least constructive dialogue," a senior US administration official told reporters. On Saturday, the UN nuclear watchdog confirmed Iran had put a nuclear bomb beyond its immediate reach and the US and EU lifted their most draconian economic sanctions. At the same time - in a surprise gesture - Tehran and Washington revealed they had reached a deal to exchange two groups of prisoners held in each other's jails.

"We were able, over the course of the last couple of years, to have more diplomatic engagement with Iran than I think we've had in total since 1979," the US official said. US diplomats insisted, to widespread skepticism, that the two breakthroughs were entirely separate. The Iran nuclear deal was the product of years of careful negotiations between Tehran and the P5+1 - the permanent UN Security Council members and the European Union. The prisoner swap, by contrast, came after 14 months of backchannel negotiations, conducted in secret between US envoys and Iranian diplomats and intelligence officials. But taken together, the initiatives have fed speculation that President Barack Obama is rewiring US networks in the Middle East to end the decades-long standoff.

#### 'Natural future partner'

Detente with Iran would make it easier to resolve the crises in Iraq, Syria and Yemen - even if it would unsettle traditional US allies Israel and Saudi Arabia. "Deeply encoded in Obama's software, the answer was Iran," Joseph Bahout, a Middle East scholar at the Carnegie Institute for International Peace, told AFP. "His team thinks that Iran is a natural future partner." If the tensions between the Shiite Islamic republic and the Sunni Gulf monarchies subside, other conflicts fed by their proxies and their funding might be solved.

"I think that we have shown that over time, very persistent diplomacy can yield results," said the Obama administration official, defending the outreach. The next test of whether Iran will continue to accomodate some US ambitions will be

resume later this month in Geneva. Iran and its Lebanese ally the Hezbollah militia are key backers of President Bashar al-Assad's regime and potential spoilers as Washington tries to ease him out of office.

Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, is a sponsor of the rebels ranged against him, and Riyadh's anger at Obama's Iranian gambit may poison the mood as Washington pushes for peace. "We have profound differences and continue to have profound differences with Iran over the situation in Syria," the US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, admitted. And not only on Syria.

#### 'Terror Sponsor'

Despite the image presented by US Secretary of State John Kerry's frequent meetings and calls with Iran's Foreign Mohammad Javad Zarif, nothing concrete has changed. The countries still have no formal diplomatic ties. Crowds in Tehran

WASHINGTON: Was this weekend's nuclear deal the UN-mediated Syrian peace talks due to still chant "Death to America!" Washington still lists Iran as a "state sponsor of terrorism". And there may not be time to do much about this. Supporters of Iran's reformist president Hassan Rouhani hope to make gains in parliamentary elections next month that will give him more room to maneuver around hardliners.

But the stance of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will remain key, and he may not be ready for further reconciliation. Obama, meanwhile, has a clearer deadline. He is out of office in a year's time, and if a Republican candidate wins the White House he or she will likely adopt a tougher tone. "Perhaps Obama is right," Bahout said. "But he won't get much further. What they achieved so far is huge, and they'll try to keep the relationship going discreetly, like a couple having an affair." So, administration officials admit, there won't be a dramatic US embassy re-opening like there was last year in Havana. There simply isn't time. — AFP

#### IRAN POETS, FACING LASHINGS AND PRISON, ESCAPE COUNTRY

**DUBAI:** Two Iranian poets who face lashings and prison sentences have fled Iran, one of the writers said yesterday, a rare escape for local artists and activists ensnared in an ongoing crackdown on expression in the country. Fatemeh Ekhtesari and Mehdi Mousavi's freedom came as world powers lifted sanctions on Iran over its contested nuclear program and as the country separately freed four Iranian-Americans in exchange for seven Iranians held in the US. The poets' escape is a reminder that despite the growing detente with the West, hardliners still exert control over much of life in the Islamic Republic, which is one of the world's top jailers of journalists.

"Iranian political prisoners who are imprisoned on similarly baseless charges and do not hold a foreign passport do not get the same attention," Hadi Ghaemi, the executive director of the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, said in a statement this weekend. "This is a continuing travesty of justice." Ekhtesari, a practicing obstetrician, told AP yesterday that both she and Mousavi, a trained doctor who teaches literature and poetry, escaped from Iran in recent days and made it to another country. She declined to elaborate out of continuing concerns about

Ekhtesari faced an 111/2-year prison sentence, while Mousavi faced nine years on charges ranging from propaganda against the state to "insulting sanctities." Each also was sentenced to 99 lashings for shaking hands with members of the opposite sex. They likely were targeted because their work is known abroad. Both are self-described "postmodern Ghazal" poets who seek to revive the traditional Persian love sonnet by applying it to contemporary political and social issues.—AP



Iranian poets Fatemeh Ekhtesari and Mehdi Mousavi pose in an unknown place in Iran. — AP

### FRANCE VOWS 'VIGILANCE' with Iran on nuke deal

ABU DHABI: World powers will remain "very vigilant" to ensure Tehran commits to a nuclear deal that has seen the West lift sanctions on Iran, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said yesterday. The entry into force on Saturday of the July 14 deal between Iran and world powers "is a good thing... but we should be extremely strict in monitoring its implementation," he said. "We will be very vigilant," he told reporters on the sidelines of the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi.

The International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed late Saturday that Tehran had complied with its obligations under the accord, leading the United States and the European Union to lift sanctions imposed over Iran's disputed nuclear programme that had crippled its economy for a decade. These obligations included Iran dramatically downscaling its nuclear program, including slashing by two-thirds the number of its uranium centrifuges and reducing its stockpile of uranium. Fabius said he hoped "the state of mind that allowed for this deal will have positive conregion". Peace talks scheduled to take place in Geneva on Jan 25 to resolve Syria's deadly conflict would provide the "first opportunity" to test Tehran's intentions, he

Iran - alongside Russia - is a key backer of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's regime, which has been locked in deadly fighting with opponents since an uprising erupted in 2011. Fabius is to visit Tehran's regional rival Saudi Arabia today, just days before Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is expected in Paris. Saudi Arabia severed its diplomatic ties with Iran earlier this month after protesters attacked its missions in the Shiite-dominated Islamic republic.

The protests erupted in response to the execution in the Sunni-ruled kingdom of prominent Shiite cleric Nimr Al-Nimr. Asked if France could play a mediator role between Riyadh and Tehran, Fabius said: "Mediation is not the right word, but we are talking to both sides." Fabius said he would meet Saudi King Salman today ahead of a meeting on economic cooperation between France and Saudi Arabia in



ABU DHABI: Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (right), Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces, meets French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius at his palace yesterday. —AFP

### US 'WON'T REST' UNTIL **EX-FBI AGENT FREED**

**Robert Levinson** 

WASHINGTON: While five American citizens were freed from detention in Iran this weekend, the US government vowed Sunday to work tirelessly for the release of another missing for nine years. Ex-FBI agent Robert Levinson disappeared in mysterious circumstances in March 2007

during a visit to the Iranian island of Kish. He was reportedly investigating cigarette counterfeiting in the region. Levinson, 67, is considered to be the longest-held hostage in US history, if still alive.

"Even as we rejoice in the safe return of others, we will never forget about Bob," President Barack Obama said in a White House speech. "Each and every day, but especially today, our

hearts are with the Levinson family, and we will not rest until their family is whole again." Of the US citizens who have been freed by Iran, four were part of a prisoner swap with America, while a fifth was released in a separate process, according to US officials.

Taking to Twitter, Secretary of State John Kerry said "For over a year, we have raised the cases of American citizens unjustly detained in #Iran at every opportunity." He added: "Iran also agreed to deepen our coordination as we work to locate Robert Levinson. We won't rest until the Levinson family is whole again." The Federal Bureau of Investigation has announced a \$5 million reward for infor-

> mation leading to his return. "The FBI expects our Iranian counterparts to fulfill their commitment to locate Bob and help bring him home safely," the agency said in a statement. "Bob forever remains part of the FBI family, and we remain committed to bringing him home safely to the family who misses him so much."

The FBI said "we continue to investigate and follow up on all information we receive.

no matter how insignificant it might seem" In 2013, US media reports revealed that Levinson had been paid by the CIA to gather information during his visits to Iran. He had been hoping to meet an informant during his trip who could provide information about Tehran's disputed nuclear program, they said. The White House has denied Levinson was working for the US

government when he vanished.—AFP

#### BITTER COLD STRIKES NORTHERN PLAINS, GREAT LAKES REGIONS

**CHICAGO:** The arctic air mass that froze water pipes in Minnesota and lead Chicago officials to ask residents to check on neighbors this weekend is sticking around in some parts of the upper Midwest. Due to El Nino, winter got off to a mild start. But the blast of dangerous cold moved east across the Northern Plains and Great Lakes on Sunday, when temperatures bottomed out at 36 degrees below in Fosston in northwest Minnesota. It was so cold in western Minnesota that traffic lights went dark Sunday morning in Montevideo when a transformer blew. One homeowner's bid to thaw pipes in West Duluth caused a fire that led to \$37,000 in damage, WDIO-TV reported.

Meanwhile, parts of Illinois were in the single digits yesterday, the second day with such frigid air. Many cities sought to ensure no one succumbed to the cold. The Indianapolis Star reported that the state Department of Homeland Security would send anyone needing shelter from the weather Sunday and yesterday to a Salvation Army facility. But in Wisconsin, authorities said a 21year-old woman likely died of exposure in Milwaukee; she had reportedly left a house party and was found outside by a passer-by.

Snow accompanied the drop in temperatures in northern and western Michigan, where up to 16 inches of snow fell over 24 hours in Honor and Traverse City received 10 inches. Some reprieve from the cold is expected in the Midwest later in the week, with Chicago expecting to jump into the comparatively balmy 30s by Thursday. But the subfreezing temperatures were moving eastward. In Philadelphia, a man who had been evicted from a homeless shelter returned Sunday morning and opened fire, killing one employee and injuring another, police said. Some officials feared the shooting might deter people from entering shelters as frigid weather entered the region. "We're very, very, very concerned; this is not something that happens in the city of Philadelphia's shelters for people experiencing homelessness," Marie Nahikian, director of the city Office of Supportive Housing, told WPVI-TV. — AP



MINNEAPOLIS: Jack Delehanty poses for a photo after going on a 10-mile jaunt at Lake Harriet on Sunday. — AP



CHARLESTON, South Carolina: Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders participate in the NBC News-YouTube Democratic debate on Sunday at the Gaillard Center.— AFP

# SANDERS SLAMS CLINTON IN DEMOCRATIC DEBATE

#### HILLARY COUNTERS 'REVOLUTION' WITH HER EXPERIENCE

CHARLESTON, South Carolina: Democratic presidential candidates clashed in their final debate before first votes are cast in Iowa, with Hillary Clinton saying she's ready to take on the "world's hardest job" as she sparred with her surging rival Bernie Sanders. The pair, along with former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, met in Charleston, South Carolina, late Sunday aware that their performance could be the best opportunity to reshape the Democratic nomination race ahead of the lowa caucuses, which will be held two weeks from Monday.

Clinton is ahead in national opinion polls among Democrats, but Sanders has surged in recent weeks and threatens her narrow lead in lowa. Clinton wrangled with the leftist Vermont senator, sometimes intensely, over plans for universal healthcare, guns, battling Islamic State jihadists and reining in Wall Street. She emphasized her vast experience as former secretary of state, senator and point-woman for her husband ex-president Bill Clinton's efforts to reform healthcare in the 1990s.

"I understand that this is the hardest job in

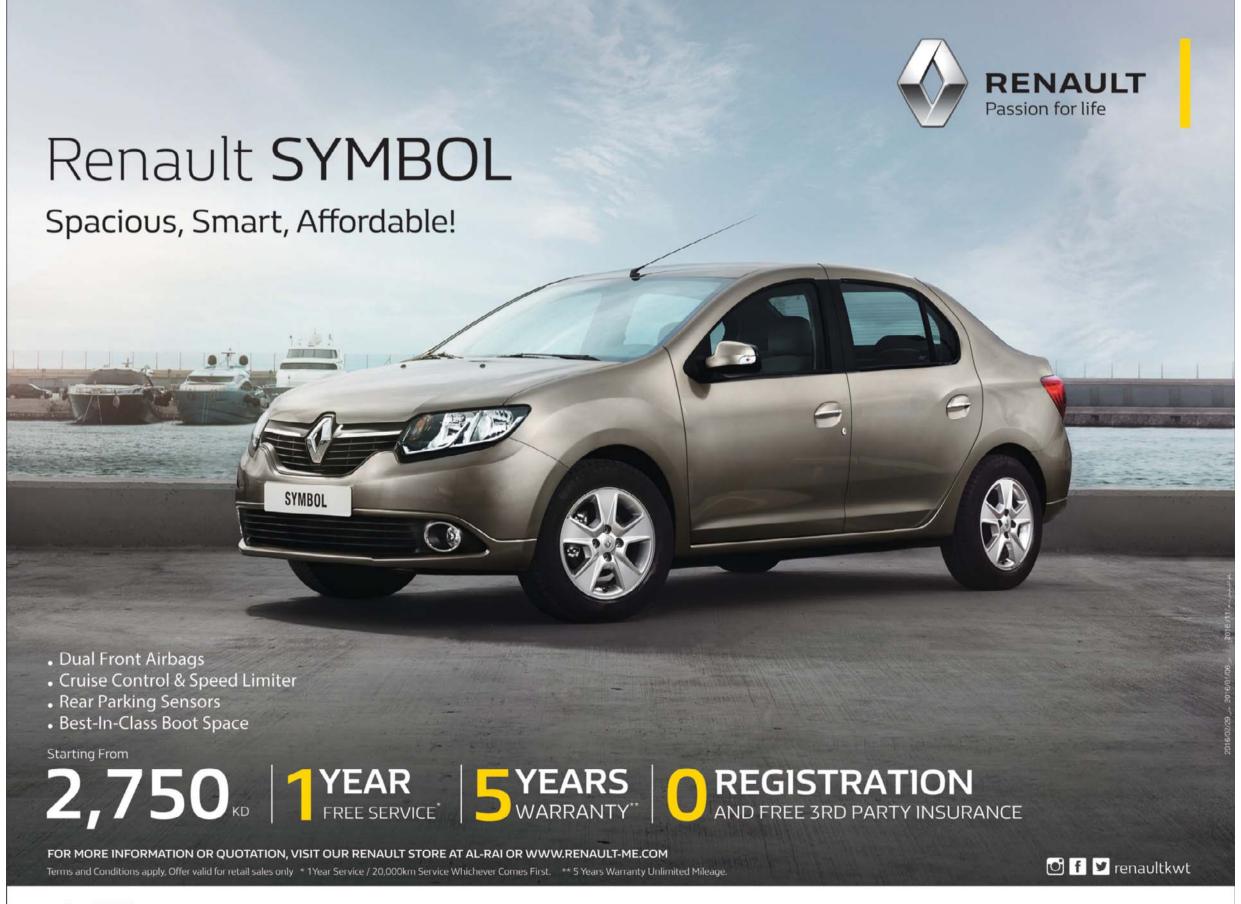
the world. I'm prepared and ready to take it on," she said. She also insisted that she was best qualified to "bring our country together" during politically polarizing times. Sanders shook up the issue of healthcare when just hours before the debate started he unveiled a universal healthcare proposal he says can save American families thousands of dollars each year by no longer paying insurance premiums.

But the plan would require a 6.2 percent healthcare payroll tax on businesses, while slapping taxpayers with a 2.2 percent "premium" based on income. Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, claims his plan would save \$6 trillion over 10 years compared with the current system. Clinton criticized his plan claiming it would shred President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, which has helped 19 million new people get health insurance. "To tear it up and start over again... I think is the wrong direction," Clinton said at the debate broadcast by NBC News.

Perhaps her sharpest attack against Sanders was her claim that he is weak on gun control. "He has voted with the NRA (National Rifle Association), with the gun lobby numerous times," including against legislation mandating background checks for gun sales. she declared. And Clinton wryly congratulated Sanders for flip-flopping on a proposal she has advanced to end gun makers' immunity from lawsuits. In 2005 Sanders voted for legislation that gave gun manufacturers legal immunity. "This should not be a political issue," Sanders said, noting the tragedy that befell Charleston when a "crazed person" shot nine African Americans in a church last year. "What we should be doing is working together."

#### A 'Rigged' Economy

O'Malley has made little headway with voters despite considerable debate stage time. He squeezed into the conversation Sunday, indicting the Clinton political juggernaut by stressing that it was time for voters to "let go of the past and move forward". However, it is Sanders and his "political revolution" that has jostled team Clinton.—AFP







### 4 DEAD IN SUICIDE ATTACK AT CAMEROON MOSQUE

killed in a suicide bombing at a mosque in northern Cameroon yesterday, a security source said, five days after a similar attack left 12 people dead.

Yesterday's blast hit the village of Nguetchewe in Cameroon's Far North region, in an area near the border with Nigeria regularly targeted by Boko Haram jihadists. "The toll of this attack is four dead and two injured," the source, who was at the scene of the attack, told

YAOUNDE: Four worshippers were AFP. A source close to regional authorities confirmed that a deadly attack had taken place in Nguetchewe, but was unable to provide details. The security source said the attack took place around 6:00 am (0500 GMT) just as morning prayers were ending. "The suicide bomber, a young boy, arrived in the village by foot," the source said, adding that a witness had noticed his behaviour seemed suspicious and had tried to

mosque, where he set off the explosives he was carrying with him."

Cameroonian troops are at the scene of the attack, the source said. It is the second deadly blast to hit the Far North in less than a week, following a bombing at a mosque in Kolofata district during morning prayers last Wednesday. In November 2013, French priest Georges Vandenbeusch was kidnapped from Nguetchewe, with the Boko Haram He was freed after around 50 days in captivity.

Communications Minister Issa Tchiroma Bakary said Friday that nearly 1,200 people have been killed in the Far North since 2013, when Boko Haram began attacking Cameroonian territory bordering its northeast Nigerian stronghold. Cameroon boosted its military presence along the Nigerian border in 2013, under increasing pressure from

"The bomber ran towards the Islamist group claiming responsibility. the jihadists on the other side of the border. Boko Haram, which has waged a sixyear campaign for a hardline Islamic state in northeast Nigeria, has been using the Far North as a base for supplying weapons, vehicles and equipment.

Along with Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Benin, Cameroon is part of a regional military force fighting the jihadists, who have killed at least 17,000 people and made more than 2.6 million others homeless. — AFP

#### **BURKINA FASO CAPITAL SECURITY** TIGHTENS AFTER JIHADI ATTACK

**OUAGADOUGOU:** In the wake of a weekend attack that left up to 32 dead, security was beefed up across Burkina Faso's capital yesterday as businesses and banks reopened

The West African nation also announced a joint effort with Mali in the fight against jihadi elements in the West African region. "Please go ahead and search my bag. We want to be protected and there is no way to refuse this," said Fati Doussa, who visited a bank to get some cash. Metal detectors have been placed at banks. "We know it is just going to be different from now on," said Ousmane Sawadogo, a cell-phone seller some 200 meters from the Splendid Hotel. The attack, which began Friday night, was the first of its kind in Burkina Faso, a largely Muslim country that had managed to avoid the kinds of jihadist attacks that have hit neighboring Mali

At the site, forensic experts and investigators from France and Burkina Faso, dressed in white, filled the brown dusty street yesterday, gathering evidence in secured areas near the Cappuccino Cafe and Splendid Hotel. Military forces ended the siege Saturday. Officials said forces killed three attackers in the Splendid Hotel, and another in a neighboring hotel.

But a Burkina Faso gendarme official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to speak to the press, said they are investigating the person killed at the nearby hotel to determine if it was an attacker.

Burkina Faso's security minister, Simon Compaore, on Sunday said 32 people were dead, including three jihadists. The toll had earlier been 28 killed in addition to four

jihadists. The toll includes a Ukrainian woman who was co-owner of the Cappuccino Cafe, along with her 9-year-old son, according to Ukrainian and Italian officials, and six Canadians, according to Canada officials. The Canadian Press reported that the six were traveling together as part of a humanitarian mission, four them were from the same family.

Others killed include seven citizens of Burkina Faso, two Ukrainians, two Swiss, two French and one each from the US, the Netherlands, Portugal and Libya, and one French-Ukrainian, according to Burkina Faso officials who released a partial list. Other bodies were being identified.

At least 176 people were freed by Burkina Faso and French forces by Saturday, he said. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb put out a formal statement Sunday naming three of the attackers, according to SITE Intelligence Group which monitors extremist sites. It said it was a "drop in the sea of global jihad." The group on Friday claimed responsibility for the attack saying al-Mourabitoun fighters carried out the siege. Al-Mourabitoun joined AQIM last year and they claimed their first joint attack was the Nov 20 seizure of the Radisson Blu in Mali that killed 20 people. Burkina Faso and Mali's prime ministers met Sunday, and agreed to share intelligence and have join patrols along shared borders, they said.

"It is obvious that, faced with this situation, both countries are going to beef up transnational cooperation with other countries, share intelligence, have mixed patrols at our borders and use adequate means," said Burkina Faso Prime Minister Paul Kaba Thieba. Makan Kone, spokesman for Mali's prime minister said the countries will continue to fighting extremism in the region. — AP



Migrants and refugees walk through snow covered fields, after crossing the Macedonian border into Serbia near the village of Miratovac

# MERKEL, JUNCKER PUT EURO'S FATE IN PLAY IF MIGRATION NOT SOLVED

#### Pressure mounting on Merkel to close borders to Syrians

**BRUSSELS/BERLIN:** Is this how "Europe" ends? The Germans, founders and funders of the postwar union, shut their borders to refugees in a bid for political survival by the chancellor who let in a million migrants. And then-why not? they decide to revive the Deutschmark while they're at it.

That is not the fantasy of diehard Eurosceptics but a real fear articulated at the highest levels in Berlin and Brussels. Chancellor Angela Merkel, her ratings hit by crimes blamed on asylum seekers at New Year parties in Cologne, and EU chief executive Jean-Claude Juncker both said as much last week. Juncker echoed Merkel in warning that the central economic achievements of the common market and the euro are at risk from incoherent, nationalistic reactions to migration and other crises. He renewed warnings that Europe is on its "last chance", even if he still hoped it was not "at the beginning of the end". Merkel, facing trouble among her conservative supporters as much as from opponents, called Europe "vulnerable" and the fate of the euro "directly linked" to resolving the migration crisis — highlighting the risk of at the very least serious economic turbulence if not a formal dismantling of EU institutions. Some see that as mere scare tactics aimed at fellow Europeans by leaders with too much to lose from an EU collapse — Greeks and Italians have been seen to be dragging their feet over controlling the bloc's Mediterranean frontier and eastern Europeans who benefit from German subsidies and manufacturing supply chain jobs have led hostility to demands

that they help take in refugees. Germans are also getting little help from EU cofounder France, whose leaders fear a rising antiimmigrant National Front, or the bloc's third power, Britain, consumed with its own debate on whether to just quit the European club altogether.

So, empty threat or no, with efforts to engage Turkey's help showing little sign yet of preventing migrants reaching Greek beaches, German and EU officials are warning that without a sharp drop in arrivals or a change of heart in other EU states to relieve Berlin of the lonely task of housing refugees, Germany could shut its doors, sparking wider crisis this spring.

#### **GERMAN WARNINGS**

With Merkel's conservative allies in the southern frontier state of Bavaria demanding she halt the mainly Muslim asylum seekers ahead of tricky regional elections in March, her veteran finance minister delivered one of his trademark veiled threats to EU counterparts of what that could mean for them.

"Many think this is a German problem," Wolfgang Schaeuble said in meetings with fellow EU finance ministers in Brussels. "But if Germany does what everyone expects, then we'll see that it's not a German problem-but a European one." Senior Merkel allies are working hard to stifle the kind of parliamentary party rebellion that threatened to derail bailouts which kept Greece in the euro zone last year. But pressure is mounting for national measures, such as border fences, which as a child of East Germany Merkel has said she cannot countenance. "If you build a fence, it's the end of Europe as we know it," one senior conservative said. "We need to be patient." A senior German official noted that time is running out, however, "The chancellor has been asking her party for more time," he said. "But ... that narrative ... is losing the persuasiveness it may have had in October or November. If you add in the debate about Cologne, she faces an increasingly difficult situation."

He noted that arrivals had not fallen sharply over the winter months as had been expected. "You can only imagine what happens when the weather improves," he said.

#### **SCHENGEN FEARS**

Merkel and Juncker explicitly linked new national frontier controls across Europe's passportfree Schengen zone to a collapse of the single market at the core of the bloc, and of the euro. Both would ravage jobs and the economy. "Without Schengen ... the euro has no point," Juncker told a New Year news conference on Friday. Historic national resentments were re-emerging, he added, accusing his generation of EU leaders of squandering the legacy of the union's founders, survivors of World War Two. Merkel has not suggested-yet-that Berlin could follow neighbours like Austria and Denmark in further tightening border checks to deny entry to irregular migrants. But she has made clear how Europe might suffer. "No one can pretend that you can have a common currency without being able to cross borders relatively easily,"

she said at a business event last week. In private, German officials are more explicit. "We have until March, the summer maybe, for a European solution," said a second German official "Then Schengen goes down the drain."

A senior EU official was equally blunt: "There is a big risk that Germany closes. From that, no Schengen ... There is a risk that the February summit could start a countdown to the end." The next summit of EU leaders one month from now follows meetings last year that were marked by agreement on a migration strategy as well as rows over failures to implement it. Of the 160,000 asylum seekers EU leaders agreed in September to distribute among member states, fewer than 300 have been moved. Berlin and Brussels continue to press for more distribution across Europe. But few place much hope in that-one senior German official calls it "flogging a dead horse".

#### **TURKISH KEY**

EU leaders' hope is for help from Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, a man many of them see as an embryonic dictator. Berlin is pressing for more EU cash for Ankara, beyond an agreed 3 billion euros, which Italy is blocking. Some Germans suggest simply using German funds to stem the flow from Turkey. EU officials say it is too early to panic. Arrivals have fallen this month. UN data show them running in January at half the 3,500 daily rate of December. Progress includes a move to let some of the 2.1 million Syrian refugees in Turkey take jobs. The EU will fund more schools for



OUAGADOUGOU: Burkina Faso troops provide security in the area yesterday after militants led an attack on a hotel and a cafe popular with foreigners over the weekend in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. — AP

#### SPANISH KING MEETS PARTY LEADERS TO FORM NEW GOVT

MADRID: Spain's King Felipe VI began yesterday a week of meetings with party leaders in a bid to break a potentially damaging impasse over the formation of a new government following inconclusive elections. Acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has headed a caretaker government with reduced powers since a December 20 general election produced a hung parliament in which a ruling majority cannot easily be

Under Spain's constitutional monarchy the king must now meet with the leaders of all parties that won representation in parliament before nominating one of them to try to form a new government. The nominated party leader must then win a parliament vote of confidence to take office. If there is still a deadlock two months after the first vote, the monarch must call new elections. Felipe, who took the throne when his father Juan Carlos abdicated in June 2014, began the talks on Monday by meeting with the leaders of small regional parties. The consultations are due to end on Friday when he meets with Rajoy, whose conservative Popular Party (PP) won the most seats but fell far short of an absolute majority in the 350-seat parliament.

#### 'Uncertainty has consequences'

Rajoy has called for a "grand coalition" of the PP, which has 123 seats, his traditional Socialist rivals who came in second place winning 90 seats and new centre-right party Ciudadanos which took 40 seats. The Socialists instead are seeking a left-wing alliance that includes new anti-austerity party Podemos, which won 69 seats.

Rajoy said yesterday he hoped a new government is formed "as soon as possible," warning political uncertainty threatens to derail the eurozone's fourth largest economy. "It is obvious that uncertainty has consequences. This is why it is so important that we concentrate on what matters," he said during an interview with Spanish public radio. The majority of Spanish voters, 61 percent, oppose holding fresh elections to resolve the political impasse, a poll published in daily newspaper El Pais showed. The survey also showed that if new elections were held the results would be similar to the December vote and the deadlock would remain, although Podemos would edge out the Socialists from second place.

As such, European Union officials and Spanish business figures have pressed party leaders to move quickly to form a new government. "I hope that Spain will get a stable government as quickly as possible given that it is a member of the eurozone," European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said Friday.

#### 'Face up to' hardship

The PP hopes to hold a first vote of confidence during the last week of January or the first week of February. "From the point of view of companies, what matters to us is that there is a solid, strong government formed by those who will face up to economic difficulties," the head of the Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations (CEOE), Juan Rosell, told AFP.

Rajoy, who passed several reforms including a 2012 labour market shake-up that reduced firing costs, has kept quiet regarding which policy areas he would be willing to make compromises on to pact with other parties. "The one who puts his cards on the table before starting a negotiation is a poor negotiator," he said. The king traditionally has invited the winner of the most seats to form a government but he can opt for other leaders if it appears that they are better positioned to provide a stable cabinet. That has happened at the regional level in Spain but never following a general election. — AFP

#### GERMAN TOWN **REOPENS POOL TO ASYLUM SEEKERS**

BERLIN: A German town said yesterday it would reopen its public indoor swimming pool to male asylum seekers after talking to migrants about the need to treat women

Bornheim, a small town 30 km (19 miles) south of Cologne, banned the men last week after receiving complaints of sexual harassment at the pool, saying it was not prepared to see German cultural norms compromised. It was the latest sign of social tensions caused by the arrival of 1.1 million migrants in Germany last year, followed by a wave of sexual assaults on women by gangs of young male refugees during New Year's Eve celebrations in Cologne.

The ban will be lifted on Wednesday, the town said in a press release. "The cancellation is not the result of pressure from the media's response, but rather follows intensive discussions with refugees on how they should treat women with respect, regardless of whether they have a migration background or not," it said.

Bornheim said last week it wanted social workers to teach asylum seekers at three shelters about gender equality and respect for women. The New Year's Eve attacks deepened public doubts about Germany's ability to integrate the mainly Muslim and Arab refugees, mostly fleeing war in the Middle East, whom Chancellor Angela Merkel has opted to allow in.

Police investigations into the New Year's Eve incidents are focusing on asylum seekers and illegal migrants thought to be mostly from North Africa. — Reuters



LONDON: British Prime Minister David Cameron (left) greets Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu as he arrives outside No 10 Downing Street in central London yes-

#### **ZUMA'S OFFICE ADMITS AFRICA** ISN'T BIGGEST CONTINENT

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's presidency issued an embarrassing correction yesterday to rectify an erroneous reference last month by President Jacob Zuma to Africa being the "largest continent".

Speaking at a business dinner on Dec. 9, Zuma, who has no formal education, also described Africa as so big that "all continents

put together will fit into Africa". The comments were seized upon by

Zuma's opponents, who argue that his lack of schooling makes him unfit to lead a sophisticated emerging economy. It was unclear why the presidency decided to issue the correction after a delay of nearly six weeks.

"Africa is in fact the second biggest continent in terms of population size, and the biggest continent in this regard is Asia. The President regrets the error," the statement said. —Reuters

### US ENVOY URGES MYANMAR TO FREE POLITICAL PRISONERS

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar: The first US after the talks. envoy to visit Myanmar since last year's landmark polls yesterday urged President Thein Sein to release all remaining political prisoners before Aung San Suu Kyi's government takes power next month. Myanmar's quasi-civilian government steered reforms culminating in the November election that saw Suu Kyi's prodemocracy party win an outright majority.

Those reforms included the release of hundreds of political prisoners, many jailed for long sentences under the junta which ruled the country with an iron-fist for five decades. In talks in the capital Naypyidaw, US Deputy Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken met the president, Suu Kyi and army top brass and congratulated them on holding a "peaceful" and success-

But he urged Thein Sein's government to free all remaining prisoners including dissidents prosecuted in recent months in legal moves that have raised fears of a return to the bad old days of repression. "One of the hallmarks of the reform process is that 1,300 or more political prisoners were released," he told reporters

"But political prisoners remain and others are in the process of being prosecuted,"

"It would be a fitting completion of that legacy (of reform) to release all political prisoners so that by the time transition is complete and the new government takes office, no-one is in prison for their political views.

Rights groups say scores of political prisoners remain behind bars from the junta era. Lawmakers from Suu Kyi's victorious National League for Democracy party are due to take their seats in parliament on February 1 as the country undergoes a surge in optimism for a democratic future despite myriad economic and social chal-

Thein Sein has released prisoners at key moments in the reform process including ahead of high-profile visits from dignitaries including US President Barack Obama. But in March last year authorities launched a violent crackdown on a student-led education protest in the town of Letpadan, some two hours north of Yangon. Around 60 young activists remain

in prison following that episode and face trial accused of stirring unrest. Obama has pumped large amounts of political capital into Myanmar's transition from authoritarian basket case to a fledgling democracy, offering financial help and diplomatic sup-

But the US has also made clear its discomfort at ongoing violence between Myanmar's army and ethnic rebels as well as religious violence and discriminatory policies particulary targeting the Muslim Rohingya minority in the west of the

Blinken called on the government-inwaiting to end "discrimination and violence experienced by ethnic and religious minorities including the Rohingya population in Rakhine state".

"The solution is the rule of law equally applied to all," he said, urging Myanmar's people to grasp the chance to create "an equal chance for everyone to participate in the democratic life of the country."

The final session of the current parliament is set to end on January 29, but a new government will not be formed until



NAYPYITAW: National League for Democracy party leader Aung San Suu Kyi (front center) poses for photographers with US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken (front right), US Ambassador to Myanmar Derek Mitchell, front left, and others following a meeting in Naypyitaw yesterday. —AP



KABUL: Head of US delegations, Ambassador Michael McKinley (2R) shakes hands with Pakistani Foreign Secretary, Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry (left) prior to the start of the second round of four-way peace talks at the presidential palace in Kabul yesterday. —AFP

#### FOUR-NATION MEETING IN KABUL SEEKS TO REVIVE TALEBAN TALKS

**KABUL:** A second round of four-country talks aimed at reviving peace negotiations with the Taliban began in Kabul yesterday, even as the insurgents wage an unprecedented winter campaign of violence across Afghanistan. Delegates from Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the United States convened in the Afghan capital for a one-day meeting seeking a negotiated end to the bloody 14-year insurgency.

"The people of Afghanistan will not accept a prolonged peace process with no results," Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani said in his opening remarks at the

"On behalf of the people and government of Afghanistan, I urge all Taleban groups to accept our peace message and come to the negotiating table and resolve our differences politically."

The first round of the "roadmap" talks was held in Islamabad last week as the four nations try to lay the groundwork for direct dialogue between Kabul and the Islamist group.

Taliban representatives were notably absent in both rounds and analysts caution that any substantive talks are still a long way off. The Taleban have stepped up attacks on government and foreign targets in Afghanistan this winter, when fighting usually abates, underscoring a worsening security situation.

Late Sunday a rocket launched by the militants landed very close to the Italian embassy compound. The foreign ministry in Rome reported no casualties and said it was unsure if their compound was the target. Observers say the intensifying insurgency highlights a push by the militants to seize more territory in an attempt to wrangle greater concessions during talks.

At last week's talks in Islamabad an Afghan government spokesman said Pakistan would unveil a list of Taleban members who are ready for talks, but no names have so far been released.

Pakistan-the Taleban's historic backershosted a milestone first round of talks directly with the Taleban in July. But the negotiations stalled when the insurgents belatedly confirmed the death of longtime leader Mullah Omar, sparking infighting within the group. Afghanistan sees the support of Pakistan as vital to bring the Taleban to the negotiating table.

#### **Parliamentary polls**

Afghanistan will hold its delayed parliamentary elections on October 15, the top polling official said yesterday, after last June's deadline to choose a new assembly was missed because of political disputes. Parliament's five-year term expired in June but polls were postponed amid concerns over whether the vote could be fair and transparent after a disputed presidential election in 2014.

President Ashraf Ghani last year extended the assembly's mandate until elections were feasible, prompting many to question the legality of his decision.

"Today we announce the date for the parliamentary and district council polls on October 15," election commission chief Ahmad Yousuf Nuristani told reporters. "The parliamentary election and district council polls will be held on time if the government provides the necessary budget, security for candidates, electoral workers and polling centres." Nuristani urged the international community to provide funding and support for the election, which will likely be held against the backdrop of a worsening security situation in Afghanistan.

"We have learnt good lessons from the challenges and problems of the last elections. We are committed to holding (fair and transparent) elections," Nuristani said.

Both Ghani and his rival Abdullah Abdullah, a former anti-Taliban resistance fighter, claimed to have won the fraudtainted 2014 presidential election, tipping Afghanistan into a crisis that threatened to trigger nationwide unrest.

It took months for both candidates to agree on a US-brokered deal to form a "National Unity Government". Nuristani's announcement comes as Kabul hosts a second round of four-country talks aimed at reviving peace negotiations with the Taleban, even as the insurgents wage an unprecedented winter campaign of violence. NATO-led US troops formally ended their combat mission in 2014, leaving Afghan troops and police to battle an emboldened nationwide Taleban offen-

#### 5 BANGLADESH MILITANTS JAILED FOR 10 YEARS FOR BOMBINGS

**DHAKA:** A court in Bangladesh yesterday jailed five militants of a banned Islamist group for 10 years over bombings in 2005 that formed part of a series of blasts across the Muslim-majority nation.

The Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen group set off nearly 500 bombs almost simultaneously on a single day in 2005, including the capital Dhaka. Subsequent suicide attacks on courthouses by its militants killed 25 people and injured hundreds. Five members of the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen group were convicted and sentenced for the explosions in the southeastern district of Rangamati, court inspector Mominul Islam said. "Six mili-

tants were charged with the bombings," he told Reuters by telephone. "And five of them were convicted and sentenced to 10 years in jail, while one was acquitted."

The group, thought to have been lying low since six of its top leaders were hanged in 2007, is blamed for a spate of recent attacks, including the bombings of a Shi'ite shrine and the shooting of three foreigners, two of whom died.

Last year, four bloggers and a publisher were killed in Bangladesh, amid a rise in Islamist violence in which liberal activists, members of minority Muslim sects and other religious groups have been targeted. —Reuters

# COURT ACQUITS MUSHARRAF OF REBEL LEADER'S KILLING

#### Bomb kills five soldiers in Western Pakistan

**QUETTA:** A Pakistani court yesterday acquitted former military ruler Pervez Musharraf over the 2006 killing of a Baloch rebel leader, one of three legal cases he faced after returning from exile, lawyers said. The decision Monday was the first significant ruling in the cases, which include the murder of former leader Benazir Bhutto in 2007 and treason, since Musharraf was indicted in 2015 for the killing of nationalist leader Nawab Akbar Bugti.

A spokesman for Musharraf told AFP he was happy with the ruling, which "will restore the people's confidence in the judiciary". The former ruler also hopes to be acquitted in the other cases, which the spokesman said Musharraf described as "false and politically motivated". Bugti was killed in a military operation in 2006, sparking deadly nationwide protests and inflaming a separatist insurgency in resource-rich but impoverished Balochistan province. "The court has dismissed all the charges against former ruler Pervez Musharraf and all those named in the case," Aftab Sherpao, a former interior minister also named in the case, told Quetta.

The anti-terror court's ruling was confirmed by lawyers on both sides.

"It's an injustice and a joke," Suhail Rajput, lawyer for the Bugti family, told media and vowed to appeal. Musharraf seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999. Facing impeachment following elections in 2008, he resigned as president and went into self-imposed exile in Dubai. He returned to Pakistan in 2013 on an ill-fated mission to run in the general election, but was barred from taking part and has since faced a barrage of legal cases. They include treason for imposing emergency rule in 2007, and the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto in a gun and suicide attack that same year.

Musharraf has been under house arrest in Karachi while the cases have ground through Pakistan's notoriously slow legal system, moving from adjournment to adjournment with little clear progress apart from the granting of bail. Analysts have previously said they believe the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif lacks the will to offend Pakistan's powerful military by pushing for Musharraf's prosecution.

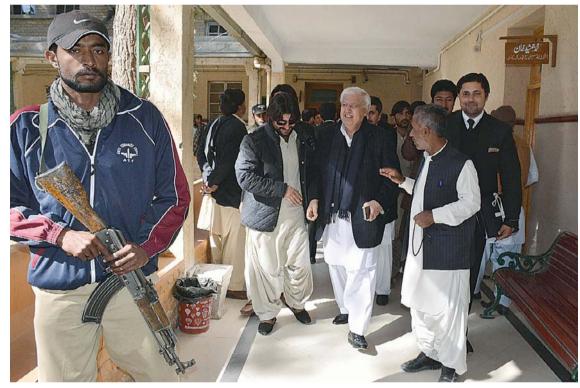
Sharif was also prime minister in 1999, when he was deposed by Musharraf. Pakistani analyst Imtiaz Alam said the Bugti investigation

significant fall-out from the decision. "It's a win-win situation both for the government and Musharraf," he said.

#### **Bomb attack**

Five Pakistani soldiers were killed yesterday when a bomb exploded next to their vehicle in Baluchistan province, officials said, the latest attack in a region that will

rity force in restive Baluchistan, were wounded in the attack, Wasey said. No one has claimed responsibility. Rich in resources and vast, Baluchistan is at the heart of the multi-billion-dollar energy and infrastructure projects China and Pakistan hope to build along a corridor stretching from the Arabian sea to China's Xinjiang region. The planned route will run through the



QUETTA: Pakistani former interior minister, Aftab Sherpao, (3R) leaves the court after a hearing in Quetta yesterday. A Pakistani court acquitted former military ruler Pervez Musharraf over the 2006 killing of a Baloch rebel leader, one of three legal cases he faced after returning from exile, lawyers said. —AFP

and prosecution had been "poor". "The administration was under

pressure not to find any hard evidence against the powerful players," he told AFP, without specifying who was applying the pressure.

Government efforts to persuade militants to lay down their arms in Balochistan has seen the insurgency begin to slow in recent months, and security analyst Talat Masood said there would not be be home to the planned route of the \$46 billion China-Pakistan economic corridor.

The bomb, planted in a coalmining district 50 km (30 miles) east of the provincial capital, Quetta, was detonated remotely as members of the Frontier Corps patrolled the area, said Khan Wasey, a spokesman for the paramilitary force. At least two members of the Frontier Corps, the main state secuQuetta. But the region is also home to several separatist groups that have waged war against the state for years, as well as the Pakistani Taliban, raising concerns about security.

Two Pakistani coast guards were killed this month when a bomb exploded under their vehicle in the Gwadar district of Baluchistan, whose port is at one end of the proposed corridor. —Agencies

# MALDIVES 'DISAPPOINTED' NASHEED WON'T TRAVEL TO UK

**MALE, Maldives:** The Maldives government said yesterday it was "disappointed" that jailed former leader Mohamed Nasheed would not travel to Britain for surgery after he rejected a demand for a relative to guarantee his return. The government had said Nasheed, whose conviction last year on terror-related charges has been widely criticized, could travel to Britain for 30 days to receive urgent spinal cord surgery. He was due to leave late Sunday under a deal brokered by diplomats from India, Sri Lanka and Britain, but his lawyer accused the government of introducing the "illegal" last-minute

"The government reneged on the agreed deal at the last minute, demanding a close family member of Nasheed remain in Male, effectively as a hostage, until he returns from the UK," Hassan Latheef told AFP. "If Nasheed does anything that will breach the terms of the agreement by the government, the family member could then be criminally prosecuted," Latheef said.

"This kind of blackmail is illegal, unheard of in international affairs, and totally outrageous." The foreign ministry said the law required any prisoner requesting treatment abroad to sign a document committing to return which must be co-signed by a guarantor. In a tweet, it said the government was "disappointed by the refusal of former president Nasheed to travel to UK for surgery, as requested by himself".

Home Minister Umar Naseer told reporters Nasheed would only be allowed to travel if he provided a guarantor for his return to serve the remainder of his 13-year jail sen-

"This is not holding someone hostage," Naseer said. "It is appointing a guardian until the inmate returns to (the) Maldives."

#### **Guarantee return**

Nasheed, 48, became the first democratically elected president of the Maldives in 2008 and served for four years before he was toppled in what he called a coup backed by the military and police. Last year he was sentenced to 13 years in jail on terrorism charges relating to the arrest of an allegedly corrupt judge in 2012, when he was still in power.

The United Nations has said his trial was seriously flawed and he should be released and compensated for wrongful detention. But hardline President Abdulla Yameen has refused to accept the UN ruling and is resisting international pressure to release Nasheed.

The country's prisons chief Mohamed Husham announced at the weekend that Nasheed had been granted 30 days' leave from prison to receive surgery for a spinal cord problem that requires specialist treatment. The government initially said Nasheed could have the procedure on the tiny archipelago, but then agreed to allow him to travel to Britain for treatment. The announcement of the concession came as Britain's Deputy Foreign Minister Hugo Swire visited the Maldives for talks with Yameen as well as the opposition and rights groups.

Swire tweeted that he "talked through concerns and opportunities" with the president, but full details of their discussions were not disclosed. He left Male yesterday with Nasheed still locked up in a cell at the Maafushi prison on an island near the capital.

London-based barrister Amal Clooney is part of the legal team fighting for Nasheed's unconditional release. President Yameen is a half-brother of former strongman Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who ruled for 30 years until his defeat by Nasheed in the country's first multi-party elections in 2008. He has cracked down on dissent and arrested political opponents. —AFP

### AFGHAN TALEBAN FLEX MUSCLES WITH NEW TELECOM 'TAX'

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan: The Taleban have demanded a hefty new "protection tax" from Afghan mobile phone companies, industry and militant sources told AFP, as the resurgent group tightens its stranglehold on a rare successful business in a slumping war economy.

At a secret meeting last month near the Pakistani city of Quetta, the Taleban's central leadership formally demanded the tax from representatives of four cellular companies in exchange for not damaging their sites or harming their employees. The edict was motivated by an Afghan government announcement in October that it had amassed a windfall of 78 million Afghani (\$1.14 million) within days of imposing an additional 10 percent tax on operators, according to two telecom company officials who attended the meeting and a third industry executive privy to the information.

"They want us to pay the same amount paid to the government," one of the officials who was at the gathering told AFP. "We told them that this will kill our business, but they said: 'This is the only way to guarantee your people are not harmed and your sites are not burned," he added.

A source in the Quetta Shura-the Taliban's Pakistan-based leadership council-confirmed the meeting, telling AFP the group was waiting for a formal response from the companies. "We told them: 'It is our right to tax you if you want us to protect your (transmission) towers around Afghanistan," he said. "'You will have to pay"." The Islamists have long targeted

napping engineers, destroying transmission masts and forcing regular coverage blackouts in volatile areas to avoid detection of their fighters.

Local-level Taliban commanders have been known to extort from businesses operating in their areas, notably the telecom firms and logistics companies supplying NATO bases and Western-funded construction projects. But this appears to be the first time the central leadership has formally demanded a levy from business enterprises, underscoring how they increasingly operate like a shadow govern-

It also highlights the dangers of doing business in conflict-torn Afghanistan-particularly for the telecom industry, fast becoming a battleground in the Taliban's war against the US-backed Afghan govern-

#### 'We are helpless'

The companies said to be at the meeting-Abu-Dhabi based Etisalat, South Africa's MTN and homegrown firms Roshan and Afghan Wireless Communication Company-officially declined to comment when contacted by AFP.

But one of them confirmed the meeting and tax demand, voicing a mix of helplessness and frustration. "Ten percent tax to the Taleban? That means we will have to share our revenue information with a militant organization," a Kabul-based company representative told AFP.

"That's just not feasible. We told them

attended the Pakistan meeting said there was no escaping the Taleban edict, adding that the companies at best could wrangle

Afghanistan's private telecom firms, kid- 'no." But one of the telecom officials who one militant group, others will start harass- Taliban last month went one step further ing us.' The National Directorate of Security, Afghanistan's main intelligence agency, declined to comment when con-



KANDAHAR: An Afghan policeman sits near a private cell phone antenna in Kandahar. The Taleban have demanded a hefty new "protection tax" from Afghan mobile phone companies, industry and insurgent sources told AFP, as the resurgent militant movement flexes its muscles like a virtual parallel government. —AFP

a concession from the insurgents in future tacted by AFP. In the past cellular operanegotiations. "What choice do we have? All our investment, our infrastructure is at stake," he said, adding he was unaware what his company's official response would be. "But I fear that if we start paying

tors have capitulated to Taleban decrees-in particular, their demand to switch off their signals at night in many insurgency-prone areas. Wary of intelligence tip-offs and phone intercepts of their fighters, the

in Helmand, enforcing a round-the-clock transmission blackout for nearly two weeks as fighting escalated in the southern opium-rich province.

"Except for the government operator Salaam, all private companies cut off their signals," Omaidullah Zaheer, Helmand's telecommunications director, said. "Private operators begged me: 'Do something, we are losing money everyday.' But what can we do? We are helpless."

Afghanistan boasts 18.5 million mobile users in a population of 30 million, with the fast-growing industry employing around 200,000 people and reporting annual revenue of \$150-200 million in an otherwise moribund economy. But around 40 percent of the country's 6,319 base towers are in insurgency-hit areas, according to the communication ministry, and the Taleban have regularly mounted crippling attacks on the infrastructure worth millions of dollars.

#### 'Extortion'

The levy demand appears to be an effort to replenish coffers as the Taleban mount an unprecedented winter offensive, in the face of dwindling traditional sources of revenue.

The insurgents are reeling from a sharp decline in opium production, the mainstay of Taliban income; the NATO troop drawdown and consequent loss of "extortion" income from logistics firms; and the shift of Gulf-based donor funds towards the Middle East, experts say.—AFP



TOKYO: Marzuki Darusman (R), the United Nation's Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea, is welcomed by Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L) prior to their meeting in Tokyo yesterday. Darusman is on a fiveday visit to Japan. —AFP

### N KOREA MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ABDUCTIONS: UN ENVOY

**TOKYO:** A UN special envoy on human rights in North Korea said yesterday the country should be held to account for state-sponsored abductions, slamming the disappearances as a "crime against humanity". The condemnation from Marzuki Darusman, who spoke during a meeting with members of Japanese families whose children and siblings were kidnapped by North Koreans, is the latest rebuke against Pyongyang over widespread rights abuses.

"This is not just a tragedy, but it is a crime against humanity," he told reporters. He called on North Korea to "acknowledge that abductions have been undertaken by the state with complicity and knowledge at the highest level of leadership." The special envoy will report his findings and recommendations to the UN Human Rights Council in March, before the end of his tenure in July.

Darusman was involved in a 2014 report from the UN Commission of Inquiry on human rights in North Korea that detailed what it described as horrific abuses in the isolated nation. After the report was issued, the UN Security Council agreed to formally take up the human rights situation there.

North Korea admitted in 2002 that it had dispatched agents to kidnap 13 Japanese in the 1970s and 1980s who were tasked with training its spies in Japanese

language and customs.

Five of the abductees were allowed to return to Japan but Pyongyang has insisted, without producing solid evidence, the eight others are dead. Around 500 South Koreans were also kidnapped by North Korea in the years following the 1950-53 Korean War.

Suspicions persist in Japan that many more of its citizens have been abducted than officially recognized. The lack of diplomatic relations between the two countries, along with Pyongyang's pariah status internationally over its nuclear and missile program, have hampered progress on the issue.

"My beloved child was taken away and many years have passed," Sakie Yokota, whose 13-year old daughter Megumi was abducted in 1977, told Darusman. "It's been 38 years but I haven't been able to meet or speak with her. There is no information as to how she has been doing." North Korea has said Megumi was one of the deceased, insisting she committed suicide, though her parents and other supporters say Pyongyang cannot be believed. Japan and North Korea struck a deal in 2014 in which the secretive state said it would investigate the abduction of Japanese citizens, though Tokyo has voiced frustration at the lack of progress. —AFP

# INDONESIA AT RISK OF BIGGER IS-LINKED ATTACKS: POLICE

#### EXPERIENCED FIGHTERS RETURNING FROM MIDEAST

JAKARTA: Indonesia is bracing for the return of experienced Islamic State fighters from the Middle East who would be capable of carrying out attacks far more deadly than the assault on Jakarta last week, the country's police chief said yesterday.

Thursday's attack in the heart of Jakarta was a hastily executed "Plan B" by Islamist militants, after police raids had disrupted preparations for other strikes against Christmas and New Year events, Police General Badrodin Haiti told Reuters in an interview. Eight people, including four militants, were killed in the assault on the capital's main Thamrin Road that involved pistols and home-made bombs.

The attack, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia to be attributed to Syria-based Islamic State, could have been far deadlier, but the militants lacked training and powerful weapons. Haiti said.

"I believe this was a Plan B. Their main target was Christmas and New Year. They chose because they were hoping for a big impact two of the four militants who carried it out, try's Shia Muslim minority. — Reuters

despite their small size, because this is a crowded centre," he said. "The perpetrators had the opportunity to take more victims (during the attack), but because their capabilities were limited, we were able to take them out of

There are fears that much deadlier attacks could follow, with the return of experienced frontline fighters with Islamic State currently in Syria and Iraq, Haiti said.

Authorities say about 500 Indonesians have travelled to the Middle East to join the extremist group. About 100 are believed to have returned, although experts say only about 15 have combat experience. "Those on the frontlines are better trained, because they're facing their enemies (in) the field. If they come back, then it will be dangerous because they can carry out acts of violence and terror," Haiti said.

"There is the possibility (of a bigger attack) if they can train people in preparing explosives," he said. The majority of those believed Thamrin (after that plan was disrupted)  $\,\,$  to be involved in Thursday's attack, include  $\,\,$  Year celebrations, as well as against the coun-

were part of an attempt to establish a training camp in the forests of the northern province of Aceh that was thwarted by police in 2010, Haiti

In the wake of the latest attack, police would redouble efforts to monitor radical networks in Indonesia, he said. "We want these networks to be mapped fully, because they can collaborate with each other. There are about nine distinct terror groups in Indonesia. So our hope is that this incident can reveal their collaborations," he said.

"We have found communications between people in Syria and here and we should be able to tell who is responding to those communications and can become a future threat."

The last major attack in the world's most populous Muslim nation before last week was the twin bombing of luxury hotels in Jakarta in 2009. Police said in December that a series of raids disrupted plans by militants to launch a string of deadly attacks on Christmas and New



SURABAYA: The Indonesian made naval warship for the Philippine Navy is seen at a shipyard in Surabaya located in eastern Java island during turnover ceremony yesterday led by Philippines Defence Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and Indonesian counterpart Ryamizard Ryacudu. —AFP

PHILIPPINE PLANE WARNED BY

#### FOREIGN JURISTS CALL FOR RELEASE OF DETAINED CHINESE LAWYERS

**BEIJING:** Twenty prominent lawyers and jurists from Europe, North America, Australia and Pakistan yesterday urged Chinese President Xi Jinping to release a dozen Chinese lawyers and legal assistants held in detention in an open letter published in the British newspaper The Guardian.

In the letter, the legal professionals, predominantly from Western countries, expressed worries that the Chinese lawyers have been denied legal counsel since their July detention. They also said they feared that without legal representation the Chinese lawyers and legal assistants could be "at high risk of torture or other cruel and inhumane treatments." China has arrested six rights lawyers and legal assistants on suspicion of state subversion, and three more on suspicion of inciting state subversion. One legal assistant was arrested on suspicion of helping destroy evidence. Hong Kong-based China Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group said several more

lawyers remain missing.

The lawyers have sought to use China's own laws to hold officials accountable or to protect citizens' rights, but Beijing says they are trying to sabotage the judicial system with improper activism.

Since July, more than 300 lawyers, legal assistants, staff members of law firms, and social activists have been detained and interrogated. Most have been released, but some of the most prominent rights lawyers have been arrested, including Wang Yu, who defended one of the five women who became known as the "Feminist Five." They were detained last March after they planned to hand out flyers against sexual harassment in several Chinese cities in a case that drew international scrutiny.

The lawyers are known to have taken up some of the most contentious cases in China, often involving petitioners who have grievances with local governments, practitioners of the banned spiritual group Falun Gong, or political dissidents.—AFP

#### 'CHINESE NAVY' IN DISPUTED SEA **MANILA:** Philippine officials said yesterday they received two intimidating radio warnings identi-

fied as from the Chinese navy when they flew a Cessna plane close to a Chinese-constructed island in the South China Sea. Eric Apolonio said the incident happened Jan

7 when he and other personnel of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines flew to a Philippine-occupied island for an engineering survey for the installation of civil aviation safety equipment on the island.

The island, which the Philippines calls Pagasa and is home to a small fishing community and Filipino troops, is close to Subi Reef, one of seven reefs in the disputed Spratly archipelago which China has transformed into islands in the last two years using dredged sand.

Chinese officials say they have completed the island building and are now constructing buildings and runways to ensure safe civilian sea travel. They have acknowledged, though, that the islands could also be used militarily, adding that they have the right to build on what they say is Chinese territory. The United States and governments with rival claims with China in the disputed region, including the Philippines and Vietnam, have expressed alarm over the Chinese construction, saying it raises tensions and threatens regional stability and could violate freedom of navigation and overflight.

As their Cessna approached Pag-asa to land, Apolonio said a message was received over an emergency radio channel warning: "Foreign military aircraft, this is the Chinese navy. You are threatening the security of our station."

The Filipino pilots ignored the warning and continued with the trip since they were flying a civilian plane over what Apolonio said was Philippine territory. After finishing the survey on Pag-asa, known internationally as Thitu island, they left in the plane and later received the same warning message, he said. Asked if they felt threatened, Apolonio said they were apprehensive because "you'll never know, we can be fired upon." Mayor Eugenio Bito-onon, the leader of the community on Pag-asa who flew with Apolonio's team, said the radio warnings were an act of intimidation and illustrated the threat to freedom of flight in the region. He said other civilian and military planes have also been shooed away by the Chinese in the region.

Despite the incident, Apolonio said the government will proceed with plans to install the aviation equipment, which is required by the International Civil Aviation Organization to help ensure the

safety of commercial flights. Called the Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast, the equipment helps aircraft determine their positions via satellite navigation and enables them to be tracked.

British Ambassador to Manila Asif Ahmad said Monday that his government would oppose any move that restricts freedom of navigation and overflight in the disputed waters. "If a British aircraft, civilian or military, was intercepted and not allowed to fly over a space which we regard as international, we will simply ignore it," he told





Starlings fly around the Rise Sculpture, also known as 'The Balls on the Falls', in Belfast, Nothern Ireland, yesterday. — AP

#### WORLD TENNIS ROCKED BY MATCH-FIXING BOMBSHELL

#### **Continued from Page 1**

"And while the BBC and BuzzFeed reports mainly refer to events from about 10 years ago, we will investigate any new information, and we always do."

The report comes after allegations of doping cover-ups at athletics' world body, the IAAF, and also follow the corruption scandals which have convulsed football's FIFA. "It is deeply concerning that another sport is facing such serious allegations," an official spokesman for Prime Minister Cameron said yesterday. "As with the allegations we have seen in other sports like athletics and football, the people

who suffer most are the fans. "The Prime Minister would want to see these issues investigated by the independent authorities. The most important thing is that action is taken in response and the independent authorities get on with that." The leaked files include details of an investigation into a 2007 match between Nikolay Davydenko and Martin Vassallo Arguello, which found insufficient evidence of corrupt practice. The report said the probe uncovered syndicates in Russia and Italy making hundreds of thousands of dollars betting on matches investigators thought to be fixed. The key group of 16 suspect players had not been targeted in any crackdown, it said, questioning the effectiveness of the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU).

Kermode said the TIU had won 18 convictions including six life bans since it was set up in 2008, adding it "has to find evidence as opposed to information, suspicion, or hearsay". BuzzFeed said players were targeted in hotel rooms at major tournaments and offered \$50,000 or more to fix matches for the betting syndicates. Other allegations included that a confidential report in 2008 recommended investigations into 28 players but the findings were not followed up, apparently on legal advice. The report also said the European Sports Security Association, which monitors betting for bookmakers, flagged up more than 50 suspicious matches to the TIU last year.

Djokovic played down the report's significance but he also said he was targeted in 2007 to throw a first-round match at St Petersburg. "I was not approached directly. I was approached through people that were working with me at that time," said the defending Australian Open champion, after beating Chung Hyeon in the first round. "Of course, we threw it away, right away. It didn't even get to me, the guy that was trying to talk to me, didn't even get to me directly. There was nothing out of it."

Djokovic was reportedly offered \$200,000 to throw the match, in an incident which gives an insight into the murky world of match-fixing - which the Serb called "a crime in sport". Roger Federer also said it was difficult to guess the significance of the report, but he welcomed the extra pressure that would now focus on match-fixers. "There's more pressure on these people now maybe because of this story, which is a good thing," Federer said. Other players seemed unaware of any problems with corruption, with both Serena Williams and Japan's Kei Nishikori saying they hadn't noticed anything untoward. "I think that... as an athlete, I do everything I can to be not only great, but, you know, historic. If that's (match-fixing) going on, I don't know about it," Williams said. — AFP

#### KIA REFUSING TO COOPERATE IN SALE PROBE

#### **Continued from Page 1**

KIA manages Kuwait's foreign assets currently estiinvestments are not counted as part of Kuwait's budget. The sovereign wealth fund is required to present a detailed report to the Cabinet on the assets under its management and performance but is strictly forbidden from sharing this information with the general public.

Meanwhile, MPs continued yesterday to hail the move of HH the Amir to order cuts in the Amiri Diwan spending in light of the sharp fall in oil prices. The lawmakers also called on the government to take similar steps to cut spending by ministries. MP Fares Al-Otaibi praised the Amir's move and urged the government to follow suit. The lawmaker said that the prime minister had asked his ministers to cut spending and stop unnecessary expenditures, but so far nothing has happened.

Islamist MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran demanded yesterday a special debate on the consequences of the plunge in oil prices and the sharp drop in the Kuwaiti bourse. He said the debate aims to discuss preventive

measures taken by the government and what has been implemented of those measures to face the developments on the economic front. The Assembly mated at over \$600 billion. There is no direct oversight and the government have agreed to hold a joint meetby the parliament of investments and income from KIA ing shortly at the Assembly bureau to discuss the issue of lifting subsidies to reduce the budget deficit and boost non-oil revenues.

MP Askar Al-Enezi meanwhile submitted a draft law calling on the government to grant Kuwaiti citizenship to up to 4,000 stateless people known as bedoons in 2016. Enezi said he submitted the bill because the validity of the previous law expired by the end of last year and a new law must be approved to help speed up solving the problem of 110,000 bedoons.

The interior and defense committee of the Assembly discussed the issue on Sunday with the interior minister and the head of the bedoons committee. Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah told the panel that the ministry intends to grant citizenship to 155 people soon, mostly children of Kuwaiti women married to foreigners. Head of the bedoons committee Saleh Al-Fadhalah said that authorities have begun looking into the cases of 32,000 stateless people to see if they deserve to be granted citizenship or not.

#### CAMERON WARNS MUSLIM WOMEN...

#### Continued from Page 1

Cameron said that a lack of language skills could make Muslims in Britain more vulnerable to the message of extremist groups. "I am not saying there is some sort of causal connection between not speaking English and becoming an extremist, of course not," he told BBC radio. "But if you are not able to speak English, not able to integrate, you may find therefore you have challenges understanding what your identity is and therefore you could be more susceptible to the extremist message."

His comments drew criticism from Muslim groups and opposition parties. Mohammed Shafiq, chief executive of the Ramadhan Foundation, which campaigns for better community relations, accused Cameron of "disgraceful stereotyping". "David Cameron and his Conservative government are once again using British Muslims as a political football to score cheap points, to

appear tough," he added.

Andy Burnham, home affairs spokesman for the main opposition Labour party, accused Cameron of a "clumsy and simplistic approach" which was "unfairly stigmatizing a whole community." Ex-Conservative Party co-chair Sayeeda Warsi said her former boss's idea was "lazy and misguided" and a "stereotyping of British Muslim communities". "My parents came to this country with very little English - my mum's English still isn't great, even though she has been to English language classes," she told BBC Radio 4's World at One. "I think it is lazy and sloppy when we start making policies based on stereotypes which do badly stigmatize communities."

Shuja Shafi, secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain, backed Cameron's call, but questioned his tactics. "The prime minister's aim to have English more widely spoken and for better integration falls at the first hurdle if he is to link it to security and single out Muslim women to illustrate his point," he said. — AFP





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# 2015 'TIPPING POINT' FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

#### By Marlowe Hood

Then future generations write the history of humanity's faltering quest to repair Earth's climate system, 2015 will have its own chapter. Nature, along with the usually fractious family of nations, conspired to make it a landmark year: almost certainly the hottest on record for the planet as a whole, and a rare moment of unity when 195 states pledged to curb the carbon pollution that drives global warming. Whether the Dec 12 Paris Agreement is the key to our salvation or too-little-too-late depends on what happens starting now, experts and activists told AFP.

"The most compelling thing you can say about Paris is not that it saved the planet, but that it saved the chance of saving the planet," said Bill McKibben, founder of the grassroots organization 350.org and an architect of the worldwide movement to divest from fossil fuel companies. Robert Stavins, director of the Harvard Environmental Economics Program at the Harvard Kennedy School, was also chary: "We will only be able to judge whether it is truly a success years, perhaps decades, from now."

But whatever lies ahead, they all agree, the last year has been a "tipping point" on climate change. "Paris represented a real sea change in seriousness in coming to grips with the issue," said Alden Meyer, a veteran climate analyst from the Washington-based Union of Concerned Scientists who has followed the UN process for nearly three decades. Much of that seriousness was driven by a crescendo of deadly extreme weather and the growing confidence of science in connecting the dots with long-term shifts in climate. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will likely report tomorrow on record-breaking heat in 2015.

#### The 'Golden Spike'

They could point to the most powerful hurricane ever registered; freakish, above-freezing temperatures - if only for a day - at the North Pole in December; or life-threatening droughts in eastern and southern Africa. Some of that will be chalked up to El Nino, a natural weather pattern that creates havoc along the tropical and southern Pacific Rim every five or six years. But the very fact that this El Nino is the most intense ever measured may itself be a by-product of global warming.

Scientists reported last week that climate change has probably pushed back the next Ice Age by 50,000 years. That may sound like good news, but more than anything it is a stunning testament to the extent to which human activity - mainly burning fossil fuels - has played havoc with the planet's thermostat. Experts have also come a step closer to concluding that our impact on Earth's bio-chemical systems has been so massive as to justify the christening of a new geological era. The "golden spike", or start date, for the Anthropocene - the "Age of Man" - will probably be the mid-20th century.

What Saleemul Huq, director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development in Dhaka, calls a "greater planetary consciousness" on climate has shown up in business and politics as well. In the World Economic Forum's annual survey on global risks over the coming decade, released last week, some 750 experts put "failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation" at the top of the list for the first time. "Mitigation" means cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and "adaptation" refers to coping with the consequences of climate change. In third and fourth position are "water crises" and "large-scale involuntary migration".

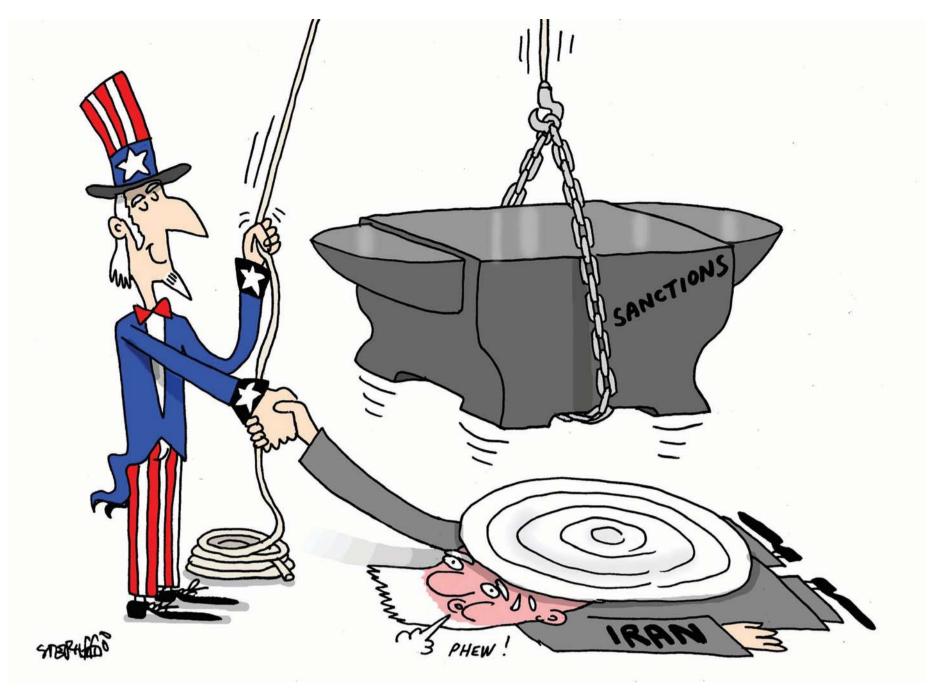
#### Record Clean Energy Investment

In the business arena, the balance of investment is shifting away from fossil fuels and towards renewables, Bloomberg New Energy Finance reported recently. Despite tumbling oil and gas prices, global investment in clean energy reached \$329 billion (300 billion euros) in 2015, a new record, Bloomberg said. US President Barack Obama has dealt the US coal industry - already reeling from bankruptcies - another body blow in announcing a freeze on new coal mine permits on federal land.

The 2015 watershed on climate change has crystallized a gradual shift from debate over the reality and extent of global warming, to a discussion on what to do about it. "After having concentrated for years on the problems generated by climate change, we are seeing across the globe solutions responding to the crisis," said Pascal Canfin, a former French government minister and the new head of WWF France. But Canfin and others caution against undue optimism.

"There's a huge amount of resistance and inertia built into the system," said Huq. "Changing the global economy is not a trivial matter." Much of that resistance will come from the fossil fuel industry, faced with the fact that 80 percent of known reserves must stay in the ground to have even a shot at holding global warming to "well below two degrees Celsius" above mid-19th century levels, much less the 1.5 degree target climate-vulnerable countries fought so hard to include in the Paris Agreement as an aspirational goal. "The writing is on the wall for coal. But the oil and gas industry is much bigger and more powerful," said Meyer. "You don't want to delude yourself that they are going to go away quietly." —AFP

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### IRAN DEALS MAY NOT HERALD RAPID CHANGES

**By Adam Schreck** 

he lifting of crippling international sanctions linked to Iran's nuclear program and the flurry of diplomacy that led to the release of Americans held by Tehran suggests a new era could be dawning. But anyone hoping for rapid change is likely to be disappointed. President Hassan Rouhani and his team have plenty to celebrate now that nuclear sanctions have been removed. The moderate leader promised to boost Iran's struggling economy and improve its relations with the wider world during his 2013 campaign. The nuclear deal achieves both aims.

He hailed the deal Sunday as a way to open "new windows for engagement with the world," and said fresh investments and newly freed overseas assets could kick-start the transformation of a country struggling with high unemployment and inflation. At the top of the shopping list are more than 100 planes from Europe's Airbus. It will take time for the economic benefits to trickle down to ordinary Iranians, but the goodwill from the deal could translate into electoral gains for moderate and reformist candidates in parliamentary elections late next month. Voters will also select members of the 88-seat Experts Assembly, an influential clerical body that picks a successor for the 76-year-old supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in the event of his death.

Rouhani may have pushed for the rapid implementation of Iran's commitments under last summer's nuclear deal, ensuring faster sanctions relief, with the electoral

timetable in mind. But he still faces intense domestic opposition from hard-liners who believe he has given away too much and fear Iran's opening to the outside world leaves it exposed to corrupting foreign cultural influences.

In the months leading up this past weekend's implementation of the nuclear deal, Iranian authorities pursued a renewed crackdown on free expression, jailing several writers and artists, including award-winning filmmaker Keywan Karimi. The November anniversary of the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran drew thousands of demonstrators, who burned American flags and hoisted signs denouncing McDonald's and Starbucks.

That hardline pushback also helps explain paradoxes like the fact that officials. including Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, tout the deal's benefits on Twitter even as Iranian censors block the site and other social media services at home. Khamenei, Iran's top decision-maker, has left little doubt where he stands on the question of whether the opening with the West should lead to a relaxing of conservative values. During a speech to prayer leaders this month, he warned that "one of the main objectives of the enemies of Islam and the Iranian nation is to change the culture and moralities of people, particularly their lifestyle."

#### Resistance

Those hoping for greater openness in Iran will face resistance from entrenched interests such as the powerful

Revolutionary Guard, notes Cliff Kupchan, the chairman of the Eurasia Group. He predicts "a path of slow, non-linear political and economic liberalization" in the wake of the deal's implementation. "Khamenei has been intent on showing that the deal is a one-off, not a dètente," Kupchan wrote. "And for some years the Leader will need the image of the 'Great Satan' to legitimize his rule in the eyes of key constituencies the (Revolutionary Guard), conservative clerics and the pious poor."

And for all the conversations US Secretary of State John Kerry and Zarif have had over the past few years, the fact remains that they represent countries that do not have formal diplomatic relations. Official ties were severed after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the storming of the US Embassy. Wide-ranging US sanctions imposed over the years and unrelated to Iran's nuclear program remain in place. That will complicate American companies' ability to do business in the Islamic Republic.

"Both sides would like to open a new chapter. This does not mean they see eye to eye," said Fawaz Gerges, a Middle East expert at the London School of Economics. "This does not mean the end to mistrust. This does not mean the end to divergent interests in the region." Still, the two diplomats have forged a working relationship that can at times bear fruit. Months of negotiations resulted in the release of four Iranian-Americans from prison, including Washington Post journalist Jason Rezaian, in exchange for seven Iranians held in the US, six of them also dual nationals. A fifth

American held in Iran, student Matthew Trevithick, was also released.

And rapid-fire diplomacy managed to get 10 US Navy sailors and their boats released from Iranian custody in less than 24 hours last week - an unthinkably quick turnaround compared to past cases where foreigners found themselves in Iranian territory. But there are limits. Iranian-American businessman Siamak Namazi, who is believed to be detained in Iran, was not part of this weekend's prisoner swap. Also still missing is former FBI agent Robert Levinson, who disappeared in Iran in 2007 on an unauthorized CIA mission.

Meanwhile, Iran remains a staunch backer of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, putting it at odds with the US and Sunni Arab powers including Saudi Arabia, even as it shares the West's interest in defeating the Islamic State group. In Yemen, a US-supported, Saudi-led coalition is fighting to roll back gains by Iranian-backed Shiite rebels. And mistrust runs deep on both sides. Rouhani said Sunday that even with a deal in hand, Iranians will not easily trust the US because "our people have suffered from plenty of promise-breaking," the official IRNA news agency reported.

In Washington, President Barack Obama hailed the American prisoners' release and the implementation of the nuclear accord as victories for "smart" diplomacy, declaring that "this is a good day." Not long before, his administration announced new sanctions against Iran - this time on 11 people and entities involved in the country's ballistic missile program. —AP

### SAUDIS ALARMED AT IRAN SANCTIONS RELIEF

By Angus McDowall

audi officials have said little in public, but they fear the end of sanctions on Iran could boost what they see as its subversive activities in the Middle East while also enriching a diverse economy that the oil-dependent kingdom views as a major competitor for regional influence. Saudi-Iranian political rivalry has aggravated tumult across the Middle East for years, but has escalated in recent months as Riyadh's new rulers have taken a harder line and as the nuclear deal has relieved pressure on Tehran.

Iran's international rehabilitation also opens the prospect of economic rivalry, with Saudi Arabia facing not only a fellow oil producer in an era of oversupply and low prices, but also a more self-reliant and multi-skilled economy. Even without public pronouncements, Riyadh's private consternation could be discerned in the pages of semi-official media and comments by influential clerics.

The main cartoon in Al-Watan daily simply showed a pencil broken mid-way through writing the word "peace", while an opinion piece underneath it asked "Will Iran change after the nuclear deal enters implementation?" Its answer: probably not. Saudi Arabia, a conservative Sunni Muslim monarchy, sees revolutionary Iran as the paramount threat to the Middle East's stability, because of its support for Shiite militias that Riyadh says have inflamed sectarian violence and undermined Arab governments.

For the Al Saud dynasty, the nuclear deal was a double blow, freeing Iran from sanctions it believed helped check those regional activities and raising the spectre of a rapprochement between Tehran and Riyadh's most powerful ally, the United States. Under King Salman, Saudi Arabia has launched a war in Yemen to stop an ally of Tehran gaining power, mobilised Muslim states to freeze Tehran out of regional and Islamic influence, and has boosted support to rebels fighting Iranian allies in Syria.

Iran's pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani, who has publicly reached out to Riyadh repeatedly since his election in 2013, on Sunday rebuked the Saudis for their own regional stance and called on them to "take the path that will benefit the region". Such comments, which mirror accusations Riyadh makes about Iran, infuriate Saudi officials who regard Rouhani as a smooth-talking cipher for

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and see no point engaging with him instead of his harder line superior.

They disdain the campaign by US President Barack Obama to bring Iran in from the cold, believing him pusillanimous in the face of what they see as Iranian aggression and guileless in accommodating Iran's moderates when Khamenei pulls the strings.

#### Tumbling Stocks

Between the full-page adverts Saudi companies had run in yesterday's newspapers to congratulate King Salman on the Islamic calendar anniversary of his becoming monarch, the opinion columns and cartoons despaired at Iran's comeback. The role of Western powers, particularly Riyadh's oldest ally the United States, in facilitating Tehran's relief from pariah status and their hopes of cashing in on Iran's newly opened economy did not go unremarked.

The Al-Jazirah daily's cartoonist showed an incarnation of American capitalism in striped trousers and top hat carrying a bottle marked "sanctions", from which emerged a genie in the guise of a Shiite militia fighter, his turban marked "Iran". When Salman visited Washington in September, the main focus of talks was the push by his powerful son, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, to win investment from American firms, an apparent riposte to Iran's overtures to Western compa-

Sunday's news that sanctions would indeed be lifted raised fears of a slide in oil prices below their existing low level of under \$30 a barrel as Iran immediately ordered an increase in output, while Saudi stocks fell by 5 percent. There could be no more pronounced contrast with the mood in Iran, freed from years of increasingly tough sanctions which have eroded its currency and allowed Saudi Arabia to eclipse its economy.

In 2000, Iran's gross domestic product was larger than Saudi Arabia's, according to International Monetary Fund data; now, the \$650 billion Saudi economy is much bigger than Iran at \$400 billion. That trend may now start reversing, altering how far each country can afford to mount political and military adventures overseas, and the extent to which they can use trade relations to build alliances with foreign powers.

Saudi Arabia's economy is slowing sharply because of low oil prices, which the entry of new Iranian crude into the market will intensify. Iran is looking forward to a trade and investment boom as sanctions are lifted; it has big non-oil sectors such as agriculture and car manufacturing that the Saudis lack.

#### Wider Alarm

The volatile nature of Saudi-Iranian relations, aggravated already this month by a diplomatic row following Riyadh's execution of a Shiite cleric, is causing alarm among world powers who fear things will get worse. This week a procession of top officials from around the world will visit Riyadh, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and US Secretary of

State John Kerry.

While they all have other business to discuss, the question of Saudi Arabia's handling of its rivalry with Iran, and the wider risks it entails, are likely to be addressed, with both Xi and Sharif planning also to visit Tehran. What they all fear is that if competition between the Middle East's foremost powers cannot be contained, it will complicate efforts to end wars and political struggles across the region or even break out into new fighting elsewhere.

Such concerns are only compounded by the sectarian lines along which the rivalry has become drawn, and the likelihood that hostility between Saudi Arabia and Iran will translate into religious competition that fuels militancy across the world. A letter signed by 140 Saudi clerics, including prominent names, calling on the government to beware what they termed Iran's "record of criminality and treachery" and to support regional Sunnis cannot have assuaged international alarm.

Neither can the tweet by Sheikh Saud Al-Shuraim, imam of the Grand Mosque in Makkah, using a derogatory term often employed by Arab Sunnis to describe Iranians and Shiites, after the sanctions were lifted. "There is no surprise in the alliance of the Safavids with the Jews and Christians against the Muslims, history witnessed this. But there is surprise at minds delaying their understanding of this truth until this moment," he wrote. —Reuters

#### MAN CITY'S RIGHT BACK **RULES OUT JANUARY EXIT**

MANCHESTER: Manchester City right back Pablo Zabaleta has ruled out a move away from the club during the January transfer window after British media linked the defender with a switch to Italian side Inter Milan. Two knee injuries have disrupted the 31-year-old's season and he made only his third start in Saturday's 4-0 Premier League win over Crystal Palace. "I want to finish the season here and am not thinking of going anywhere in

January," Zabaleta told British media. "It's January, and everything comes from the media about players coming in or going out but I am 100 per cent focused on City at the moment." However, Zabaleta, who is facing strong competition for a starting spot from Bacary Sagna, refused to rule out a possible exit during the close season, especially with just one year left on his contract. "At the end of this season I will have one more year left on my contract. Normally the end of this season will be the time to decide what we will do," the Argentina international said. Saturday's win meant thirdplaced City reduced the gap with leaders Arsenal to just a point after 22 games. —Reuters



ALMATY: The head of Kazakhstan's national anti-doping centre has pledged to crack down on drug cheats ahead of the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro following the doping scandal that rocked neighbor Russia. "We need to toughen checks on all of our country's competitors trying to get into the Olympic squad," Maira Bakasheva said yesterday "We will do our best to ensure that none of the dope cheats will enter the Olympic village at Rio." The pledge comes as Kazakhstan's former Soviet Union master Russia grapples with a doping scandal that has seen its track and field team banned from competition and facing possible exclusion from the Rio Games. Bakahseva expressed concern about the growth in the number of positive doping results that came back from tests on the country's athletes over the last year. "The samples of 16 of our country's athletes gave positive results," she said. "It's not too much, but in comparison with 2014, when only six athletes tested positive, it's a serious increase." Kazakhstan's anti-doping boss added that she has been worried over the fact that four of the dope cheats last year were aged under 18. "It's a pity that the athletes use performance-enhancing drugs in pursuit of results at the very beginning of their careers," she said.—AFP

#### **ZENIT SIGN MAURICIO** FROM TEREK GROZNY

MOSCOW: Reigning champions Zenit St Petersburg have signed Brazilian midfielder Jose Mauricio from Terek Grozny on a six-month deal, the club reported yesterday. No financial details of the contract, which has an option of being extended at the end of the season, were disclosed. "I'm happy to get a chance at Zenit," the club's official site quoted the 27-year-old, who has played with Terek since 2010, as saying. "It's a big club and I want to start playing with them as soon as possible. My contract expires in just six months and I have a clear understanding that I need to show my best from the very first day in the team. "I want to win the Russian title, to play in the Champions League, to become an integral part of the team. I will do my best for the benefit of my new club and we'll see what happens next." Zenit, who are currently sixth in the Russian league, seven points behind the leaders CSKA Moscow, will face Portuguese giants Benfica in the last 16 round of the European Champions League.—AFP



HAWAII: Fabian Gomez of Argentina plays his shot from the 14th tee during the final round of the Sony Open In Hawaii at Waialae Country Club in Honolulu, Hawaii. — AFP

#### GOMEZ EDGES SNEDEKER IN PLAYOFF TO WIN SONY OPEN

Tour Sony Open title in Honolulu, Hawaii. Gomez blistered the par-70 Waialea Country Club Course for a final-round 62 for a 20-under total of 260. His round included seven birdies in a row from the sixth through the 12th six of them from within eight feet. He shook off momentum sapping bogeys at 13 and 14 to birdie the last two holes. Gomez was in at 20-under when Snedeker, who shared a one-shot overnight lead with Zac Blair, carded his fifth birdie of the day at the par-five 18th to cap a four-under 66 and force the play-

After both parred the first playoff holethe 18th-they returned to the 18th tee for the second hole of the decider. Gomez two-putted from the front of the green for birdie, collecting the second US PGA Tour title of his career when Snedeker just missed his birdie chance from 10 feet. "I'm really, really happy," Gomez said. "It's my second victory on tour. I felt good all week long and was able to put on a great round today. "I got on a streak with seven putts in a row and it made me feel good like I could win the tournament."

He kept his cool after back-to-back bogeys, and with his confidence restored

LOS ANGELES: Argentina's Fabian Gomez by a 10-foot birdie putt at 17 calmly birdied the second playoff hole on Sunday drained a 22-footer from off the green at to beat Brandt Snedeker for the US PGA the last hole of regulation. "I knew I needed to make birdies coming in," he said. "I sort of let (the bogeys) go away and kept going." Gomez teared up talking about the recent death of his caddie Adrian Monteros's father, adding: "this win is in his name." He will also improve to 55th in the world rankings, closing in on a berth in the Rio Games when golf makes its Olympic return. "I'm really excited about being able to get in the Olympics," he said. "It depends on how things go with other players, but I feel like I will be almost there."

Snedeker, whose trademark putting touch was in evidence all week-until the playoff-said that coming up short on his 12-footer to win at the first playoff hole was "going to sting." "Obviously disappointed," the seven-time PGA Tour winner said. "I had some good looks coming down the stretch and uncharacteristically I hit some pretty weak putts. I don't like to miss putts short." Blair, seeking his first tour title, had led briefly but ended up in solo third after a 67 for 19-under 261. He just missed an eagle attempt at the 72nd hole that would have put him in the playoff. "One of the best putts I've probably ever hit right there on 18," Blair said. "Unfortunately, it didn't go in."— AFP

### BLACKHAWKS MATCHED A FRANCHISE RECORD WITH 11TH STRAIGHT VICTORY

CHICAGO: The Chicago Blackhawks matched a franchise record with their 11th straight victory, using two goals from Jonathan Toews to beat the slumping Montreal Canadiens 5-2 on Sunday night. Marian Hossa had an empty-net goal and two assists for Chicago, and Patrick Kane had a goal and an assist. Richard Panik scored his first goal of the season, and Corey Crawford, a Montreal native, made 27 saves while improving to 5-0-2 in seven career starts against his hometown team. The Blackhawks (31-13-4) also won 11 straight from Feb. 15 to March 6, 2013, and then went on to the second of three Stanley Cup titles in the past six seasons. The defending NHL champions, who won 2-1 at Montreal on Thursday night, go for 12 in a row at Nashville on Tuesday night. Montreal (23-19-4) has lost four in a row and five of six. The Canadiens also dropped to 6-15-2 since star goaltender Carey Price was shelved by a lower-body injury in November.

#### **CAPITALS 5, RANGERS 2**

Justin Williams had a hat trick and Washington survived the loss of starting goaltender Braden Holtby to extend its impressive streak of responding after losses by beating New York. The Capitals improved to 10-0-1 after a loss this season and this time did so after Holtby left with dehydration. Philipp Grubauer replaced Holtby late in the second period and stopped all 11 shots he faced. Holtby made 20 saves and got the victory, less than 24 hours after he was pulled during a clunker of a loss to the Buffalo Sabres. Alex Ovechkin scored his 27th goal of the season, and Marcus Johansson also scored on the power play for Washington. Chris Kreider scored both goals for the Rangers, and backup Antti Raanta made 19 saves in his first start since Dec 17.

#### **PENGUINS 5, HURRICANES 0**

Sidney Crosby scored two goals, Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 22 shots for his third shutout of the season and 41st of his career and Pittsburgh beat Carolina. Penguins defenseman Trevor Daley scored his third of the season in his 800th NHL game. Olli Maatta scored his fifth and Conor Sheary his second for the Penguins, who are one of several teams in the hunt for a wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference. Pittsburgh won for just the second time in six games, but the Penguins picked up points for the 10th time in 12 games. The Penguins also ended a three-game winless stretch against Carolina, which defeated them twice in the last month, including an overtime loss on Tuesday. Carolina lost its second straight after a recent four-game winning streak. The Hurricanes, following an overtime loss against Vancouver on Friday, had at least a point in their last five games.

#### KINGS 3, DUCKS 2

Anze Kopitar had a goal and an assist, Vincent Lecavalier added a power-play goal and Los Angeles opened the Freeway Faceoff rivalry series for the season with a victory over Anaheim. Tyler Toffoli scored and Jonathan Quick made 30 saves for the Kings, who beat their Southern California archrivals in regulation for the first time in 11 regular-season meetings. David Perron scored in his first game with Anaheim, but the Ducks lost in regulation for just the third time in 11 games since Christmas. Rickard Rakell also scored, and John Gibson stopped 23 shots in a duel of All-Star goalies. The Kings and Ducks didn't meet until the 44th game of their respective seasons, but they'll face off four more times before the postsea-

#### **LIGHTNING 3, PANTHERS 1**

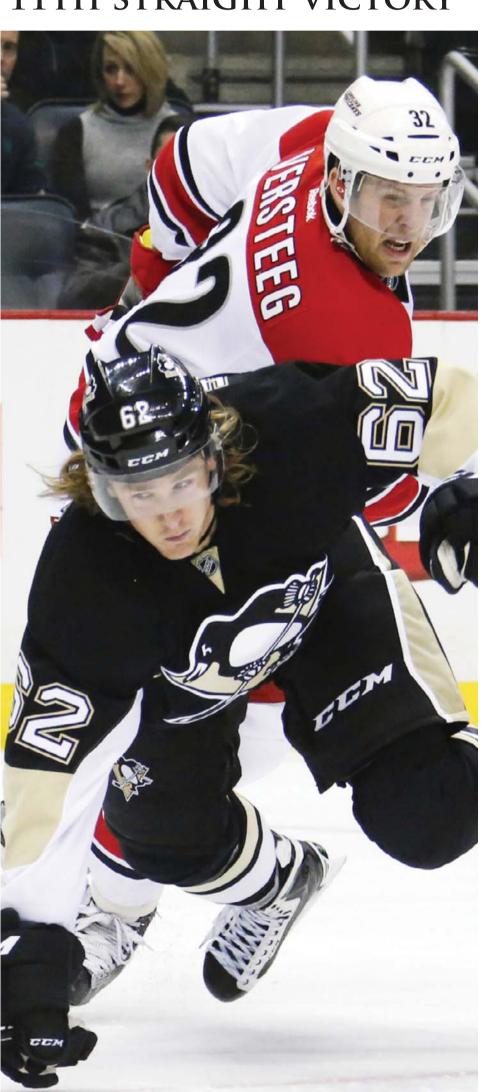
Nikita Kucherov had two goals and Tampa Bay extended a season-high winning streak to five games by beating Atlantic Division-leading Florida. Andrej Sustr had the other Tampa Bay goal and Ben Bishop made 26 saves to help the Lightning move within five points of Florida. Bishop is 7-1-1 against the Panthers. Nick Bjugstad scored for the Panthers. Florida is 0-2-1 since ending a 12-game winning streak. Roberto Luongo made 29 saves and became the seventh goalie to play in 900 NHL games.

#### **CANUCKS 2, ISLANDERS 1**

Ryan Miller made 47 saves and Radim Vrbata scored in the shootout, leading Vancouver to a 2-1 win over New York. Ben Hutton scored for the Canucks in regulation. Despite receiving an 25-save effort from Jaroslav Halak, the Islanders' fell to 24-15-6 as their two-game winning streak came to an end. Rvan Strome scored for New York. New York entered the day third in the Metropolitan Division despite having the same amount of points (53) and the same record (24-15-5) as the second place New York Rangers. The Rangers are in second place because they have one more regulation and overtime win (22-

#### FLYERS 2, RED WINGS 1, SO

Claude Giroux scored in a shootout and in regulation, lifting Philadelphia over Detroit. Jakub Voracek also scored in the shootout and Michal Neuvirth denied two Detroit shooters. Pavel Datsyuk was the only Red Wing to get the puck past Neuvirth in oneon-one duels. Neuvirth stopped 29 shots before the shootout. Giroux pulled Philadelphia into a 1-all tie early in the third. Detroit's Brendan Smith was called for hooking with 4.8 seconds left in regulation. The Flyers had a goal waved off after the ensuing faceoff because a leaping Wayne Simmonds was called for goalie interference.— AP



PITTSBURGH: Pittsburgh Penguins Carl Hagelin (62) is shoved to the ice by Carolina Hurricanes' Kris Versteeg (32) during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh on Sunday, Jan 17, 2016. Versteeg served a two-minute minor penalty for the infraction. —AP

### TIME RUNNING OUT FOR RUSSIA: ATHLETICS BOSS

**MOSCOW:** The newly-elected boss of Russiaís athletics federation yesterday admitted that it will be tough to end a ban imposed on the country's athletes over doping in time for the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Dmitry Shlyakhtin was chosen as head of the All-Russian Athletics Federation (ARAF) on Saturday and was charged with the task of repairing the damage done to the reputation of Russiaís

But the former regional sports official rated Moscow's chances of overcoming the ban in time for the Rio Games at just fifty-fifty. 'I think that currently we have an even chance of competing at the Olympics,' Shlyakhtin said. 'We need to do our best to boost our athletes' chances day by day.' iWe're pressed for time as the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) expects us to take hard and drastic measures as soon as possible,' Sport-Express daily quoted Shlyakhtin as saying. 'In March we must report to the IAAF council what we have done. We need to convince them that weire making revolutionary changes in Russia's athletics.

'Of course there will be doubts about our capability to change the existing practices in our athletics within just several weeks.' Shlyakhtin is backed by Russiaís Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko and he was elected unanimously to head the ARAF over the weekend after two candidates withdrew from the vote. Mutko has said he will serve as head of the federation for the next several months, through the Olympic Games in Rio, before another vote in September or October. Russia is facing an uphill battle after a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) independent commission alleged widespread statesanctioned corruption and doping in the country's athletics.

ARAF in November and outlined strict reinstatement criteria last month, including severing ties with Russian athletics officials, officers or staff with any past involvement in doping. The leadership of anti-doping agency RUSADAówhich WADA claimed provided advance notice to athletes about out-ofcompetition testingólast month resigned en masse following a pledge by President Vladimir Putin to 'do everything' to fight doping. Over four thousand Russian athletes have been banned from international competition and sports authorities are launching reforms and making promises to get the ban lifted in time for Rio.—AFP

The IAAF provisionally suspended

#### **NHL Results/Standings**

Pittsburgh 5, Carolina 0; Vancouver 2, NY Islanders 1 (SO); Tampa Bay 3, Florida 1; Washington 5, NY Rangers 2; Chicago 5, Montreal 2; Philadelphia 2, Detroit 1 (SO); Los Angeles 3, Anaheim 2.

Western Conference							Detroit	23	14	8	111	116	54
	Cei	ntral D	ivisio	n			Tampa Bay	24	17	4	119	107	52
	W	L	OTL	GF	GΑ	PTS	Boston	23	16	5	133	116	51
Chicago	31	13	4	140	110	66	Montreal	23	19	4	128	118	50
Dallas	29	12	5	154	124	63	Ottawa	21	18	6		138	48
St. Louis	26	15	7	121	121	59				_			
Minnesota	22	15	8	113	106	52	Buffalo	18	23	4		122	40
Nashville	20	17	8	116	123	48	Toronto	16	20	7		122	39
Colorado	22	21	3	129	129	47		Metro	politan	Divi	sion		
Winnipeg	21	21	3	118	129	45	Washington	34	8	3	149	97	71
	Pa	cific D	ivisior	ı			NY Islanders	24	15	6	123	112	54
Los Angeles	28	13	3	118	99	59	NY Rangers	24	16	5	129	120	53
Arizona	22	17	5	122	133	49	Pittsburgh	21	16	7	108	108	49
San Jose	23	18	2	124	117	48	New Jersey	22	19	5	101	110	49
Vancouver	19	17	10	111	127	48		20	15	8		114	48
Anaheim	19	18	7	88	105	45	Philadelphia			_			
Calgary	20	20	3	116	131	43	Carolina	20	19	8	111	129	48
Edmonton	18	23	5	111	134	41	Columbus	17	25	4	116	146	38
Eastern Conference							Note: Overtin	ne losse	es (OTL)	are \	worth	one	point i
	Atla	antic D	Divisio	n			the standing	s and a	re not ir	nclud	led in	the	loss co
Florida	26	14	5	119	101	57	umn (L).						

### NEW ZEALAND DISMISS DOWNSIDE OF RECORD WIN

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand have line-up with only one match left before weighed up the impact of their record win over Pakistan in Sunday's Twenty20 and concluded the benefits far outweigh the downside. Martin Guptill and Kane Williamson's unbroken 171-run stand to win the match and level the series set a new record for the highest Twenty20 partnership. They eclipsed by one run the previous best of 170 set by South Africa's Graeme Smith and Loots Bosman against England in 2009. However, their dominance at the top of the New Zealand innings meant no time in the middle for anyone else in the battling

the world T20 championship starts in India in March.

Guptill said Monday that winning was better than making sure everyone had batting time. "You don't really want to get out to give other people a go, do you?" he said. Guptill scored an unbeaten 87 from 58 deliveries as New Zealand beat Pakistan by 10 wickets in Hamilton. Pakistan won the opening match by 16 runs in Auckland, meaning the series is set for a decider in the third and final match in Wellington on Friday. Against Sri Lanka in two Twenty20 wins earlier this month New Zealand lost four wickets in the first match and only one in the second, meaning limited opportunities for their middle order batsmen.

#### 'Good for us'

"It can only be good for us that we're winning, not many wickets down," Guptill said. "Probably only three of us have had good long innings in the last three or for four games. It's disappointing for the middle order but it can only be good for New Zealand cricket." New Zealand skipper Williamson, who scored 72 off 48 in partnership with Guptill, said

the record was nice but winning was better. "You can't have everything," he said. "It was a really good performance from the team all round. "An improved bowling effort on a pretty good batting track first, and then for Gup and myself to put a big partnership together was pleasing. "If you do things well then guys don't get bats, but they'll be preparing and training for the next game just as normal and I'm sure they'll be ready to go."

Pakistan spin bowling coach Mushtaq Ahmed said his bowlers were unable to find a way to break Guptill

and Williamson who were only separated in the first match by a run out. "There was a good combination between Guptill and Williamson because they've got a different style of game," he said. "I think maybe from a coaching point of view we can develop more variation in our bowling, a bit more smart fielding positions. That's the only thing. "If you can get one or two wickets, then it'll be a different ball game. It doesn't matter if you get 180 or 200 runs on the board, if you don't pick (up) wickets then the game will always be in the opposition hands."—AFP

### **UNDER-PRESSURE DHONI** GETS BOARD'S BACKING

as India's limited-overs captain is safe despite the team's third successive one-day series defeat, the country's cricket board (BCCI) said yesterday. Speculation has been swirling over the future of the 34-year-old who guit tests in late 2014 but remains in charge of the team in shorter formats. The recent results, however, have not really enhanced the reputation of the man who led India to virtually every honor across formats. Under him, India lost their first ODI series in Bangladesh in June last year and went down to a visiting South African team in October. On Sunday, Dhoni's men succumbed to their third successive defeat in Australia who took an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series, chasing down big totals in Perth, Brisbane and Melbourne.

While some pundits believe test captain Virat Kohli should take over the limitedovers duties as well, BCCI secretary Anurag Thakur insisted Dhoni was the right man to lead India in shorter formats. "The kind of performance we have had from Dhoni and

**NEW DELHI:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni's job the team under him in the last eight-nine years, I think it's unfair to question his leadership after just one series," Thakur told reporters. "Dhoni is one of the most successful captains of the country. Under him, we won the World Cup in 2007 (T20) and 2011 (ODI). Team India rose to number one both in tests and ODIs under his leadership.

"Unfortunately we lost all three matches so far, and we've noticed our bowling limitations too, not being able to defend big totals. "It's a concern and the selectors and team management would assess the performance keeping the Asia Cup and the Twenty20 World Cup in mind," Thakur said. Dhoni himself felt more than his captaincy, the team needed to look at the grey areas and how to fix them. "It's not about the leader. I'm there (now), somebody else will come later," the stumperbatsman said after the loss in Melbourne. "What is more important is to see the areas we are lacking in, the departments which have to improve when it comes to shorter formats."— Reuters



India's captain MS Dhoni

#### LEDECKY SMASHES 800M FREE WORLD RECORD; PHELPS WINS

LOS ANGELES: Katie Ledecky crushed her own women's 800m freestyle world record on Sunday, clocking a stunning 8min 6.68sec to win at the Pro Swim meeting in Austin, Texas. The 18-year-old American obliterated the previous record of 8:07.39 that she set at the 2015 World Championships last August 8 in Kazan, Russia. "It was exciting," said Ledecky, who beat the water in triumph when she saw her time. "It's always exciting when you can get pushed along by a crowd like this in

She upstaged superstar Michael Phelps, who blazed to victory in the 200m individual medley to notch his first win over rival Ryan Lochte in the event since the 2012 London Olympics. Phelps, whose 18 Olympic gold medals include three in the 200m individual medley, powered through the final 25 meters of the closing freestyle leg to win in 1:58.00sec. Lochte, the current world record-holder in the event, held a narrow lead at every turn but settled for second in 1:58.43.

"Ryan and I have had a lot of great swims with one another," Phelps said. "Joking around with him beforehand, I kind of knew we were going to try to battle it out. I knew it would come down to the touch." Phelps finished the three-day meet

ple more meets before (Olympic) trials. Hopefully I'll be better than this," said Phelps, adding that the lower-key meetings are a chance to assess not only his speed but also technical details such as turns as he continues a comeback aimed at adding to his Olympic legacy in Rio.

Ledecky, who was the youngest member of the US Olympic delegation in London four years ago, is on course to build her Games legacy as well. She now owns the eight fastest performances ever in the 800m free and nine of the top 10. She also holds the world record in the 400m free and the non-Olympic women's event of 1500m free. In Rio, Ledecky could line up in the 200m, 400m and 800m freestylesand perhaps even the 100m free, in which she finished second in Austin this week.

"I was feeling good going into it," said Ledecky, who romped home with Becca Mann a distant second in 8:24.49. "Whenever I get going like that, I get into a good rhythm with my freestyle. My stroke just feels good the whole weekend once I have one or two really good freestyle swims." In other finals on the last night of the meet, Hungary's "Iron Lady" Katinka Hosszu pulled off a tough double, winning the 200m medley in 2:10.69 shortly after triumphing in 100m backstroke in 59.91.



AUSTIN: Katie Ledecky swims in the Women's 800 meter freestyle final during the Arena Pro Swim Series in Austin, Texas. — AFP



BOSTON: Dominick Cruz celebrates with the title belt after his win against TJ Dillashaw in a UFC bantamweight title match on Sunday, Jan 17,

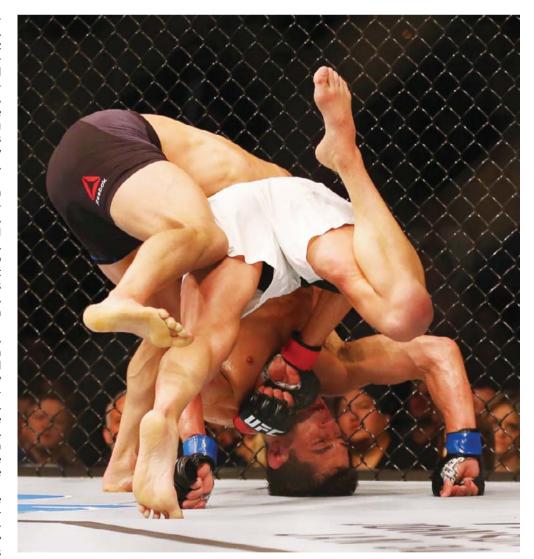
# CRUZ REGAINS THE UFC BANTAMWEIGHT TITLE

**BOSTON:** Dominick Cruz regained the UFC bantamweight title Sunday night, outpointing T.J. illashaw by split decision at the TD Garden, Cruz (21-1) received winning scores of 48-47 and 49-46, and the other judge scored the five-round bout 49-46 for Dillashaw (13-3). Forced to relinguish the title because of a series of knee injuries, Cruz fought for the first time since 2014 and the second time since 2011. Dillashaw was making his third title defense. "There's no such thing as rust," said Cruz, from San Diego. "Rust is only something you get when you don't train hard. I've seen fighters do what TJ does, but he's faster."

Cruz took down Dillashaw, from Denver, in each of the first four rounds and used his footwork to control the distance for most of the fight. "I'm very disappointed," Dillashaw said. "I felt like I was the aggressor and landed the bigger shots. I'm not a fan of his antics, but congratulations to him." Cruz took down Dillashaw once in the first round, grabbing a leg while Dillashaw was throwing a kick. Toward the end of the round, Cruz fought off a takedown attempt from

Cruz used his foot speed in the second round, moving in and out of range to land punches. In the final minute of the round, he downed Dillashaw twice with double leg shots. Dillashaw landed two kicks to the head in the third, opening cuts on Cruz's lips and next to his left eye. Cruz still stayed out of range for most of the round and scored another double-leg takedown. Dillashaw sustained a cut along the left eye in the fourth, but scored his first takedown of the fight, slipping behind Cruz and forcing him to the

In the fifth, Cruz kept circling. Late in the round, Dillashaw landed a knee to the midsection. In the co-main event, Eddie Alvarez outpointed former lightweight champion Anthony Pettis in a three-round fight. All three judges scored it 29-28, two for Alvarez (27-4) and one for Pettis (18-4). Both fighters spent the entire second round on their feet with Pettis defending two takedown attempts. In the first, Alvarez took down Pettis twice, once with a double leg and once with an inside triple. Bleeding from his nose in the third, Alvarez took down Pettis three



BOSTON: Dominick Cruz is upended by TJ Dillashaw in their bantamweight bout during UFC Fight Night 81 at TD Banknorth Garden 6 in Boston, Massachusetts. — AFP

times. Also on the main card, heavyweight Travis Browne stopped former NFL player Matt Mitrione in the third round, and lightweight Francisco Trinaldo won a three-round unani-

mous decision over Ross Pearson. Browne improved to 18-3-1, and Mitrione dropped to 9-5. Trinaldo improved to 17-4, and Pearson fell to 20-10 with one no-contest.— AP

#### AUSTRALIA PICK POWERFUL T20 SQUAD TO FACE INDIA

**SYDNEY:** Australia yesterday named a powerful 17-man squad for the three-match Twenty20 international series against India this month, with an eye to the upcoming World T20. However, Test captain Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner will play only in the opening match in Adelaide on January 26 before sitting out the other games to prepare for the first ODI against New Zealand in Auckland on February 3. "Our choice of 17 for the KFC T20Is gives us a chance to look at some options ahead of the ICC World Twenty20 in India," said national selector Rod Marsh. The tournament starts March 8 with the April 3 final in Kolkata. Australia have opted for experience and form for the India series, picking the stars of the Big Bash league with big-hitting Aaron Finch as captain.

"Shane Watson has earned his recall to

Australian colors through a combination of his experience, especially in short-form cricket, the all-round package he offers and the fact he is bang in form at the moment, having put performances on the board for the Sydney Thunder," said Marsh. "Shaun Tait returns on the basis that he is the quickest bowler going around in Australia at the moment and he offers us that explosive option if we choose to use it. "Chris Lynn, Travis Head and Andrew Tye have made irresistible cases for inclusion off the back of individual excellence in the KFC BBL and we are delighted to offer them the opportunity to push their claims for inclusion in the ICC World

Twenty20," Marsh added. "In terms of leg-spin, Cameron Boyce has once again impressed in domestic action and deserves his spot." The selectors said they regretted not being able to find places for George Bailey and Mitchell Marsh but noted that the door remains open to the World Twenty20 squad. "We know what both those players are capable of, and both have significant experience of playing Twenty20 cricket in India," Marsh said. "But we want them to continue to press their cases for inclusion while we take this opportunity to look at other contenders." The second T20 takes place in Melbourne on January 29 while the final game will be in Sydney on January 31.

Australia squad include; Aaron Finch (capt), Scott Boland, Cameron Boyce, James Faulkner, John Hastings, Travis Head, Nathan Lyon, Chris Lynn, Glenn Maxwell, Shaun Marsh, Kane Richardson, Steve Smith, Shaun Tait, Andrew Tye, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Shane Watson.—AFP

LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles Lakers forward Brandon Bass (right) reaches at Houston Rockets center Dwight Howard during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Sunday, Jan 17, 2016.— AP

#### **NBA Results/Standings**

Minnesota 117, Phoenix 87; Oklahoma City 99, Miami 74; San Antonio 112, Dallas 83; Denver 129, Indiana 126; Houston 112, LA

Lakers 95.					
	Eastern (	Conference			
	Atlantic	Division			
	w	L	PCT	GB	
Toronto	25	15	.625	-	
Boston	22	19	.537	3.5	
NY Knicks	20	22	.476	6	
Brooklyn	11	30	.268	14.5	
Philadelphia	5	37	.119	21	
	Central	Division			
Cleveland	28	10	.737	-	
Chicago	23	16	.590	5.5	
Detroit	22	18	.550	7	
Indiana	22	19	.537	7.5	
Milwaukee	18	25	.419	12.5	
	Southea	st Division			
Atlanta	24	17	.585	-	
Miami	23	18	.561	1	
Orlando	20	19	.513	3	
Washington	19	20	.487	4	
Charlotte	18	22	.450	5.5	
	Western	Conference			
	Northwe	st Division			
Oklahoma City	30	12	.714	-	
Utah	18	22	.450	11	
Portland	18	25	.419	12.5	
Denver	16	25	.390	13.5	
Minnesota	13	29	.310	17	
	Pacific	Division			
Golden State	37	4	.902	-	
LA Clippers	26	14	.650	10.5	
Sacramento	17	23	.425	19.5	
Phoenix	13	29	.310	24.5	
LA Lakers	9	34	.209	29	
	Southwe	st Division			
San Antonio	36	6	.857	-	
Memphis	23	19	.548	13	
Dallas	23	19	.548	13	
Houston	22	20	.524	14	
New Orleans	13	26	.333	21.5	

# STREAKING SPURS PUMMEL MAVERICKS

streaking into the second half of the NBA season after notching their 11th straight victory on Sunday, 112-83 over the Dallas Mavericks. Forward LaMarcus Aldridge scored 23 points, 13 of them in the pivotal third quarter, as the Spurs thrashed their cross-state rivals to remain unbeaten in 24 home games this season. It was their 33rd straight home victory in a streak dating back to last season and took their record to 36-6, equaling their best start to a campaign, previously achieved in 2010-

The Spurs have earned 11 of their 36 victories by a margin of at least 25 points, a new club record. Fresh off a victory over Eastern Conference powerhouse Cleveland, the Spurs fought through their worst first quarter of the season on Sunday. But they turned things around with the aid of suffocating defense, holding the Mavericks to their lowest fieldgoal percentage of the season at 35.8 percent. Mavericks big man Dirk Nowitzki was limited to just four points. "Both LA (Aldridge) and Boris (Diaw) were great in the pick-and-roll defense getting back to Dirk," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "Obviously, he's a tough cover, so both of them deserve a lot of credit."

Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said Nowitzki's poor shooting night was his fault. "I have to get Dirk better looks-we have to run some things to put him into better positions,"

**LOS ANGELES:** The San Antonio Spurs are Carlisle said. The Spurs trailed by two points after the first quarter, but out-scored the Mavs 64-40 in the second and third periods to gain control. Spurs starters Tim Duncan and point guard Tony Parker scored just two points apiece, Parker departing in the third quarter with a sore right hip. But Boris Diaw contributed 16 points for San Antonio and Kawhi Leonard chipped in 15 while sitting out the fourth quarter and reserve guard Jonathon Simmons stepped up with 14 points for the

> A frustrated Carlisle was ejected from the game with 11:17 to play in the fourth quarter after coming far onto the court and gesturing at one of the officials. By that time, the Spurs were leading by 23 points. "There was a level of frustration tonight but everyone was trying to do the right thing," Carlisle said. "San Antonio goes hard and they can make you look bad. We got beat and that's the name of that tune."

#### Thunder 99, Heat 74

Russell Westbrook had his second consecutive triple-double to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Miami Heat 99-74 on Sunday. Westbrook finished with 13 points, 15 assists and 10 rebounds. It was his fifth tripledouble of the season and the 24th of his career. Kevin Durant had 24 points and 10 rebounds, Serge Ibaka scored 19 points, and

Dion Waiters added 18 for the Thunder. They are the third team to reach 30 wins this season. Dwyane Wade, who sat out Friday against Denver with shoulder soreness, led the Heat with 22 points on his 34th birthday. Hassan Whiteside added 14 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks for the Heat. It was the fewest points scored by the Heat this season and the fewest allowed by the Thunder.

#### **ROCKETS 112, LAKERS 95**

James Harden scored 31 points and Houston pulled away to beat Los Angeles. Dwight Howard had 14 points and 15 rebounds for his ninth straight double-double, his longest such streak since a 14-game run three seasons ago. Lou Williams led Los Angeles with 20 points. Kobe Bryant, trying to play through a sore right Achilles, had five points in 24 minutes and tied a season high with nine assists before sitting out the fourth quarter.

#### **NUGGETS 129, PACERS 126**

Randy Foye hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 21 seconds left for Denver in its comeback victory over Indiana. The Nuggets came back in the second half to get their seventh straight win at home over the Pacers. Danilo Gallinari had 23 points, and Will Barton had 21, including two free throws with 6 seconds left. Myles Turner scored a career-high 25 points for Indiana, and Monta Ellis added 24.

#### **TIMBERWOLVES 117, SUNS 87**

Ricky Rubio and Andrew Wiggins scored 18 points each and Minnesota beat Phoenix to snap a nine-game losing streak. Karl-Anthony the Timberwolves. They shot 56.5 percent and won for the first time since beating Utah on Dec 30. Brandon Knight scored 20 points on 9for-20 shooting, and Markieff Morris had 17 points and five rebounds for free-falling Phoenix. The Suns have lost 13 of 14 games to drop to 13-29.—Agencies



OKLAHOMA: Miami Heat quard Tyler Johnson (left) passes the ball in front of Oklahoma City Thunder center Enes Kanter (right) in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City on Sunday, Jan 17, 2016. — AP

#### PANTHERS TO MEET CARDINALS IN NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Fitzgerald. Two of the biggest stars playing for the two highest scoring teams with a Super Bowl berth on the line. Welcome to the NFC championship game - the Arizona Cardinals and Carolina Panthers next Sunday in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Panthers held on to beat the Seattle Seahawks 31-24 on Sunday, knocking the two-time defending NFC champs out of the postseason with their 12th straight home win. Now they'll host the NFC championship game for the first time in franchise history.

"To get something that you've never got, you have to do something that you've never done," Newton said of the team's quest to win its first Super Bowl. The Cardinals (14-3) beat the Green Bay Packers 26-20 in overtime on Saturday night to advance. The Panthers and Cardinals have not played this season, but this has the potential to be a high-scoring matchup. The Panthers averaged more than 31 points this season and the Cardinals were a close second at 30.5. Fitzgerald had eight catches for 176 yards and a touchdown in the win over the Packers, but Carson Palmer struggled most of the game with inaccurate passes. "It's easy to dwell on (bad plays)," said Palmer, who like Newton is a former No. 1 pick and Heisman Trophy winner. "But the experience I have, I've learned from a lot of opportunities and situations. You've got to forget about it and move on. There is no other thought."

Newton said the key will be to not make mistakes and, if the team gets a lead, to not let off the gas. "We were conservative, but at the end of the day, you have to trust coaching," Newton said. "We had a great plan coming in. We just got to keep putting it back together. "We're getting a

CHARLOTTE: Cam Newton, Larry lot of guys back, watch this film, get better on it and get ready for Arizona." Arizona won in its only other NFC championship game appearance in 2008 before losing to the Pittsburgh Steelers 27-23 in the Super Bowl. It is Carolina's fourth appearance in the NFC title game, but first since 2005. The Panthers are 1-2 in their previous three appearances, reaching the Super Bowl in 2003 before losing 32-29 on a late field goal to the New **England Patriots.** 

> "It's pretty special, it's hard to do," tight end Greg Olsen said of hosting the game. "When you're the No. 1 seed coming off the regular season your destiny is in your own hands and we took care of business against what has been the pinnacle of the NFC the last few years, so this was a big step forward as an organization." This is the third time since 2008 the Panthers have hosted the Cardinals in a playoff game. The Cardinals upset Jake Delhomme and the No. 2-seeded Panthers 33-13 in the divisional playoffs in 2008.

> The Panthers got some measure of revenge last year when they defeated the Cardinals 27-16 in the wild-card round last season, although Arizona was on its fourth quarterback of the season in Ryan Lindley. "A lot of us wouldn't mind going back there to Carolina and playing those guys again since they beat us last year when we had a lot of injuries," Cardinals cornerback Justin Bethel said. If the game is close, Olsen said the Panthers are well prepared. "I guess we're used to it - I know we have some strong tickers," Olsen said. "We have been through some drama and some stress, but we have a lot of character in this room and guys who understand what it means for the Panthers and play for one another. We just have to play it until the end."—AP

# BRONCOS DUMP STEELERS

**DENVER:** This would've been no way to send Peyton Manning into the offseason. Seven dropped passes. A whiplash-inducing, blindside hit from an unblocked blitzer. A flurry of field goals and a defense that gave up big chunks of yards too often. All that ugliness got set aside thanks to the sort of comeback that has defined the Denver Broncos all season. They rallied for a 23-16 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday to move themselves and their 39-year-old guarterback one win away from the Super Bowl.

The 17th edition of Manning-Brady is set for next Sunday. But before that, Manning will savor a win in Denver's 17th game of the season - one every bit as rough, rugged and up in the air as any of the previous 16. "This was a dog fight, a grinder and went down to the last drive," Manning said. "If you can be in a lot of those games and win those games, it certainly gives you confidence and, hey, it's playoff football." The Broncos (13-4) improved to 10-3 on the season in games decided by seven or less. This one turned when Broncos cornerback Bradley Roby punched the ball out of Pittsburgh running back Fitz Toussaint's hands with 9:52 left.

Until then, Denver had settled for four field goals and trailed 13-12. After the day's only turnover, the Broncos put together their only touchdown drive - 13 plays, 65 yards over 6:52, capped by a 1-yard run by CJ Anderson. A 2-point conversion made it 20-13. "Bottom line, you lose the turnover battle in a hostile environment against good people and it's going to cost you," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. "And it cost us today."

Making his first start since Nov 15, Manning finished 21 for 37 for 222 yards, with no touchdowns or interceptions. The totals might have been better were it not for seven drops from his receivers. Next up, the Patriots, who fell 30-24 in overtime to Denver earlier this season, when Brock Osweiler was playing in place of Manning while he nursed his injured foot. "They're one of the best teams in the AFC," Broncos linebacker Von Miller said. "Let's go out and play and see who wants the Super Bowl." Things we learned from Sunday's game:

#### **Classic matchup**

The Patriots opened as a 3 1/2-point favorite over Denver, despite playing on the road. This will be a rematch from the AFC title game of two years ago, when Broncos receiver Wes Welker leveled then-Patriots cornerback Aqib Talib, knocking him out of the game and opening things up in the secondary. Manning threw for 400 yards in a 26-16 win. The teams are different now. "Our defense is guiding us. Let's make that clear. They played great all season," Manning said. "They were dominant today against a high-powered offense."

#### Stepping up

With no Antonio Brown (concussion), Ben Roethlisberger found another big play receiver in Martavis Bryant, who caught nine passes for 154 yards. "The plan for me was to stay focused - stay focused on my job and go out and handle my business," said Bryant, who also had two carries for 40 yards. Bryant may have been so open because Denver's defense was in zone a lot, with Pro Bowl cornerback Chris Harris Jr dealing with a sore shoulder.

"We were able to move the ball, and then we just . we kind of get down there and hurt ourselves," Roethlisberger said. "Part of that was because they're the No 1 defense in the world." BIG HIT: The Broncos defense may have bent a few times, but was never upended. The same can't be said of their defensive coordinator Wade Phillips. The 68-year-old coach was taken out by Bryant after the Steelers receiver got pushed out of bounds on the Denver sideline. No damage done, though. Phillips popped back up quickly and slapped his back side. Head coach Gary Kubiak never even saw it. "I can assure you he's fine," Kubiak said. "He's in there hollering. I just left him, so he's all right."

#### Can't-miss McManus

Broncos kicker Brandon McManus went from missing kicks in five consecutive games down the stretch to making history Sunday: His 5-for-5 performance in tricky crosswinds helped Denver come away with points when the offense kept stalling. "During warmups, we went out there and it was a pretty calm day - a nice, tempered day. We come out 7 minutes before kickoff and I see a 30 mph crosswind come in over the Rockies," McManus said. "So, I wasn't nervous at the time, but I knew it would make for an exciting day." McManus is the seventh kicker to make all five of his field goal tries in a playoff game.

#### **Butterfinger Broncos**

Denver's biggest bugaboo this season has been dropped passes, and that trend continued, with Demaryius Thomas, C.J. Anderson and Ronnie Hillman all letting passes bounce off their hands. Emmanuel Sanders and Bennie Fowler each had two drops. Fowler made up for it with his 31-yard catch on thirdand-12 to set up Denver's only touchdown. "A couple of those were the wind, but as a receiver we should have still made those plays,"Thomas said.—Agencies



DENVER: Pittsburgh Steelers tight end Matt Spaeth (top) flies over Denver Broncos outside linebacker Von Miller during the first half in an NFL football divisional playoff game on Sunday, Jan 17, 2016. — AP

# AFRICAN STRIKERS ON FORM IN EUROPE

**PARIS:** Rudy Gestede was on the mark for Aston Villa in England, while Cheikhou Kouyate had an outstanding match for West Ham. In France there were match-winning goals from Floyd Ayite at Bastia and Cheick Diabate at Bordeaux, and in Italy Jerry Mbakogu scored the winner for Carpi from the penalty spot.

#### Rudy Gestede (Aston Villa) ENGLAND

The Benin striker scored an equalizer 15 minutes from time for Aston Villa in their 1-1 draw with high-flying Leicester when, after coming on minutes earlier as a substitute, he got away with the ball bouncing off his arm and then benefitted from a Robert Huth clearance that hit him in the groin before his deflected shot found its way into the net for his first goal since September. Unfortunately for Villa, the point gained was not enough to take them off the bottom of the table.

#### Riyad Mahrez (Leicester City)

He has been having a brilliant season as a key member of Leicester's unexpected push for the Premier League title but last weekend was one to forget for the Algeria winger. Minutes after the Foxes had gone 1-0 up at Villa Park, they were awarded a penalty when his shot was blocked by the sliding Aly Cissokho's raised arm. Despite missing from the spot earlier this month Mahrez took the penalty himself, but his casual strike down the middle was too close to Mark Bunn and the Villa goalkeeper made the

#### Yaya Toure (Manchester City)

The Ivory Coast star suffered the indignity of being dropped to the bench but made his mark when he came on in the second half with a neat piece of play as City's best move of the match led to a third goal, and Sergio Aguero's second of the match, in a 4-0 rout of Crystal Palace.

#### **Cheikhou Kouyate (West Ham)**

A forceful and aggressive display meant the Senegal star was the pick of West Ham's midfield in their 2-1 loss away to Newcastle. The London club may still have come away with a point if his late header had not been saved by Newcastle keeper Rob Elliot.

#### Arthur Boka (Malaga) SPAIN

Ivorian full-back Boka was sent-off for two bookable offences as Malaga's seven-game unbeaten run in La Liga came to an end in a 2-1 defeat at Sevilla.

#### Floyd Ayite (Bastia) FRANCE

Togo international Ayite scored three minutes after half-time to earn Bastia a 1-0 win at home to Montpellier. The winger headed home Florian Marange's cross for his fourth goal of the season.

#### **Cheick Diabate (Bordeaux)**

Mali striker Diabate struck the winner for Bordeaux for the second time in as many games as they beat Lille 1-0. The 27-year-old headed home a cross from Tunisian international Wahbi Khazri six minutes into the second half.

#### Mohamed Salah (Roma) ITALY

Coach Luciano Spalletti was back in charge of Roma after the sacking of Rudi Garcia and Salah's performance reflected the general malaise being felt at the Serie A club. The Egyptian winger was far from his best and, after Radja Nainggolan had given Roma a 1-0 lead, spurned the chance to double the hosts' advantage when he hit a wasted shot instead of offering up to Edin Dzeko, who was in a better position. It finished tied at

#### Jerry Mbakogu (Carpi) Carpi are in a battle against relegation



Jerry Mbakogu

but the league minnows were given a huge boost with a fourth win of the campaign thanks to Mbakogu's second-half penalty. Sampdoria's Joaquin Correa pulled the match level six minutes after

Lorenzo Lollo's opener for the hosts, and after a foul in the area Nigerian Mbakogu stepped up to beat Emiliano Viviano in the visiting goal to put Carpi ahead on 55 minutes.—AFP



TOULOUSE: Toulouse's Brazilian midfielder Somalia (right) vies with Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian midfielder Lucas Moura during the French L1 football match Toulouse vs Paris Saint-Germain at the Municipal stadium in Toulouse. —AFP

FRENCH CUP PREVIEW

#### TOULOUSE OUT TO CLAIM PSG SCALP IN FRENCH CUP

straight domestic treble when the two sides meet for the second time in four days in the last 32 of the French Cup today. PSG left Toulouse with a narrow 1-0 win in Lique on Saturday courtesy of Zlatan Ibrahimovic's second-half strike, but Dominique Arribage's side were buoyed by their display against the runaway league leaders. "It won't be the same story tomorrow (Tuesday)," Arribage said at Monday's press conference. "It's up to us to rise to the occasion. We have plenty of hope because they know we could hang with them and beat them.

"We have to go to the Parc des Princes full of ambition. We're setting ourselves up for a good performance, we're not going there to concede five (goals) but that could happen." Laurent Blanc is likely to rest some

PARIS: Toulouse will aim to thwart Paris key players amid a congested fixture list Saint-Germain in their quest for a second which includes another meeting with Toulouse on January 27 in the semi-finals of the League Cup. PSG are set to embark on a run of seven matches in little over three weeks before hosting Chelsea in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on February 16, and they would play another game before facing the Premier League champions should they advance on Tuesday. There are three other all-Lique 1 ties, with record 10-time winners Marseille hosting Montpellier, 2014 champions Guingamp visiting Gazelec Ajaccio and Angers at home to 2013 winners Bordeaux, as a record 17 top-flight sides remain in the competition at this stage. Lyon will look to recover from Sunday's 1-0 defeat to bitter rivals Saint-Etienne when they travel to third-tier Chambly tomorrow, while Monaco go to second-tier Evian.— AFP

# LAW CHANGES TO 'SIMPLIFY' SOCCER

**LONDON:** Soccer always has been a relatively simple sport, governed by 17 laws largely unchanged since the 19th century, yet that template is now surrounded by 22,000 words of interpretations, creating anomalies the rulemakers want to streamline. Former Premier League referee David Elleray has spent 18 months revising the sport's global law-book and bringing it up to date for the first time since the last major re-working in the 1930s by future FIFA president Stanley Rous.

Elleray has examined incidents from minor infringements at grassroots level to a famous pre-match clash in the Premier League as well as canvassing opinion from the heads of refereeing in each of FIFA's six

"What we have tried to do is add some common sense, write in clearer language, tell referees to be more sensitive to the spirit of the game they are controlling, and bring all the laws up to date," he told reporters. "Most of these changes are really about common sense. Right now, especially with some situations, especially those that do not happen very often, the laws are a little crazy because they have been put together piecemeal over the years." Elleray said his goal was for fans to understand why referees make decisions, leading to more respect for officials, adding that there were no plans for referees to be fitted with microphones, as they are in rug-

#### Dry read

The laws, first drawn up in 1863 when the world's oldest Football Association was formed in England, are a dry read and it is doubtful whether many fans or players will

have gone through them in detail. The power of their words, however, impact on every organized match, from a World Cup final to a Sunday League park game in London, Soweto or Miami, and provide the unifying link between all levels of the game. Unlike many other sports which have countless laws, there are only 17 in soccer, but Elleray had a mammoth task editing them and their interpretations down from 22,000 to 12,000 words.

As an example of where the modern game has left them behind, Elleray recalled the occasion when Roy Keane of Manchester United and Patrick Vieira of Arsenal nearly came to blows in the tunnel before a Premier League match at Highbury in 2005. "We all remember the famous Keane and Vieira exchange of words in the tunnel at Highbury. But if that had developed into a full-scale fight, what would you expect to happen to them?" he said. "You would expect them to have been red-carded and not allowed to play, but that is not the case."

Elleray said under current regulations a referee cannot dismiss players in the tunnel because they are not yet on the field of play. That rule was drawn up before the two teams lined up next to each other ahead of a match. "In future what will happen is that those two players would not be allowed to play in the game, but both teams will still start with 11 men, using a substitute off the bench," he said after a meeting of the law-making International Football Association Board (IFAB) in London. "This is one example of where the laws have not kept up to date, and they need to change so we can protect the image of the game."—Reuters

# RECORD-SETTING HIGUAIN FIRES NAPOLI TITLE CHARGE

MILAN: Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri hailed Gonzalo Higuain as "the top striker in the world" but says the Argentinean can do more on his record-setting run towards Serie A's top scorer's award. "If he was a little more aggressive when going to the net, he'd score a lot more," Sarri said after Napoli moved two points clear of Juventus and four ahead of Inter Milan at the top of Serie A thanks to a 3-1 win against Sassuolo on Saturday. "But he's still the top striker in the world right now."

Higuain, who joined Napoli in time for the 2013 season after six seasons at Real Madrid, finished the previous two Serie A seasons with a tally of 18 goals (2015) and 17 (2014). Yet, in his first game of the second half of the season on Saturday, 'Pipito' hit his fifth brace from his last seven games to take his goals tally to 20 from 20 league games. There are still 18 games to play, so if he continues like this, the Frenchborn Argentina international could rewrite the Serie A history books. The last two Capocannoniere (top scorer) awards were won with a total of 22 goals, Ciro Immobile finishing top in 2014 and Mauro Icardi and Luca Toni sharing last year's prize with the same tally.

Only the feats of Toni, who at 38 years old is playing possibly his last season with basement side Verona, can be used as any kind of yardstick. It took Toni 21 matches to hit 20 goals during the 2005-2006 campaign, when the then Fiorentina striker's 31-goal tally secured the top scorer's prize, earned him a call-up to his maiden World Cup and, after the final's penalty shootout against France, a World Cup winners' medal. Higuain has been on fire this season, as opposition coaches have noticed. "For 41 minutes my defenders made sure he didn't get a touch. Then on his first touch of the ball he showed all his class," said Sassuolo coach Eusebio Di Francesco said Saturday. "You don't need me to explain how good he is." Higuain's incentives this season are twofold.

He is keen to cement his place in Argentina's squad having fallen out of favor after missing his penalty in the shootout of the Copa America final against Chile last year. Chile went on to win 4-1 on penalties and Higuain, for the second time in a month, became the scapegoat. Weeks earlier, Higuain and Napoli goalkeeper Mariano Andujar were targeted by hardline Napoli 'ultras' after the striker, after hitting a brace, missed a penalty in a 4-2 defeat to Lazio on the final day of the season. It cost Napoli a place in the qualifying round for the Champions League while Higuain's car was vandalized by disgruntled fans.

#### **Memories of Maradona**

Higuain was all set to start a third season at Napoli under the helm of Rafael Benitez, until the Spaniard's sacking paved the way for former Empoli coach Sarri to take over. After an inauspicious start that prompted club legend Diego Maradona to publicly lambast the tracksuit wearing, chain-smoking Sarri, Napoli were soon into their stride. Since their opening day defeat to Sassuolo, Napoli have conceded defeat just once, to Bologna, to become bona fide title challengers in a championship dominated by Juventus the past four seasons. Although Sarri has worked his magic throughout the club, his close relationship with Higuain appears to be key. "If I'm honest, a lot of what I'm achieving at the moment is down to Sarri," Higuain said. "We try to encourage each other because we're both working for the same goal."

If Higuain maintains his current rhythm, he could exceed the all-time record of 36 goals, scored by Gino Rossetti for Torino in the 1928-29 season. Since Italy's top flight was contended by 20 clubs from the 2004-2005 season, the third time in the league's history, only Toni has come close to that figure. Perhaps more importantly, Higuain's goals could fire Napoli to their first title since 1990 when Maradona steered the 'Partenopei' to their second title after their historic triumph in 1987. In the meantime, being first on both fronts, says Higuain, is a "special feeling". "I can say it's definitely a special feeling being on top," Higuain said Saturday. "We're having a really positive spell at the moment and we have to capitalize as much as we can." — AFP



NAPLES: Napoli's Gonzalo Higuain celebrates after scoring his second goal during a Serie A soccer match between Napoli and Sassuolo, at the San Paolo stadium in Naples, Italy. — AP

#### S AFRICAN STAR CELE KILLED AS CAR PLUNGES INTO RIVER

JOHANNESBURG: South African Premier League footballer Mondli Cele died Sunday after the car he was a passenger in plunged into a river near eastern city Pietermaritzburg. The tragedy occurred a few hours after the 27-year-old scored for Maritzburg United in a 3-3 Premiership thriller against famed Soweto club Orlando Pirates. Cele and another passenger died when the driver lost control of the car, a provincial transport department spokesman said.

A third passenger survived. "His character on and off the field was impeccable," said Maritzburg chairman Farook Kadodia, referring to 27-year-old midfielder Cele. Premier Soccer League spokesman Lux September said: "Mondli scored a beautiful goal and it was to be his last celebration."Cele was included in the preliminary South Africa squad for the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations in Equatorial Guinea, but did not make the final 23.

His death overshadowed a dramatic weekend of Premiership action highlighted by visiting Pirates coming from three goals behind to hold bottom club Maritzburg. Cele put United ahead after eight minutes at a packed 10,000-seat Harry Gwala Stadium by sidefooting a cut-back past goalkeeper Brighton Mhlongo. Zimbabwean Evans Rusike, who created the opening goal, scored on 32 minutes and Ugandan Brian Onyango gave United a three-goal advantage soon after. Thabo Rakhale pulled one back within a minute and captain Thabo Matlaba set up a thrilling second half by scoring a second goal for the Buccaneers early in the second half.

Rattled Maritzburg clung to the lead until 10 minutes from time when Kermit Erasmus equalized, and the visitors looked the likelier winners in frenetic climax of a memorable match. Maritzburg remain bottom, one point below Pretoria University, while 2015 CAF Confederation Cup runners-up Pirates lie 11th after a disastrous one-win-in-seven start to the season At the other end of the table, a seesaw struggle for Premiership supremacy tilted back in favour of record six-time champions Mamelodi Sundowns. They won a home derby against Pretoria University 2-1 through goals from Zimbabwean Khama Billiat and Colombian Leonardo Castro to lead Mpumalanga Black Aces on goal difference.

Aces upset Wits 2-1 in Johannesburg thanks to a brace from veteran Zambia striker Collins Mbesuma, the leading Premiership scorer this season with 10 goals. Sundowns (plus 13 goal difference) and Aces (plus 11) have 30 points each one round before the halfway stage and Wits are a point behind. Defending champions Kaizer Chiefs stayed in touch, five points off the pace, with a 1-0 victory at Bloemfontein Celtic courtesy of a penalty converted by Zimbabwean Willard Katsande. Thobani Mncwango of Polokwane City became the first Premiership footballer to score more than twice in a game this season by grabbing four in a 4-1 triumph over SuperSport United.— AFP



Mondli Cele





MILAN: AC Milan's Ghanaian forward Kevin-Prince Boateng (center) celebrates after scoring a goal during the Serie A football match between AC Milan and Fiorentina at the San Siro Stadium in Milan on January 17, 2016. —AFP

# ILAN DENT FIORENTINA SERIE A TITLE HOPES

**MILAN:** Carlos Bacca and Kevin-Prince Boateng struck in either half as AC Milan dented Fiorentina's Serie A title hopes with a 2-0 win at the San Siro that ended their long wait for victory over La Viola. Seven-time European champions Milan had beaten the Florence-based side only once in their last nine league outings. But a superb opener from Bacca on four minutes upset the visitors' gameplan and Boateng, who re-signed for the club recently on a sixmonth loan deal, came off the bench to hit a well-taken second two minutes from the final whistle to wrap up the points.

Fiorentina's sixth defeat of the season proved costly, Paulo Sousa's men left in fourth place at six points behind leaders Napoli, four behind champions Juventus and two behind fellow challengers Inter Milan. Milan moved up two place to sixth to sit 12 points off the pace as they continue their bid for a place in next season's Champions League. Fiorentina looked impressive as they zipped the ball around in the opening exchanges, although the stakes changed for the visitors after just four minutes. On a Milan counter, Giacomo Bonaventura held the ball up before releasing Bacca on a run which the Colombian finished by holding off his marker to fire past Ciprian Tatarusanu and into the far bottom corner.

Milan spurned the next chance when Keisuke Honda won possession in midfield and played a one-two with M'Baye Niang, but the Japanese forward's delivery into the box found no takers. Fiorentina should have levelled before the quarter hour when Josip Ilicic ran through unmarked on to Mario Suarez's ball, but the Slovenian was closed down and after offloading to Federico Bernardeschi the playmaker's snap shot was blocked. Milan were finding openings on the counter, with Bonaventura and M'Baye Niang showing plenty of pace on the wings.

After Milan 'keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma punched a corner to safety, Niang went on a long run that took him past his marker but his cross for Honda met traffic. Fiorentina striker Nikola Kalinic was unlucky not to make contact with Marcos Alonso's drive into the box, and the Croatian got his head to an Ilicic corner close to half-time but it glanced wide. Fiorentina resumed in more positive fashion after the break, although their promise soon fizzled out. A Borja Valero free-kick was nodded towards the far top corner by Nenad Tomovic but Donnarumma was alert to the danger. A long ball from Ilicic sent Kalinic on a promising counter but with Alessio Romagnoli in hot pursuit the Croatian fired wide of the target. Moments later, Kalinic headed a metre wide from Valero's cross as Donnarumma swung on to his post. Milan looked to have soaked up the pressure but struggled to convert their own half chances, Antonelli firing straight at a thankful Tatarusanu after the ball fell kindly. Sousa boosted Fiorentina's attack when he replaced midfielder Mario Suarez with Giuseppe Rossi with 25 minutes to play. But Milan's changes proved decisive. Boateng came

on for Niang and moments after Mario Balotelli replaced Bacca to make his long-awaited return from injury, Boateng beat onrushing Tatarusanu to Juraj Kucka's long ball, rounded the 'keeper and slotted it home from 12 yards.— AFP

	Italy Serie A results/standings														
MILAN: Ita	alian	Serie	Αt	able	on S	Sund	lay (	played, won, c	drawn,	lost,	goa	ls foi	r, go	als a	gainst,
Napoli	20	13	5	2	41	16	44	Torino	19	7	4	8	26	25	25
Juventus	20	13	3	4	37	15	42	Atalanta	20	7	4	9	21	24	25
Inter Milan	20	12	4	4	25	13	40	Udinese	20	7	3	10	18	31	24
Fiorentina	20	12	2	6	37	21	38	Sampdoria	a 20	6	5	9	29	32	23
Roma	20	9	8	3	37	23	35	Bologna	20	7	2	11	22	27	23
AC Milan	20	9	5	6	27	23	32	Genoa	20	6	4	10	23	26	22
Sassuolo	19	8	7	4	24	20	31	Palermo	20	6	3	11	19	33	21
Empoli	20	9	4	7	25	24	31	Carpi	20	4	5	11	19	35	17
Lazio	20	8	4	8	25	29	28	Frosinone	20	4	3	13	22	45	15
Chievo	20	7	6	7	26	22	27	Verona	20	0	9	11	13	32	9

### WENGER OPTIMISTIC OVER OZIL'S RETURN

Arsene Wenger hopes playmaker Mesut Ozil will be fit to face Chelsea after the German was forced to miss Sunday's goalless draw at Stoke with a foot injury. Ozil is well clear at the top of the Premier League's 'assists' charts with 16, compared to nine for his nearest challenger, Manchester City's Kevin de Bruyne. And Wenger hopes the 27-year-old will overcome the injury in order to face the struggling Premier League champions at the Emirates Stadium next weekend after conceding he was missed during a stalemate in the Potteries.

There is no team in the world that wouldn't miss Ozil," Wenger said. "We are used to having him there. If we had Mesut, it would have been a different game (against Stoke). "Ozil has an inflammation of the foot. On Saturday morning he was not very well and he was already not 100 percent at Liverpool," the veteran French boss added. "I decided to leave him out but I think he should be back for next Sunday." Ozil's absence left Arsenal laboring at the Britannia Stadium, where they managed just three shots on target and found Stoke goalkeeper Jack Butland equal to them.

A point was enough to take the north London club back to the top of the table as they edged clear of Leicester City on goal difference, but it was another afternoon of frustration in the Potteries for Wenger. His side have now failed to win at Stoke's home in six attempts-a sequence that dates back to February 2010. And he provoked a pointed response from Stoke manager Mark Hughes by claiming the home team had been "physical" and "direct". "Overall it was a battle-an old fashioned Stoke battle

STOKE-ON-TRENT: Arsenal manager because they made the game very ph cal," said Wenger. "The crowd was up for it, the players were up for it. They went for a very direct game and we had to show a physical response, solidarity, fighting spirit, togetherness, which we did."

But a clearly annoyed Hughes responded: "I've just heard Arsene say he was a bit surprised that we went direct. "I'm not quite sure what game he's been watching. "I don't think there was a yellow card. I don't know why the physical aspect of the game has to be mentioned. "I thought it was a good football game with both teams trying to play and win a key Premier League game." Arsenal's last victory at the Britannia Stadium was a 3-1 success that became infamous for the sickening broken leg suffered by Gunners midfielder Aaron Ramsey, who was again singled out for some unsavoury abuse by Potters fans during his 250th Arsenal appearance.

The bad blood from the injury and Ramsey's refusal to accept Ryan Shawcross's apology for the challenge that caused it remains for Stoke fans, who taunted Ramsey throughout Sunday's match with boos and a chant about the damage caused to his leg. Wenger said: "I have no influence on it and I don't know what generally you should do about it. "When people get together, sometimes they forget their individual responsibility. "Maybe when you go home and watch it on television you are less proud. "I focus on the game. I shut my ears-I think that's best way to deal with it." A draw kept Stoke seventh in the table and Hughes hopes to have record signing Xherdan Shaqiri back from a hamstring injury in time for Saturday's trip to Leicester.— AFP



Arsenal's German midfielder Mesut Ozil



SAINT-ETIENNE: Saint-Etienne's Norwegian forward Alexander Soderlund (left) vies for the ball with Lyon's French defender Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa during the French L1 football match between Saint-Etienne (ASSE) and Lyon (OL) on January 17, 2016. — AFP

# SAINT-ETIENNE REIGNITE THEIR QUEST FOR EUROPE FOOTBALL

**PARIS:** Saint-Etienne reignited their quest for European football with a 1-0 win over bitter rivals Lyon in Sunday's feisty Rhone-Alpes derby, while Marseille continued their impressive away form in Ligue 1 with a 3-1 victory at Caen. Norway striker Alexander Soderlund marked his home debut with the decisive goal 14 minutes from time at the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard to leave Saint-Etienne just two points off the Champions

League places. For Lyon, who exited the League Cup in midweek following a 2-1 defeat at holders Paris Saint-Germain, this latest loss simply yielded another disappointment in a season full of setbacks. "We had a 10-second lapse of concentration for which we paid dearly," rued Lyon coach Bruno Genesio. "We conceded a goal from out of nothing. It's really disappointing. "We were up against a goalkeeper who made saves at key moments. I think we also lacked aggression in front of goal, we could've come back at the end if we'd been a bit more adventurous."

Both sides had entered Sunday's clash level on 29 points and looking to keep in touch with the European places, and it was Lyon who largely bossed the first half. On-loan striker Jean-Christophe Bahebeck tried to catch out Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes with an early freekick, but the visitors were on top after that as Stephane Ruffier twice thwarted Rachid Ghezzal, the second stop a stunning low save just before the break. Ruffier then palmed away a Clement Grenier free-kick after half-time, before the crossbar came to Saint-Etienne's rescue as Ghezzal's

cross was diverted towards his own goal by Kevin

Theophile-Catherine. But it was the hosts who made the breakthrough on 76 minutes when a stray pass from Corentin Tolisso was pounced upon by Kevin Monnet-Paquet, who slipped in Soderlund for the Norwegian to notch his first goal for his new club. Earlier, Marseille snapped a four-match winless run in the league as they claimed a fifth victory in six away games. Marseille arrived at the Stade Michel d'Ornano unbeaten in seven league matches, although they had drawn their last four outings, and grabbed a 12th-minute lead when goal-line technology was used to determine that Michy Batshuayi's shot had crossed the line after coming back off the post.

Batshuayi should have added a second with the goal at his mercy a few minutes later, but the Belgian atoned for that miss by setting up Georges-Kevin Nkoudou to steer in Marseille's

second on the hour. Ronny Rodelin pulled one back for the hosts after beating Steve Mandanda to a free-kick, but Bouna Sarr erased any hopes of a comeback as he volleyed home Alaixys Romao's inviting cross on 83 minutes. The victory pushed Marseille up to eighth, five points adrift of thirdplace Angers, with Caen dropping to seventh. Monaco moved back into second place in the table after winning 2-0 at Lorient to stretch their unbeaten run in the league to eight games. Thomas Lemar gave Monaco a 53rd-minute lead in Brittany before Joao Moutinho curled home an exquisite free-kick to leave Leonardo Jardim's men 21 points behind runaway leaders Paris Saint-Germain. PSG recorded their ninth consecutive win in all competitions and extended their club record unbeaten league run to 30 matches dating back to last March as Zlatan Ibrahimovic's 73rd-minute strike was enough for them to see off Toulouse 1-0 on Saturday.— AFP

#### French League results/standings

PARIS: French L	igue 1	table	afte	r Sun	day's	matcl	hes (p	layed, won, drawn, los	t, goal	s for, g	goals	agai	nst, po	oints)	:
Paris SG	21	18	3	0	51	9	57	Nantes	21	7	7	7	18	20	28

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Paris SG	21	18	3	0	51	9	57	Nantes	21	7	7	7	18	20	28	
Monaco	21	9	9	3	29	25	36	Lorient	21	6	9	6	29	30	27	
Angers	21	9	7	5	20	13	34	Gazelec Ajaccio	21	6	8	7	24	26	26	
Nice	21	9	6	6	35	25	33	Lille	21	5	10	6	16	15	25	
Saint-Etienne	21	10	2	9	24	24	32	Bastia	21	7	4	10	21	26	25	
Rennes	21	7	10	4	31	25	31	Montpellier	21	6	4	11	22	27	22	
Caen	21	9	3	9	22	27	30	Reims	21	5	7	9	22	29	22	
Marseille	21	7	8	6	31	22	29	Guingamp	21	5	6	10	19	29	21	
Lyon	21	8	5	8	27	25	29	Toulouse	21	4	8	9	24	35	20	
Bordeaux	21	7	8	6	25	28	29	Troves	21	0	8	13	13	43	8	

Cruz regains the UFC title; outpunches **Dillashaw** 



**Manning shines** as Broncos down gritty Steelers 23-16



TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016

#### MILAN DENT FIORENTINA SERIE A TITLE HOPES



# DJOKOVIC, SERENA STAR AT SCANDAL-HIT OPEN

on day one of the 2016 Australian Open tennis tournament yesterday. — AFP

#### Quickfire Federer; Sizzling Sharapova blows away rivals

**MELBOURNE:** Defending champions Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams raced into the Australian Open second round vesterday as the year's first Grand Slam was rocked by claims of widespread match-fixing in tennis. Former winners Roger Federer and Maria Sharapova also proressed smoothly on a day of high temperatures at Melbourne Park, where one ballboy felt faint and had to be helped from the court.

Djokovic's main opponent was the 35 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) heat as, cooling himself with ice vests on the change-overs, the top seed dispatched Korean rising star Chung Hyeon 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. "You try to stay composed, not get carried away by heat, get distracted," said the Serb, who was forced out of the 2009 quarter-finals as he struggled with the heat. "Of course, there were some long rallies, long exchanges that got both of us a little bit short on

air. But I think physically I was really good on the court."

Williams also made a positive return to competitive tennis, four months after a heartbreaking defeat in the US Open semi-finals ended her bid for a rare calendar-year Grand Slam. Showing no discomfort from the swollen knee which forced her out of this month's Hopman Cup mixed-team tournament, Williams toughed it out 6-4, 7-5 against Italy's Camila Giorgi. "I haven't played a competitive match in a really long time so it was good for me to come out here and get through it," Williams said. "I was able to stay in it and stay calm and that is what matters most."

Williams, 34, is seeking an Open-era record-equaling 22nd Grand Slam title, while Djokovic can become only the second man to win six Australian Open crowns after Roy Emerson. Federer was also untroubled in his 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 win over Georgia's Nicoloz Basilashvili as he continued

his quest for a record-extending 18th Grand Slam title. Sharapova, the women's winner in 2008, beat Japan's Nao Hibino 6-1, 6-3 in just 73 minutes in her first match of the year after a forearm injury forced her out of the Brisbane International. "I'm feeling really good, which is a positive. I'm just happy to finish off today and be able to get ready for the next one," said the Russian.

#### 'No cover-up'

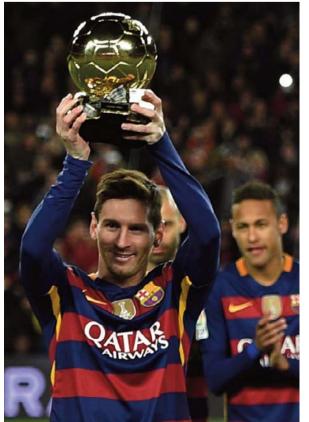
Kei Nishikori, Tomas Berdych and Australia's Nick Kyrgios also went through without significant problems, while Caroline Wozniacki, Sloane Stephens, Sara Errani and Ivo Karlovic became the first seeds to fall. Spain's Carla Suarez earned applause when she helped a ballboy from the court as he swooned in high temperatures during her win over Viktorija Golubic. However, the day was overshadowed by a report which said top-50 players, including Grand Slam champions, had repeatedly been suspected of match-fixing without facing action.

Three suspect matches were at Wimbledon, and eight of the players under suspicion were due to take to the courts for the Australian Open, the BBC and BuzzFeed claimed. Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) chief Chris Kermode rejected any suggestion that match-fixing evidence had been covered up or ignored. "The Tennis Integrity Unit and the tennis authorities absolutely reject any suggestion that evidence of match-fixing has been suppressed for any reason or isn't being thoroughly investigated," Kermode told reporters. "And while the BBC and BuzzFeed reports mainly refer to events from about 10 years ago, we will investigate any new information, and we always do." — AFP

# BARCELONA HAMMER 10-MAN BILBAO 6-0

#### NO CHANGE AT THE TOP IN SPAIN AS BIG 3 CRUISE

MADRID: Atletico Madrid maintained a two-point Griezmann double lifted Diego Simeone's side to 47 lead in La Liga with a 3-0 victory at Las Palmas and Barcelona and Real Madrid stayed hard on their heels with thumping wins over Athletic Bilbao and Sporting Gijon on Sunday. A rare goal from Atletico fullback Filipe Luis and a second-half Antoine



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Argentinean forward Lionel Messi poses with his fifth Ballon d'Or trophy before the Spanish league football match FC Barcelona vs Athletic Club Bilbao at the Camp Nou stadium on January 17, 2016. — AFP

points from 20 matches. Lionel Messi, who presented the fifth FIFA Ballon d'Or he won this week to fans before kickoff at the Nou Camp, struck from the spot to set Barca on their way to a 6-0 success against 10man Bilbao, with La Liga top scorer Luis Suarez netting a hat-trick. Bilbao conceded the early penalty when goalkeeper Gorka Iraizoz felled Suarez and was shown a straight red card and Barca put the Basque club to the sword.

The Spanish and European champions, who have a game in hand over their main rivals, are two points behind Atletico in second, with Real a further two points adrift in third. Real continued their serene progress under new coach Zinedine Zidane when Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema scored twice apiece in a 5-1 destruction of Gijon. Gareth Bale, who was forced off with a suspected calf strain just before halftime at the Bernabeu, had opened the scoring. Atletico initially struggled for control at Las Palmas before Filipe Luis drilled a shot into the corner. Spain playmaker Koke sent Griezmann clear to make it 2-0 and the pair combined again to complete the scoring a minute from time.

#### **Fantastic start**

Bilbao never looked like troubling Barca once they went a man down and Neymar made it 2-0 when he lifted the ball over substitute keeper lago Herrerin. Suarez struck two minutes into the second half after exchanging passes with Neymar and the Brazil forward set up Ivan Rakitic to make it 4-0 in the 62nd minute. Suarez netted his second seven minutes later from Arda's pass and completed his treble to move clear at the top of the scoring chart on 18 goals, two more than Ronaldo and Benzema. "The sending off changed things completely and we were able to take advantage during the rest of the game," Suarez, clutching a match ball, told Spanish television.

"I'm going to put this in the museum once I get it signed by my team mates," added the Uruguay striker. Real tore into promoted Gijon in Zidane's second game in charge and were 4-0 ahead inside the first



BARCELONA: FC Barcelona's Luis Suarez (second right) heads the ball to score against Athletic Bilbao during a Spanish La Liga soccer match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Sunday, Jan 17, 2016. — AP

Las Palmas

Rayo Vallecano

Sporting Gijon

19

Granada

20 minutes. After Bale had headed in a corner, Ronaldo smashed in a second. Bale then crossed for Benzema to score with an acrobatic volley, Ronaldo turned in a Dani Carvajal centre and Benzema got his second to make it 5-0 four minutes before the break. It was another morale-boosting performance following the sacking of the unpopular Rafa Benitez, under whom they failed to impress against any of their

The victory may have come at a cost, however, as Benzema was also forced off after hurting his foot in a collision with team mate James Rodriguez. Zidane said Bale would need a scan to determine the extent of the injury, while Benzema had suffered a knock that was probably less serious. "It's been a fantastic start because it's not easy to score five goals twice in a row," Zidane told a news conference. "We're only at the beginning though and what we want is to win at least one trophy at the end of the season." Gary Neville's disappointing start as Valencia coach continued when the ambitious Singapore-owned club drew 2-2 at home to lowly Rayo Vallecano and slipped to 11th, prompting more rumblings of discontent from the fans. — Reuters

#### **Spanish League results/standings** MADRID: Spanish La Liga table after Sunday's games (played,

won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points): Atletico Madrid Barcelona 50 45 Real Madrid Villarreal 40 Celta Vigo Sevilla 32 Eibar 27 20 30 28 Deportivo Athletic Bilbao 27 28 28 Valencia 24 15 Malaga 17 24 **Real Sociedad** Espanyol 33 21

20

23

10

12

3 12 17

36

45

34

17

16

15

# Bunait Times State of the stat

Shell ditches major Abu
Dhabi gas field project

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French president declares economic emergency

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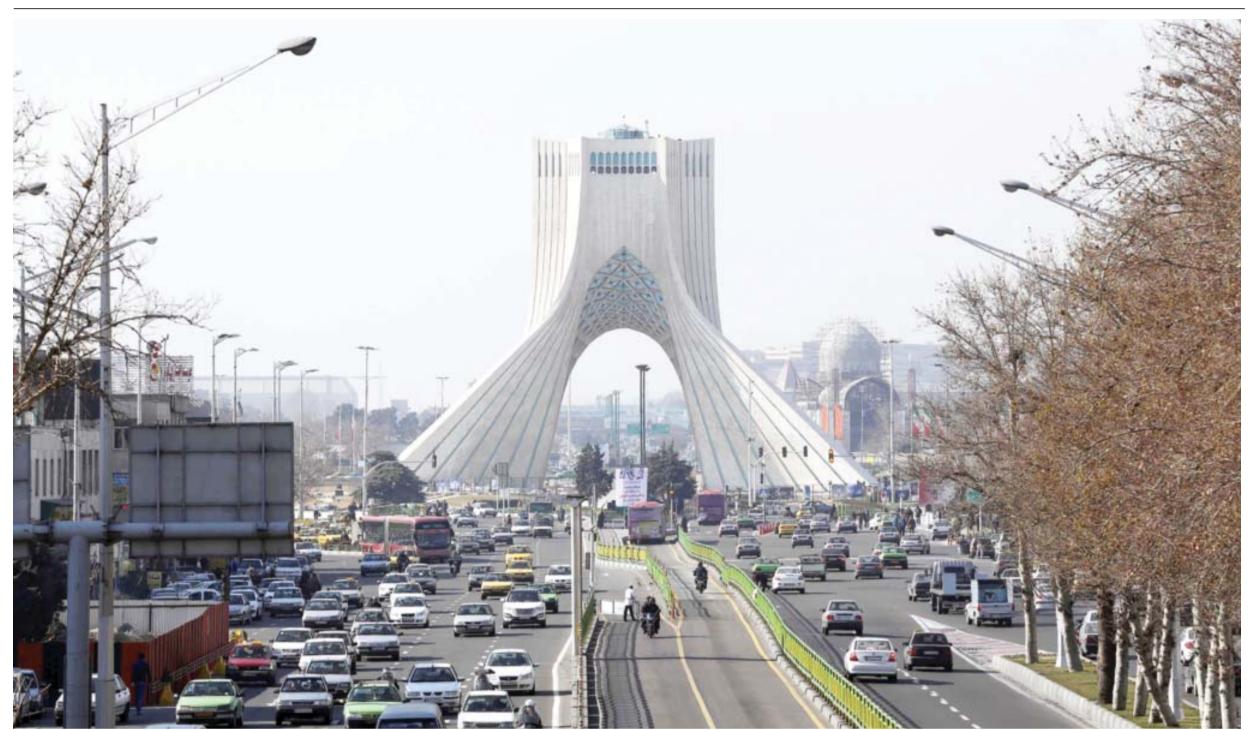


Mutawa Alkazi Group launches BAIC Motor

ches BAIC Motor

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NESPRESSO LAUNCHES PROFESSIONAL BARISTA MACHINE, THE AGUILA 220



TEHRAN: Vehicles driving on a street in front of the Azadi Tower in the capital Tehran yesterday. — AFP

# OPEC SEES OIL MARKET REBALANCING IN 2016

### Iran orders oil output boost, UAE sees 'harm'

**LONDON:** OPEC forecast yesterday that oil supply from non-member countries will post a larger-than-expected decline this year due to the collapse in prices, boosting the need for crude from the producer group. Supply outside the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would decline by 660,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2016, led by the United States, OPEC said in a report. Last month, OPEC predicted a drop of 380,000 bpd.

"The analysis indicates that 2016 will be a supply-driven market. It will also be the year when the rebalancing process starts," OPEC said. "Non-OPEC marginal barrel production in the next six months will be sensitive to sustained low oil prices."

A drop in non-OPEC supply would reduce a supply glut which has prompted oil prices to collapse to below \$28 a barrel, the lowest since 2003. OPEC's 2014 strategy shift to defend market share and not prices helped deepen the decline. The price drop has started to slow the development of relatively expen-

sive supply sources such as US shale oil and forced companies to delay or cancel billions of dollars worth of projects, putting some future supplies at risk.

US output will average 13.50 million bpd this year, the report said, down 380,000 bpd from 2015 and the largest drop outside OPEC. Output is also vulnerable in places such as the North Sea, Latin America and Canada, OPEC said. But OPEC's report makes no mention of the supply impact of the lifting of Western sanctions on member-country Iran, which yesterday said it was increasing output by 500,000 bpd - which would fill most of the hole left by non-OPEC members.

The United Arab Emirates' energy minister, in the first comment by a Gulf OPEC member about Iran since most sanctions were lifted on Tehran, said anyone increasing output during the current oversupply would worsen the situation.

For now, OPEC said it pumped less oil in December, reducing the excess in the market.

Production including returning OPEC member Indonesia fell by 210,000 bpd to 32.18 million bpd in December, the report said, citing secondary sources. The report points to a 530,000-bpd supply surplus this year if the group keeps pumping at December's rate, down from 860,000 bpd implied in last month's report. OPEC left its 2016 global oil demand growth forecast little changed, predicting global demand would rise by 1.26 million bpd, marking a slowdown from 1.54 million bpd in 2015.

#### Iran boosts output

Iran has ordered a rise in oil output by 500,000 barrels a day following the lifting of sanctions, official media reported, but fellow OPEC member the United Arab Emirates said any extra crude would delay the market's

recovery.

Iranian officials have said repeatedly in recent days that they were ready to raise output by half a million barrels per day, pouring

more supply into a market glut that has routed global crude prices. Tehran has not outlined what this would mean for exports but has also pledged to boost production further in the coming months. Oman, which is not a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said it was not worried by the prospect of extra Iranian supply because the market was already awash with oil but said it was ready to cut output. Oil prices hit their lowest since 2003 yesterday as the market braced for additional Iranian exports, but later turned positive. Benchmark Brent crude was trading at around \$29.25 at 1220 GMT.

"Iran is able to increase its oil production by 500,000 barrels a day after the lifting of sanctions, and the order to increase production was issued today," Deputy Oil Minister Rokneddin Javadi, who also heads the National Iranian Oil Company, was quoted as

saying by Iran's Shana news agency.
The United States and European Union on

Saturday revoked sanctions that had cut Iran's oil exports by about 2 million barrels per day (bpd) since their pre-sanctions 2011 peak to little more than 1 million bpd. In the first comment by a Gulf OPEC member about Iran since sanctions were lifted, UAE Suhail bin Mohammed Al-Mazroui said that any new production coming into the market would delay the rebalancing of the market and "that's the bad news".

"Does Iran have the right to do so? Yes because they are a member of OPEC. Is it going to help the situation? No," Mazroui told reporters on the sidelines of a conference in Abu Dhabi. Oman was ready to cut output by between five and 10 percent to stabilize the oil market and urged all producers should do the same, Omani Oil Minister Mohammad bin Hamad Al-Rumhy said. On Sunday, the head of Italy's Eni SpA said Iran would need to attract \$150 billion to become a major producer, and that "is not something that can be done in a second". — Reuters

# GULF MARKETS STABILIZE, DUBAI, QATAR PARE GAINS

#### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Gulf stock markets stabilized yesterday after registering heavy losses the previous few days, but the mood remained nervous after Brent oil briefly slumped below \$28 a barrel to its lowest level since 2003. The Saudi benchmark, which had tumbled 5.4 percent on Sunday, flip-flopped between positive and negative territory before closing 0.1 percent higher

Saudi Basic Industries Corp, the kingdom's largest company by market value, fell as low as 60.00 riyals after reporting a 29.4 percent drop in fourth-quarter net profit caused by lower prices for its products, missing analysts' forecasts. But it came off its low to close at 63.00 riyals, a 3.5 percent decline. National Shipping Co (Bahri), the exclusive oil shipper for oil giant Saudi Aramco, fell 10 percent in a second day of heavy trade. Bahri had gained 5.9 percent on Sunday before reporting a huge jump in fourth-quarter net profit that exceeded analysts' forecasts.

Most other oil-linked stocks also retreated as petrochemical companies' earnings were weak and crude prices continued to test fresh lows. But the banking sector, the largest sector by value on the exchange, firmed with Riyad Bank rising 1.4 percent. The kingdom's fourth-largest lender by assets said it had reached a preliminary agreement to sell land in the second largest city, Jeddah, for 202.5 million riyals (\$54 million).

The Kuwait index retreated 0.9 percent to 5,055 points. Saudi Electricity Co jumped 5.8 percent. The largest utility company in the Gulf reportd a loss of 1.45 billion riyals in the three months to Dec. 31, compared with a loss of 1.8 billion riyals in the same period a year earlier. Analysts polled by Reuters had estimated SEC would lose 1.4 billion riyals. "The

year-on-year improvement in net income is because of the impact of the one-off losses in the fourth quarter of 2014," NCB Capital said in a note.

Some bargain-hunters bought mid-cap stocks that had tumbled this year. Knowledge Economic City and Emaar Economic City, developers of new urban areas in the kingdom, rose 2.4 and 5.5 percent respectively. Egypt's main index rebounded 3.1 percent, trimming this year's losses to 15.2 percent as most stocks advanced more than 1.0 percent. Foreign fund managers, who have been aggressively cashing out of Cairo's market, remained net sellers yesterday, bourse data showed. But local and regional investors bought on dips.

The two most traded stocks were Orascom Telecom and investment firm Qalaa Holdings, which surged 5.8 and 8.3 percent

#### UAE, QATAR

Dubai's index could not sustain an early rebound, closing 0.3 percent down at 2,678 points, off its intra-day high of 2,756. Gainers outnumbered losers 20 to 11, however. Builders Arabtec and Drake & Scull advanced 1.9 percent and 2.5 percent; Drake had hit a record low on Sunday. Gulf General Investment, an industrial conglomerate, was the top gainer, surging 6.6 percent in unusually heavy trade. Emirates NBD closed 0.9 percent higher at 6.50 dirhams, well off its high of 6.85 dirhams. Dubai's largest lender posted a 74 percent rise in fourth-quarter net profit to 2.13 billion dirhams (\$579.9 million); analysts at Beltone Financial and HSBC had forecast 1.31 billion dirhams and 1.71 billion dirhams. It also recommended a higher annual dividend. — Reuters

# RUSSIAN RUBLE HITS A YEAR LOW AS OIL PRICES WEAKEN

MOSCOW: The Russian ruble, battered by weak oil prices, yesterday dropped to new low and broke an alltime record against the euro. The national currency was down 1.8 percent at 79 rubles to the dollar by 5 pm Moscow time (1400GMT), its lowest mid-trading level since December

The ruble fell to an all-time low against the euro as the Central Bank

set the official exchange rate at over 85 rubles to the euro yesterday. Oil, the mainstay of the Russian economy, recently plummeted to under \$30 a barrel, a 13-year low. The ruble is also under pressure from economic sanctions that the West imposed on Russia for its involvement in the Ukraine crisis. Russia is running a budget deficit of 3 percent of GDP this year, and the government is looking to cut 10 per-

cent from the federal budget which was drafted with oil prices of \$50 a barrel in mind. All Russian ministries are expected to present their proposed cuts by the end of the months with a view of cutting 500 billion rubles (\$6.3 billion) in government expenses, Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, in televised comments yesterday, said that the — AP



MOSCOW: People walk at a street passing an exchange booth in Moscow, Russia yesterday. The Russian ruble, battered by weak oil prices yesterday dropped to new low and broke an all-time record against the euro. — AP



#### **OPEC** basket price down to \$24.74 pb

VIENNA: The OPEC daily basket price stood at \$24.74 a barrel Friday, compared with \$25.00 the previous day, the OPEC said yesterday. The OPEC monthly average price hit \$33.64 pb in December against \$40.50 pb in November, it said. The OPEC yearly average price amounted to \$49.64 pb last year, it added. The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela). During their recent meeting in Vienna, OPEC member countries had decided to maintain their production at 30 million barrels per day (bpd) despite a surplus in the market estimated at over a million barrels.

#### **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 dropped to KD 0.330 compared to the exchange rates for Sunday, said a statement by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). According to the CBK, the exchange rate of the Sterling pound went up to KD 0.433 while the Swiss franc dropped to reach KD 0.301. Exchange rate of the Japanese Yen remained the same at KD 0.002.

#### Egypt's 5-year, 10-year treasury bond yields rise

CAIRO: Yields on five-year and 10-year treasury bonds rose at an auction yesterday, data from the central bank showed. The average yield on Egypt's five-year bond rose to 13.627 percent from 13.426 percent in the previous auction, on Jan 4, while yields on the 10-year bond also rose to 15.748 percent from 15.556 percent on Jan 4.

#### **Kingdom Holding closes** refinancing of 350m euro loan

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia's Kingdom Holding, the investment firm of billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, has completed the refinancing of a 350 million euro (\$381.3 million) loan facility, it said yesterday. The loan, backed by the Four Season Hotel George V, was extended by a consortium of three banks, Kingdom Holding said in an emailed statement. Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank, Natixis Pfandbriefbank and Societe Generale Corporate and Investment Banking acted as co-lead arrangers, the statement said, while Credit Agricole acted as facility and security agent. The transaction closed on Oct. 16, it added.

#### OIL PRODUCING NATIONS TO SELL \$240BN ASSETS THIS YEAR: JP MORGAN

LONDON: Oil-producing countries will sell \$240 billion of international assets this year, mostly stocks and bonds, in an attempt to hold together budgets blown apart by the slump in oil prices, according to estimates from JP Morgan.

That sum will come from running down their foreign exchange reserves and Sovereign Wealth Fund holdings. They will also raise some \$20 billion by selling government bonds of their own to help cover a current account shortfall of \$260 billion, the US bank predicts. These countries will sell holdings of US Treasuries and other bonds worth about \$110 billion plus \$75 billion of equity investments, up from \$45 billion and \$10 billion last year. The remaining funds will come from liquidating other assets such as cash, real estate and private equity.

"The lower the oil price, the higher the potential depletion of SWF assets as oil-producing countries struggle to prevent their spending from declining too much," JP Morgan strategists wrote in a client note late on Friday. "For 2016 we look for FX reserve depletion of \$100 billion and a decline in SWF assets of \$140 billion," they wrote, noting that asset sales last year, when plunging oil prices also left some countries with budget shortfalls, totalled \$70 billion. These estimates are based on the price of Brent crude oil averaging \$31 a barrel this year, sharply down from \$53 from last year, which would see producer countries' oil revenues plummet by \$300 billion to \$440 billion. Brent has tumbled 22 percent so far this month to a 12-year low of \$27.67 thanks to a slowing demand growth and bumper supply. The slump has rocked global world markets and hit the finances and markets of oil producers especially hard. Saudi Arabia's currency, the riyal, has fallen to a record low against the dollar on the forward market, while Russia's ruble has hit a record low and Gulf region stock markets are at multi-year troughs. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, could face a budget deficit approaching 20 percent of gross domestic product, according to some estimates. — Reuters

# SAUDI'S SABIC SAYS CAN COPE WITH MORE COMPETITION

RIYADH: Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC) can adapt to any new petrochemicals supply entering the market from outside the kingdom, its acting chief executive said yesterday, as Iran's release from sanctions promises increased global oil supply. Petrochemical companies in the kingdom have been struggling with falling oil prices, both as product prices are closely linked to crude and cheaper oil erodes the competitive advantage which Saudi manufacturers accrue over non-oil producing nations due to subsidised energy and feedstock.

SABIC, one of the world's largest petrochemicals companies, announced a 29.4 percent drop in fourth-quarter net profit on Sunday, its sixth straight quarterly profit decline - results which sent its shares 5.4 percent lower as of 0935 GMT.

The pressures could be amplified further with Iranian oil being reintroduced to global markets: the prospect has already driven crude prices to a 12-year low.

Yousef Abdullah Al-Benyan told a news conference in Riyadh that he wasn't sure about the state of Iran's petrochemicals industry but, in general, it takes between three and five years to come to market, start

and this is the way we love to play, so we oversupply. Supply questions are coming as

producing and then ramp up production. "A have no concerns at all," Benyan said when competitive environment is always healthy asked if Iran's re-entry threatened market



RIYADH: The headquarters of Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) in the Saudi capital Riyadh. Shares of Saudi petrochemical giant SABIC traded almost five percent lower after the firm reported a drop of 19.57 percent in full-year net profit. — AFP

concerns about a global economic slowdown, especially in China, are threatening demand. Benyan said SABIC's sales in China had not been impacted so far, although diminished growth in emerging Asian and mature European economies had stunted demand - the value of sales in the fourth quarter of 2015 dropped 21.9 percent year on year to 34.16 billion riyals.

Going forward, it was looking to expand its business in Africa as well as South East Asian markets including Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia, where it was looking to switch from being a seller of petrochemicals in the region to a manufacturer.

To weather the difficult market conditions, SABIC has been implementing a costcutting strategy and Benyan said the company hoped to see the benefits in the coming year. This program would also help SABIC to absorb a rise in feedstock prices announced by the government at the end of last year, Benyan said. The company is still committed to a feasibility study related to a \$30 billion oil-to-chemicals plant, Benyan said, adding it remained purely a SABIC project when asked if it could bring in a ioint-venture partner. — Reuters

# SHELL DITCHES MAJOR ABU DHABI GAS FIELD PROJECT

#### UAE SAYS NOT WORRIED BY SHELL PULLOUT

**LONDON:** Royal Dutch Shell said yesterday it had decided to exit the multi-billion dollar plan to jointly develop the Bab sour gas field in Abu Dhabi, citing the downturn in the oil market. The Anglo-Dutch company said that "following a careful and thorough evaluation of technical challenges and costs" it will stop further joint work on the project with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co

Shell won in 2013 a tender that was valued at the time at \$10 billion to develop over a 30-year venture the complex sour

gas field that involves treating potentially deadly gasses.

The joint venture was also seen at the time as a stepping stone for Shell to renew a coveted concession to develop the United Arab Emirates' largest onshore oil field. The Bab sour joint venture envisaged the construction of a 1 billion cubic feet sour gas processing plant for domestic market consumption.

"The evaluation concluded that for Shell, the development of the project does not fit with the company's strategy, particularly in the economic climate prevailing in the energy industry," Shell said in a statement yesterday.

ADNOC was expected to hold 60 percent of the Bab sour gas project, while Shell would have held 40 percent. Shell shares were up 1.2 percent at 1136 GMT, compared with a 1.6 gain for the broader sector

The United Arab Emirates' energy minister said yesterday the UAE was not worried about Royal Dutch Shell's pullout from the joint Bab sour gas field project in Abu Dhabi. "The reason most probably will be (a) commercial reason because now the cost of gas and the price of gas and LNG has dropped more than 50 percent," Suhail bin Mohammed Al-Mazroui said on the sidelines of a conference in Abu Dhabi.

"We are not worried about supply of gas. We are planning well, if the company is pulling out I'm not worried," Mazroui said. The Anglo-Dutch company had said earlier yesterday that it would stop further joint work on the project with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (ADNOC). — Reuters

#### OIL FIRMS AFTER HITTING 2003 LOW ON LIFTING IRAN SANCTIONS

LONDON: Oil prices rose yesterday, recovering from a 2003 low as the market braced for additional Iranian exports after the lifting of sanctions against the country over the weekend. The United States and European Union on Saturday revoked sanctions that had cut Iran's oil exports by about 2 million barrels per day (bpd) since their pre-sanctions 2011 peak to little more than 1 million bpd. Iran, a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), issued an order on Monday to increase production by 500,000 bpd, the country's deputy oil minister said.

Worries about Iran's return to an already oversupplied oil market drove down Brent crude to \$27.67 a barrel early on Monday, its lowest since 2003. The benchmark was at \$29.28 by 1158 GMT, up 33 cents from Friday's close.

US crude was up 23 cents at \$29.65 a barrel, not far from a 2003 low of \$28.36 hit earlier in the session. But oil prices recovered later in the session, with analysts suggesting the return or Iranian exports has already been priced in. "We were watching Asia when it opened, in terms of how markets digested (the news) over the weekend, and it did suggest to a fair degree that it (the lifting of sanctions) has been priced in," said Miswin Mahesh, of Barclays Capital.

In a further sign of the pain low prices is inflicting on oil producers, OPEC forecast that supply outside the organization would decline by 660,000 bpd in 2016, led by the United States. Last month OPEC predicted a drop of 380,000 bpd.

HSBC Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver said the price of oil is likely to settle between \$25 and \$40 in a year's time. "Major producers are currently delivering 2-2.5 million bpd more than demand, so the question is how long they can continue to overproduce at that level." he said at the Asia Financial Forum in Hong Kong yesterday. Iran has at least a dozen Very Large Crude Carrier super-tankers filled and in place to sell into the market, and traders are betting that oil prices will drop again.

The lifting of sanctions will unlock more than \$100 billion in Iranian frozen funds, permitting Iran to finance imports. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani plans to visit Italy and France next week on his first European trip since sanctions were lifted, a diplomatic source said yesterday.

"The legs of Iran's economy are now free of the chains of sanctions and it's time to build and grow," Rouhani tweeted on Sunday. Iran's transport minister said that Tehran plans to purchase 114 aircraft from Airbus. — Reuters

#### AZERBAIJAN CONSIDERS TIGHTER CURRENCY CONTROLS

**BAKU:** Azerbaijan's president, participation of local and foreign Ilham Aliyev, has ordered measures to support the economy and the ailing manat currency, including a possible tightening of currency controls, help for banks, and a selloff of state assets, state television reported yesterday.

Azerbaijan's manat currency, has lost 33 percent of its value against the dollar in the past month. The country has burned through more than half its foreign currency reserves trying to defend it against the effect of falling oil prices. Speaking at a meeting of the government, Aliyev said parliament would convene in an extraordinary session today to debate government proposals to strengthen regulations on the currency market, state TV reported.

There were no details on which regulations would be tightened. Parliament is dominated by Aliyev loyalists. In other measures to shore up public finances, Aliyev said the government had prepared a largescale privatization plan with the

experts, while proposals on the recovery of problematic banks were also under consideration.

Aliyev said that measures on deposit insurance and the issuance of state bonds would also help to support the currency. The State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan (SOFAZ) sold a total of \$193.9 million on the foreign exchange market on Monday in a bid to prop up the weakening manat. It was the fund's third intervention this year. It has sold \$539.9 million in total so far, while \$100 million was sold by the country's central bank.

Azeri state oil company SOCAR said yesterday it had offered to buy back its outstanding Eurobonds worth up to \$500 million and maturing in 2017. The cost of borrowing for Azerbaijan's government has gone up as investors perceive the risk of holding the country's assets to have increased. Buying back the Eurobonds could save Azerbaijan money in the longer time. — Reuters

#### **EXCHANGE RATES**

#### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO. Japanese Yen **Indian Rupees** 4.507 Pakistani Rupees 2.901 Srilankan Rupees 2.122 Nepali Rupees 2.819 Singapore Dollar 212.350 Hongkong Dollar 39.050 Bangladesh Taka 3.878 Philippine Peso 6.381 Thai Baht 8.391 **GCC COUNTRIES** Saudi Riyal 81.217 Oatari Rival 83.661 Omani Riyal 791.060 Bahraini Dinai 808.820 **UAE Dirham** 82.920

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	39.500
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	38.942
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.421
Tunisian Dinar	150.690
Jordanian Dinar	429.130
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.029
Syrian Lira	2.170
Morocco Dirham	31.061

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES								
US Dollar Transfer	304.400							
Euro	435.320							
Sterling Pound	436.210							
Canadian dollar	210.440							
Turkish lira	100.120							
Swiss Franc	304.700							
Australian Dollar	211.860							
US Dollar Buying	303.200							

	GOLD
20 Gram 10 Gram 5 Gram	226.690 116.040 58.700
	UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

#### **CURRENCIES TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000** Australian Dollar 203.08 Canadian Dollar 218.17 Swiss Franc 310.48 335.10 US Dollar 304.45 Sterling Pound 444.75 Japanese Yen 2.63 Bangladesh Taka 3.881 Indian Rupee 4.560 Sri Lankan Rupee 2.118 2.850 Nepali Rupee Pakistani Rupee 2.901 **UAE Dirhams** 0.08285 Bahraini Dinar 0.8091 Egyptian Pound 0.03879 0.4330 Jordanian Dinar Omani Riyal 0.7906 Qatari Riya Saudi Riyal

#### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.800
Canadian Dollar	216.885
Sterling Pound	443.575
Euro	334.510
Swiss Frank	304.295
Bahrain Dinar	806.370
UAE Dirhams	83.225
Qatari Riyals	84.445

Saudi Riyals	81.960
Jordanian Dinar	429.370
Egyptian Pound	38.814
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.123
Indian Rupees	4.563
Pakistani Rupees	2.902
Bangladesh Taka	3.877
Philippines Pesso	6.470
Cyprus pound	580.550
Japanese Yen	3.595
Syrian Pound	2.380
Nepalese Rupees	3.850
Malaysian Ringgit	69.735
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.740
Thai Bhat	9.355
Turkish Lira	101.100

#### **BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY**

COUNTRY	SELL CASH	SELLDRAFT
	Europe	
British Pound	0.427714	0.436714
Czech Korune	0.004241	0.016241
Danish Krone	0.040316	0.045316
Euro	0.325820	0.333820
Norwegian Krone	0.030304	0.035504
Romanian Leu	0.087320	0.087320
Slovakia	0.009099	0.019099
Swedish Krona	0.031348	0.036348
Swiss Franc	0.296069	0.306269
Turkish Lira	0.096113	0.106413
	Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.201948	0.213448
New Zealand Dollar	0.190615	0.200115
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.204131	0.212631
US Dollars	0.300300	0.304800
US Dollars Mint	0.300800	0.304800

	Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003524	0.004124
Chinese Yuan	0.044655	0.048155
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036961	0.039711
Indian Rupee	0.004225	0.004615
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002510	0.002790
Kenyan Shilling	0.002969	0.002969
Korean Won	0.000241	0.000256
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066139	0.072139
Nepalese Rupee	0.002886	0.003056
Pakistan Rupee	0.002640	0.002920
Philippine Peso	0.006345	0.006625
Sierra Leone	0.000071	0.000077
Singapore Dollar	0.208167	0.214167
South African Rand	0.012183	0.020683
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001766	0.002346
Taiwan	0.008949	0.009129
Thai Baht	0.008073	0.008623
	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.800536	0.808536
Fayotian Pound	0.035165	0.039501

Taiwan	0.008949	0.009129
Thai Baht	0.008073	0.008623
	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.800536	0.808536
Egyptian Pound	0.035165	0.039501
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000201	0.000261
Jordanian Dinar	0.425343	0.432843
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021558	0.045558
Nigerian Naira	0.001259	0.001894
Omani Riyal	0.784229	0.789909
Qatar Riyal	0.082900	0.084113
Saudi Riyal	0.080287	0.081237
Syrian Pound	0.001290	0.001510
Tunisian Dinar	0.146850	0.154850
Turkish Lira	0.096113	0.106413
UAE Dirhams	0.081896	0.083045
Yemeni Riyal	0.001376	0.001456

### CHINA'S CHIEF STOCK **REGULATOR HAS** OFFERED TO RESIGN

BEIJING: Xiao Gang, the embattled head of China's securities regulator, has offered to resign, sources said, after perceived mismanagement wiped more than \$5 trillion off the value of the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock markets since they peaked last June. The 57-year-old chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) tendered his resignation last week after his brainchild - a "circuit breaker" mechanism to limit stock market losses was blamed for exacerbating a sharp selloff, a source with ties to the leadership and a financial industry source told Reuters.

The "circuit breaker" was deactivated on Jan 7, just three days after its introduction. "The (Communist Party) central (leadership) is extremely unhappy with Xiao Gang. It is certain he will change jobs," the source close to the leadership said, adding it was unclear where he would go next.

"Xiao Gang handed in his resignation last week," said the financial industry source. Both sources requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. It's unclear whether Xiao's resignation offer has been accepted by the central government. The CSRC did not immediately respond to requests for com-

Xiao's term does not formally expire until end-2018. Before taking over at the CSRC in 2013, Xiao was chairman of the country's fourth-biggest lender, Bank of China Ltd for a decade.

#### **MARKET MELTDOWN**

On Saturday, Xiao gave a speech at an annual meeting in which he said the stock market rout highlighted the problems facing the CSRC's regulatory mechanisms. "The abnormal stock market volatility has revealed an immature market, inexperienced investors, an imperfect trading system and inappropriate supervision mechanisms," he said.

The abrupt suspension of the "circuit breaker" followed a flurry of measures by the CSRC last year - including halting short selling and banning share sales by major shareholders - in a bid to stabilise markets after major indexes plunged more than 40 percent in the summer.

Indexes later rebounded around 25 percent from their August lows, but have this month dropped back into bear market territory - usually a reference to a market's 20 percent slide from its last cyclical peak. The turbulent start to 2016, with currency and stock markets tumbling, has stoked concerns that Beijing's policymakers are fumbling as China heads towards its slowest annual growth in a quarter of a century. China is expected to report its weakest quarterly economic growth in nearly seven years on Tuesday, putting policymakers under more pressure to take bolder steps.

#### **SHORT-LISTED**

The party's Organisation Department, or personnel ministry, has short-listed three candidates to succeed Xiao, the sources said. Xiang Junbo, who turns 59 this month and is chairman of the China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC), is the leading candidate, they said. The CIRC declined immediate comment. Another candidate is Huang Qifan, 63, mayor of the southwestern metropolis of Chongqing, who is also tipped to become secretary-general of the State Council, or cabinet, and may concurrently serve as CSRC chairman, the sources

If confirmed as cabinet secretary-general, Premier Li Kegiang's right-hand man, Huang would have to tackle a stalling economy and market turbulence as well as oversee the entire spectrum of portfolios: from industry to agriculture, energy, the environment, state planning and technology, according to a Reuters report last week.

The identity of the third short-listed candidate is not known. "The Organization Department has sounded out all three candidates and completed background checks," said the source with leadership

Xiao, Xiang and Huang could not be reached for comment. The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index, the share market most closely watched by Chinese investors, last week fell below the lows seen during last year's crash, closing on Friday at 2,900 points - its weakest close since December 2014. The index rose 0.4 percent yesterday. —Reuters



SHANGHAI: Two men stand at the bund near the Huangpu river across the Pudong New Financial district, in Shanghai yesterday. —AFP

#### SPAIN GROWTH SEEN ROBUST AMID POLITICAL DEADLOCK

MADRID: A political logjam in Spain expected to last at least several months is set to slow the pace of economic reforms sharply, storing up obstacles for growth in a country seeking to extend a recovery from deep crisis. With the 2016 budget already passed and a strong economic tailwind from record low oil prices and interest rates, Spanish politicians have little or no pressure to reach a deal on a coalition gov-

ernment following inconclusive elections. Just shy of a month on from the vote, the eurozone's fourth largest economy has no settled government nor any sign of getting one soon. In the meantime, the pile of reforms many see as essential to furthering the turnaround including changing the way regions are financed, overhauling the social security system and further fixes for the job market - is building up fast.

Some analysts believe that at best, a return to political stability in the months ahead, including via fresh elections, could allow for more policy adjustments, but only in 2017. This would come after economic legislation already took a backseat last year in the run-up to the Dec. 20

The centre-right People's Party of acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy - which passed landmark bills, including a reduction of firing costs in 2012 that was lauded by many economists but contested by progressive parties steered clear of divisive reforms at the end of the year after the spending cuts it imposed during the recession alienated many voters.

"The momentum for reforms is not there even if there were a stable government," said Yvan Mamalet, a senior economist at Societe Generale. "We do not see any significant reforms in 2016." Yet economic measures to help companies get back on their feet after insolvency or to launch start-ups more easily, coupled with an education overhaul to kick-start Spain's perennially weak productivity levels, could make a difference. More reforms could push Spain's potential long term growth prospects to an annual rate of 2 percent, rather than the 1 percent projected by Societe Generale,

A redesign of Spain's lopsided system of financing its autonomous communities, meanwhile, would allay some of the country's difficulties in meeting spending targets. It was put off by Rajoy's party until 2016 but could now be kicked even further down the road

"(Regional financing) is an urgent matter, the system is faulty and needs to be addressed," said Angel de la Fuente, an economist at Madridbased think tank Fedea.

#### **FEW INCENTIVES**

It is not all bleak. Without further changes this year, Spain's economy is still expected to get through 2016 in resilient form. But that may further reduce any incentive for reforms in the

Improving tax revenues, for instance, have taken some of the heat off the regional financing dilemma, which revolves around how such income is distributed, Fedea's De la Fuente said.

Meanwhile solid consumer spending should push firms to hire, chipping away at an eyewateringly high unemployment rate of over 20 percent. A weak euro is drawing more tourists than ever to Spain's beaches, and a stimulus plan from the European Central Bank is keeping borrowing costs in check.

"There are a number of factors that for now can offset any slowdown in investment growth or any instability," said Miguel Cardoso, Chief Economist for Spain at BBVA, which sees output expanding by 2.7 percent in 2016, slightly less than in 2015. "The economic reforms that were brought in over recent years that can sustain growth in the coming quarters, and there is also the ECB's bond buying program," he added. But the political deadlock could end up taking its toll, especially if it remains unclear for a prolonged period which way economic policy is

Some in business circles fear a reversal of the most recent labor legislation as promised by the Socialist party or leftist newcomer Podemos. At the same time Spain is still under scrutiny from the European Commission over how it can go further on the jobs front and reduce employers' abuse of temporary contracts, a problem that is also dragging on productivity.

Even a quicker resolution to the political impasse than expected by most may not advance the economic agenda. The demands of parties trying to partner up could likely take precedence, Fedea's De la Fuente said. An independence drive in Catalonia, where a separatist local government is promoting a roadmap to secession, will also be high on the list of issues to tackle. —Reuters



PARIS: French President Francois Hollande delivers his speech as he presents his New Year greetings to Employment and Union forces at the Economic, Social and Environemental Council in Paris, yesterday. —AP

# FRENCH PRESIDENT DECLARES **ECONOMIC EMERGENCY**

#### France to spend over 2bn euros to fight unemployment

PARIS: French President François Hollande has declared what he called "a state of economic emergency" and says it's time to redefine France's economic and social model.

Hollande laid out a series of proposed economic measures yesterday in an annual speech to business leaders to boost long-stagnant French growth and reduce chronic unemployment. The first measures he proposed are relatively modest, and he said they would not "put into question" the 35-hour workweek. He did not seek to assume any new emergency powers.

#### **Joblessness**

Hollande stressed the urgency of updating France's labor-friendly business model in a fastmoving, increasingly globalized and online economy. The measures included a loosening of some worker-friendly measures to encourage companies to hire, and new training for half a

Hollande also pledged yesterday to spend more than 2.0 billion euros (\$2.2 billion) on a package of measures to fight the stubbornly high unemployment that has dogged his four years in power. Hollande said France was in "a state of economic emergency" and needed new measures urgently, but he promised that they would not come from tax rises. These two billion euros will not be financed through extra taxes of any kind. They will be financed by savings," Hollande said in a speech to business leaders.

One billion euros will be spent on training schemes for unemployed people. Joblessness, which stands at around 10 percent or 3.57 million people in the eurozone's second-largest economy, was the "only issue which ranks above security for the French people", the president said. Hollande, a Socialist, said France needed to "increase the pace of reforms" and innovation was "key" to getting people back to work. "France must also increase training, education and the level of qualifications of its workers," he said. Under the new measures to stimulate recruitment, companies employing fewer than 250 people will receive a 2,000-euro bonus for each new employee with a contract of more than six months, under certain conditions. Hollande dismissed suggestions that he was trying to "artificially" reduce unemployment as he prepares for a bid to secure re-election in the 2017 presidential election, but the new measures were greeted with scorn by the opposition.

"What planet are Francois Hollande and his government living on if they think it is enough to pay a company that takes someone on a cheque of 1,000 or 2,000 euros?" said Guillaume Larrive, of the right-wing Republicans led by former president Nicolas Sarkozy.

After several years of sluggish growth, the French economy took another blow with the jihadist attacks in November that killed 130 people, which slowed activity in the fourth

#### INDIA'S NALCO REVIVES \$2BN IRAN SMELTER COMPLEX PLAN

company NALCO will soon send an official team to Iran to explore setting up a smelter complex worth about \$2 billion. its boss said, as world powers lift sanctions on Iran that had made negotiations

NALCO Chairman Tapan Kumar Chand told Reuters yesterday that the ending of sanctions on Iran in return for the country's curbs on its nuclear program could help the company finally move ahead with its long-held goal to set up a smelter there to make use of cheap gas resources.

"It's a major bottleneck which has been cleared," Chand said. "As far as Iran is concerned they have already informed us that they are ready to receive the team." Cash-rich NALCO will also visit Oman and Qatar in the next two months to work out the best place to set up a 500,000-tonnes-per-year smelter and an associated power plant in the Middle

Balvinder Kumar, the secretary of the mines ministry that controls NALCO, said the company's interest was at a preliminary stage though it should invest aggressively to expand wherever possi-

#### **SHARE BUYBACK**

NALCO is trying to push back on a finance ministry request to buy back 25 percent of its shares from the gov-

NEW DELHI: India's national aluminum ernment, part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's asset sales plan which looks set to fall well short of its goal this fiscal year. The company has agreed to repurchase 10 percent but says it also needs money for expansion including the Middle East project and to diversify into sectors such as nuclear energy.

NALCO is a rare Indian aluminum company managing to make money despite a sharp drop in the metal's prices and rising imports from China that have badly hurt private competitors such as Vedanta Ltd and Hindalco. One factor is its easy access to raw materials such as bauxite, an aluminium ore. As a result, NALCO enjoys total liquid reserves of about 120 billion rupees (\$1.77 billion), around half of that in cash, Kumar said.

The finance ministry, which has managed to raise less than a fifth of the roughly \$10 billion it had projected in divestments for 2015-2016, now wants NALCO to shell out about 32.5 billion rupees (\$481 million) to buy back shares out of the 89 percent holding the government has in the company.

"We're working on the 10 percent but a call on the rest will be taken by the board," Chairman Chand said, adding the buyback demand comes amid the fall in aluminium prices, eroding profitability and the need to have funds to grow. —Reuters



TEHRAN: A passenger plane is seen through a sculpture as it prepares to land at Mehrabad airport in the Iranian capital Tehran yesterday.—AFP

#### TATA STEEL TO CUT 1,050 MORE JOBS in Britain

LONDON: Indian steel giant Tata Steel will cut 1,050 more jobs in Britain, a trade union said yesterday, following thousands of cuts in the industry announced last year. Tata Steel is planning to cut 750 jobs at its Port Talbot site in Wales and 300 more at other plants around the country, the steel union Community said. Tata Steel has 4,000 people at Port Talbot, which also employs 3,000 contractors and temporary workers. "It is yet another chapter of the UK's ongoing steel crisis and the lack of a proper government response," Community said in a statement. Contacted by AFP, Tata Steel declined to comment. Britain's steel sector is in crisis and there have been thousands of layoffs in recent months, with companies blaming high energy costs and cheap Chinese imports. Tata Steel in October announced 1,200 job cuts in Britain. It also said in December that it was in talks with investment fund Greybull Capital to sell some of its European assets, employing a total of 4,700 people. —AFP

# FOR RENT

# **Appartments**

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Located in a special location in Bneid Al-Gar 2 Bedrooms + 2 Bathrooms

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FOR 350 KD





# EUROZONE BANKS PUT A LID ON RISE IN SHARES

European stocks yesterday after news that the European Central Bank was scrutinizing some non-performing loans, although oil and gas companies supported the broader market. The eurozone bank sector fell 2.5 percent, with traders citing news over the weekend that the ECB is quizzing a number of euro zone banks about non-performing loans as it ramps up efforts to tackle the region's mountain of bad debt.

Spain's Banco de Sabadell, France's Credit Agricole and Portugal's Banco Comercial

LONDON: Eurozone banks weighed on Portugues fell 4-6 percent. Italy provided many of the sector's top fallers, with Banco Monte Paschi down 13 percent, and Banco Popolare, UniCredit and Mediobanca down 4-7 percent.

> Italian banks outperformed their peers last year, but brokers are starting to turn more negative on the sector. Bank stocks weighed on the euro zone-only Euro STOXX 50, which fell 0.3 percent, underperforming the pan-European FTSEurofirst 300, up 0.1 percent at 1,298.63. Some said that the ECB might act to provide more stimulus, given the 10 percent

drop in European shares driven by weak oil prices and concerns over China. "This week's ECB meeting might highlight that the ECB has some options available, we doubt that this will be sufficient to stop the downward pressure in the medium term," strategists at RBC said in a note.

The FTSEurofirst 300 edged up from its lowest level in more than a year, helped partly by a slight recovery in oil & gas firms. Energy was the top sectoral riser, up 1.6 percent, after both Brent and US crude turned positive having hit their lowest levels since 2003 after sanctions on Iran were lifted. Top climber overall was Adidas, up 8.4 percent, after it appointed Henkel's Kasper Rorsted as CEO. Henkel's shares fell 4.5 percent. Mobile telecoms gear maker Ericsson rose 4.2 percent after Nordea Markets raised its rating on the stock to "buy.

Insurer CNP climbed after Nomura raised its recommendation on CNP to "buy" from "neutral", but French supermarket retailer Casino fell 7.5 percent after ratings agency Standard & Poor's threatened to downgrade its debt to junk status.

#### **Asian extends losses**

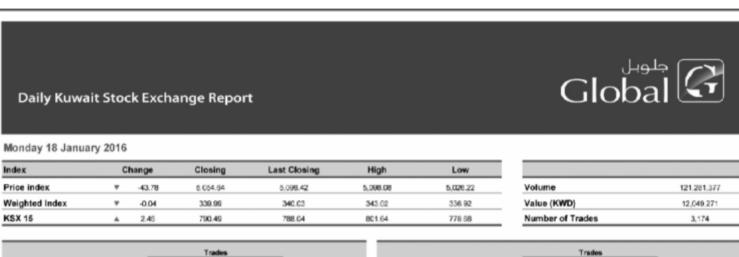
Oil prices plunged below \$28 a barrel early yesterday, hitting energy firms and extending losses across Asian markets after sanctions were lifted against Iran, allowing the key producer to resume crude exports. While the decision to free Tehran of the strict embargoes had been well telegraphed, the news hammered Middle East equities Sunday, which were already under pressure as the price of oil sits at 12-year lows.

Most Asian equities followed suit, with

lower in the afternoon, Sydney shedding 0.7 percent by the end and Wellington 1.1 percent lower. There were also sharp losses in Manila and Jakarta. But Shanghai again swung in and out of positive territory, having plunged almost nine percent last week. The benchmark index ended 0.4 percent lower. Energy firms were among the big losers, with CNOOC in Hong Kong down four percent and PetroChina shedding 0.5 percent.

Sydney-listed mining giant BHP Billiton was 2.9 percent lower and Woodside Petroleum retreated 2.6 percent. Inpex slipped 1.5 percent in Tokyo. The Chinese market was given some support by the People's Bank of China's decision to increase the yuan's rate against the dollar. Its recent weakness has been a key contributor to a rout in global markets that has characterized the start of 2016.

In a bid to prevent cash outflows which have also hit the yuan, the PBoC said yesterday it would require foreign banks to hold reserves of the currency. Overseas lenders have until now been set a reserve requirement ratio-the amount



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PG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	316	-	0.0	URC		
NAPESCO ENERGYH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	630 36.5	=	0.0	NRE SRE		
GPI	40.0	39.5	4,051,000	180,092	73	39.5	7	-2.5	TAM		
AEAR Oil & Gas	126	126	117 4,113,127	16 184,633	79	126 771.73	A	8.0 -7.93	MASSALEH		
									ARABREC		
KIFOUC BPCC	0.0 450	430	40.033	17,416	7	204 430	Ţ	0.0 -25.0	MAEANEE		
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	-	0.0	NJAZZAT		
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SHIP PCEM	148 980	146 970	142,600	21,020 1,565	12 5	148 980	_	0.0	MAZAYA		
PAPER	380	380	37,000	14,060	3	380	-	0.0	ADNC		
MRC ACICO	0.0 300	0.0 275	20,214	5,559	- 0	64 280	Ţ	-20.0	TIJARA		
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	490	-	0.0	TAAMEER		
HCC KPAK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	132 360	-	0.0	ARKAN		
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	=	0.0	ABYAAR		
NICBM	228	228	2.740	625	1 25	228	Ψ.	-2.0	MUNSHAAT		
EQUIPMENT NOCI	53 0.0	48.D 0.0	837,325 0	43,839	25	53 99	_	0.0	FIRSTOUE/		
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	-	0.0	REAM		
SALBOOKH AGLTY	71 395	68 370	27,500 1,160,752	1,872 449,260	7 58	71 390	¥	-1.0 15.0	ALMUDON		
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	228	-	0.0	MARAKEZ		
CLEANING	35.0 0.0	35.0 0.0	3.000	106	3	36.0 380	¥	-1.5 0.0	REMAL MASHAER		
KOL	38.5	38.0	170,000	8,382	11	38.0	7	-2.5	Real Estate		
KCFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	218	-	0.0			
HUMANSOFT NAFAIS	104	100	3.381 146,970	2,706 15,277	7	100	-	-14.0	FACIL		
SAFWAN .	300	250	47,760	12,254	8	300		25.0	IFA		
GFC MAYADEEN	25.5 17.0	23.0	1,240,541	92 19,988	5 41	25.5 17.0	_	1.0	NINV KPROJ		
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780	-	0.0	COAST		
MTCC UPAC	54 600	50 600	1,482,030	75,091 5,536	55 2	50 600	7	-5.0 -50.0	SECH		
ALAFCO	194	192	42,068	8,147	2	192	7	-2.0	ARZAN		
MUBARRAD	61	58	3,300,200	192,962	86	68	۳	-5.0	MARKAZ		
LOGISTICS SCEM	49.5	48.0 79	63,000 424,200	3,064	8	48.0 80	<u> </u>	-1.0	ALAMAN		
GCEM	63	63	10	1	1	63	¥	-4.0	ALOLA		
GCEM FCEM	70	0.0	14.999	1,036	2	73 70	_	1.0	GIH		
RKW'C	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	-	0.0	AAYAN		
SPEC Industrials	0.0	0.0	9,986,949	1,166,242	357	936.81	¥	-14.11	GSOUL CSOUL		
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NSH NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	=	0.0	NIH		
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	-	0.0	SKAN		
DANAH	74	120 70	97,384 477,495	11,949 33,546	8 26	74	-	-1.0	ALDEERA		
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	-	0.0	ALSALAM		
FOOD Consumer Goods	0.0	0.0	0 674,879	0 45,495	34	1,900	¥	0.0 -4.82	ALMADINA		
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YIACO	132	124	209,500	27,174	12	124	_	2	TAIBA		
Health Care			209,500	27,174	12	895.60	À	22.44	KSHC STRATEGIA		
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	890	_	D	ASIYA		
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	220	-	0	GNAHC		
SULTAN CABLETY	57 0.0	49.5	82,422	4,176	8	67 27.5	_	4 0	ALIMTIAZ		
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	335	-	0	MANAZEL		
OULAFUEL	102	0.0	285,453	23,891	21	99	Ţ	-1	BIIHC		
MUNTAZAHAT	84	84	26,000	2,184	5	84	۳	-6	SENERGY		
JAZEERA SOOR	102	100	0 25.587	2,599	8	100	Ţ	-2	KPPC		
FUTUREKD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	-	0	TAHSSILAT		
ALNAWADI ALRAI	0.0	122	1.700	218	- 0	142	_	10	JEERANH EKHOLDING		
ZIMAH	98	90	215,400	19,414	21	90	Ÿ	-6	GFH		
UFIG KOUTFOCD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	132 660	-	0	NOVEST Financial S		
Mezzar	1.000	960	179,500	174,758	18	970	Ţ	-20	rinanciai se		
Consumer Services	\$		816,062	232,240	86	949.82	Ŧ	-2.72	Investment		
ZAIN	335	320	2,586,070	835,399	88	326	A	5	ASC		
DOREDOO	1,080	1,060	3.396	3,500	3	1,060	-	0	CSOS		
HITSTELEC VIVA	25.0 990	22.5 980	1,898,298 191,938	45,434 188,599	26 106	24.0 990	¥	-1 10	FLTURE HAYATCON		
Telecommunication		660	4,659,702	1,073,032	223	577.02	À	3.59	Technology		
NBK	710	680	1,765,338	1,231,607	77	700	A	10	BAREEQ		
GBK	222	212	971,475	207,033	30	212	7	-10	AFAQ		
CBK	500	500	201,229	100,615	5	500	-	0	ALSHAMEL		
ALMUTAHED	320 465	300 465	80,474 25,500	24,574 11,858	2	320 465	Ţ	-5	SAFRE AJWAN		
KIB	202	192	121,000	23,869	7	192	¥	-6	MASAKEN		
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.64	778.68		Number of T				3,174	
				Trades				
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	CI	nange
SOKOUK	30.5	29.5	2384254	70,839	49	29.5	¥	-2.
URC	46.0 97	44.D 92	2,562,789	9.222	58 5	45.5 97	-	-1.0
NRE	78	74	656,140	49,987	28	78	¥	-1.
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	360	-	0.0
TAM AREEC	138	128	10.500	1,349	2	138	=	0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	61	-	0.0
ARABREC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.0	-	0.0
ERESCO MAEANEE	56 810	54 790	820,500 732,927	45,546 587,315	22 36	56 790	7	-30.
NJAZZAT	78	76	85,000	6.555	5	78	À	3.0
NVESTORS	19.0	17.0	5,395,964	116,680	80	18.5	-	0.0
ALTIJARIA	24.5 76	19.5 73	128,100 359,200	2,528 26,487	5 17	73	A .	1.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	43.5	-	0.0
AAYANRE	69	66	100,000	6.750	6	69	¥	-1.
AQAR ALAQARIA	20.0	0.0 16.0	133,208	2.194	4	20.9	=	1.5
MAZAYA	95	92	476,360	44,550	18	93	_	0.0
ADNO	21.0	19.5	8,756,062	176,464	110	20.5	A	0.6
THEMAR	90	85	5,002,000	425,180	3	85	7	-5.0
TIJARA TAAMEER	39.5 17.5	39.5 15.5	50 955,182	15,591	26	39.5 17.5	A	1.0
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	-	0.0
ARGAN	168	164	65,000	10,858	8	168	À	4.0
ABYAAR HINGHAAT	24.0 51	21.0	297,000	5.784	13	22.0	7	-1.6 -5.6
MUNSHAAT FIRSTOUBAI	37.0	35.5	129,250 95,320	6.592 3.432	12	51 35.5	7	-1.5
ŒT	36.0	33.0	1,513,891	50,604	64	34.0	¥	-1.
REAM	0.0	0.0	178 500	0 2 882	0	140	-	0.0
NEMA NUMUDON	18.0 27.0	16.0 25.0	178,500 847,546	2.882	9 20	18.0 26.0	A .	0.5
WARAKEZ	21.0	20.5	15,500	320	6	20.5	7	-2.
REMAL	32.0	30.0	186,500	5,597	12	30.5	¥	-1.0
VASHAER Real Estate	0.0	0.0	32,986,973	1,811,137	624	106	¥	-9.3
			- sajreeje: s	- Igo t t   Too				
GINV FACIL	150	130	0 24.600	3,534	8	90 160	_	10.0
FA	23.0	20.0	438,164	9.209	18	23.0	À	1.0
IINV	68	63	412,884	26,552	20	65	¥	-2.
PRCJ	520	510	1,497,964	770,064	17	520	=	0.0
COAST ECH	26.5 28.0	22.0	155,591	3.546 271,158	16 157	23.0	7	-1. -1.
IGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	_	0.0
RZAN	36.0	35.0	48,995	1.715	2	35.0	A	1.0
MEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	6	0	99	-	0.0
LAMAN	49.5	21.5 49.0	1,532,000	75,109	27	24.0 49.5	7	-0.
LOLA	50	50	189,663	9.483	7	60	-	0.0
LMAL	23.5	22.5	3,011,400	68,084	60	22.5	¥	-2.
MYAN	21.5 43.0	43.0	1,242,703	25,815 43	29	21.0 43.0	_	1.6
BAYANINV	30.5	26.5	2,907,118	83,106	63	30.5	A	1.5
SOUL	36.0	35.0	3,736	131	1	35.0	7	-3.
OFIC CAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.5 102	=	0.0
all I	44.0	43.0	4,010	172	2	44.0	7	-0.
SKAN	24.0	21.0	110,250	2.493	18	24.0	À	0.0
MADAR MDEERA	21.5	21.5	628,500	13,513	18	20.5	-	-2.
LSALAM	28.0	26.0	1,550,752	41,606	59	21.5	÷	-0.
KTTITAB	23.0	22.D	743,680	16,667	28	23.0	¥	-1.
LMADINA	26.5	25.D	4,980,400	126,097	79	26.0	¥	-1.
MINV	49.0 395	42.5 370	958,787 11.000	44,383	13	49.0 395	A	5.0
XCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	_	0.0
AIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	-	0.0
SHC STRATEGIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	24.0 33.0	=	0.0
SIYA	36.5	35.D	198,241	6.988	10	35.5	Ξ	0.0
NAHC	23.5	21.0	110,595	2.325	9	22.5	A	0.
LIMTIAZ	26.5 73	26.5 70	1,056,000	13 75,632	24	26.5 70	7	-2. -2.
ANAZEL	18.5	15.5	3,429,215	56,807	85	16.5	7	-1.
IIND	100	93	1,384,147	135,936	85	99	À	1.
HIHC	26.0	24.5	5,236,200	130,082	89	25.0	¥	-2.
ENERGY GHC	9.5	9.0	1,725,104	16,209	25	9.5	=	0.
PPC	44.5	43.0	807,692	35,154	32	44.5	7	-1.
AHSSILAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	41.0	-	0.0
EERANH KHCLDING	0.0	0.0	30	0	0	156	=	0.0
FH	39.0	36.5	8,277,684	315,341	96	39.0	Ā	0.
NOVEST	0.0	0.0	0 52,604,524	2,371,169	1,093	50	7	0.0
	-		32,904,024	2,071,109	1,000	524.82	-	-3.8
nvestment Instr	uments		0	0	0	0.00	-	0.0
sc	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	-	0.0
sos	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	-	0.0
AYATCOMM	102 46.5	99 41.5	16,899 50,610	1.708 2.113	6	102 44.5	_	0.0
echnology			67,509	3,821	10	820.79	À	1.2
MREEQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	164	_	0.
FAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	182	-	0.0
LSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	-	0.0
JWAN	22.0	21.0	124,940	2.572	11	16.5 21.0	-	-2.
MASAKEN	67	63	520,465	33,542	22	63	À	1.0
ALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	-	0.0
ILEID IIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95 1,220	=	0.0
LEX	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	=	0.0
HURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	-	0.0
CLINIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	29.5	_	0.0

investment instru	ments			·		0.00	_	- 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 1.24 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0 - 0.0
ASC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	-	0.0
CSOS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	-	0.0
FLTURE	102	99	16,899	1.708	4	102	_	0.0
HAYATCOMM	46.5	41.5	50,610	2.113	6	44.5	A	0.5
Technology			67,509	3,821	10	820.79	À	1.24
BAREEQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	_	0.0
AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	182	-	0.0
ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	_	0.0
SAFRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	16.5	-	0.0
AJWAN	22.0	21.0	124,940	2.572	11	21.0	¥	-2.5
MASAKEN	67	63	520,465	33,542	22	63	A	1.0
DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	-	0.0
ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	_	0.0
MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220	_	0.0
FLEX	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	_	0.0
THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	-	0.0
KCLINIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	29.5	_	0.0
AMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	-	0.0
Parallel Market			645,405	36,214	33	1226.74	¥	-8.46

For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinv.net

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		Glo	bal St	ock In	dices			
Index	Previou	ıs Close	Last	Price	Clia	nige	Doity Performance	
Dow Jones	16,3	79.05	15,9	88.08	390.97		2.39	8.25
NASDAQ	4,61	5.00	4,48	18.47	-126.58	•	-2.74	-10.36
S&P 500		1.84		0.33	41.51	•	2.16	8.00
l inancial limes		14.10 15.27		7.55	13.45	<u> </u>	0.23	-6.80
DAX CAC 40	100.0	0.16	Books	7.05 17.56	21.78	<b>A</b>	0.23	10.95 -9.05
Swiss				3.78	36.65	_	0.45	7.65
Nikkei 225	likkei 225 17,147.11			55.57	-191.54	•	-1.12	-10.92
Topix				17.93	14.52	*	1.01	10.30
Hang Seng	-	20.77		37.45	-283.32	•	-1.45	-12.22
Straits Times	2,63	0.76	And the second	3.00	37.76	*	1.11	10.05
		ME	NA Sto	ock In	dices			
Index	Previou	is Close	Last	Price	Cha	inge	Daily Performance	Yearly Performance
milex					1.116	56	%	%
Kuwait		8.47		4.64	-43.78	<b>v</b>	-0.86	-10.13
Saudi Arabia Dubai		0.41 4.97	1003111	7.50	28.17	*	0.52 -0.28	20.13
Dubai Abu Dhabi		7.40	-	4.98	7.58	_ <u> </u>	0.20	12.07
Bahrain		5.86	1,000	6.77	0.41	_	0.03	-1.65
Qatar	8,52	7.75	8,51	6.82	10.93	*	0.13	18.23
Uman	4,94	18.48		1.57	33.09	<b>A</b>	0.67	-8.47
Lebanon	- 257	18.25		9.98	1.72	<b>A</b>	0.15	1.82
Jordan Fount		0.19		1.77	-9.64 185.27		-0.46 3.22	-1.17 17.78
Egypt Morocco		3.56		0.14	6.58	<b>A</b>	0.07	-0.81
Tunisia		0.64		5.77	14.87	▼	0.28	5.13
	Glob	nal Cui	rrenci	es Exc	hange	Rate		
	Kuwaiti	out Cu	Telle		Sterling	Swiss	Japanese	Australian
Currency	Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Luro	Pound	Franc	Yen	Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.2435	3.2776	3.0075	2.2927	3.2907	384.69	1.7561
Saudi Riyal	0.08168	2 7255	0.26//	0.2456	0.1873	0.2688	31.42	0.3885
US Dollar Luro	0.30510	3.7355	1.0898	0.9176	0.6995	1.0040	117.37	1.4512
Sterling Pound	0.43617	5.3403	1.1296	1.3118	V V.	1.4361	167.85	2.0758
Swiss I rand	0.30388	3./206	0.9960	0.9136	0.6963		116.90	1.4454
Japanese Yen	0.00260	0.0318	0.0085	0.0078	0.0060	0.0086		0.0124
Australian Dollar	0.21024	2.5/41	0.6891	0.6319	0.4817	0.6919	80.88	
	WEN	IA Cur	renci	es Exc	hange	Rate	;	
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini	Qatari	Omani	Lmirates	Lgyptian
US Dollar		0.30510	3.7355	0.3/41	3.6269	0.3832	3.65/0	/./201
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2776		12.2435	1.2262	11.8876	1.2559	11.9862	25.3035
Saudi Riyal	0.26//	0.08168		0.1001	0.9709	0.1026	0.9790	2.066/
Bahraini Dinar	2.6730	0.81554	9.9850		9.6917	1.0212	9.7752	20.6359
Qatari Kiyal Omani Pival	2,6097	0.08412	9.7487	0.1031	9,4653	0.1056	9.5438	2.1286
Omani Riyal Lmirates Dirham	0.2/34	0.79623	1.0215	0.9763	0.9918	0.1048	7.3130	20.14/5
Egyptian Pound	0.1295	0.03952	0.4839	0.0485	0.4698	0.0496	0.4737	
		Glob	oal Int	erest	Rates			
Currency	1 Week	1 Month		onth		onth	4.5	rear .
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19		44		63		94
US Dollar	0.38	0.42	0.	61	0.	84	1.	14
Euro	0.27	0.22	-0.	.14		.06	0.	04
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.51		59		74		03
Swiss Franc Australian Dollar	2.08	0.78 2.15		.75 04		.68 97		.60 90
Canadian Dollar	0.00	0.82		82		90		95
			obal B					
Country United States		fear 85		fear 45		Year 03	_	Year 82
Europe		.41		.17		47		32
United Kingdom		44		01	1100	68		47
			Come	noditie	25			
			Commi	Todicie			Daily	Yearly
Index	Previou	ıs Close	Last	Price	Clie	nige	Performance	Performance
Kuwait Oil	22	.3B	21	.19	1.19	₹.	5.32	28.46
						1 2		

78.56

29.50

1088.71

13.92

78.18

29.40

1020.14

-0.38

0.10

0.01

-1.33

0.34

0.05

-31.62

25.86

0.51





KUWAIT: The First Trading Company, one of Mutawa Alkazi Group of companies, launches the latest cars of BAIC Motor Group at the Auto-Moto 16 Exhibition at 360 Mall. The exhibition began with a ribbon cutting and the announcement of BAIC Motor in Kuwait by Chief Executive Officer of Mutawa Alkazi Company, Omar Sulaiman Alkazi, Vice President of BAIC Motor in the Middle East and North Africa Sun Zhiyong, BAIC GCC Manager Gao Yunfei, Sales Manager Jiang Dong, and General Manager of New Car Sales at Mutawa Alkazi Company Ahmad Abulhuda. —Photos by Joseph Shagra







# MUTAWA ALKAZI GROUP LAUNCHES BAIC MOTOR AT AUTO-MOTO 16 EXHIBITION IN 360 MALL

#### FIRST TRADING COMPANY IS BAIC AGENT IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** The First Trading Company, one of Mutawa Alkazi Group of companies, launched the latest cars of BAIC Motor Group at the Auto-Moto 16 Exhibition which was held under the patronage of the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud Al-Sabah. A large number of people attended the ceremony at the 360 Mall including several modern car lovers.

The exhibition began with cutting of ribbon and the announcement of BAIC Motor in Kuwait by Chief Executive Officer of Mutawa Alkazi Company, Omar Sulaiman Alkazi, Vice President of BAIC Motor in the Middle East and North Africa Sun Zhiyong, BAIC GCC Manager Gao Yunfei, Sales Manager Jiang Dong, and General Manager of New Car Sales at Mutawa Alkazi Company Ahmad Abulhuda with the participation of attendees who expressed their admiration of the car and its praiseworthy specs

The company's CEO Omar Suleiman Alkazi initiated his speech by thanking the Minister of information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Hammud Al-Sabah on the sponsorship of (Auto-Moto 16) event. Then he welcomed the crowd for their participation and attendance at the launching ceremony of BAIC MOTOR new cars.

Alkazi continued by talking about the partnership between The First Trading Company and BAIC set motor car as the leading automaker in China and the world, adding to the consecutive successes achieved by the company, not only in China but also in Asia and Africa. It is reaching for Europe and America, and increasing sales growth and increased demand for their products. He mentioned some cars specification as one of the most powerful and safest car, the most trusted and reliable dependable with many models. In addition, Alkazi especially talked about X65 model which has 4 cylinder engine, turbocharged engines equivalent to the 6 cylin-

der, 2.0 L capacity 177 horsepower, with a sixspeed automatic transmission and manual use ability which gives it more power with economic advantage that doesn't exist in a lot of other cars.

#### SAFE AND POWERFUL

Alkazi also noted some of the advantages and specification of X 65 BAIK new car like its basic safety factors as high-strength steel which is up to 95 percent in the passenger compartment. In addition, using the finest materials and passing the most durability and maximum resilience tests, which gives her strength in confronting the dangers of the road however diverse and varied with the strength of the front body and its streamlining, as well as independent suspension system that improves the vehicle performance can be controlled easily and wheels of 17 inch aluminums, As well as having a dual front and sides airbags, SRS side air curtains also to provide all aspects of safety, PEPS system to enter and run a car without a key.

#### ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

Alkazi gave elaborated about the modern techniques; vehicle interior contains computer screen technology advanced and integrated. It is also has 7-inch screen, DVD player with LCD touch screen. Moreover, it is equipped with a camera to see 360 degrees as well as a GPS navigation system. Furthermore, it has ample and comfortable seats made of leather, and the driver's seat is adjusted electrically in eight directions, plus more specifications and features.

Alkazi added: In order to keep BAIC X65 model in the forefront it was manufactured with integration and filled with sophisticated gadgets from all sides, power sunroof, and tinted glass panoramic. Also the front lights are Xenon with LED. The taillights are also LED high lighting. The vehicle has adjustable side

mirrors which are electrically folding, turn signals with camera. It comes in a wide range of colors to satisfy all the wishes of clients with different tastes and desires, such as black, grey, silver, white, dark green, Burgundy and orange and blue. BAIC X65 model embodies all the concepts of grace and luxury in one affordable for everyone.

#### INTEGRATED SERVICES

As for maintenance and parts availability Alkazi assured that the company provides all original spare parts and in suitable prices for its customers. Maintenance and repair centers of Al-Mutawa Alkazi are spread in Al-Ahmadi and Shuwaikh. These centers are supervised by elite group of senior engineers and technicians highly experienced and qualified to perform all maintenance and repairs quickly and with high accuracy. This all is for ensuring secure and reliable driving. There is a special section for paintwork and smithery which contains the latest German ovens to ensure quality work and achieve the best results.

#### PARTNERSHIP AND CONFIDENCE

Alkazi, during the ceremony, expressed his joy and pride on the partnership with BAIC car set, as well as the trust of the customers earned by the company in Kuwait. This relationship of trust goes for years where the company provided the best products from cars and engines, and provided exceptional driving experience to guarantee their comfort and pleasure on the road, and in different weather conditions and natural. Alkazi invited the audience to discover the advantages of the vehicle up close and enjoy its advantages and special specifications, wishing everyone success in choosing the car that suits them and check their wishes always. He concluded his speech by thanking everyone for attending this ceremony.

The vice president of BAIC in North Africa and the Middle East, Mr. Sun Zhiyong

expressed his gratitude for his presence at the launch of BAIC Motor Groups's new X65 in Kuwait today. He was glad for the announcement of new X65 BAIC car in front of a wonderful crowd of car enthusiasts. Mr. Sun also expressed his pride in the partnership with Mutawa ALkazi Group, which is considered one of the oldest car companies in Kuwait. It is known by its good reputation and extensive experience in the field of cars and engines for decades, and its services to clients, during sale and after sale services such as repairing and maintenance.

The company makes sure to provide spare parts in suitable prices with guaranteed quality maintenance.

He talked about group BAIC motor, which achieved consecutive successes and sequential and continuous development since 55 years, until it got to be one of the top five cars in China. He noted that the number of personnel cadres and workers which corresponds to 90,000 employees, and its main offices in Beijing, and has many factories distributed throughout China. Office design is located in the Italian city of Turin.

#### QUALITY AND PROFESSIONALISM

Sun noted that the group has certain characteristics in its work and production; many quality properties and exceptional professionalism, along with much of the extensive experience gained as a result of partnerships with many leading car manufacturers in the world, starting with the Swedish Saab and Hyundai, Korean, German, Mercedes-Benz company, where the company launched the so-called partnership project (Beijing Benz) with car makers Daimler to manufacture Mercedes Benz C class and E class and off-road vehicles GLK purpose marketed and sold in the Chinese market, as well as import many vehicles components of global suppliers with high reputation in the motor industry (BOSH and DURR) German.

#### HIGH SALES

Sun talked about the sale of the car and he said they have risen dramatically in recent years as a result of the demands increased due to high quality and specifications as well as appropriate pricing that could make many of those wishing to acquire a great car is possible either in China or abroad. The company sold more than two million four hundred thousand cars in 2014, making them occupy fifth place in the automotive sector in terms of revenue and profits, it won third place in terms of value Brand level China. Today BAIC set ranked 207 on the Fortune Global 500.

#### PERFECT AND BALANCED PERFORMANCE

Sun described BAIC X65 car as a magnificent car in everything, it gives the driver unrivalled pleasure and dynamically balanced for the driver and his companions, as well as it has luxury features which makes everyone admire her excellent performance. It gives us strength to go anywhere not worrying safety because security has better and richer benefits and specifications of safety factors, quality manufacturing, it has an striking exterior and sophisticated design, for gourmets seeking excellence in the acquisition vehicle is perfect in every way.

During the launching of BAIC ceremony the program had many segments and surprises that entertained the audience by distributing valuable gifts and entertainment. The innovative Osama Fuda played a significant role in the introduction and added an atmosphere of fun and pleasure to the audience by asking questions to the public about Mutawa Alkazi Group and its history, from cars to its customers and its distribution in Kuwait. In addition to maintenance centers, as well as about BAIC models cars and its industry, and the winners received valuable and variety of prizes.

























#### KUWAIT AGAIN NO 21 IN ANNUAL AGILITY RANKING OF WORLD'S EMERGING MARKETS

KUWAIT: For the second year, Kuwait ranks 21 in the annual Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index, a closely watched ranking of the world's 45 leading emerging mar-

The Index, in its 7th year, ranks emerging economies based on their size, business conditions, infrastructure and other factors that make them attractive to logistics providers, freight forwarders, shipping lines, air cargo carriers and distributors.

China, the world's second-largest economy, remains the leading emerging market by a large margin. Among the countries at the top of the Index rankings, United Arab Emirates (No 2), India (3) and Malaysia (4) leaped over the commodity-dependent economies of Saudi Arabia (5), Brazil (6) and Indonesia (7). Rounding out the top 10 were Mexico (8), Russia (9) and Turkey (10).

Kuwait scores highest - 9th - in areas of the Index that measure a country's business climate. However, it ranks No 29 in "connectivity," a gauge of infrastructure, transport links and customs efficiency.

The Index includes a survey of more than 1,100 supply chain industry executives. In the survey, Kuwait moved up seven spots to No. 20 among countries with the most potential for investment by logistics companies. Supply chain executives answering the survey expect an uptick in emerging markets growth in 2016, despite concerns about further slowing in China, fluctuations in oil prices, and the possibility that the US economy could weaken.

After a year of turbulence, 61 percent of logistics industry executives surveyed say they are unclear on the direction of the global economy or expect more volatility in 2016. In spite of their wariness, roughly the same proportion (59.4 percent) say the International Monetary Fund forecast of 4.7 percent growth in emerging markets is "about right." Emerging markets growth was an estimated 4.2 percent in 2015, down from 4.5 percent in 2014.

For the first time, supply chain professionals surveyed see India - rather than China - as the emerging market with the most growth potential. And in the overall Index rankings, which are based on economic and social data, India climbed two spots to No 3, behind only China and United Arab Emirates (UAE), on the strength of economic reforms launched by the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

#### Other Index findings:

- UAE, home to the powerhouse economies of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, has the best business climate and the best "connectedness," a measure of infrastructure and transport connections, of any emerging market. As a result, UAE ranks as the world's No. 2 emerging market after China, even though China's economy is 25 times larger; India's is five times larger; and Brazil's is six times larg-
- The most business friendly conditions are found in Gulf states. UAE, Qatar and Oman have the best business climates a combination of market access and risk, regulation, foreign investment, urbanization and wealth distribution. Other Gulf states also rank near the top in business conditions: Saudi Arabia (No. 5), Kuwait (9) and Bahrain (11).
- UAE, Malaysia, China, Chile lead in "connectivity," meaning they have the best infrastructure and transport links, along with the most efficient customs and border administration.
- Countries in Latin America are losing ground to other emerging markets as a result of recession and political turmoil in Brazil, the region's biggest economy,

and depressed prices for commodity exports. Of the 10 countries that slipped furthest in the Index, six are in Latin America: Peru, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela. Even so, Chile continues to be the top-ranked emerging market with GDP under \$300 million.

- Russia, hurt by Western sanctions and isolated economically since it began backing rebels in Ukraine and intervened militarily in Syria, fell from No. 7 to No. 9 in the Index. Tension with Russia and the loss of economic output in the breakaway Crimea region have hurt Ukraine, as well. Ukraine fell four spots to No 34.
- Nigeria (No 17) and Egypt (No 22) climbed 10 spots in the data-driven portion of the Index, the biggest gains by any country in seven years of rankings. The potential of Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, has come into sharper focus since the government updated the methods it uses to track economic performance. Egypt's economy and business climate have stabilized under its

#### Other survey findings:

- Industry executives view oil prices and China's economy as the leading risks to the global economy in 2016. Logistics executives see "economic shock" as the top risk in Asia Pacific, a sign of concern that a slowdown in China could ripple through economies and supply chains elsewhere in the region. A significant percentage (38 percent) said they are reassessing their China strategies. In the past, industry executives said natural disasters and corruption were the top risks in Asia.
- For the first time, logistics professionals see consumer spending in Africa as a more important driver of growth than energy and minerals. They identified Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana and Kenya as Africa's most promising markets. In spite of recent growth and investment, Sub-Saharan Africa remains a frontier market for most supply chain executives: only 21.2 percent said they have operations there.
- The logistics industry is intrigued by the possibility that Iran will emerge from its long economic isolation as the result of an agreement to curtail its nuclear program. In the survey, Iran moved up 12 spots - from No. 27 to No. 15 - among countries with potential as major logistics markets.

"It was a volatile year for emerging markets, and you see that in the Index. Eight of the top 10 emerging markets shifted places," said Essa Al-Saleh, President and CEO of Agility Global Integrated Logistics. "Despite the turbulence, the fundamentals driving growth remain consistent - a rising middle class with spending power, progress in poverty reduction, growing populations. That's why we are still positive on the outlook for emerging markets and

see them driving global growth." Transport Intelligence (Ti), a leading analysis and research firm for the logistics industry, compiled the Index.

John Manners-Bell, Chief Executive Ti, said: "The world's economy is still riven by instability, and emerging markets such as China and Brazil have not been immune. However others, such as Mexico, are in a far stronger position and will benefit from the economic growth experienced in the U.S. and Europe. More than ever, investors in emerging markets need to be discerning and the results of our Index are critical to providing clarity in a confusing and complex world.

## NESPRESSO LAUNCHES PROFESSIONAL BARISTA MACHINE, THE AGUILA 220

EXCEPTIONAL FUNCTIONALITY WITH SLEEK AND DURABLE DESIGN

KUWAIT: To satisfy evolving demands in the out of home market, Nespresso is introducing the Aguila 220. With a smaller footprint and the same pioneering technology as the Nespresso Aguila 420 first launched in 2011, the Aguila 220 is designed to meet the needs of all premium large HORECA establishments, such as hotels, restaurants, cafés and bakeries, and proposes an unmatched choice of one-touch gourmet recipes for extraordinary coffee quality and exceptional coffee moments.

As consumers become ever more knowledgeable and discerning about coffee, as well as keen to enjoy new beverage experiences, hotels and restaurants see a premium coffee offering as a means of differentiation. In true Nespresso fashion, the high-performance Aguila 220 helps professionals achieve this goal whilst at the same time ensuring convenient operation and simple maintenance. The launch of the Aguila 220 further strengthens Nespresso's professional proposal, which includes a complete machine portfolio, 11 Grand Cru coffees for every taste and occasion and exceptional customer service.



Feature-rich for exceptional service, quality, choice and customer care

The Aguila 220 combines exceptional functionality with sleek and durable design and ease of use together with a wide variety of coffee recipes.

Its robust brewing unit makes it

possible for an average of 2,000 cups of coffee to be served a month, thus satisfying the market need for different serving capacities and efficient use of space.

Two extraction heads allow simultaneous and fast beverage preparation during peak hours. Unparalleled milk foam, milk tem-

perature regulation, three programmable cup sizes (Ristretto, Espresso and Lungo), 4 one-touch recipes and 12 pre-programmed hot milk-based coffee recipes, all prepared at the touch of a button, ensure that the Aguila 220 delivers added value from both a service and operational perspective. Further convenience is ensured through a link to the cash register which helps cater to even the most high-pressure service and operational requirements.

"Our professional customers are very important to us and we are thrilled to extend the Aguila range to include the innovative and compact Barista machine, Aguila 220," said Reto Bruegger, Head of Out of Home channel, Nestlè Nespresso SA. "The Aguila range reflects Nespresso's desire to provide our professional partners with the highest quality coffee, choice, convenience and service that consumers have come to expect of their coffee experiences."

The Aguila 220 has been available in six European markets (Switzerland, UK, Germany, France, Netherlands and Sweden) as from April 2015 and has been launched in Kuwait Market as of January

#### OIL SHOCK IS HURTING US ECONOMY: EXPERT

LONDON: Slumping oil and gas prices and a downturn in investment are proving to be major headwinds for the economies of the United States and other key important petroleum producers.

Economists tend to think of oil and gas as simply an input into the production process for other goods and services, which is why they tend to think of falling fuel prices as a positive influence on economic activity. But the production and refining of oil and gas is also a major industry in its own right, so a downturn in drilling can have a big negative effect on growth in the short to medium term, until the positive effects on other industries and consumption dominate in the long run.

By turnover and investment, petroleum exploration, production, refining, transportation and marketing is one of the largest industries in the United States and around the world.

In the United States, businesses engaged in oil and gas extraction and refining spent almost \$200 billion on new equipment and structures in 2013, the most recent year for which data

Oil and gas extraction and refining accounted for more than 14 percent of all new capital expenditures in the United States in 2013, according to the U.S. Census Bureau

Oil and gas drilling and associated services on their own accounted for more than 13 percent of whole-economy capital expenditures ("Annual Capital Expenditures Survey" Table 4a).

The oil and gas drilling boom drove an enormous amount of extra expenditure and provided a significant boost to the entire economy. Between 2003 and 2013, capital spending by oil and gas drillers quadrupled from \$40 billion per year to almost \$160 billion.

Capital expenditures surged even further in the first half of 2014 as the boom reached its peak but since then have been cut sharply. Unsurprisingly, the collapse in investment spending has produced a measurable slowdown in the broader

The downturn is evident in everything from data on industrial production to freight movements by road and rail. Formerly booming states like Texas, North Dakota and Oklahoma, and cities like Williston and Calgary, in the heart of the oil patch, now face severe readjustment or even recession.

The slowdown has even caught the attention of New York Times columnist and Nobel Economics Laureate Paul Krugman, who blames the impact on an important nonlinearity in the effects of oil prices fluctuations. "Small oil price declines may be expansionary through the usual channels but really big declines set in motion a process of forced deleveraging among producers that can be a significant drag on the world economy," Krugman wrote in an article published on Saturday ("Oil goes nonlinear," New York Times, Jan. 16, 2016).



DAKAR: A car stops next to a fuel dispenser at a petrol station outside Dakar on Sunday. The Senegalese government reduced the price of fuel and other petroleum products, amid calls by unions of transport workers for further reduction. —AFP

### ZAIN GROUP PROMOTES ABDULGHAFFAR SETAREH TO CHIEF RISK OFFICER

KUWAIT: Zain Group, the leading telecom innovator across the Middle East and Africa announces the promotion of Kuwaiti national, AbdulGhaffar Setareh to the position of Chief Risk Officer (CRO) for Zain Group. The newly created executive role will see Setareh reporting to the Board Risk Committee, being responsible for delivering the global risk framework and strategy across all operations within Zain Group.

An accomplished corporate executive with over 30 years of operational, engineering, insurance and risk management experience in mobile telecommunications and technology sectors across the Middle East and Africa, Setareh first joined Zain in 1995 as a senior transmission engineer, having spent the previous 10 years with the Kuwait Ministry of Communications engineering department.

Setareh has led the Zain Group Risk Department, as its Director since July 2005 and previously to that was the company's Corporate Security Manager, a position he held since 2002. Key milestones during his impressive tenure to date include the establishment of an enterprise-wide risk management framework for all business units at every level across Zain Group, which included eight Middle East operations (2005 to 2015) and 15 African operations (2005 to 2010). He also established group-wide Information Security and Business Continuity Management initiatives based on global leading practices and oversaw a group-wide Insurance program for over 16,000 employees and families.

Commenting on the appointment, Zain Group CEO Scott Gegenheimer said, "It is a pleasure to promote AbdulGhaffar Setareh demonstrating the importance that the company places on fulfilling its human resources policy to develop its people and capitalize on gifted leaders from within."

Gegenheimer continued, "Risk Management is a top priority at Zain and critical to the company's future prosperity. Setareh's extensive experience will ensure we continue to enhance the operational



effectiveness of the Group's risk oversight and control assurance processes, which is critical to our efforts to transform into an integrated digital lifestyle operator, with a particular emphasis on enterprise solutions.'

As the Zain Group Chief Risk Officer, Setareh will continue to promote risk management culture throughout the Group, regularly enhancing the enterprise-wide risk governance framework currently in place and ensuring that the Group's risk levels and business processes are consistent with its risk appetite, internal risk policies, and regulatory requirements for risk

The incoming Zain Group CRO, AbdulGhaffar Setareh said, "I appreciate the confidence that has been placed in me by the Zain Group Board Risk Committee and senior management, and look forward to further strengthening the company's risk management capabilities and ensuring that Enterprise Risk Management at Zain is a business and strategic enabler in achieving our objectives."

graduated with Setareh Telecommunications Engineering degree from the Ecole Nationale des Telecommunications, Rabat, Morocco in 1984 and is fluent in Arabic, English, and French. An Affiliate of the London based Institute of Risk Management, Setareh is a Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) and Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC).



# DAFZA AND LINKEDIN JOIN HANDS

**DUBAI:** The Dubai Airport Freezone Authority (DAFZA) and LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network on the internet, officially formed an alliance to strategically collaborate on Human Capital and Sales & marketing endeavors.

The move was announced during a special meeting that took place at DAFZA headquarters in the presence of Amna Lootah, Assistant Director General for Finance and Commercial at DAFZA, and Rajai El Khadem, Head of Public Sector at LinkedIn MENA. This alliance will enable professionals working at DAFZA to expand DAFZA's awareness, reach and employer brand on LinkedIn as well as access knowledge, information & insights from the world's largest professional network. Further, this LinkedIn platform will be a good enabler for potential investors around the globe to easily connect with and access DAFZA and its key stakeholders as well as attract professionals and talent from various industries to the Freezone.

For its part, DAFZA will leverage its affiliation with LinkedIn to attract the best talents to the Freezone, actively engage investors and entrepreneurs interested in DAFZA's potential as a business destination, and further build DAFZA as a globally reputable employer brand.

DAFZA's Human Capital Team will be able to access and directly connect with 400 million professional members of LinkedIn worldwide, 17 million of whom are from the Middle East. This alliance thus marks a major milestone in DAFZA's ongoing efforts to strengthen and promote its digital presence in line with the country's smart transformation initiatives.

Amna Lootah, said: "this alliance with LinkedIn is an excellent opportunity for us to further extend DAFZA's thought leadership in the labor market as well as our contributions to the UAE's economic development. It also reflects DAFZA's full commitment to cementing its global stature as an employer of choice and the base of some of the region's best talents and industry names, which will be reflected on DAFZA's LinkedIn page, along with its relation with the business community of investors and companies. We will work closely with LinkedIn to ensure the successful application of best digital practices, which in turn will help in achieving the objectives of this cooperation."

Rajai El Khadem, Head of Public Sector at LinkedIn MENA, said: "DAFZA, as one of the key freezone offerings that differentiates Dubai as a business-friendly hub, will realise immense benefit from a strong employer brand and an investorfriendly engagement tone on LinkedIn. Professionals now value an employer's and partner's brand more than ever, and a strategic investment in establishing the right presence will only bring business value to DAFZA."

To solidify this alliance, Workshops will also be organized under DAFZA Business Lab (D-Lab) to educate the Freezone's clients on how to grow their businesses through social media and through LinkedIn's support in particular. The sessions will share the latest social media best practices, trends and insights. SOCIALEYEZ, DAFZA's digital engagement agency, will help organize the workshops for companies operating at DAFZA in cooperation with LinkedIn and other industry leaders. Among the workshop themes being considered are Social Selling, Social Media Reputation Management, Social Media Crisis Management, and Employee Advocacy.

#### ROBOTS, NEW WORKING WAYS TO COST 5 MILLION JOBS BY 2020: DAVOS STUDY

**DAVOS/MUNICH:** Disruptive labor market changes, including the rise of robots and artificial intelligence, will result in a net loss of 5.1 million jobs over the next five years in 15 leading countries, according to an analysis published in Davos yesterday. The projection by the World Economic Forum (WEF), which is holding its annual meeting in the Swiss ski resort this week, assumes a total loss of 7.1 million jobs, offset by a gain of 2 million new positions.

The 15 economies covered by the survey account for approximately 65 percent of the world's total workforce. The assessment highlights the challenges posed by modern technologies that are automating and making redundant multiple human tasks, from manufacturing to healthcare.

With the International Labor Organization, part of the United Nations, already forecasting an increase in global unemployment of 11 million by 2020, the size of the additional job losses is sobering. Two-thirds of the projected losses are expected to fall in the office and administrative sectors as smart machines take over more routine tasks, according to latest findings, which are based on a global survey of personnel and strategy executives.

The WEF has made "the fourth industrial revolution" - a topic covering robotics, nanotechnology, 3D printing and biotechnology - the official theme of this year's Davos meeting, which runs from Jan. 20 to 23. The "Future of Jobs" report concluded that jobs would be displaced in every industry, although the impact would vary considerably, with the biggest negative losses likely to be in healthcare, reflecting the rise of telemedicine, followed by energy and financial services.

At the same time, however, there will be a growing demand for certain skilled workers, including data analysts and specialist sales representatives. Women will be the biggest losers as their jobs are often concentrated in low-growth or declining areas such as sales, office and administrative roles, the report said. While men will see approximately one job gained for every three lost over the next five years, women face more than five jobs lost for every one gained.

#### Losing jobs to machines

Another international survey published yesterday has found Four out of ten young people believe machines will be able to do their jobs within a decade. Nearly half of young workers surveyed in Western countries said their education did not prepare them to do their jobs.

The skills gap is especially pronounced in Europe, according to a poll of 9,000 16-to 25-year-olds in nine of the world's biggest nations commissioned by Indian

business and software services firm Infosys.
Almost 80 percent globally said they had to learn new skills not taught them in school and that rapid technology change the threat of being overtaken by robots or

smart systems - required constant learning

of fresh skills to compensate.

The study surveyed around 1,000 young people each in Australia, Brazil, Britain, China, France, Germany, India and the United States, as well as South Africa, where a smaller sample of 700 was polled.

Infosys Chief Executive Vishal Sikka said technologies have evolved far faster than what was thought possible even 10 years ago, while the educational system remains wedded to practices initially designed for agrarian societies 300 years ago. "We must transition away from our past; shift the focus from learning what we already know to an education focused on exploring what hasn't happened yet," he said in response to

the findings. Globally, while almost twothirds of those queried said they felt positive about their job prospects, those in developing markets Brazil, China, India and South Africa were far more optimistic than their peers in developed markets.

While in India, 60 percent said they think they have the skills needed for their careers, just a quarter were similarly optimistic in France, the poll found. The survey also showed that the level of confidence which young people had in their technical skills correlated with their beliefs in their future career prospects.

The survey was conducted by Londonbased ICM Unlimited. It was released ahead of the annual World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland, which is focused on what it describes as the "Fourth Industrial Revolution," the broad social and economic shifts taking place due to disruptive digital technologies. — Reuters

#### KUWAIT OIL COMPANY OPTS FOR CISCO SECURITY SOLUTIONS FOR HIGH-SECURITY NETWORK

**KUWAIT:** Cisco yesterday announced that Kuwait Oil Company has selected Cisco(r) security solutions for its network hardware refresh. Kuwait Oil has installed Cisco Network Admission Control (NAC), a powerful, easy-to-deploy admission control and compliance enforcement component of the Cisco TrustSec(r) solution.

With comprehensive security features, in-band or out-of-band deployment options, user authentication tools, bandwidth and traffic filtering controls,



Abdulsalam Al-Matrouk

Network Admission Control is a comprehensive offering for controlling and securing networks.

It will help Kuwait Oil to implement security, access and compliance policies through a central management point rather than configure policies throughout the network on individual

devices.

The Cisco Annual Security Report 2015 notes that malware encounters are on the rise in the energy, oil and gas sectors. Maintaining network security and operational efficiency in today's distributed enterprise networks demands new technology. A more holistic approach to

network access security incorporates:

\* Accurate identification of every user
and device

\* Easy onboarding, provisioning and

securing of all devices

\* Centralized, context-aware policy

management to control user access - whoever, wherever and from whatever device.

Also integrated into Kuwait Oil's network will be the Cisco Identity Services Engine, which helps conquer enterprise mobility challenges and safeguard the evolving network. It is a security policy management and control platform that automates and simplifies access control and security compliance for wired, wireless and VPN connectivity. The Identity Services Engine offers an easy onboarding experience, so that personal devices can be secured and granted access through a simple self-service portal. The Identify Services Engine is primarily used to provide highly secure access and guest access, support bring-your-owndevice (BYOD) initiatives, and enforce usage policies in conjunction with Cisco TrustSec technology.

#### **Executive Quotes:**

Abdulsalam Al-Matrouk, Senior Engineer Telecommunications, Kuwait Oil Company:

"The number of devices and applications accessing Kuwait Oil Company's network both inside and outside our firewall has been steadily growing, thereby creating more attack vectors for hackers to exploit. Cisco's broad set of solutions covering the broadest set of attack vectors, leveraging both global and local intelligence, met our company needs perfectly. Cyber-attacks are getting increasingly sophisticated and discreet and are driven by financial or political gain. The good news is that the O&G organizations like ours can put measures in place to counter attacks."

Ziad Salameh, Managing Director and General Manager Gulf, Levant and Pakistan and Middle East Services Leader, Cisco:

"We applaud the Kuwait Oil Company for putting security at the forefront of its agenda. Cisco has been helping securing countries, cities and businesses of all sizes for decades, and we understand the rapidly changing security landscape. Our continued investment in software, data analytics and threat intelligence along with our assessment, monitoring, response and operational capabilities offer advanced threat protection across the entire attack continuum."

BOSTON: In this Friday, Jan 15, 2016, photo, an iPad with a Boston Symphony Orchestra interactive program is displayed on the conductor's stand at Symphony Hall in Boston. — AP

# TECH AT THE SYMPHONY: BOSTON ORCHESTRA LOANING PATRONS IPADS

**BOSTON:** A night at the symphony usually means silencing cellphones and mobile devices before the music starts. But as part of an effort to draw in a younger audience, the Boston Symphony Orchestra is loaning select patrons iPads loaded with content specific to each performance.

They will be able to view sheet music for the pieces being played, video interviews with musicians, podcasts about the composers and analysis on the works themselves. They will also get a close-up view of the conductor from the musicians' point of view from video monitors set up in the hall.

The storied orchestra, which was founded in 1881, is the first to offer audience members use of customized iPads, according to Kim Noltemy, the group's chief operating and communications officer. But other orchestras are also trying to incorporate technology.

The Philadelphia Orchestra is among a handful that has developed its own mobile application to let audience members follow along with program notes, like translations of vocal parts, in real time from their personal devices.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic rolled out "VAN Beethoven," a customized van that gave residents last fall a chance to enjoy a performance of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony using virtual reality headsets. And the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera, Virginia Symphony Orchestra are among those offering "tweet seats," specially designated sections where concertgoers are encouraged to interact on Twitter

with a concert official as they gave running commentary during select performances.

#### Changing expectations

Jesse Rosen, president and CEO of the League of American Orchestras, an approximately 800-member group based in New York, says orchestras are trying to appeal to a new generation's changing expectations for the concert experience.

"It's about enhancing the visual experience of listening to a symphony orchestra," he says. "It's also about making the experience more intimate and creating a more visible contact between the performer and the audience, which is something younger audiences really seem to value." The Boston orchestra is rolling out the iPads as part of a broader effort to draw patrons, particularly younger ones, to their underperforming Friday concerts.

During "Casual Fridays," symphony tickets are being offered at significantly lower prices, ranging from \$25 to \$45, down from as much as \$145, patrons are being encouraged to dress casually, and the hall is hosting pre- and post-concert receptions

with live music, snacks and a cash bar.

The first performance was Jan. 15; two others have so far been scheduled for Feb 12 and March 18. Efforts to appeal to new audiences are not without opposition from symphony traditionalists. "There's been resistance all along to screens in concert halls" observes Rosen, of the League of American Orchestras.

#### More engaged

Jeremy Rothman, vice president for artistic planning at the Philadelphia Orchestra, says concerns over its LiveNote app, which debuted this season at select concerts, have diminished as concertgoers and musicians alike saw the technology in action.

The app, he says, has helped some patrons become more informed and therefore more engaged in the performance while the app's design-grayscale text on a black background-minimizes the impact on others. "No one is more concerned about preserving the live concert experience as we are," Rothman says. "This is absolutely at the core of what we do. So we asked a lot of the really hard questions up front and are continuing to listen to feedback now that we've put it in people's hands."

In Boston, Noltemy says the symphony orchestra has taken steps to make sure it isn't alienating its core audience. For now, the iPads will be offered only to the 110 people seated in the rear orchestra. That section is under the balcony overhang, she notes, helping limit the impact of screen glow on other audience members.

The devices will also be on a dim setting, and patrons will be given headphones to tune into the video and audio segments. "We'd prefer people watch the iPad podcasts before the concert during the pre-concert reception," Noltemy says. "But, as you can imagine, we have no control over that."—AP

#### EMC SHOWCASES RANGE OF EDGE-TO-CORE VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SOLUTIONS AT INTERSEC 2016

**DUBAI:** EMC announced its participation at Intersec 2016 being held at Dubai World Trade Centre from 17th until the 19th of January.

Considered one of the world's largest safety and security exhibitions, the event is slated to bring together over 24,000 professionals from across the region to discuss the latest trends and technologies in the realm of commercial security, information security, fire and rescue, safety and health in addition to homeland security and policing.

The announcement comes as the region continues to witness an increase in the uptake of HD, megapixel cameras in light of steadily increasing prices, ease of deployment and increasing government regulations mandating the need for retaining data longer. In addition, the region is also seeing significant investments in various smart city and urban planning campaigns that are founded on effective CCTV security and surveillance.

With the need for 24/7 connectivity, rapid transfer and analysis of steadily increasing volumes of data to achieve

significant safety, security and even city planning and development objectives, enterprises are in need of trusted, scalable enterprise storage solutions.

At the event, EMC is showcasing open, flexible, edge-to-core video surveillance solutions that enable enterprises to store, manage and access fast high resolution digital videos with complete simplicity and reliability.

Participating through partners like Axis Communications and Milestone, visitors have access to in-depth demonstrations of the EMC Video Surveillance Solution that is composed of EMC VNX-VSS100 and EMC Isilon that is designed to meet the needs of targeted highly distributed video surveillance environ-

Fredy Issa, Manager, Enterprise Sales for the Isilon Video Surveillance Practice at EMC also presented a session on how enterprises can go about optimizing video surveillance investments and overcome storage challenges at the Intersec Critical Infrastructure Security, Protection and Resilience Conference yesterday.

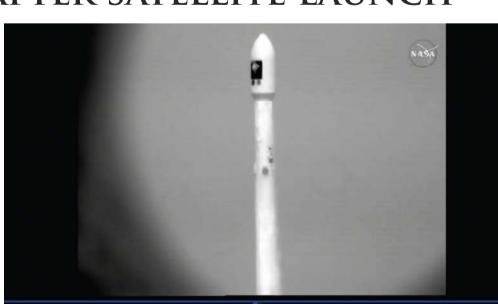
# SPACEX FAILS TO STICK OCEAN LANDING AFTER SATELLITE LAUNCH

LOS ANGELES: SpaceX's unmanned Falcon 9 rocket broke apart Sunday as it tried to land on a floating platform in the Pacific, marking the fourth such failure in the company's bid to recycle rockets. However, the primary mission of the launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California went as planned, propelling into orbit a \$180 million US-French satellite called Jason-3 to study sea level rise.

"Well, at least the pieces were bigger this time!" Elon Musk, the CEO of the California-based company, wrote on Twitter. SpaceX is trying to land its rockets back on Earth in order to re-use the parts in the future, trying to make spaceflight cheaper and more sustainable than before.

The firm succeeded in landing its Falcon 9 first stage-the long towering portion of the rocket-on solid ground at Cape Canaveral, Florida in December. Even though an ocean landing is more difficult, SpaceX wants to perfect the technique because ship landings "are needed for high velocity missions," Musk tweeted. "Definitely harder to land on a ship," he added after the latest foible. "Similar to an aircraft carrier vs land: much smaller target area, that's also translating and rotating."

Currently, expensive rocket components are jettisoned into the ocean after launch, wasting hundreds of millions of dollars. Competitor Blue Origin, headed by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, succeeded in landing a suborbital rocket in November. However, no other company has attempted the ocean landing that SpaceX is trying to achieve. In the end, the problem on Sunday was not due to high speed or a turbulent ocean, but came down to a leg on the rocket that did not lock out as anticipated. "So it



VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE: In this NASA TV image, the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket is seen at the Vandenberg Air Force Base Space Launch Complex 4 East with the Jason-3 spacecraft onboard, during launch, January 17, 2016, in California. — AFP

tipped over after landing," Musk said. SpaceX said the rocket landed within 1.3 meters (yards) of the droneship's center.

#### Oceans satellite

There was no hitch in the launch itself, and the blast off at 10:42 am of the rocket and satellite went flawlessly. The satellite aims to offer a more precise look at how global warming and sea level rise affect wind speeds and currents as close as 0.6 miles (one kilometer) from shore, whereas past satellites were limited to about 10 times that distance from the coast.

The technology will monitor global sea surface heights, tropical cyclones and help support seasonal and coastal forecasts. During a five-year mission, its data will also be used to aid fisheries management and research into human impacts on the world's oceans.

The satellite is the fruit of a four-way partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the US space agency NASA, the French space agency CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales) and the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT). — AFP

# UKRAINE WARNS OF MORE MALWARE ATTACKS AFTER KIEV AIRPORT HIT

**KIEV:** Ukraine's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-UA) warned yesterday of the threat of possible further virus attacks after malware was found in the IT system of Kiev's main airport over the weekend. "Attention to all system

administrators ... We recommend a check

of log-files and information traffic," CERT-UA said. A virus, similar to one which attacked three Ukrainian power firms in late December, was detected in a computer workstation of the IT network of Kiev's main airport Boryspil, according to the airport's press service. — Reuters



CALIFORNIA: In this file photo, Justin Balido, peer health coordinator and senior health educator with Health Connected, speaks to a ninth-grade Teen Talk High School class at Carlmont High School in Belmont, Calif. —AP

# IN OMAHA, AND MUCH OF US, DEBATE OVER SEX EDUCATION RAGES ON

#### 'Let's empower our children to say no to sex outside of marriage'

**OMAHA, Nebraska**: Rival factions yelling at one another amid angry pushing. Tirades about condoms, and claims of misinformation. A parent declaring that children are being force-fed course material "straight from the pits of hell." Such has been the tenor of recent school board meetings in Omaha as board members contemplate the first update in three decades of the school district's sex education curriculum.

A public meeting in October ended in chaos after shouting and shoving broke out between supporters and opponents of the update who had packed by the hundreds into an auditorium. This month, as board members sat in stoic silence, activists from both sides vented their feelings during three hours of public comment - reflecting divisions that have bedeviled school boards nationwide, as well as state legislatures and even Congress. Kathryn Russell, a grandmother who formerly worked for the Omaha school district, said the proposed curriculum "rapes children of their innocence." It was another critic in Omaha, Jesse Martinez, who used the "pits of hell" reference, calling elements of the course material "garbage."

Supporters of the update - ranging from the president of the city council to students who spoke - exhorted the school board to equip students with reliable information that would help the Omaha region lower rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases that are above the national average. "I have a right to this information," said Ryleigh Welsh, a sophomore at Omaha's Central High School. "Sexual health is more than just sex. It's about understanding and taking care of your body and being prepared for a healthy future."

#### Modifications and updates a. as in many US communities.

In Omaha, as in many US communities, some parents and conservative activists insist that any school-based sex education emphasize sexual abstinence as the wisest course. Yet as more young people turn to social media and online resources - including pornography- for sexrelated information, there's pressure on schools from other quarters to offer accurate, candid information that can compete with and correct what's available beyond the classroom. "The notion that sex education is limited to what happens in school is an antiquated one," said Bill Albert, chief program officer of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. It is one of several organizations that's developing online sex education to supplement school-based programs.

Quality online programming "is not buffeted by political fights over what teens can and should learn," Albert said. "It allows for real-time modifications and updates, it offers anonymity, and it meets teens where they are, which increasingly is in front of screens." In Omaha, school board president Lou Ann Goding said one of the motivations for updating the sex-ed curriculum is to counter misinformation that students might encounter outside of school.

"There's so much social media and other sources that they can go to that are not always reliable," Goding said.

#### Social conservatives

Several of the update supporters who spoke at the Jan. 4 public meeting echoed this concern. Among them were fourth graders Samantha Bourne and Hadley Forsen, who said they already were getting "nonfactual" information from their friends on sex-related topics. "We need help to learn this curriculum at this age," said the girls, reading their statement in unison. "This will be way too embarrassing for us to ask our parents when we're older." Sex education in America has a long and checkered history, winning the backing of the US Public Health Service in 1940, gaining traction in the 1980s during the early years of the AIDS epidemic, but generating steady opposition from social conservatives.

Omaha Public Schools, which serves about 52,000 students in its district, has taught sex education since 1986 as part of a course called Human Growth and Development. The process that's been underway since early last year marks the first comprehensive review of the course. Abstinence is encouraged in the curriculum, which also covers such topics as reproductive anatomy, pregnancy prevention and sexually transmitted diseases. As initially proposed, the updates would add discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity in 7th and 8th grades, and discussion of abortion and emergency contraception in 10th-grade lessons on birth control.

The school district conducted a telephone survey of about 1,500 parents last year, and reported that a sizable majority supported adding those topics to the curriculum. But the margins of support for the abortion and emergency contraception components were smaller than for other topics, and school officials now plan to omit them. Over the course of 2015, some churches and other groups began to circulate criticisms and warnings about the district's plans. Spearheading the opposition is a conservative Christian group, Nebraskans for Founders' Values, which has held briefings at local churches and

encouraged skeptical citizens - whether public school parents or not - to attend school board meetings to vent their displeasure.

#### Inaccurate criticisms

Comprehensive sex education "is pornography under the guise of education," the group contends. "The values that it promotes are ones that most parents would never agree with." Many of the opponents' allegations have been categorically denied by the school district, including claims that the new curriculum was designed by Planned Parenthood, would authorize school staff to take students to get abortions, and would provide them with birth control. Goding, the board president, said countering inaccurate criticisms has been a challenge. "Once the misinformation has been disseminated, it's hard to gather it back up," she said.

Board members stress that none of the sex-ed courses will be mandatory - parents must opt their children into the classes offered in 4th, 5th and 6th grade, and can keep them out of the classes in middle school and high school. Topics for 4th graders include puberty and how to stay safe from sexual abuse; by middle school students are learning about methods of contraception. The board plans to vote on new standards for the sex-ed program on Jan. 20, then work on details of a new curriculum in time for any changes to be implemented next fall. Some opponents have urged the board to hold off on implementation until parents can review the final version of the proposed curriculum. Sex education is taught in varied forms and under different rules across the 50 states.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 22 states and the District of Columbia require public schools to teach sex education. In other states, including Nebraska, it's generally up to individual school districts to decide what form of sex education, if any, is offered. In 35 states, parents are allowed to keep their children out of sex-ed classes. In some states, there have been recent steps to ensure that the sex-ed curriculum includes positive instruction about different sexual orientations and gender identities, and to address sexual harassment and violence.

#### Emergency contraception

There's no detailed nationwide breakdown of how the 13,500 school districts in the U.S. handle sex education, although the Centers for Disease Control compiles partial data. Its latest report, with data from 2014, suggests that programs in a substantial majority of school districts stress the benefits of sexual abstinence, while a smaller portion offer instruction in high school about usage of specific contraceptive methods, including condoms and emergency contraception. In most of the US, fewer than half of high schools and only a fifth of middle schools teach all 16 topics recommended by the CDC as essential components of sex education.

"Lack of effective sex education can have very real, very serious health consequences," said Dr. Stephanie Zaza, director of the CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health. "Young people who have multiple sex partners, don't use condoms, and use drugs or alcohol before sex are at higher risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections." Leslie Kantor, vice president of education for Planned Parenthood, said the statewide policies are not a good barometer for what's happening school by school. Whether or not there was a statewide mandate, an individual district might do a good job or bad job with its course, she said. Dr John Santelli, an adolescent medicine specialist at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, says there has been a slight decline in the teaching of comprehensive sex education, including instruction on condom use. He finds that worrisome, citing research that casts doubt on the effectiveness of abstinence-only programs.

"There's been a decline in support for sex education at the political level," Santelli said. "People are getting fed up - they'd rather avoid the whole issue." While the federal government has no direct role in dictating sex-education curriculum, it has influence in the form of federal funding for various programs. From 1981, the start of Ronald Reagan's administration, through 2009, such funds went predominantly to abstinence-only programs; since 2010, under President Barack Obama, abstinence funding has been reduced and larger sums appropriated for comprehensive sex-ed programs. Rival advocacy groups lobbied hard in Congress last year to get a favorable outcome for their approach. The end result - a compromise between Democrats and Republicans - maintained annual spending at about \$100 million for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, which incorporates comprehensive sex education, and doubled spending from \$5 million to \$10 million to abstinence-oriented programs

#### Sexual risk avoidance

Valerie Huber of Ascend - formerly the National Abstinence Education Association - would like to see

Congress move toward equal funding earmarked for comprehensive and abstinence approaches. In the meantime, Ascend and its allies are working to scrap the term "abstinence-only," which they felt was a detriment. They now describe their approach as "sexual risk avoidance" and contrast it with what they call a "sexual risk reduction" (SRR) approach in comprehensive sexed programs. "There's room for both, but we have to be clear they are different," Huber said. "Our approach sends a cultural message that it's better if teens don't have sex; the SRR message is normalizing teen sex if the risks can be mitigated."

According to the CDC's latest figures, from 2013, 44 percent of female teens and 47 percent of male teens between 15 and 19 have had sexual intercourse - significantly lower than 25 years earlier, but up slightly from 2011. Jonathan Zimmerman, a professor of education and history at New York University, worries that many adolescents are learning about sex via pornography on the Internet. Online porn and misinformation can best be countered by accurate online information, said Zimmerman, who praised initiatives that enable teens to ask questions and get answers from health educators via text message. "It isn't that schools shouldn't try, but historically they're incredibly limited in what they can do," Zimmerman said. "We're so divided about sexuality so they come to the lowest common denominator."

#### Sensitive sexual topics

Planned Parenthood - a longtime advocate of comprehensive and candid sex education for adolescents - has recently developed a set of digital tools to provide sex education on mobile phones. One app is designed to help young women identify what methods of birth control would best meet their needs; two other apps emphasize the importance of using both condoms and a more effective form of birth control. At the Jan 4 meeting in Omaha, the public debate focused on whether schools or parents should be the primary sources of information on sensitive sexual topics. Conservative activists said such subjects should be left to the parents, and suggested the school district could create a website that would assist them in that task.

"The schools could teach health risks of promiscuity," said Dave Meyer of Nebraskans for Founders' Values. "Parents should lead the private discussions of sexual expression." However, Cheri Duryea of the Women's Fund of Omaha, which supports the update, said many parents don't talk to their children about sex, even if the children would welcome that. "We know that in most homes it doesn't happen or it's incomplete and unhelpful," she said.

Many of the parents attending the meeting were black or Hispanic, reflecting the fact that racial minorities comprise about 70 percent of the school district's students. Several black civic leaders were among the supporters of the curriculum update, including the head of the Urban League of Nebraska, the president of the Douglas County Board of Health, and City Council President Ben Gray. However, black and Hispanic activists who oppose the update were among the most vehement speakers. Gwen Easter, a black woman who runs a community center and preschool program, assailed the proposals to teach acceptance and understanding of gay and transgender youth.

#### Social media

"That's the real agenda - the same-sex stuff," she declared during fiery remarks that drew cheers from her allies in the crowd. Hispanic activist Amelia Den Hartog said comprehensive sex education would fuel promiscuity. "The most important sex organ is the brain," she said. "Please teach the students to use their brain... Let's empower our children to say no to sex outside of marriage, teach them to have self-control. They are not animals." In all, more than 40 people addressed the school board, with opponents of the update outnumbering supporters roughly 2-1. Among the opponents was Deanna Rabuck, who became widely known on social media after her comments at the stormy October meeting were captured on cellphone video and aired on local TV stations.

"I have five daughters! Five daughters! Who's going to keep them pure?" Rabuck shouted. "I am! Not OPS!" At the Jan 4 meeting, Rabuck was more soft-spoken, but urged the school board to reject the updates. "You have captured the attention of every community in Omaha," she said. "I hope we have captured your attention as well." Supporters of the update included Sofia Jawed-Wessel, an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She has two sons - the elder a kindergartener already coming home with questions about sex-related comments by classmates. "We are behind the curve on this," she said. "People are looking to us to make a good call. The country is watching."—AP

#### NO REASON TO STOP DRUG TRIALS DESPITE DEATH

PARIS: There is no reason to stop medicine trials in France, the country's health minister said yesterday, despite the death of a man during testing for a new drug. "There is a major problem-massive, unprecedented in France-and we must understand what happened, but there is nothing to justify stopping clinical trials," Marisol Touraine told France's RTL radio. Touraine voiced concern that she was only informed of the accident four days after the patient who later died was rushed to hospital. "A quicker alert would have been appreciated," she said.

"Faced with such a serious situation, we would expect the laboratory to approach the health authorities more quickly." Six people were hospitalized after taking part in a Phase I trial for a new pain and mood

disorder medication being tested by French laboratory Biotrial on behalf of Portuguese pharmaceutical company Bial. One died on Sunday after being rendered brain dead. The other five, aged 28 to 49, were said to be in a stable condition. A total of 108 volunteers took part in the trial, 90 of whom received the drug at varying doses while the rest were given placebos. Those hospitalized had received the highest dose.

Three separate probes have been launched to determine whether the tragedy was caused by a procedural error or by the substance. Biotrial, which has been carrying out drug trials since 1989, said Sunday that the situation is "even more upsetting given that there is as yet no explanation".—AFP



RENNES: French Health Minister Marisol Touraine gestures as she arrives to address the media during a press conference held in Rennes, western France, Friday.—AP

# SANDERS PROPOSES TAX HIKE TO PAY FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

CHARLESTON, South Carolina: Vowing to achieve universal health care, Vermont Sen Bernie Sanders released a sweeping proposal hours before Sunday's Democratic presidential debate to create a new single-payer health care system in the United States paid for with a variety of widespread tax increases. Sanders' "Medicare for all" plan was poised to play a starring role in the final Democratic debate before the leadoff lowa caucuses and came as rival Hillary Clinton has ramped up her critique of Sanders' health care plans.

Clinton has pressed Sanders for details on whether middle-class families would face a higher tax burden under his plan, which she has warn would undermine President Barack Obama's signature health care overhaul. Her campaign noted Sanders' plan was released a little more than two hours before the debate. "When you're running for president and you're serious about getting results for the American people, details matter - and Sen Sanders is making them up as he goes along," said Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon.

Sanders would replace the nation's existing employer-based system of insurance with one in which the government becomes a "single payer," providing coverage to all. It would eliminate co-pays and deductibles, and Sanders' campaign argued, bring health care spending under control. "Universal health care is an idea that has been supported in the United States by Democratic presidents going back to Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman," Sanders said in a statement. "It is time for our country to join every other major industrialized nation on earth and guarantee health care to all citizens as a right, not a privilege."

#### Current health

His campaign said the plan would cost \$1.38 trillion a year, but would save \$6 trillion over the next decade compared to the current health care system, citing an analysis by Gerald Friedman, an economist at University of Massachusetts at Amherst. But much of the cost would be paid for through a 6.2 percent payroll tax paid by employers and a 2.2 percent "health care premium" on workers. It also relies on tax-

ing capital gains and dividends on families earning more than \$250,000 a year, eliminate deductions for wealthy Americans and raising the estate tax.

The plan would also raise income taxes on Americans making more than \$250,000 a year, including a top tax rate of 52 percent for those earning \$10 million annually or more. While Sanders' proposal is similar to the single-payer health care plan that he has introduced nearly a dozen times since joining Congress in 1991, it is a reversal of his campaign rhetoric. In December, he promised to raise taxes on the middle class only to pay for a plan to provide paid family leave. His other programs, like tuition-free college and health care, would be paid for with higher taxes on the wealthy. "I think it is appropriate to ask the wealthy and large corporations to start paying their fair share of taxes" he said on NRC's Meet The Press

#### America's Future

Some liberal activists said Sanders' plan, like other federal programs such as Social Security, would deliver a better value for low and middle income taxpayers. "If you had a universal health care plan people wouldn't have to pay premiums. They would gain far more than they would shell out in taxes," said Roger Hickey, a co-director of the Campaign for America's Future. "Social Security wouldn't have existed if FDR had said, 'I'm not going to raise anyone's taxes."" Advocates of creating a single-payer health care system say it wouldn't immediately slash spending.

With health care accounting for 18 percent of the economy, a change to such an approach would be a shock with widereaching consequences. The US still would be likely spend more on health care than any other economically advanced country. Instead, single-payer would aim to slow the rate of growth in costs by putting hospitals on budgets, negotiating drug prices with pharmaceutical companies and eliminating much of the waste that many experts believe characterizes the US health care system. Any expected savings from a single-payer system would likely take time before it showed up, especially when the costs of the transition to such an approach are factored in. —AP



SOUTH CAROLINA: Democratic presidential candidate Sen Bernie Sanders, I-V, speaks during the First in the South Dinner at the Charleston Mariott Saturday in Charleston. —AP

# 'WISH' ANNOUNCES BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS FORUM AND REPORT FOR 2016 CONFERENCE

**DOHA:** The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), a global initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), announced that a 'Behavioural Insights' Forum will be held during its 2016 conference on the 29th and 30th November in Doha, Qatar. The Behavioural Insights Forum will present ground breaking, evidence-based research showing how citizen's health can be maintained and improved through better understanding and application of the latest evidence on the factors which influence behaviour, led by a UK government-owned social purpose company, The Behavioural Insights Team.

Using a broad definition of health, the report will cover three main areas: quality of life and wellbeing, public health, and delivery of healthcare. It will further demonstrate how behavioural insights can be applied at the macro level of high-level policies and system design, as well as at the micro level of experimentation, in order to achieve incremental improvements for the benefit of societies.

WISH, an initiative of QF, is closely aligned with the mission of reinforcing Qatar's pioneering role as an emerging centre for healthcare innovation while also unlocking human potential. In addition, WISH serves as a key platform for the dissemination of healthcare innovation and best practices, and brings together thousands of high-level policymakers, academics, and professionals. David Halpern, Chief Executive of the Behavioural Insights Team and Board Director, and chair of the forum said, "Behavioural factors - such as around diet, smoking, and accidents - now account for the majority of healthy years of life lost. Within medical practice, behavioural factors also loom large in the transmission of infectious disease, medical adherence, and clinical errors. Yet these behavioural factors have received comparatively little attention, and the behavioural models within the medical community remain surprisingly undeveloped."

"This forum and report will draw out the practical implications in recent advances in behavioural science for medical commissioners and practitioners for prevention, treatment and well-being," added Halpern. The report will also present a shortlist of the interventions that have the most potential, while stressing the importance of continually testing new ideas and adapting to the results they generate. Commenting on the announcement, WISH's CEO Egbert Schillings said: "As with previous summits, WISH seeks to present pioneering and comprehensive scientific research that provides answers to some of the toughest questions facing the healthcare sector today.

#### **Healthcare challenges**

The Behavioural Insights Forum will no doubt be an important component in the body of research that will be presented at the 2016 conference." The WISH 2016 Summit will feature six ground breaking research forums that highlight and address some of the world's most pressing healthcare challenges. In addition to Behavioural Insights, the forums will

generate interdisciplinary, evidence-based reports on topics including Autism, Cardiovascular Disease, Healthy Populations, the Economic Benefits of Investing in Health, and Precision Medicine. Internationally renowned experts will chair the forums. For the first time, WISH will also report on its on-going impact locally and globally on issues previously highlighted at the Summit, such as Diabetes, Accountable Care, and Patient Safety. Along with new health policy research forums, the summit will also feature innovation showcases from around the world that shape the design, delivery, and financing of care, as well as a cohort of young innovators; emerging health care leaders under the age of 30, whose contributions to global health deserve wider recognition. The second WISH Summit was held in February 2015, bringing together more than 1,200 delegates from 93 countries to discuss and debate practical, lasting, and innovative solutions to global healthcare chal-



NEW YORK: A worker wearing a contamination suit was carted up to a Dubois County farm, Friday, Jan 15, 2016, that was confirmed to be the location of the first case of bird flu in the United States in June. —AP

# US DEPLOYS NEWLY MINTED BIRD FLU PLAN TO PROTECT HUMANS, POULTRY

**CHICAGO:** US farm and health officials are racing to assess the threat that a type of bird flu never before seen in the country poses to humans and poultry, employing emergency plans drawn up in the wake of a devastating outbreak in birds last year. The federal government sprang into action on Friday after confirmation overnight that the virus had hit an Indiana turkey farm, alerting other states to the danger and putting workers who might have been exposed to the virus under surveillance. Last year's outbreak led to the deaths of more than 48 million chickens and turkeys, either killed by the virus or culled to contain it. No cases were reported in humans.

Strains similar to the new virus, known as H7N8, have on rare occasions made people ill and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state officials aim to reduce the risk of human infection. They also want to blunt the impact on the poultry industry, which suffered billions of dollars in losses in last year's outbreak. Egg supplies shrank and prices surged to record highs. "We are hopeful that as we respond very quickly to this virus that we can get it contained and hopefully not see an extensive outbreak like we did last year," said TJ Myers, an associate deputy administrator for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection

Even if the response is fast, the government's ability to contain the disease is far from certain.

Officials have never dealt with this strain before, and wild birds are thought to spread the disease to farms through feces dropped from the air, making infections difficult to prevent. US officials have taken to heart lessons from last year's outbreak, when USDA workers could not always kill infected flocks fast enough to contain the virus. Workers are now trying to cull sick flocks within 24 hours of diagnoses, following a goal the agency set in the autumn. Most turkeys at the infected farm were killed within a day, but it was 29 hours before all were dead, said Denise Derrer, spokeswoman for the Indiana State Board of Animal Health. No human infections associated with the new strain have ever been reported, according to the USDA.

#### Especially deadly to poultry

Still, people who interacted with infected turkeys were quickly placed under a new monitoring plan developed in response to last year's outbreak, Michael Jhung, a medical officer at the CDC, told Reuters. The agency also plans to conduct lab tests and animal studies of the virus. Similar H7 viruses - which share the same surface proteins - have caused problems in people ranging from mild, flu-like symptoms to serious respiratory illness, Jhung said. "We know very little about this particular virus because we haven't seen it, but we want to take as many precautions as we can to prevent any human infections," he said. —Reuters

# BABY APE RECOVERS AFTER ORDEAL IN INDONESIA, FINDS NEW PLAYMATE

JAKARTA: A baby orangutan found abandoned and almost dead has made a swift recovery at an Indonesian rescue center, and has been filmed playing happily with another young ape. Gito was discovered dumped in a cardboard box in August under the baking sun on the Indonesian part of Borneo island, with rescuers initially believing the primate was dead due to his "mummified" appearance. A team from International Animal Rescue (IAR) picked up the endangered Bornean orangutan, who had been kept as a pet by a local village head, and rushed him to their center.

Gito-who is less than a year old-was suffering from multiple ailments but has recovered strongly, and was recently released from quarantine and introduced to another male baby orangutan, Asoka. New footage released by IAR showed their first encounter, with the apes appearing wary when initially introduced at the orangutan rehabilitation center on Borneo. However, it was not long before the pair were playing happily together on a wooden climbing frame.

Asoka was also rescued on Borneo several months ago after a villager found him abandoned in the jungle and handed the ape over to IAR, although he was in a far better condition than Gito. Gito is doing much better than when he was found suffering from dehydration, malnutrition and a skin infection, but his caregivers warn there is a long road ahead.

IAR program director for Indonesia, Karmele Llano Sanchez, said Gito would still need to take part in "jungle school"-a scheme designed to prepare orangutans for life in the wild-before he could be released. "It's going to take five to seven years before he is ready to be released into the wild," she told AFP. Bornean orangutans are classified as endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and are protected under Indonesian law. But their jungle habitats are being destroyed by the rapid expansion of palm oil and pulp and paper plantations, while locals view the apes as pests and sometimes target them. Hundreds of Bornean primates were also rescued last year as massive, smog-belching forest fires ravaged the island. The fires, started to clear land for plantations, are an annual occurrence, but in 2015 were the worst for some years.—AFP



JAKARTA: Gito, a baby orangutan, receives treatment following his rescue. —AFP photos



JAKARTA: Gito inside a box following his rescue.



Kuwait Times 248 33 199





The Roudhat Al-Riqqa Kindergarten organized an awareness day on the service of people with special needs and their families. Khazna Al-Hadhrami, psychologist and programs' coordinator at the Kuwait Autism Center gave a lecture on how to diagnose autism, as well as best ways to provide care for autistic children and assistance to their families.



# KDMCA KUWAIT CHAPTER UNVEILS 2016 CALENDAR

uravilangad Deva Matha College Alumni Association (KDMCA) Kuwait Chapter Calendar - 2016 was released on the 30th December 2015 by Anit Peter (CEO- Bluestar Logistics, Kuwait). Anit Peter handed over the unveiled copy of the Calendar to Raju Zacharias, Advisory Board Chairman of KDMCA. Shri K.J John (President), Shri Jose Mathew (Secretary), Shri Shaju Bharathan (Treasurer) and senior members of KDMCA Shri Boby Patani, Jojo Alunkal, Jayash John, Boby Joseph, Vins Sebastian were also present on the occasion.

#### NSS KUWAIT'S MANNAM BIRTH ANNIVERSARY ON JANUARY 22

he 139th birth anniversary of Bharath Kesari Mannathu Padmanabhan will be celebrated by Nair Service Society (NSS) Kuwait January 22, 2016 (Friday) at Marina Hall, Touristic Park, Abbassiya from 5.30 pm onwards. Mannaathu Padmanabhan was a social reformer, freedom fighter and was the founder of



Nair Service Society, Kerala. The chief guest of the occasion will be Sreekumaran Thampi, eminent music director, lyricist, script writer and film director. The function will be inaugurated by Sunil Jain, Ambassador of Inida to Kuwait. There will be a very colorful cultural evening with dance and music performances by talented artists from Kerala.

Bharathanatyam performance by Paris Laxmi, actress and well-known Bharathanatyam dancer, will be a great attraction of the event. Kalamandalam Sunil, the talented Kathakali artist from Kerala will be performing 'Poothanamoksham'. The musical treat will be served by the trio Sachin Warrier, Malavika with their melodious voices and Asianet fame Anoop with his keyboard talents. Kalabhavan Satheesh will entertain you with his comedy numbers. Entry is restricted through invitations only.











# INDIAN EMBASSY ON AMNESTY TO RESIDENCY VIOLATORS IN KUWAIT

n 10 January 2016, the Ministry of Interior, Kuwait has announced special dispensation (partial amnesty) for all illegal residents in Kuwait. As per the announcement, residency violators will be allowed to pay their fines and either legalize their status or leave the country without being black-listed. But this would apply to those who voluntarily participate in the above scheme and that the Residency Affairs Departments across the country are ready to receive violators in order to rectify their legal status, for payment of fines for leaving the country.

1) There are approximately 28,000 Indians illegally staying in Kuwait due to residency/visa violations. All Indian illegal residents are urged to avail the above dispensation to either legalize their status or leave the country after payment of fines without being black-listed. They should contact the concerned Residency Affairs Department of Kuwait with available documents to rectify their status or for payment of

fines for leaving the country to avail the above opportunity.

2) The Embassy is ready to provide all necessary assistance to all those seeking the above special dispensation by issuing Emergency Certificates (travel document) expeditiously if required by the local authorities who are processing their documents under above scheme. The requirement for issue of Emergency certificate is as under:

(a)Prescribed format for issue of EC (copy enclosed)

(b) Three recent passport size photograph;(c)A copy of the passport (relevant pages)(c)Payment of KD 5.000 consular fee for EC

3)For any query/clarification in the matter, please contact Shri AK Srivastava, Second Secretary (PIC/CW) Tel. No. 22531716 and Mobile No. 97229914 or Shri BK Sinha, Assistant (CW) at Mobile No. 97164067 and Mr. Mohammad Ashfaq Durrani, Local Staff member, Mobile-66680031.

#### KERALITES PAY HOMAGE TO KM ABDU RAHEEM

n a solemn function organized by KIG, leaders from various leading Malayalee organizations and their associates paid their tributes to K M Abdu Raheem sahib, who has died last week at the age of 79. The outpouring of love, gratitude and fond memories which the packed audience of Pravasi auditorium at Abbasiya had witnessed was a testimony to the way K M Abdu Raheem Sahib touched so many lives in Kuwait with his sincere services.

A towering personality, visionary thinker, teacher, writer, orator, philanthropist, legendary social worker, K M Abdu Raheem Sahib was all these and so much more. In a prolific expatriate life in Kuwait spanning more than three and half decades, he took leadership role in the formation of various organizations such as Malayali Samajam, United Malayali Organization (UMO), Federation of Indian Muslim Association (FIMA), Kerala Islamic Group, Cultural Association of Muslim Youth (CAMY) and Friday Forum.

He was not just a President of Malayali Samajam and UMO and KIG but he earned enormous respect and social capital through his humility, support for humanitarian causes, bridging various communities together under one unified umbrella and commitment towards grassroots creativity and innovation. He shared this capital with everybody who came in contact with him. KM Abdu Raheem Sahib had an extraordinary ability to make most ordinary people in his company.

The Amazing part is that he found time for the younger generation and he worked closely with them to foster their innate talents and made their services available to the society. He maintained intimate relationship with eminent Kuwaitis and Philanthropists like Abu Bader, Nadir Al Nouri, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Sumaith, Abdul Qader Al Ajeel, Dr Nasser Al Sanea, Dr Hassan Hath Houth, Professor Abubacker Sayeed among others and was a founding member of

Islam Presentation Committee (IPC).
The Indian community witnessed his leader-

ship quality during the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait in 1990. With his sincere efforts he did so much in bringing confidence, arranging food, burying the dead, registering Indians through the center arranged in Salmiya Indian community school. He helped many sick and pregnant ladies by finding a place in the aircraft of former foreign minister IK Gujaral and thus making their evacuation easy.

Taking leadership role, he spent days and nights along with other KIG volunteers in the dusty and crowded 'no mans land' in Amman - arranging the controlled and coordinated evacuation of Indians through Amman. To Speed up the evacuation by getting more aircraft he even utilized his personal relationship with then MP KP Unni Krishnan of Badagara constituency who came there personally to oversee the arrangements.





# AL MULLA EXCHANGE MAKING HEADLINES







I Mulla International Exchange, the premier Exchange company in Kuwait is making headlines in Kuwait by organizing their first edition of 'Al Mulla Exchange Champions Trophy'. With a lineup of 32 Teams, the tournament looks to provide an even platform for teams to compete in a very healthy and competitive environment. The tournament has been touted as one of the best in terms of prize money and team line up in Kuwait. Unlike other tournaments in Kuwait, there are no registration fees to pay to play in the tournament. The tournament is being conducted at the Sulaibiya Cricketing Grounds opposite to Agility.

The tournament was inaugurated by HormuzdaDavar, Director of Trading, and Manufacturing& Financial Services at Al Mulla Group. Also attending the inaugural function was Rajesh Gairola, Divisional General Manager of Al Mulla Exchanges. Speaking on the occasion, Davar said 'Al Mulla Exchange believes in contributing to the community at large and we cannot underestimate the power of cricket in shaping the millions of people around the world. We hope that this tournament will provide a good platform to the teams to perform and bring out a healthy competition.' He concluded by wishing the best team to win.





## EXCITING START OF THE YEAR AT JUMEIRAH BEACH HOTEL & SPA

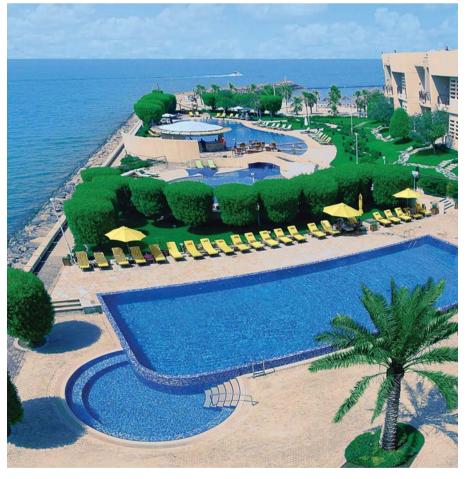


umeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa has an exciting range of activities for a luxurious start to the year with friends and family. General Manager, Hakan Petek said: "As we mark another successful year and begin 2016, we continue to raise the bar in creating exceptional experiences through our activities and offers that deliver memorable experiences for our guests."

The luxurious landmark property's popular restaurants have and abundance of offers this month. Olio, with authentic Italian cuisine, presents a selection of fresh homemade pastas in the special La Pasta Fresca four-course set menu. Pepper steakhouse, offers meat lovers a chance to delight in an ‡ la carte menu of tenderized aourmet cuts from the USA throughout the month. Garden CafÈ, the main venue for international delights, is seasoning the month with the return of Mexican-themed buffet every Tuesday. Devoted to luxurious pampering and complete rejuvenation, Talise Spa has special gift vouchers for an ultimate relaxation experience. Also newly available are unique Wellness and Detox packages designed for optimal wellbeing and revitalization.



### MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT TAILORS A SPECIAL WEEKEND PACKAGE



arina Hotel Kuwait has customized an attractive and indulgent weekend package for residents and locals in Kuwait. At a location where luxury meets modernity, and where an attractive sea view, works harmoniously together with the latest technological systems, guests are invited to enjoy their weekends in style in the midst of absolute comfort. With a multitude of facilities and services, guests can break the daily routine and enjoy some peace of mind with a choice of room packages. Perfect for a short break or a weekend getaway, guests can choose from any of the superior rooms and enjoy state-of-theart facilities the hotel offers without missing out on other activities including shopping, wellness, sports and much more.

They can further enjoy the vibrant white sands of the private beach along with the three pools and the pool bar - all not far away from the ultimate shopping destination, Marina Mall. The package offers special rates for weekenders in the superior rooms at a rate starting from KD 88 which includes a buffet breakfast, free access to the hotel's health club, beach and pool area. Guests and their families can experience a luxurious escape after an exhaustive week and indulge themselves with a complimentary buffet breakfast for two persons at the Six Palms Restaurant.

Guests whose taste palettes crave for unique and diverse cuisines can watch authentic innovations spring to life for lunch

and dinner at the renowned Atlantis
Restaurant with the finest dishes from around
the world and views of the Arabian Sea. The
package also includes a 20% discount on buffet lunch and dinner for guests dining at the
Atlantis Restaurant. Within close proximity to
Marina Mall, one of the best shopping malls in

Kuwait, and the
es a variety int
fee shops, Marina the
destination to
unique guest
service quality

Kuwait, and the Marina Crescent, which houses a variety international restaurants and coffee shops, Marina Hotel is an ideal location for family leisure. The award winning hotel is the destination to be for its dedication to a unique guest experience and high standard of service quality.



#### MCDONALD'S #BIGMACMOMENT

ollowing the unveiling of the newest members of the Big Mac family -the Mini Mac and the Grand Mac, McDonald's Kuwait continues its celebration with the Big Mac Moment competition. In honor of its signature sandwich, McDonald's invites customers to



express their love of the Big Mac and showcase their video-making skills, for a chance to win an all-paid-trip to Barcelona to meet Neymar Jr, the professional Brazilian football star of FC Barcelona.

To enter the competition, customers must submit a video expressing the way they celebrate any of their achievements whilst featuring the iconic Big Mac sandwich. Videos must be uploaded to www.mcdonaldsarabia.com. Moreover, customers can share their submission on social media using #BigMacMoment. "What better way is there to celebrate the Big Mac, than by offering diners a once in a lifetime experience to meet one of today's biggest football icons. We invite all our customers across Kuwait to be as creative as they can, have fun and make their own videos showing their Big Mac Moments, for a chance to win this exciting trip to Barcelona," commented Sherif Coutry, Marketing Director at McDonald's Kuwait.

Coutry further commented, "Winners will be chose via random draw, therefore the more videos that they submit, the more chances that they have to win. We look forward to seeing all the submissions and we wish all participants the best of luck." The Big Mac Moment competition will be running until February 26. Details regarding the Big Mac Moment and how to submit the videos are available on McDonalds Arabia.com.

# THE SULTAN CENTER NOW OFFERS PAPER BAGS ACROSS ITS STORES



n and around Kuwait plastic bags can be seen along the sides of roads, in the desert, on trees, outside people's houses. They litter our beaches and threaten marine life. As part of The Sultan Centre's (TSC) ongoing commitment to the community and safeguarding the environment, TSC has recently launched a new initiative in its stores whereby shoppers are given the option to choose plastic bags or paper bags (at a nominal charge). Not only are paper bags stronger than plastic bags, they are made from a renewable resource and they are easily recyclable, which makes them environmentally friendly.

TSC is committed to protecting the environment. Not only is it important for our generation, it's about taking care of care of the environment for generations to come. TSC's reduce, reuse and recycle initiative aims to keep as many recyclable materials out of landfills as possible. Essentially, the goal is to minimize waste, and offering paper bags throughout their stores will go a long way in serving that purpose.

Tom Hammer, CEO of Retail at The Sultan Center, said: "We actively listen to our customers and want to engage them in our eco-friendly initiatives. Our customers have told us they want the option of having their groceries packed in paper bags. Many of our shoppers are environmentally conscious and they want to reduce plastic usage. As part of giving back to the community in which we operate, we're always on the lookout for ways in which we can help protect the environment.

This new initiative falls in line with our goal to reduce our ecological footprint. We are giving our customers a choice: plastic or paper. In either case, the most important thing is to recycle those bags so they don't end up in the sea, beaches, streets, and landfills, or become litter." Just a few small lifestyle changes can go a long way in making a big difference for the environment. TSC is working together with its customers to make an even greater impact by making it easier for them to incorporate sustainable choices into their daily lives.

EFRON



00:20 Misfit Garage 01:10 Gold Rush Gold Divers Catching Monsters 03:40 Storage Hunters UK 04:05 The Liquidator 04:30 Storage Wars Canada 05:00 What Happened Next?

How Machines Work 06:00 Yukon Men 06:50 Wheeler Dealers Misfit Garage 08:30 Storage Hunters UK 08:55 The Liquidator

Storage Wars Canada 09:45 What Happened Next? 10:10 How Machines Work Gold Rush 11:25 Gold Divers 12:15 Catching Monsters

Storage Hunters UK 13:30 The Liquidator 13:55 Storage Wars Canada Yukon Men 15:10 Wheeler Dealers 16:00 Misfit Garage

16:50 What Happened Next? 17:15 How Machines Work 17:40 Bride Of Jaws 18:30 Dual Survival 19:20 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown

20:10 The Liquidator 20:35 Storage Wars Canada 21:00 Bear's Wild Weekend With Stephen Fry 21:50 Dual Survival

22:40 River Monsters

23:30 Wheeler Dealers DISCOVERY

00:35 Mythbusters 01:20 How It's Made: Dream Cars 02:08 Strangest Weather On Earth 02:55 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

03:42 How The Universe Works 04:29 Mythbusters 05:16 Strangest Weather On Earth 06:03 What Could Possibly Go

Wrong? 06:50 Prototype This 07:37 How Do They Do It? 08:23 Mythbusters 09:08 How The Universe Works

09:53 Prototype This How It's Made: Dream Cars 11:23 How The Universe Works 12:08 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 12:53 Prototype This

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19:50 Food Factory 20:15 Food Factory 20:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 21:25 How It's Made: Dream Cars 21:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars

22:15 How The Universe Works 23:00 Food Factory 23:22 Food Factory 23:45 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

00:15 California Investigator 00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 01:30 The Haunted 02:20 Ghost Lab

03:10 True Crime With Aphrodite 04:00 California Investigator 04:25 California Investigator 04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry? Who On Earth Did I Marry? 05:30 The Haunted 06:20 Deadly Affairs True Crime With Aphrodite

08:00 Dr. G: Medical Examiner 08:50 On The Case With Paula 09:40 Fatal Encounters 10:30 Murder Shift 11:20 Deadly Affairs 12:10 True Ćrime With Aphrodite

Jones 13:00 The Will 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It California Investigator 15:05 Dr. G: Medical Examiner 15:55 Fatal Encounters 16:45 On The Case With Paula

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

21:45 California Investigator 22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry? Who On Earth Did I Marry? 23:00 Deadly Sins



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 Sofia The First

06:50 That's So Raven 07:15 Gravity Falls 07:40 Jessie 08:05 Shake It Up 08:30 Shake It Up 08:55 That's So Raven

09:45 Austin & Ally 10:35 A.N.T. Farm 11:25 Jessie 11:50 Jessie 12:20 Hank Zipzer

12:45 Fish Hooks 13:10 Good Luck Charlie

13:35 I Didn't Do It 14:00 Dog With A Blog 14:30 H2O 14:55 Girl Meets World 15:20 Liv And Maddie 15:45 Jessie 16:10 Violetta

17:00 The Next Step

17:25 Liv And Maddie 17:50 Jessie 18:15 Austin & Ally

00:00 Fashion Police 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show 01:25 Keeping Up With The

Kardashians 02:20 E! News

Giuliana

03:15 Escape Club

07:50 Style Star

08:20 E! News

12:05 E! News

The Hamptons

The Hamptons

Kardashians

22:00 E! News

23:00 Dash Dolls

17:00 Giuliana & Bill

18:00 House Of DVF

13:05 House Of DVF

04:10 Beyond Candid With

05:05 E! Entertainment Special

06:00 Kourtney & Kim Take New

06:55 Kourtney & Kim Take New

09:15 Giuliana & Bill 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills

14:05 Fashion Bloggers15:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take

16:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take

20:00 Christina Milian Turned Up 21:00 Keeping Up With The

tood

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

09:00 Grandma's Secret Cookbook

11:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To

13:00 Guy's Big Bite 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

18:30 Grandma's Secret Cookbook

21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

20:00 Guy's Grocery Games

23:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin

CHOICE

01:00 Staten Island Cakes

02:00 Mystery Diners 03:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin

05:00 Guy's Grocery Games

06:00 Chopped

08:00 Chopped

12:00 Chopped

16:00 Chopped

17:00 The Kitchen

18:00 Siba's Table

19:00 Chopped

22:00 Man v Food

00:10 Pick Me!

01:05 Emmerdale

01:30 Coach Trip

03:25 Endeavour 05:15 The Chase

07:05 Coach Trip

07:30 Endeavour

10:15 The Chase

11:10 Coach Trip

13:25 Emmerdale

13:50 Coach Trip

15:35 Pick Me!

19:35 Pick Me!

22:50 Emmerdale

16:30 Vera

20:30 Vera

Jimmy Fallon

11:35 Pick Me!

02:00 Coronation Street

02:30 Murdoch Mysteries

06:10 Cook Me The Money

09:20 Murdoch Mysteries

12:30 Cook Me The Money

14:20 Coronation Street

14:45 Murdoch Mysteries

18:20 Cook Me The Money

Coronation Street

Coronation Street

OM FIRST HD

COMEDY

04:30 The Tonight Show Starring

23:15 Cook Me The Money

15:00 Man Fire Food

Basics

07:00 Man Fire Food

The Kitchen

18:40 | Didn't Do Ít 19:05 First Class Chefs 19:30 Violetta 20:20 The Next Step 20:45 Good Luck Charlie

13:00 Young & Hungry 16:30 Til Death 21:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 22:00 Binny And The Ghost 18:30 The Goldbergs 19:00 Modern Family 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Teenage Witch 23:10 Wolfblood .limmy Fallon

21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry 22:30 You're The Worst 23:00 The Big C 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

05:30 Young & Hungry

07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

08:30 Young & Hungry 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring

06:00 Til Death

Jimmy Fallon

12:00 Til Death

OF FIRST HD

00:00 Defiance 01:00 Quantico 02:00 Rosewood 03:00 Allegiance 04:00 Switched At Birth The Ellen DeGeneres Show 05:00 06:00 White Collar 07:00 Switched At Birth

Witches Of East End 09:00 Quantico 10:00 White Collar Switched At Birth 12:00 Coronation Street 12:30 Coronation Street

The Ellen DeGeneres Show 14:00 Witches Of East End 15:00 Live Good Morning America The Ellen DeGeneres Show 18:00 Witches Of East End 19:00 Complications The Night Shift 20:00 22:00 Supergirl 23:00 Scream Queens

OJA FIRST

00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

01:00 Good Morning America 03:00 Downton Abbey 04:00 Blood & Oil Good Morning America 07:00 Coronation Street 07:30 Coronation Street The Ellen DeGeneres Show 09:00 Supernatural 10:00 Coronation Street Coronation Street 11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

12:00 Resurrection Shark Tank 14:00 Supernatural 15:00 Survivor: Cambodia The Voice 18:00 Shark Tank 19:00 Supernatural Resurrection 21:00 Shark Tank

22:00 Downton Abbey 23:00 Blood & Oil

**MOVIES ACTION** 

02:00 Maximum Risk 04:00 Falcon Rising 06:00 Superfast 08:00 The Outsider Star Trek

12:00 Justice League: Throne Of Atlantis 14:00 Jaws III 16:00 Stranded 18:00 The Outsider

20:00 Justice League: Throne Of 22:00 Max Payne

OM MOVIES HID

00:00 Maximum Risk-18 02:00 Falcon Rising-PG15 04:00 Superfast-PG15 06:00 The Outsider-PG15 07:45 Star Trek-PG15

10:00 Justice League: Throne Of Atlantis-PG15 12:00 Jaws III-PG15 14:00 Stranded-PG15 16:00 The Outsider-PG15 18:00 Justice League: Throne Of Atlantis-PG15

20:00 Max Payne-PG15 22:00 Ironclad: Battle For Blood-18 OM MOVIES HID

COMEDY 00:00 Fading Gigolo 02:00 Life Of Crime 04:00 Mr. Wonderfu 06:00 Simon Birch

08:00 Blues Brothers 2000 10:00 Mr. Wonderful **Tooth Fairy** 

14:00 Happy Gilmore 16:00 Blues Brothers 2000 18:00 The Devil Wears Prada 20:00 Stand Up Guys

**MOVIES** 

22:00 The Babymakers

DRAMA 01:00 The Melancholy Fantastic-PG15 03:00 What Maisie Knew-PG15 05:00 Foreverland-PG15 07:00 10 Years-PG15 09:00 Middle Of Nowhere-PG15 13:00 The Truth About Emanuel 15:00 Late Bloomers-PG15 17:00 Middle Of Nowhere-PG15 19:00 Blood-PG15 21:00 Foxcatcher-PG15 23:30 Fort Bliss-18

OM MOVIES HID

**FESTIVAL** 

01:00 Secret Window 03:00 Half Of A Yellow Sun 05:00 Jodorowsky's Dune 07:00 Rushmore 09:00 Lost Christmas 11:00 Jodorowsky's Dune 13:00 Half Of A Yellow Sun 15:00 The Man Who Would Be King 17:15 Lost Christmas 19:00 Short Term 12 21:00 A Civil Action 23:00 Mobius

OM MOVIES HID

00:45 Breakout-PG1502:30 Before I Go To Sleep-PG1504:15 HairBrained-PG15 06:00 Billy Elliot The Musical-PG15 09:00 Guardians Of The Galaxy 11:00 Divergent-PG15 13:30 Curve-PG15 15:00 Tinker Bell And The Legend Of The NeverBeast-FAM 16:30 Guardians Of The Galaxy 18:45 Unbroken-PG15 21:00 Believe-PG15

#### **MOVIES HD**

23:00 Neighbors-18

KIDS

01:00 Marco Macaco 02:45 Blue Elephant 2 04:30 Blackie And Kanuto 06:00 The Heart Of The Oak 07:45 Egon And Donci 09:45 True Story Of Puss'n Boots 11:15 Jungle Shuffle 12:45 Blue Elephant 2 14:30 Mamma Moo And Crow 16:00 Charlie And The Chocolate

18:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots 20:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie Mamma Moo And Crow 23:30 Charlie And The Chocolate

**MOVIES HD** 

**PREMIERE** 00:00 Police Story-PG15 02:00 Free Birds-PG 04:00 Beast Of The Bering Sea 06:00 A Stranger In Paradise-PG15 08:00 Ninja: Shadow Of A Tear 10:00 The Mistle-Tones-PG15

11:45 Need For Speed-PG15 14:00 Befriend And Betray-PG15 16:00 Ninia: Shadow Of A Tear 18:00 Next Goal Wins-PG 20:00 The Calling-PG15 22:00 A Haunted House-18

04:30 Man In The Moon 06:10 Island Of The Lost 07:40 Agent Cody Banks 09:20 Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London

11:00 Of Mice And Men 12:50 Pork Chop Hill 14:30 Clifford 16:00 Man In The Moon 17:40 Duplex 19:10 Of Mice And Men 21:00 The Believer

22:40 A Fish Called Wanda

00:25 Les Miserables (1998) 02:45 Life Of Sin 03:00 Killer Kids 04:00 Ms. Homicide

05:00 Born To Kill

09:00 Surveillance Oz 10:00 I Killed My BFF Crimes That Shook Britain 12:00 Crime Stories 13:00 Homicide Hunter

14:00 | Survived 15:00 | Killed My BFF 16:00 Crimes That Shook Britain Crime Stories 18:00 The First 48 19:00 | Survived 20:00 Homicide Hunter

06:00 | Survived

07:00 Crime Stories

Surveillance Oz

22:00 Crimes That Shook Britain 23:00 When Life Means Life 00:00 They Took Our Child, We Got

DISNED &

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 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

**NEIGHBORS ON OSN MOVIES HD** 22:50 Gummi Bears

08:00 Calimero 08:10 Zou 08:25 Loopdidoo 08:40 Jake And The Never Land **Pirates** 09:05 Sofia The First

ROGEN

FAMILY VS. FRAT

09:30 Miles From Tomorrow 09:55 The Hive 10:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 10:35 Doc McStuffins 11:00 Sofia The First 11:30 Jake And The Never Land

12:00 Miles From Tomorrow 12:25 Special Agent Oso 12:50 Handy Manny 13:15 Jungle Junction 13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

14:00 Sofia The First 14:25 Doc McStuffins 14:50 Henry Hugglemonster 15:15 Zou 15:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

15:55 Loopdidoo 16:10 Miles From Tomorrow16:35 Jake And The Never Land 17:00 Sofia The First 17:25 Jungle Cubs

17:50 Aladdin 18:15 Gummi Bears 18:40 Jake And The Never Land 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 Jungle Cubs 22:25 Aladdin

16:55 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything 17:25 K. C. Undercover 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 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

Penn Zero: Part Time Hero

07:25 K. C. Undercover 07:50 K. C. Undercover

08:15 Lab Rats

10:50 Boyster

08:40 Annedroids

09:10 Kirby Buckets

11:20 Boyster 11:45 Pair Of Kings

12:10 Pair Of Kings

12:35 Lab Rats

13:00 Lab Rats

14:20 Kickin' It

14:45 Kickin' It

16:30 Kirby Buckets

10:00 Rocket Monkeys 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man

Phineas And Ferb

13:55 Phineas And Ferb

15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse15:15 Rocket Monkeys

15:40 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero

16:05 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

21:20 Supa Strikas 21:45 Lab Rats 23:30 Boyster

22:10 Mighty Med 23:05 Super Matrak

17:50 Supa Strikas

18:40 Mighty Med

20:00 Kirby Buckets

Much Everything 20:55 K. C. Undercover

18:15 Lab Bats

00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am

19:10 Annedroids 19:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

20:25 Gamers Guide To Pretty

nickelodeon HD 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 Sanjay And Craig 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 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 14:36 100 Things To Do Before

High School 15:00 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants SpongeBob SquarePants 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 16:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 17:00 Sanjay And Craig

17:48 Breadwinners 18:12 Henry Danger 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School

19:24 Max & Shred 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 21:00 Breadwinners

21:24 Breadwinners 21:48 Sanjay And Craig 22:12 Sanjay And Craig

22:36 SpongeBob SquarePants SpongeBob SquarePants 23:24 Henry Danger

sundance

04:00 Rake

05:00 54 06:30 Bottled Up 08:00 Day In The Life: Samuel L. Jackson 08:20 Print The Legend

The Great Train Robbery 11:30 The Great Train Robbery 13:00 Barking Water

14:20 The Sunshine Boy 16:10 The Odds 17:40 Choking Man 19:00 Writers' Room

Barking Water 21:50 ATP: All Tomorrow's Parties



# CLASSIFIEDS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016





Kuwait Times

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

•		•	
SHARQIA-1		RIDE ALONG 2	1:15 AM
KUNG FU STYLE	1:00 PM		
KUNG FU STYLE	3:00 PM	FANAR-1	
FORECLOSURE	5:00 PM	DADDY'S HOME	11:30 AM
THE HATEFUL EIGHT	7:00 PM	DADDY'S HOME	1:30 PM
FORECLOSURE	10:15 PM	THE REVENANT	3:30 PM
THE HATEFUL EIGHT	12:15 AM	NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	3:30 PM
11121111121 02210111	1211371111	NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	6:30 PM
SHARQIA-2		NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	9:45 PM
THE 5TH WAVE	11:30 AM	DADDY'S HOME	1:00 AM
RIDE ALONG 2	1:45 PM	DA DO TOTAL	1.007.111
RIDE ALONG 2	3:45 PM	FANAR-2	
RIDE ALONG 2	5:30 PM	THE HATEFUL EIGHT	11:30 AM
THE 5TH WAVE	7:30 PM	FORECLOSURE	2:45 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	10:00 PM	THE HATEFUL EIGHT	4:30 PM
THE 5TH WAVE	12:05 AM	FORECLOSURE	7:45 PM
THE STIT WAVE	12.0371111	FORECLOSURE	9:45 PM
SHARQIA-3		THE HATEFUL EIGHT	11:45 PM
THE REVENANT	12:30 PM	THE TIME OF EIGHT	11.131111
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD	1:30 PM	FANAR-3	
THE REVENANT	3:30 PM	KUNG FU STYLE	12:15 PM
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	3:30 PM	KUNG FU STYLE	2:15 PM
THE REVENANT	6:30 PM	KUNG FU STYLE	4:15 PM
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	6:45 PM	THE REVENANT	6:15 PM
THE REVENANT	9:30 PM	THE REVENANT	9:15 PM
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	10:00 PM	THE REVENANT	12:15 AM
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD	12:30 AM	THENEVERANT	12.13 /11
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD	1:15 AM	FANAR-4	
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE BEAD	1.13 AW	RIDE ALONG 2	12:15 PM
MUHALAB-1		RIDE ALONG 2	2:15 PM
KUNG FU STYLE	1:00 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	4:15 PM
KUNG FU STYLE	3:00 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	6:15 PM
KUNG FU STYLE	5:00 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	8:15 PM
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	7:00 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	10:15 PM
DILWALE - Hindi	7:00 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	12:15 AM
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	10:15 PM	NIDE ALONG 2	12.13 AW
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD	1:30 AM	FANAR-5	
THE GOOD, THE BIND, AND THE BEND	1.507111	THE 5TH WAVE	11:30 AM
MUHALAB-2		THE 5TH WAVE	1:45 PM
THE 5TH WAVE	12:45 PM	THE 5TH WAVE	4:15 PM
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD	1:30 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	6:45 PM
THE REVENANT	3:30 PM	THE 5TH WAVE	9:45 PM
SOGGADE CHINNI NAYANA -Telugu	3:30 PM	THE 5TH WAVE	12:45 AM
THE REVENANT	6:30 PM	THE STIT WAVE	12.43 /11
SOGGADE CHINNI NAYANA -Telugu	6:30 PM	MARINA-1	
SOGGADE CHINNI NAYANA -Telugu	9:30 PM	FORECLOSURE	1:00 PM
3000ADE CHIINITIATANA Telaga	J.301 WI	THE 5TH WAVE	3:00 PM
MUHALAB-3		FORECLOSURE	5:30 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	11:30 AM	THE 5TH WAVE	7:30 PM
THE REVENANT	1:30 PM	FORECLOSURE	10:00 PM
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	1:30 PM	THE 5TH WAVE	12:05 AM
THE REVENANT	4:30 PM	11 to 2 11 1 17 18 to	. 2.05 / 1111
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	4:45 PM	MARINA-2	
RIDE ALONG 2	8:00 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	12:45 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	9:45 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	2:45 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	11:30 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	4:45 PM
1110271201132		110271201102	

Leading Company for Security System & Equipment Required a

#### Sales Representative

Job Requirements

- Similar experience.
- Fluent English (Reading & Writing).
- Transferable Visa.
- Valid driver license.

Applications to be send to fax: 22455779
or by e-mail:
kuwaitjob19@yahoo.com

Departure Flights on Tuesday 19/1/2016

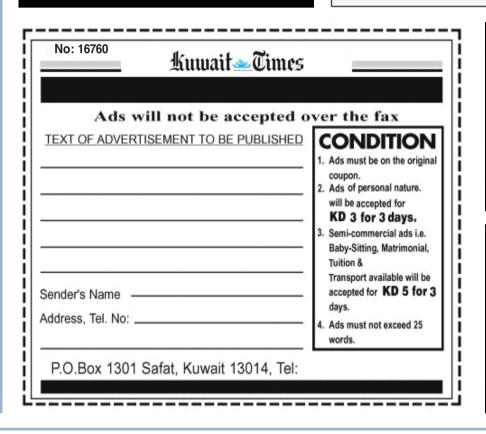
A leading Trading and Contracting Company has vacancy for the following post:

#### **Sales Engineer**

- Candidates with 3-5 years sales experience in Oil & Gas sector.
- Must be well aware of Kuwait construction
- and Oil sector.
- Fluent in English, Arabic will add value.
- Fruent in English, Arabic will add value.
   Excellent communication & negotiation skills.
- Self motivated and able to convince, drive, challenge, sell and explain the company's products/services.
- Valid Kuwait driving license required.
- Must hold transferable residency.
   Attractive salary package plus excellent growth potential guaranteed.

Interested candidates can forward their CV to: hrkwt12@gmail.com

Candidates who can join immediately will be preferred.



# FOR RENT

For rent new high end apartment 2B + 2B + kitchen, living room.

Behind 4th Ring Road (Maidan Hawally)

Tel: 65797760

### FOR RENT

South Surra Al Zahra

4 bedrooms, 3 baths + maid room with bath, big living

99679188

14:15



Arrival Flights on Tuesday 19/1/2016

### Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

# In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

П		Arri	val Flights on Tuesday 19/1/2016		KAC	6/2	Dubai	14:45		Depai	rture Flights on Tuesday 19/1/2016		UAE	8/2	Dubai	14:15
П	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	284	Dhaka	14:45	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	JZR	324	Al Najaf	14:25
П	BBC	143	Dhaka	00:05	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50		976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:55
П																
П	MSC	415	Sohag	00:05	GFA	221	Bahrain	15:00	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
П	KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	KNE	472	Jeddah	15:05	MSC	404	Asyut	00:55	FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
П											•					
П	JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	OMA	645	Muscat	15:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
П	JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	NIA	251	Alexandria	15:30	MSC	416	Sohag	01:00	FBA	832	Al Najaf	15:15
П	FDB		Dubai	00:55	KAC	562	Amman	15:40	BBC	143	Chittagong/Dhaka	01:35	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:20
П											3 3					
П	THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:45	KLM	411	Amsterdam	01:35	KAC	617	Doha	15:45
П	DLH	635	Doha	01:35	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	KAC	283	Dhaka	02:10	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
П																
П	ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	JAD	301	Amman	15:55		773	Istanbul	02:30	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:45
П	PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35	KAC	613	Bahrain	15:50
	UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:30		621	Addis Ababa	02:45	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:50
															•	
	GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:40	KAC	381	Delhi	03:30	KAC	741	Dammam	15:55
	OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	KNE	473	Jeddah	16:05
	FDB	067		03:05	KAC	542	Cairo	16:55		859	Istanbul	03:55	JZR	554	Alexandria	16:10
П			Dubai													
П	RJA	644	Amman	03:05	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:25
П	MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:30
П																
П	QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:45	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:30
П	KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	MSR	614	Cairo	17:50	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15	JAD	302	Amman	16:40
П	ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	JZR	325	Al Najaf	17:50	KKK	6508	Istanbul	04:20	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
П							•									
П	PGT	5620	Istanbul	04:35	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:55	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00	JZR	238	Amman	17:30
П	THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	KAC	502	Beirut	18:00	THY	765	Istanbul	05:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	17:30
П																
П	DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00		560	Sohag	06:10	FDB	052	Dubai	17:35
П	THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	FDB	063	Dubai	18:05	PGT	5621	Istanbul	06:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
П	FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
П																
П	BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	680	Muscat	18:25	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	06:35	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
П	PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:55	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:30	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
П	KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	07:15	ABY	123	Sharjah	18:45		645	Amman	07:05	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
П																
П	KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	QTR	1080	Doha	18:55	THY	771	Istanbul	07:05	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
П	QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	KAC	742	Dammam	19:05	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
П	-															
П	FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	MSR	615	Cairo	18:50
П	SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	KAC	774	Riyadh	19:25	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:10
П	KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	166	Paris/Rome	19:30	QTR	1087	Doha	08:40	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
П																
П	OMA	641	Muscat	08:00	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	BAW	156	London	08:45	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:25
П	KAC	354	BLR	08:15	KAC	618	Doha	19:35	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
П					KAC					642	•		GFA			
П	KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25		104	London	19:40			Muscat	08:55		218	Bahrain	20:15
П	KAC	352	Kochi	08:30	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25	KAC	361	Colombo	20:45
П	UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:05	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	QTR	1081	Doha	20:50
П																
П	KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50	FDB	061	Dubai	20:20		513	Tehran	09:45	KAC	351	Kochi	20:50
П	KAC	362	Colombo	08:50	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	KAC	101	London/New York	09:55	KAC	343	Chennai	21:00
П	ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50	KAC	541	Cairo	09:55	MSR	607	Luxor	21:05
П			•													
	ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:55	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55	KAC	331	Trivandrum	21:10
	QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55	KAC	561	Amman	10:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
	FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	QTR	1088	Doha	21:00		671	Dubai	10:05	FDB	062	Dubai	21:20
	IRC	6507	Shiraz	10:30	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25	DLH	634	Doha	21:45
	GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	KAC	501	Beirut	10:30	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
	IRA	675		10:40	ALK	229		21:25		056	Dubai	10:35	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
			Lar													
П	UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:00	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
	RBG	553	Alexandria	11:15	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	QTR	1071	Doha	11:00	QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
П																
П	JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	11:25	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:10
П	MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
П	FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KLM	415	Amsterdam	22:05	IRC	6508	Shiraz	11:30	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
П																
П	MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	IRA	674	Lar	11:40	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
	JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:25	RBG	554	Alexandria	11:55	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
	UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	FDB	059	Dubai	22:30	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
	MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	PIA	239	Sialkot	22:35	UAE	874	Dubai	12:30	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	23:00
	KAC	382	Delhi	13:50	JZR	239	Amman	23:05	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55	QTR	1083	Doha	23:05
	FBA	831	Al Najaf	14:05	JZR	185		23:15	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00	KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	JZR	555	Alexandria	23:25	KAC	679	Muscat	13:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:10
	FDB	057	Dubai	14:10	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:15
	KAC	514	Tehran	14:10	THY	764	Istanbul	23:50	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30	FDB	060	Dubai	23:35
	AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:20	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:55	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45	PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	MSC	403	Asyut	23:55	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:35
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#### CROSSWORD 1142

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85	$\top$			86	$\top$		$\top$			$\top$	$\top$		87		

- 1. The state of matter distinguished from the solid and liquid states by.
- 4. An imaginary place of great wealth and opportunity.
- 12. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
- 15. A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri
- rivers in Nebraska. 16. The act of removing the contents of some
- 17. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated mate-
- 18. (Sumerian) Sun god. 19. A person who holds a commissioned rank
- in the United States Navy or Coast Guard. 20. A religious doctrine that is proclaimed as true without proof.
- 22. Rock that in its molten form (as magma) issues from volcanos.
- 24. Smeared thickly. 26. Marked by the reception of pay.
- 27. A small amount of residue.
- 28. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was
- formed by an explosion. 29. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the
- alkali metal group. 30. A colorless odorless gaseous element that
- give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
- 32. Increased pressure in the eyeball due to obstruction of the outflow of aqueous humor. 37. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the
- unconscious. 40. A gray lustrous metallic element of the
- rare earth group. 42. A bachelor's degree in science.
- 43. Cleaning implement consisting of absorbent material fastened to a handle.
- 44. The unit of measurement for the proportion of gold in an alloy.
- 45. A person who is rejected (from society or 48. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square
- 49. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can
- solve problems creatively. 51. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- 53. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 55. The formation of frost or ice on a surface. 56. A river that rises in central Germany and
- flows north to join the Elbe River. 57. A public promotion of some product or
- service. 58. A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.
- 60. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring
- on the sea or ships.
- 62. (Akkadian) God of wisdom. 64. (informal) Of the highest quality.
- 66. Set down according to a plan.
- 69. The brightest star in the sky. 73. Bottle that has a narrow neck
- 76. United States prizefighter who lost his world heavyweight championship to Cassius Clay in 1964 (1932-1970).
- 77. A unit of elastance equal to the reciprocal of a farad.
- 80. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control
- using precision approach radar.
- 81. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
- 82. Of or relating to or characteristic of Bahrain or its people or language. 84. A barrier constructed to contain the flow
- or water or to keep out the sea.
- 85. Slightly insane.

86. An additional tax on certain kinds of income that has already been taxed. 87. A loose sleeveless outer garment made

from aba cloth.

#### DOWN

- 1. United States paleontologist and popularizer of science (born in 1941).
- 2. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers. 3. Something of sentimental value.
- 4. (Old Testament) Adam's wife in Judeo-Christian mythology.
- 5. The capital and largest city of England.
- 6. Any orchid of the genus Disa. 7. State of disgrace resulting from detestable
- behavior.
- 8. A motley assortment of things. 9. Anneal or toughen by a process of gradual-
- ly heating and cooling. 10. The district occupied entirely by the city of
- Washington. 11. An unabridged dictionary constructed on
- historical principles. 12. The capital and largest city of Mongolia.
- 13. The language of the nomadic Lapp people
- in northern Scandinavia and the Kola Peninsula. 14. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- 21. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the
- sale of petroleum. 23. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- 25. Any of numerous low-growing cushionforming plants of the genus Draba having
- rosette-forming leaves and terminal racemes of small flowers with scapose or leafy stems. 31. Surpassing what is common or usual or expected.
- 33. Goddess of dawn. 34. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE
- Nebraska. 35. A state of individual psychological wellbeing based upon a sense of confidence and
- usefulness and purpose. 36. South American cavy. 38. Submerged aquatic plant having narrow
- leaves and small flowers. 39. A highly unstable radioactive element (the
- heaviest of the halogen series).
- 41. (New Testament) The sages who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born.
- 46. A liquid preparation used on wet hair to it a tint.
- 47. English prelate noted for his pessimistic sermons and articles (1860-1954).
- 50. A heavy brittle diamagnetic trivalent metallic element (resembles arsenic and antimony chemically). 52. Of or relating to a speaker of the Tamil lan-
- guage or the language itself. 54. Declare or acknowledge to be true.
- 59. English writer of macabre short stories (1863-1943).
- 61. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- 63. Take back what one has said. 65. A small unit serving as the nucleus of a
- larger political movement. 67. A linguistic element added to a word to
- produce an inflected or derived form v 1.
- 68. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann. 70. A river in northern England that flows
- southeast through West Yorkshire. 71. Relatively small fast-moving sloth. 72. A native or inhabitant of Great Britain.
- 74. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- 75. God of love and erotic desire.
- 78. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 79. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods. 83. A unit of power equal to 746 watts.

#### Yesterday's Solution

W	R	Y		С	A	P	S	U	L	Е		D	A	R	I
Н	I	Е		U	N	Α	I	R	Е	D		Α	В	Е	L
Α	G	Α		T	U	N	N	Α	G	Е		M	I	N	Е
M	Α	Н	О	Е		Α	F	L		M	Α	Α	L	О	X
			P		D	M	U	S		Α	L	G	Α		
F	R	Е	Е	T	Α	I	L				С	Е		С	T
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L	Α	N		K	I		С		Е	В	О	N	I	С	S
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С	Α		Α	N	Α	S		S	R		Е	M	Е	Е	R
		В	Е	S	Е	T		T	Е	R	С	Е			
О	В	Е	Α	Н			Н	Е	В	Е		L	Α	M	Α
В	Α	Α		Α	T	Н	Е	R	О	M	Α		С	Α	D
О	Α	R		S	P	Α	R	Е	R	I	В		M	F	Α
Е	L	D		A	N	0	D	0	N	T	A		Е	A	R

#### STAR TRACK

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

A busy day at work brings about plenty of opportunities to make mistakes, be slowed by interruptions and have difficult communications. Your positive attitude and focus creates a most successful day, from which others could learn. It is moneymaking time and you should see results from your hard work. You could feel great support from the people around you for whatever you want to accomplish now. You enjoy an enticing meal and a finely set table for your meals-consider low-fat, smaller meals. Place a few orange slices beside half of a baked chicken and a few string beans, a salad and you will have a gourmet meal! We are talking healthy and beautiful now, you are on the right track; stay creative.



#### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You have a great deal of compassion for others and you are valued for your ability to act and get things done. This is a time when you can expect a little encouragement. Whatever support you need will be available to you, when you need it. There is a feeling that anything is possible if you set your sights high enough. This afternoon it is time to convene with nature. When you leave work you might enjoy visiting a pet or nature store-perhaps meeting with someone in your family to shop and enjoy each other's company. You make every effort to be with each person in your family-young or not. Family is very important to you and you teach that to the other members. Close relationships offer a potential for growth.



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

You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing, but realities may demand that you tend to business and forget your friends for the moment. You have practical ideas and you are able to lend a helping hand when someone needs it. You may receive some recognition or special attention regarding your particular skills and abilities in the workplace today. This is a great time to reflect and understand your  $own\ situation, just\ how\ you\ feel\ about\ yourself.\ Emotions\ in\ particular, or\ the\ feelings\ of$ those around you, may be very clear. You could be helping children through a puppet or mime class this afternoon. This evening there are new and unusual ways of appreciating and loving. You may discover something new about love.



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

Someone you helped yesterday may be helping you today. Communicating and getting your message across to others is at a high just now. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you most natural and receptive. This is a time of good fortune when things open up in a very positive way. Situations are almost custom-made and it is easy to see how to proceed with your plans. There are plenty of opportunities where choices of expression are concerned-you may find yourself able to do almost anything. You may enjoy probing into your own psyche. Learning tools that make communication easier are fascinating.



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

You should be enjoying some lifestyle changes at this time. You have a unique way of dressing and others are supportive and fascinated by your ability to coordinate colors and patterns that would not otherwise have been considered. You enjoy where you are in your life at this time and you look forward to new and better, always improving and growing. You work hard to be self-sufficient and to have self-sufficient kids. It is important to you that they have good judgment. There is a relationship you have with an older person that is like a mentor relationship-open your mind to hearing what is being said to you.



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

You may find co-workers and friends understand your position or situation and they are supportive of your efforts at this time. There is optimism as well as a tendency to take chances towards gaining new work opportunities. If you are actively working on your life's progress now, you will see some positive results. Stay in the moment and do not worry about things you cannot control. The preparations you have been making for your future are about to pay off now. Observe people today, imagine them in different situations and try not to laugh. You may find yourself being put to good use by your friends this afternoon. Rent a comedy video this evening and take some time with your loved one or even by yourself, to refurbish your energies.

#### WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

#### Weather

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional weather word.

F	0	R	E	С	Α	S	Т	Υ	W	F	0	G	R	Т	0	
D	Р	С	W	Ν	Т	R	Т	1	Ν	V	Т	E	В	Н	D	
R	-	Т	Н	0	Т	E	Ν	Н	Е	Ν	Т	S	L	E	Α	
1	S	Н	G	0	Ν	D	Μ	R	U	E	U	F	-	R	Ν	
Z	U	G	Ν	Н	Υ	S	С	Р	Μ	Ν	Α	S	Ζ	М	R	
Z	1	U	1	Ρ	E	Α	Н	0	Е	Н	D	С	Ζ	0	0	
L	S	0	Ν	Υ	S	-1	R	U	R	R	1	E	Α	М	Т	
Е	L	R	Т	Т	R	Α	E	E	М	М	Α	L	R	Е	Ρ	
1	Е	D	Н	S	В	U	Ν	Ν	Α	1	L	Т	D	Т	F	
Е	С	0	G	R	0	Н	0	Ν	Α	Α	D	1	U	Е	R	
Ν	0	0	1	Α	Е	R	U	Ρ	U	С	М	1	Α	R	Е	
0	L	L	L	-	Т	S	F	Q	Ν	Т	1	R	Т	Н	E	
L	D	F	Т	Ν	Т	Α	S	Н	0	W	E	R	0	Υ	Ζ	
С	Υ	Т	1	L	1	В	1	s	1	V	0	E	R	Т	E	
Υ	Т	1	Μ	0	Ν	S	0	0	Ν	0	Ν	D	L	U	S	
0	0	1	0	1.1	П	6		- 1	В	В	1.1	1		6	ш	

CCLOUDSEIRRULFSH BAROMETER FLOOD ICE BLIZZARD **FLURRIES CELSIUS** CLOUDS FORECAST COLD FREEZE

FROST

HUMIDITY

HURRICANE

HAIL

HOT

CYCLONE

DRIZZLE

DROUGHT

DOWNPOUR

FAHRENHEIT

LIGHTNING MONSOON OVERCAST RAIN SHOWER SLEET SNOW SQUALL

THERMOMETER THUNDER TORNADO TSUNAMI TYPHOON VISIBILITY

TEMPERATURE

hard

STORM

SUNNY

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

There is something that you may suspect is worth checking out in the work world. This could mean a new way to invest or ideas for a presentation. Some of your work classification could be changed now. Your drive to succeed is strong. You can feel the trends of the times and you will make the right moves to improve your finances as well. This is a time to get ahead by taking action. Everything comes about to reveal you at your most elegant, particularly in social situations. Turn a negative situation into a positive one by helping another with little chores and distancing your emotions. There is a chance to understand those around you and to have a special time with someone you love. You will have an opportunity to renew a friendship very soon.



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

Business or career projects may need adjustments now. With so many things on your mind just now, it may be hard to concentrate on routine matters. However, this is where your accomplishments are today: concentration and continuing your routine. To get the best results in financial affairs you need to be less concerned about security and more willing to take risks. Never would anyone be wise to suggest gambling. Your instincts are strong-you know just what to do. High-tech equipment impinges on the domestic environment. An eccentric relative attracts some attention and you prove helpful. Later this evening you may decide to enjoy some relaxing entertainment; movies,



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

books or any other healthy form of escape could prove enjoyable.

Intuition hits again today and you can log your thoughts in that notebook of yours. Your talents or the way in which you perform your work will pay off well at this time. You will have authority figures watching as you successfully deal with problems at work. An urge for social interactions with your friends may have to be put on hold just now as you are much more intensely focused on accomplishing a particular goal. You may find yourself working into the early evening hours. You certainly will not be bored with any part of the day and there are plenty of opportunities to use your mind and your creativity. There is time for you and a loved one to break away for a little relaxation, perhaps to enjoy an evening at a new restaurant.



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

Temporary obstacles appear this morning. However, you have a lot of optimism to see yourself through most situations. You are willing to put a great deal of effort into a work project and you are creative in your ability to find quick results. Your creative mind allows you to excel in the most interesting areas of science. With a couple of accomplishments, you gain respect from the people with whom you work. You will work now on reducing your debts. Being able to provide monetary relief from unplanned financial situations decreases the stress level. A family, living debt-free, is never faced with the fear of the consequences that come from being in debt during thin times.

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

Your schedule presents a lot of motivation to get everything scheduled and organized. Someone may ask if you need help and you are flattered. The routine you move through each day works well but does not seem to be a fast as it could be. You may promise yourself to chart out a new plan on paper to see how the steps will work. You are excited by new concepts, inventions and ideas. Today you will gain some insight that will help you in your work. A co-worker may call you later this afternoon and tell you of a change in thinking; you see a positive outcome. A lover or child who is bright and articulate plays a bigger role in your life. You may be teaching this person how to investigate, to research or to expand on his or her own personal talents.

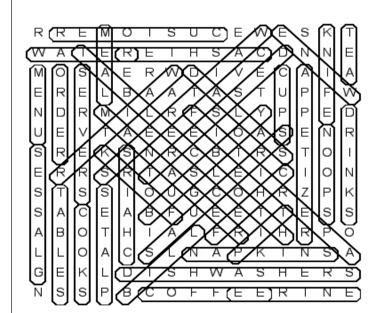


#### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are the one to catch any mistakes today at work and there may be a few. If you have doubts about calculations-go back and check it out when you can; perhaps crosscheck with someone. This is a great time to be with others and to work together. You may be sought after as just the person for a particular job. Your business expertise is in high focus. You could be most persuasive with others and persuasive in your communications. Your involvement in a neighborhood activity proves successful. Instead of allowing others to dump all the work on your back today, you seem to have learned to allocate the jobs to others. Good for you! A young person becomes independent this evening. This is the direction of your goals, now let go!

#### Yesterday's Solution

## Restaurant



**APERITIF** APPETIZER BILL BUSBOY CASHIER CHAIRS CHEF COFFEE

COOKS

**CUPS** CUSTOMER DESSERT DISHWASHERS DRINKS ENTREE FORK GLASSES

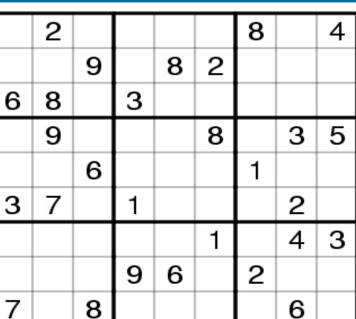
KNIFE

MANAGER SPOON MEAL MENU NAPKINS ORDER PLATES SALAD SAUCERS SERVERS

TABLECLOTH **TABLES** TEA TIP WAITER WAITRESS WATER WINE

The hidden word is: RESERVATION

#### **Daily SuDoku**



#### Yesterday's Solution



very hard







# Kuwaiti experience highlighted in Boumedjeria's maiden book

By Hassan Abdel Bari

pending only a year in Kuwait to study Arabic at Kuwait University's language center, French activist and writer of Algerian origin Farida Boumedjeria seems to have had such a wonderful experience, that she keeps remembering it and even highlighted this experience in her first book published in Paris - Lignes De Foi, Lignes Devie (Lines of Faith, Lines of Life).



The title of her book resonates like an echo coming from the deepest part of her soul, mainly because she is a woman, but also as her work reveals a testimony and a narrative with particular tendencies. She uses both the genre of autobiography and the makeup of stories inspired by real facts in order to direct attention to the ills of society. In her own way, Boumedjeria proclaims her fight against indifference and in favor of "better living together" against the confusion that is increasingly worrying the Muslim community, namely regarding topics that involve headscarves and

Islamophobia. Throughout the pages of her book, she welcomes her readers into a religious journey, filled with astonishing and moving memories that she recalls. All the energy she puts into her fight against negative ideas is felt, as she draws from her divine nectar, precious treasure and endless sources. She speaks about her fervor and prayers to God with modesty, but also with openness regarding the events in her life, her feelings, her studies, her trip to Kuwait to learn literary Arabic and her wonderful meeting with Fatima.

#### Original style

The author reveals her personality and explains, as a coach, why learning can occur at any age, and why we should never give up or lose hope. This book was conceived as a guide for good practices and written in an original style, as a source of inspiration for those who would like to focus on the way they should live their lives. Racism often stems from ignorance, prejudice and stereotypes, since we humans fear differences. We defend ourselves by resorting to distrust or even brutality against other human beings whose appearance, tradition, culture or religion do not match ours. Seeing today's difficult context, it is important to encourage goodwill regarding actions, to actively participate in the structure of a human society, of a multicultural France where communication is possible and essential.

Boumedjeria's strong temperament enables her to express her indignation, but also her joys, thanks to the tip of her pen and the buttons of her keyboard. Indeed, Boumedjeria writes a lot! In her own way, she proclaims her fight against indifference and in favor of "better living together". While the strength that leads her and the conviction and faith to which she holds are part of her inspiration, the ink of her thoughts is as brilliant as the timeless spaces where the divine spirit reigns, as luminous as the Kuwaiti landscapes that dazzled her, that are as pure as the sand of the desert where little princes meet.





#### **Anti-Muslim acts**

"The situation has become dramatic in France, as anti-Muslim acts are now increasing throughout the planet as if we are responsible for all human tragedies", Boumedjeria told Kuwait Times, noting that no one should be held responsible for the actions of others and that some French citizens do not make any distinction between the majority of Muslim believers, who hold a humanist message and respect cohabitation with other beliefs, and the violent practices of a minority of adherents. She allocates a considerable proportion of her book to counter the Islamophobia prevailing in France as well as throughout Europe and the world.

On the other hand, Boumedjeria highly appreciated her stay in Kuwait, and in her book, describes the trip as "wonderful" due to "warm welcome of Kuwaitis, the serenity, the diversity and the tolerance of this magnificent country". She even added a full section at the end of the book with photos showing her cultural participations in Kuwait. During her stay in Kuwait as a KU student, she took part in two international events bringing together students from various countries worldwide.

Boumedjeria also notes that her Charity organization, Acreamana, organized two events with KU's petroleum engineering students at Khaldiya campus and at KU's women campus in Kaifan in 2012. Boumedjeria's fascination with Kuwait is very clear in the preface dedicated to KU's language center's acting director Ibrahim Nasser, language teachers Khaled Al-Fadhli and Yagoub. The dedication also shows gratitude to the Kuwaiti government for hosting her and sending her for umrah. She thanked the Embassy of France in Kuwait and many of her friends at KU's female dormitory in Kaifan. In conclusion, Boumedjeria stressed that she intends to translate her book into both Arabic and English in order to allow more Arabic (namely Kuwaiti) and non-Arabic readers to benefit

# Penn tells '60 Minutes' he was 'Stunned' by El Chapo Meeting

illions of people were surprised that actor Sean Penn was able to meet with escaped Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman for an article that would make its way into the pages of Rolling Stone. Sean Penn was one of them. In an interview with CBS News anchor Charlie Rose on "60 Minutes" Sunday evening, the actor told Rose that he assumed Mexican officials were aware of what he was doing, and that the meeting was indeed a risk for Guzman as well as himself. "I was- I was stunned- that- that- that he wwould risk- our trip. I was stunned," Penn said in the interview, according to a transcript provided by CBS News. "I was baffled by his will to see us," Penn added later on in the talk.

Guzman was free after escaping one of Mexico's most secure prisons last July, making Penn's visit to see him exceedingly dangerous, and, some have charged, something that skirts the borders of journalist ethics. Among the reactions to the Rolling Stone article, published online January 9, were questions over whether Penn should have pressed for more answers regarding Guzman's many crimes and the effects his distribution of narcotics had on those who bought them.



In this file photo, Sean Penn arrives at the 5th Annual Sean Penn & Friends HELP HAITI HOME Gala Benefiting at the Montage Hotel on in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP

But the actor rebuked the notion that he did not press Guzman harder on his transgressions. "I think the policy of the war on drugs, which so deeply affects all of our lives, seems not to change. It seems to be so unmovable. And it occurs to me that often, because we want to simplify the problem, and we want to look at a black hat and put our resources into focusing on the bad guy and na- and- and- and I understand that. I absolutely understand justice and- and the rule of law," Penn said.

"And so I do what I call experiential journalism. I don't have to be the one that reports on the alleged murders or the amount of narcotics that are brought in. I go and I spend time in the company of another human being, which everyone is. And I make an observation and try to parallel that, try to balance that with the focus that we- that I believe we- we tend to put too much emphasis on."

#### Illuminate discussion

The actor, known for his roles in such film as "Fast Times at Ridgemont High," "Mystic River," "Milk" and "Dead Man Walking," acknowledged he gained access to "El Chapo" under the condition

article if he didn't like what was written about him. "What was brokered for me to have the interview with El Chapo was that I would- finish the article, send it to him, and if he said no, then that was no harm, no foul to any reader," Penn said. Penn believes he failed to accomplish his goals, which was to talk about the US government's was on drugs. "We all want this drug problem to stop.

that the escaped convict would be able to kill the

And if you are in the moral right, or on the far left, just as many of your children are doing these drugs, just as many of your brothers and sisters, your mothers and fathers, the teachers at school, are doing these drugs. Just as many,:" he said. "And how much time have they spent in the last week since this article come (SIC) out, talking about that? 1- 1%? I think that'd be generous." Even so, Penn said he has no regrets about his actions, and was simply trying to offer readers a look at a hard-to-reach figure in order to illuminate discussion around a heated issue. "I'm really sad about the state of journalism in our country," he told Rose. "It has been an incredible hypocrisy and an incredible- lesson in just how much they don't know and how disserved we are." — Reuters



The new album of David Bowie is on display at a record shop in London, Monday, Jan 11, 2016. —AP

# Bowie's 'Blackstar' debuts at No 1, his first chart-topper

avid Bowie's last album, "Blackstar," debuted number one on the Billboard charts, the first chart-topper for the late musician. Since it was released two days before Bowie died of cancer on Jan 10, "Blackstar" has sold 174,000 copies, according to Nielsen Music. It's the best sales week for Bowie since Nielsen began electronically tracking music purchases in 1991.

Bowie dislodged the previous No 1, Adele's "25," which slipped to No 2 after seven weeks on top. The 2002 compilation "Best of Bowie" also rocketed up the charts to No 4 with 94,000 units sold. Altogether, 10 Bowie albums landed on the Billboard 200, which measures sales and streams. The 1972 classic "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars" rose to No 21.— AP

# 'High School Musical' stars reunite for 10th anniversary

The stars of "High School Musical" are reuniting for a 10th-anniversary tribute to the TV movie. Actors Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Tisdale, Lucas Grabeel, Corbin Bleu and Monique Coleman share memories of the movie when it airs again at 8 pm EST tomorrow on the Disney Channel. Zac Efron, who played Troy opposite Hudgens' Gabriella, couldn't attend the pre-taped group reunion because it conflicted with promotion of his movie "Dirty Grandpa," a channel spokeswoman said. Efron recorded separate remarks that will be included in the broadcast.

The "High School Musical" reprise comes during a wave of TV musical popularity. NBC has aired a series of live musicals and is aiming to put "Hairspray" on in December, while Fox is showing a live production of "Grease" on Jan. 31 and ABC has plans for a "Dirty Dancing" TV movie. The Disney movie and its sequel, "High School Musical 2," will be repeated on Thursday and on Sunday, Jan 24, on Disney Channel. The Freeform cable channel will show "High School Musical" on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 23 and 24. — AP





Steve Golin, left, and the cast and crew of "Spotlight" accept the award for best picture at the 21st annual Critics' Choice Awards. — AP photos



From left, Courtney Eaton, Riley Keough, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, and Zoe Kravitz accept the award for best director on behalf of George Miller for "Mad Max: Fury Road".

# 'Spotlight,' DiCaprio, Larson win at Critics' Choice Awards



Amy Schumer accepts the Critics' Choice Alicia Vikander accepts the award for best MVP award.

investigative journalism drama "Spotlight" won the top prize at the Critics' Choice Awards on Sunday, while awards favorites Brie Larson and Leonardo DiCaprio won the top acting prizes for "Room" and "The Revenant." Both actors won Golden Globe Awards and are considered front-runners for the Academy Awards, too.

"Mad Max: Fury Road" was the most nominated film of the evening with 13 nominations from the Broadcast Film Critics' Association. While it lost out for the top prize, it did win a number of awards, including Best Director for George Miller, best action movie, and best action movie actor and actress for Tom Hardy and Charlize Theron.

The financial crisis dramedy "The Big Short," meanwhile, won for best comedy and best comedic actor for star Christian Bale, who kissed both his wife and director Adam McKay on his way up to the stage to accept his award. Both were up for best picture Oscar heavyweights like "Spotlight," "The Revenant" and "The Martian," as well as "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," which was added after initial nominees were announced and went home empty handed on Sunday.



supporting actress for "The Danish Girl".

"Star Wars" director JJ Abrams was in attendance to present the Genius Award to Industrial Light & Magic, which Chief Creative Officer John Knoll accepted. But it was "Spotlight's" night in the end. The film also picked up Best Acting Ensemble, winning out over films like "Straight Outta Compton" and "The Hateful Eight." It was the only award that N.W.A biopic "Straight Outta Compton" was up for at the show, but the film was on everyone's minds on the blue carpet and in the early moments of the evening after it received only one Academy Award nomination

#### Lack of diversity

"They got snubbed, but there are lots of other great films that got snubbed as well," said Neil Brown Jr before the show began. Brown Jr played DJ Yella in the film which has picked up its share Guild nominations this season. "Just everybody talking about it is enough of an Oscar for us," he added. The lack of diversity this awards season came into focus on Thursday when there were once again no actors of color among the Academy Awards nominees. On Saturday, Jada



Anthony Anderson joked early on about the lack

pating in the Oscars altogether.

Bradley James, left, holds the microphone for Jacob Tremblay as he accepts the award for best young actor/actress for "Room".

the Critics' Choice go on to win the Academy Award," said Anderson when presenting an early award with co-star Tracee Ellis Ross. "For you, Tracy, that means only half of you gets to go to the awards." While Anderson was joking about Ross's mixed race background, the Critics' Choice Awards winners do often reflect who will go on to win the Oscar, making the ceremony an interesting barometer for the season as everyone gears up for the Guild Awards and, eventually, the Oscars on Feb 28.





The Critics' Choice Awards do get stars to turn

Stallone forgot to thank his co-star and director

during the televised portion of the evening and

was harshly criticized for the oversight. He has

since apologized for the mistake. Alicia Vikande

won best supporting actress for "The Danish Girl" and also accepted the best sci-fi film award for



Christian Bale accepts the award for best actor in a comedy for "The Big Short".

up winning anything. This year some of the big winners of the evening failed to come out, though, like Brie Larson, who is shooting "Kong: Skull Island" in Hawaii, and Leonardo DiCaprio, who is promoting "The Revenant" in Europe. DiCaprio accepted his award via a pre-taped speech. This is the first year the Critics' Choice Awards has combined movies and television nominees into one ceremony, similar to the Golden Globes.

#### Irreverence and sincerity

Big television winners in the acting categories include Jeffrey Tambor for "Transparent," Idris Elba for "Luther, and Rachel Bloom for "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend." "Fargo" won for best limited series and earned Kirsten Dunst a best actress in a limited series award too. Aziz Ansari's "Master of None" won for best comedy series, while "Mr Robot" picked up the best dramatic series award, as well as best actor for Rami Malek and best supporting actor for Christian Slater. Host TJ Miller, who stars on the HBO show "Silicon Valley" hosted the show, which straddles a delicate line of irreverence and sincerity. It's not quite the Golden Globes, but it's not of the Academy's caliber just yet.

"Celebrities, don't worry. I'm not going to Ricky Gervais this thing," Miller said at the beginning of the show. "Trainwreck" director Judd Apatow wasn't afraid to let his true feelings shine through, though.

When presenting the previously announced MVP award to "Trainwreck" star and writer Amy Schumer, he joked that the only way to get her there was to make up an award just for her. "Somebody already told us we lost best comedy to 'Carol," Apatow laughed. "Trainwreck" did lose best comedy in the end - not to "Carol," but to "The Big Short." Schumer, however, did win for best actress in a comedy. — AP



Josh Singer poses in the press room with the award for original screenplay for "Spotlight," which he accepted on behalf of himself and Tom McCarthy.

#### Winners List

**BEST PICTURE:** "Spotlight" **ACTOR:** Leonardo DiCaprio - The Revenant ACTRESS: Brie Larson - Room **DIRECTOR:** George Miller - Mad Max: Fury Road **COMEDY:** The Big Short **ACTOR IN A COMEDY:** Christian Bale - The Big Short

**ACTRESS IN A COMEDY:** Amy Schumer - Trainwreck **SUPPORTING ACTRESS:** Alicia Vikander - The Danish Girl **SUPPORTING ACTOR:** Sylvester Stallone - Creed ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY: Josh Singer and Tom McCarthy - Spotlight

ADAPTED SCREENPLAY: Charles Randolph and Adam McKay - The

**ACTING ENSEMBLE: Spotlight** YOUNG ACTOR/ACTRESS: Jacob Tremblay - Room SCI-FI/HORROR MOVIE: Ex Machina **ACTION MOVIE:** Mad Max: Fury Road

**ANIMATED FEATURE:** Inside Out **ACTOR IN AN ACTION MOVIE:** Tom Hardy - Mad Max: **Fury Road** ACTRESS IN AN ACTION MOVIE: Charlize Theron - Mad

Max: Fury Road CINEMATOGRAPHY: The Revenant - Emmanuel Lubezki **PRODUCTION DESIGN:** Mad Max: Fury Road - Colin

Gibson **EDITING:** Mad Max: Fury Road - Margaret Sixel **COSTUME DESIGN:** Mad Max: Fury Road - Jenny Beavan HAIR & Amp; MAKEUP: Mad Max: Fury Road VISUAL EFFECTS: Mad Max: Fury Road **SONG:** Furious 7 - See You Again FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM: Son of Saul **DOCUMENTARY FEATURE: Amy** 

**SCORE:** The Hateful Eight - Ennio Morricone

#### **TELEVISION:**

**COMEDY SERIES:** Master of None - Netflix DRAMA SERIES: Mr Robot - USA ACTOR IN A DRAMA SERIES: Rami Malek - Mr Robot -

ACTRESS IN A DRAMA SERIES: Carrie Coon - The Leftovers - HBO

ACTOR IN A COMEDY SERIES: Jeffrey Tambor -Transparent - Amazon

ACTRESS IN A COMEDY SERIES: Rachel Bloom - Crazy **Ex-Girlfriend** 

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR IN A COMEDY SERIES:** Andre Braugher, Brooklyn Nine-Nine

**SUPPORTING ACTRESS IN A COMEDY SERIES:** Mayim

Bialik - The Big Bang Theory **MOVIE MADE FOR TELEVISION OR LIMITED SERIES:** 

Fargo - FX

**ACTOR IN A MOVIE MADE FOR TELEVISION OR LIMIT-**ED SERIES: Idris Elba - Luther - BBC America **ACTRESS IN A MOVIE MADE FOR TELEVISION OR LIM-**ITED SERIES: Kirsten Dunst - Fargo - FX

**SUPPORTING ACTOR IN A DRAMA SERIES:** Christian Slater - Mr Robot - USA **SUPPORTING ACTRESS IN A DRAMA SERIES: Constance** 

Zimmer - UnREAL - Lifetime

**GUEST ACTOR/ACTRESS IN A DRAMA SERIES: Margo** 

Martindale - The Good Wife - CBS **REALITY SHOW - COMPETITION:** The Voice - NBC SUPPORTING ACTOR IN A MOVIE MADE FOR TELEVI-**SION OR LIMITED SERIES:** Jesse Plemons - Fargo -FX SUPPORTING ACTRESS IN A MOVIE MADE FOR TELEVI-**SION OR LIMITED SERIES:** Jean Smart - Fargo - FX

Olyphant - The Grinder - Fox **ANIMATION SERIES:** BoJack Horseman - Netflix **REALITY SHOW HOST:** James Lipton - Inside the Actors TALK SHOW: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver - HBO

**GUEST ACTOR/ACTRESS IN A COMEDY SERIES: Timothy** 

UNSTRUCTURED REALITY SHOW Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown -

**CNN OTHER AWARDS:** 

**MVP AWARD:** Amy Schumer **GENIUS AWARD:** Industrial Light and Magic — Reuters



Sir Patrick Stewart, left, looks on as Christian Slater, from third left, Chad Hamilton, Portia Doubleday, Steve Golin, Rami Malik, Carly Chaikin, and Sam Esmail accept the award for best drama series for "Mr Robot".



Adam McKay, right, and the cast and crew of "The Big Short" accept the award for best comedy.



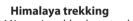
# Missoni, Ferragamo splash color during Milan Fashion Week



he worlds of music, fashion and art continued their long collaboration on the menswear runways of Milan Fashion Week on Sunday. Missoni creative director Angela Missoni says collaborations between the art world and fashion, which her father pioneered decades ago, have become ever more natural. "There are fewer taboos between art and fashion. Today there is a mingling of all that is contemporary," Missoni said last week at an event marking the closure of show at a contemporary art museum in nearby Gallarate, where the family business was born, exploring her parents' artistic



inspiration throughout the decades. Some highlights from Sunday's shows, including menswear previews for next fall and winter by Missoni, Salvatore Ferragamo, Bottega Veneta and Prada.



Angela Missoni trekked metaphorically into the Himalayas on her global search for menswear inspiration, returning with a backpack full of energy-enhancing tassels, contemplative mirrors and colors ranging from orangey sunsets to deep sky blues. Missoni, creative director of the family-run fashion house, said the looks interpret the 1970s rock star who sought meaning in the world's highest mountains. Models trampled dried leaves on the frigid, wind-swept outdoor runway, while the fashion crowd gratefully wrapped themselves in felt blankets left expressly on their seats.

The looks featured the fashion house's famed knitwear adorned with tassels and mirrored details, creating a breastplate effect. The pieces were layered with heavier sweaters, sweeping blanket coats or anoraks, and worn chiefly with cargo pants, often in practical knit. Motifs included padded circular patterns on both tops and matching trousers, creating both warmth and harmony. Backpacks and garment bags created for Missoni by Porter, the Japanese luggage and accessories maker, while Italian footwear manufacturer customized its classic hiking boot with Missoni patterns.





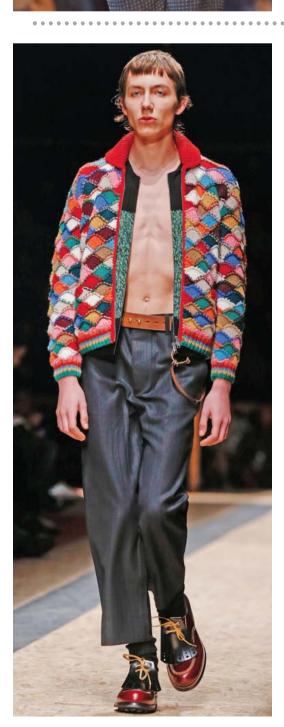
















house Prada.











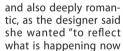
Models present creations for fashion house Prada.



**A mariner's tale**Miuccia Prada is taking fashion on a sea voyage back in time to explore the human condition, contemplating such present-day crises as the unrelenting flows of migrants arriving in Europe by sea. Prada's looks for next season are seafaring, but nothing of the jolly

mariner. The mood was somber and melancholy,





what is happening now with what is happening in history. To see if we have something to learn." For the venue, her theater was transformed into a sort of town square, where people of all walks of life meet, she said.

Sturdy coats and capes, in black, navy, tan and white, had weather-worn collars and lapels, which were deconstructed and then detached. Trousers were cropped and cuffed, footwear had printed shirts - one showing Nina Simone dancing with a Medieval knight while a Roman senator wrestles a friar, while another featured fantas-Prada topped the looks with sailor caps, and

hung clusters of keys on chains at the waist and

neat little square boxed purses tucked in their pockets.

As she has done in recent seasons, Prada mixed in female looks, including a few serious numbers that suggest reluctantly mourning sea widows: a snug wrapped black dress worn with argyle tights, and a calf-length dark velvet frock with a plunging neckline. "Sometimes you feel that the history didn't change so much, if you are pessimistic," Prada said backstage."I am not something to think about, something about the past."



next cold weather season. Creative director Massimiliano Giornetti made traditional houndstooth, chevron, check and plaid prints the bedrock of the collection - with black and white evolving into technicolor, not unlike the film

industry of yesteryear.

He then deconstructed the patterns, and popped them with color - bold reds, oranges, rus-

were worn with printed silken shirts with a tie out cut from the same cloth, creating a dressy camouflage. The look was sometimes finished with a contrasting silken scarf peeking from beneath the collar. The silk was so fine and the colors so calming that it never looked busy. Overcoats were enriched with fur, shearling or velvet collars. Pants are slim and taper at the ankle to reveal the Andy





graphic motifs, such as swimming fish, a candlestick or an arrow-pierced heart. Scarves were the accessory of choice, worn bandanna-like over sweaters for a casual effect or knotted at the neck under a shirt collar for a more sophisticated look. Ferragamo's suits, double- and single-breasts,











house Salvatore Ferragamo.





# **Fashion Weel**



Bottega Veneta creative director Tomas Maier gave some rock 'n' roll edge to a decidedly wintery wardrobe. Amid the tweeds and wools, plaids and checks, the German designer incorporated stage-worthy statements, from velvet double-breasted suits that catch the light in burgundy and a deep peacock blue, to leather trousers with eye-catching zippers all the way down the front of the leg, silken Henley shirts with tuxedo ruffle details and long scarves, silken and woolen both, that added drama with every step.

Maier joined other Milan designers in tipping his hat to music and fashion icon David Bowie with the occasional felt brimmed chapeau to create an aura of mystery. The overall silhouette of the collection was long and lean, something Bowie could have worn well, with pants that gently flair at the square-toed boot and elegant coat lengths below the knee. Details set the pieces apart, including diagonal buckle to close the collar on cashmere overcoats to the coated tweed wool coat that had an eye-catching sheen. Maier said in his notes that the collection has "no tricks, nothing ostentatious. It is very discreet."

#### **Save Venice**

British designer Vivienne Westwood is imploring the world to "be specific." By that she means to be specific about what needs to be changed, part of her runway activism. For her latest menswear preview show, Westwood added a plea to save Venice from cruise ships. To drive the point home, the invitation featured a reproduction of a painting of the canal city's historic canals with an enormous cruise ship hulking in the background.

Westwood's collection was nothing if not eclectic, including loose-fitting pinstriped suits, sheer openbacked sweaters, a dramatic hooded burgundy cape, and a silvery dress worn suggesting a knight's chainmail over a turtleneck sweater. The designer paid tribute to Bowie, playing "Starman" for the finale. —AP

#### **Fashion full-circle: Derek Zoolander hits** cover of Vogue



was 15 years ago that Ben Stiller's Derek Zoolander first unleasned his signature base fashion face on an unsuspecting public, and a lot has changed. Mega-model Gigi Hadid was kindergarten age. Netflix didn't exist, let alone selfies. So why bother taking on "Zoolander 2," the upcoming quirky sequel to his long-ago quirky "Zoolander?" Because, why not, especially now that the actual fashion world is laughing out loud. With a few more wrinkles, Stiller's not-so-bright supermodel hit the February cover of Vogue with actual beauty and costar Penelope Cruz. The cover and an inside photo spread were shot by actual photographer phenom Annie Leibovitz.

Stiller tells the magazine of his first go-round with Owen Wilson at his side: "We were on our own both in the fashion world and with the studio, too. They were just like, 'We don't quite know what this is." That was before Zoolander and Wilson's Hansel crashed the Valentino show at Paris Fashion Week last year, bringing the usual jaded crowd to its feet as they strutted down the runway. The first comedy wasn't a runaway success, released less than three weeks after the September 11 attacks, though it eventually turned a profit. Thanks to DVDs and cable, it developed a loyal following.

So what can we expect this time? There's Cruz, for one, as Valentina Valencia, a motorcycle happy Interpol agent in the fashion division. "I'm one of those people who's seen the first 'Zoolander' four or five times," she tells Vogue in the issue that hits newsstands Jan 26. "I've done comedy in Spain, in my own language, but I've always said I want to do more comedies in English. I do all these intense dramas, and all my characters are always suffering. For many reasons I need to once in a while do a crazy comedy." Stiller's crossing fingers, joking: "There's that saying -'They want a sequel until they get one."'—AP





ion house Bottega Veneta.

















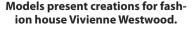
























Indian models showcase creations by designer Vikram Phadnis during a fashion show in Mumbai. — AFP

# Calais migrant camp gets its own Jungala Radio station



This file photo shows migrants listening to a guitarist performing in a makeshift theatre, in the so-called "Jungle" migrant camp in Calais, northern France.



A makeshift theatre, where migrants take part in theatre and music lessons, in the so-called "Jungle" migrant camp.



Migrants listening to a guitarist performing in a makeshift theatre, in the socalled "Jungle" migrant camp. — AFP photos

n the heart of the Calais migrant shantytown in northern France known as the "Jungle", a cover of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" rings out from the ramshackle headquarters of the camp's very own radio station. Hashemi, a Syrian in his 20s, is editing his first program for Jungala Radio, a music show featuring performances by artists from the sprawling camp in northern France. It's a chance to lighten the mood at a time when freezing temperatures have made conditions in the camp even grimmer for the thousands trapped here, looking for

a way to reach Britain from the port city.

"I'm trying to find the voice and the feelings of the refugees," says Hashemi, giving only his first name. "I want to share what is happening here with the whole world." Jungala Radio launched its first program on New Year's Day via Facebook and Soundcloud and is gradually building a team of producers and journalists from the camp community. One of their budding hacks is a 15-year-old Iraqi Kurd who has been living in the Jungal for three months.

been living in the Jungle for three months. He is enthusiastically hunting out interviews with one of the recorders bought by Radio Jungala via a crowd-funding campaign, though he says it is a tough gig. "I like learning new things, but this is difficult. When I have to ask people questions, I feel a bit embarrassed," he says with a smile. But the boy, who wished to remain anonymous, remains determined to make the most of his time in the camp, having already helped out in an aid distribution center where he could practice his English and make friends. "Everyone wants to go to the UK, but it's very hard and we need something to do while we wait," says the teenager, who learned his English watching Harry Potter and Hollywood action movies with his older brother in Kurdistan.

#### Desperate frustration

As the French and British authorities tighten security around the port, and smuggling aboard lorries and trains has become ever-more difficult, the Jungle has taken on a more permanent feel. A high street of shops, restaurants-even a nightclub and barber shop-have sprung up as tents have been replaced by semi-permanent wooden shacks. But the Jungle is still a place of filth, boredom and desperate frustration, so vol-

unteers and charity workers try to take the edge off with entertainment and education.

Next door to the well-stocked Jungle library, a volunteer is struggling to teach some basic French to a small group of Sudanese and Afghans-a sign that at least some people in the camp are now considering asylum in France rather than Britain. The young volunteer shows heroic patience as she tries to explain the word "bienvenue" ("welcome") — a word that her pupils have rarely heard since arriving in Europe.

#### Mental well-being

On the other side of the camp, a young Afghan is on stage in the large white dome of the Good Chance Theatre, giving an impromptu song and dance performance while a visiting British artist jams on the guitar. Since launching a few months ago, the theatre has evolved in surprising ways-such as the Eritrean circus troupe that come to teach and practice their tricks and backflips a few times a week. A member of the Iranian national kung fu team gave lessons here

for a while, and his mantle has been taken up by another karate expert from the camp.

"We don't shape what goes on, and we don't dictate whether you come to confront your situation or escape from it, or just to have a bit of fun," says Joe Robertson, one of two British friends who helped set up the theatre. "Many people have come here who are down," adds his co-organizer Joe Murphy. "Being part of a creative theatre community has turned them around and given them a role to play, which is hugely important for their mental well-being."

Back at Radio Jungala, Hashemi is putting the finishing touches to his music show with the help of Ciaran, a 22-year-old media graduate from Britain who helped launch the initiative. "We are only here for tech support and constructive criticism. We want the people here to take ownership and control of it," says Ciaran. Hashemi says he loves his new job. "I never thought of doing radio in my life, but now I hope to do more," he says. "I'm just trying to be the best that I can." — AFP



Migrants taking part in theatre and music lessons in a makeshift theatre, in the so-called 'Jungle' migrant camp.

# New York deal to limit horse-drawn carriage rides



A horse drawn carriage carrying tourists passing outside of Central Park. —AFP

ew York reached a deal late Sunday that will almost halve the number of horses licensed to perform carriage rides in Central Park after the mayor called them inhumane to animals. The agreement, which will keep the industry alive, comes after Mayor Bill de Blasio promised two years ago to abolish the rides popular with tourists, loved-up couples and immortalized in movies. The deal, which will start to come into effect from June 1 and take three years to be fully implemented, will reduce from 180 to 110 the number of licensed horses by December 1, the city council said.

The ultimate goal is to reduce the number to 95 and to give 75 horses a long-term home in Central Park stables, therefore banning public horse rides on the streets of Manhattan. "We are pleased to have reached an agreement in concept on the future of New York's horse carriage industry," said the mayor's office said. "We look

forward to working together on the final details of this legislation and getting this

passed," it added in a statement.

The agreement demands that by October 1 2018 stables will be established in Central Park to house 68 carriages and 75 horses, the city council said. Horses not at work must be on furlough outside the city, and no carriage can operate for longer than nine hours a day by December 1.

NYClass, one of the groups demanding a ban on carriage rides, has collected more than 35,800 signatures in an online petition. The petition calls the carriage horse industry "cruel, inhumane and unsafe" and demands the horses to be retired to sanctuaries. "Horses do not belong in a congested, urban setting where they constantly breathe exhaust while dodging dangerous traffic," it says. The group was not immediately reachable for comment to the deal. — AFP