

SUBSCRIPTION

# Kuwait Times



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THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016

RABI ALTHANI 10, 1437 AH

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Duo deported for cutting grass to sell as animal feed



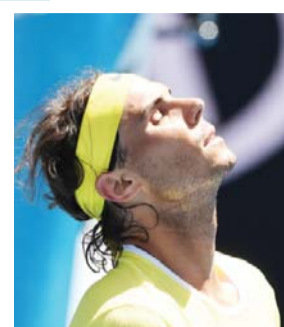
Xi visits Saudi Arabia to bolster relations



First flower blooms on international space station



Nadal, Halep stunned as shocks rock Aussie Open



40 PAGES NO: 16761 150 FILS



## KPC DENIES REPORTS OF CUTS IN FUEL SUBSIDIES

### MP WARNS OIL BELOW \$20 A BARREL WILL BE A CATASTROPHE



Min 10°  
Max 21°  
High Tide 09:35 & 20:07  
Low Tide 02:48 & 14:16

### GULF BANKS EYE IRAN PROSPECTS

DUBAI/LONDON: Gulf banks including Dubai's largest lender Emirates NBD are already meeting prospective clients and taking legal advice about entering Iran's financial system now that many international sanctions have been lifted. European banks are more cautious with some, including Deutsche Bank, remembering past fines from regulators for breaking sanctions, though Commerzbank said it was reviewing its policy of not doing business in Iran.

For many banks there are concerns about being caught up in ongoing US sanctions. Many international sanctions relating to Iran's nuclear program were lifted but most involving US players remain in place. Non-US banks may trade with Iran without fear of punishment in the United States but US banks may not do so, directly or indirectly. Other sanctions prevent US persons from trading with Iran and also prohibit Iran trades in US dollars from being processed through the US financial system via the New York Federal Reserve. This is a significant complication given the dollar's role as the world's main business currency.

Regional banks are likely to lead the way on business deals. Banks from the UAE, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait have spent months drawing up plans for

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### AMIR MEETS YAZIDI IS SURVIVOR



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives yesterday at Bayan Palace Nadia Murad, a Yazidi survivor from the so-called Islamic State. — KUNA

By B Izzak and agencies

KUWAIT: The spokesman of the oil sector Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah denied yesterday the veracity of reports alleging "cuts in gasoline and kerosene subsidies" in the first quarter of this year. In a press statement, Sheikh Talal quoted CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Nizar Al-Adsani as saying the reports are "untrue". The government is weighing various options to cope with plummeting oil prices, amongst them a review of energy subsidies in the local market, Sheikh Talal said. Bearing optimal living conditions in mind, the government, in conjunction with the National Assembly, will find the best possible solution, he noted.

"The Kuwait government gives huge subsidies. Subsidies will be taken out gradually... In the first quarter of 2016, probably there will be something on subsidies on gasoline and kerosene," Adsani reportedly said earlier during a panel discussion at an energy industry conference in Abu Dhabi. But KPC said Adsani was misquoted as he only referred to government plans to study cutting subsidies without providing specific dates.

Adsani also said any possible rise in domestic prices would not impact citizens' livelihood. "The Kuwaiti government is currently studying several options for addressing the budget deficit amid weak crude oil prices. Among those options was a review of petroleum products in the domestic market," he said, according to an official statement. This will be done in coordination with the parliament to agree on a mechanism "taking into account the standard of living of citizens", he added.

Continued on Page 15



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KUWAIT: (From left) His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah attend a meeting with members of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development.



Supreme Council for Planning and Development members attend the meeting with His Highness the Amir. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

## AMIR INFORMED OF ISLANDS' DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

### PART OF VISION TO TURN KUWAIT INTO ECONOMIC CENTER

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah accompanied by members of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah were also present at the meeting held in Bayan Palace.

The officials presented to His Highness the Amir thorough information on the project to develop the islands of Boubyan, Failaka, Warba, Miskan and Awha. The project is part of His Highness the Amir's vision to turn Kuwait into a cultural and economic center, while also boosting development in the country.

The council is studying the benefits of the islands' development in light of similar international models, aiming to create a comprehensive and multi-purpose free trade zone,

thus raising Kuwait's regional and international competitiveness. Meanwhile, the project will also attract top foreign investments, which will have a positive impact on Kuwait's security, as countries owning these projects will exert efforts to protect their properties.

#### Exceptional resolutions

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister said making use of Kuwaiti islands would be the country's future project.

His Highness Sheikh Jaber made the statement yesterday in a speech before His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah while presenting a briefing on the project. The project needs certain legislations and exceptional resolutions, in addition to measures taken by the government to carry out with it, His Highness said. His Highness Sheikh Jaber expressed his confidence that the government would persuade National Assembly over the signifi-

cance of such major projects as cooperation is needed to enact required legislations and laws to face any barrier when carrying out the project.

In the meantime, some senior officials of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development presented before His Highness the Amir the first phase of the comprehensive vision of building Kuwait's future, including new projects.

Jasser Al-Jasser said "we present the first phase of the five islands' project so as to make use of their areas." The aim of this move is to achieve development through some projects inside these islands and turn them into free trade zones between the East and the West, he added.

Also yesterday, His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister separately met the visiting General Director of the French Gendarmerie General Denis Favier and his accompanying delegation. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah greets French Gendarmerie General Denis Favier. — KUNA



## ZAIN HONORS KUWAITI JET SKI CHAMPION

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, honored Kuwaiti Jet Ski champion Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq at its main headquarters in Shuwaikh. The honoring came in recognition of Al Abdulrazzaq's achievements and accomplishments during 2015.

Zain expressed its pride in Al Abdulrazzaq's latest achievement, which recently saw the Kuwaiti champion achieving the Runabout GP1 world title during the UIM AQUABIKE World Championship that was recently concluded in Sharjah, UAE. 2015 marked the seventh year in which the company sponsors Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq, who continued to show unmatched determination in raising the Kuwaiti flag high by achieving internationally renowned titles.

As a leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, Zain is constantly looking to identify and support excellence across the sports sector. The company will contin-

ue to put Kuwaiti National teams and individual athletes at the forefront of its priorities and pledges to continue motivating them to achieve the recognition they deserve.

Al Abdulrazzaq achieved a number of prominent titles during 2015, most notably the Runabout GP1 world title during the UIM AQUABIKE World Championship and the first place title of the Pro-Am Runabout LTD category during his participation in the International Jet Sports Boating Association (IJSBA) World Championship 2015 held in Lake Havasu in Arizona, USA.

Zain affirmed that its role not only concentrates on economic and business activities but also contributes significantly in various areas within the Kuwaiti society, especially towards Kuwaiti champions. This resembles the company's endless confidence of the competencies of these young athletes and their capabilities in excelling in different fields.

## SHEIKH SABAH AL-KHALED MEETS AZHAR GRAND IMAM

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmad El-Tayeb, who is on a visit to the country. Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister's Office Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs Dhari Al-Ajran and a number of Foreign Ministry officials also attended the meeting. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled then held a luncheon banquet in honor of the Grand Imam of Al-Azha, in presence of several ministers and officials.

#### Positive role

Meanwhile, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah asserted the positive role Al-Azhar institution has played for over a thousand years.

This transpired in a cultural meeting held yesterday at the Kuwait National Library to which Dr Tayeb was invited along with a bevy of Kuwaiti intellectuals and media pundits. Sheikh Salman, in a speech at the meeting, praised Al-Azhar institution for its moderate and level-headed approach to promoting Islamic teachings and values, with emphasis on tolerance and eschewal of extremism and non-acceptance of 'the other'. In a similar



KUWAIT: Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmad El-Tayeb (center) speaks during a meeting at the Kuwait National Library. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

speech, Dr Tayeb said that thousands of students from all over the world attend Al-Azhar where they are taught the merits of open-mindedness, lack of prejudice, lack of bias, and respect for others' faiths, creeds, and values. He decried the current status of the Arabic language, demanding its regeneration and revital-

ization in a way that it would appeal to the youth. Further, he expressed dismay at the ubiquity of extremism and violence across the landscape of the Arab world, noting that it behooved all Muslims to adhere to the Islamic tenets that teach tolerance and respect for diversity of opinion. — KUNA

## INJAZ-KUWAIT KICKS OFF 2016 VOLUNTEER DRIVE AT GULF BANK

KUWAIT: INJAZ-Kuwait (INJAZ) recently kicked off its 2016 "Superhero" campaign at Gulf Bank to recruit business professionals to volunteer for its programs. INJAZ-Kuwait is a non-profit (NPO), non-governmental organization (NGO) driven by Kuwait's private sector. Through strategic partnerships with Kuwait's business and education sectors, and with the help of qualified and dedicated volunteers, INJAZ delivers both Arabic and English language educational programs on entrepreneurial and leadership skills to build successful careers. Gulf Bank employees from various departments and backgrounds signed up during the kickoff of the "INJAZ Superhero" volunteer drive, making a commitment to mentor and encourage students.

INJAZ's volunteer drive is calling for young professionals with 2 - 15 years of experience to share their knowledge and expertise to affect change in student's lives and be a Superhero in the process. Through the INJAZ Superhero campaign, volunteers will be making an impact in a student's life and for their efforts they will: be recognized annually on International Volunteers Day; receive a certificate of recognition and receive a thank you letter from INJAZ after completing a program; have a chance to win the 'INJAZ Superhero of the month' title and a chance to win the 'INJAZ Superhero of the year' title;

among many other exciting benefits.

#### Core values

Rana Al-Nibari, INJAZ-Kuwait CEO said: "INJAZ-Kuwait's core values have always revolved around the concept of youth empowerment and developing this core value through the power of partnership. The continuous participation and support of Gulf Bank as partners and the number of volunteers who dedicate their time to mentor students, reaffirms INJAZ's stance in investing in Kuwait's future by educating the country's youth in entrepreneurial and business culture."

Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, said: "We are proud of our partnership with INJAZ and look forward to supporting their programs in 2016. Gulf Bank has been a long time partner and supporter of INJAZ, and we will continue our investment in youth educational programs. Gulf Bank employees have thoroughly enjoyed being part of these programs, and we encourage other committed professionals to also get involved."

INJAZ's programs run throughout 2016 academic year and there are several ways to be involved. Interested volunteers can contact INJAZ at [superhero@injaz-kuwait.org](mailto:superhero@injaz-kuwait.org), call 9555-7012, or tag INJAZ on #injazsuperheroes through social media platforms.

#### Global network

INJAZ forms part of the global network of Junior Achievement worldwide. The programs are designed to narrow social inequities, encourage social engagement, foster creativity and experience, and develop generations of highly skilled individuals. Board members

include: Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Gulf Bank Chairman and CEO of Alghanim Industries, who is also the Chairman of INJAZ-Kuwait, along with Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager Human Resources at Gulf Bank, among other notable individuals.

Gulf Bank's corporate social responsibility

(CSR) program is committed to educational initiatives that make a sustainable impact with youth and in the community. To find out more about Gulf Bank's initiatives and programs, visit the Bank's bilingual website at [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com) or its social media channels.



KUWAIT: Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager, Human Resources at Gulf Bank and Rana Al-Naibari, INJAZ-Kuwait's CEO along with their respective teams.



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OFFER  
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## SEDAN MODELS

MODEL	YEAR	EXT. COLOR	INT. COLOR	KM	PRICE KD.
ES350	2014	Platinum Silver ME.	Beige	44,213	11,500
ES350	2014	White Pearl CS.	Beige	30,215	12,000
ES350	2013	Fire Agate M.M.	Beige	50,111	9,500
ES350	2013	Sleek Ecru ME.	Beige	41,045	10,500
ES350	2013	Sleek Ecru ME.	Beige	52,715	10,500
GS350	2014	Crimson CS.GF.	Beige	14,608	13,250
GS350	2014	White Nova GF.	Tan	38,503	12,750
GS350	2013	Crimson CS.GF.	Beige	49,199	11,800
IS250	2015	Sonic Titanium	Beige	45,825	9,500
IS300C	2015	Mercury Gray MC.	Beige	9,797	12,250
IS300C	2013	White Pearl CS.	Beige	54,701	9,500
IS350	2014	White Pearl CS.	Beige	14,592	12,000
IS350	2014	Platinum Silver ME.	Beige	45,782	11,750
LS460	2015	Starlight Black GF.	Beige	11,190	20,500
LS460	2015	Fire Agate M.M.	Tan	16,939	25,500
LS460	2014	White Pearl CS.	Tan	18,459	22,000
LS460	2014	Fire Agate M.M.	Beige	21,805	18,900
LS460	2013	Sleek Ecru ME.	Beige	63,648	16,900
LS460	2013	Fire Agate M.M.	Beige	28,989	18,750
LS460	2013	Starlight Black GF.	Beige	58,548	18,500
LS460	2013	Fire Agate M.M.	Beige	55,842	18,500
LS460	2013	Starlight Black GF.	Beige	44,989	18,900
RC	2015	Starlight Black GF.	Tan	1,144	15,000
RC F	2015	White Nova GF.	Dark Red	13,070	19,500

## SUV MODELS

MODEL	YEAR	EXT. COLOR	INT. COLOR	KM	PRICE KD.
GX460	2015	Fire Agate M.M.	Beige	5,969	16,250
GX460	2015	Platinum Silver ME.	Beige	9,173	18,000
GX460	2013	S.S Gray M.M.	Beige	73,526	12,500
GX460	2013	Fire Agate M.M.	Beige	24,023	13,500
LX570	2015	Sleek Ecru ME.	Beige	41,999	24,500
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS.	Beige	18,364	24,750
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS.	Beige	20,278	24,750
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS.	Beige	38,417	23,750
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS.	Beige	23,731	24,900
LX570	2014	Sleek Ecru ME.	Beige	32,027	23,000
LX570	2014	Platinum Silver ME.	Beige	40,790	22,750
LX570	2014	Platinum Silver ME.	Beige	25,773	23,000
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF.	Beige	22,047	23,500
LX570	2014	Sleek Ecru ME.	Beige	75,306	21,000
LX570	2014	Sleek Ecru ME.	Beige	48,020	22,000
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF.	Beige	21,293	22,750
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF.	Beige	66,119	21,500
LX570	2014	Mercury Gray MC.	Beige	56,314	22,000
LX570	2013	Starlight Black GF.	Beige	59,592	17,500
RX350	2015	Starlight Black GF.	Sadel Tan	32,184	14,000
RX350	2015	Platinum Silver ME.	Sadel Tan	17,197	14,000
RX350	2013	Starlight Black GF.	Beige	54,154	11,500
RX350	2013	Mercury Gray MC.	Beige	22,291	10,750
RX350	2013	Quartz White CS.	Beige	40,134	12,500

Cars mentioned in this advert might vary upon availability.





KUWAIT: Hisham Al-Baghli registers as a candidate yesterday. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



Abdul Kareem Al-Hendal

# COMPETITION HEATS UP FOR 3RD CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The total number of candidates applying to run for by-elections in the third electoral constituency reached 39 and then dropped to 38 (including one female candidate) when one of them withdrew by the end of working hours on the seventh day.

In this regard, the elections department manager, Lt Colonel Salah Al-Shatti said that four new candidates applied yesterday to reach a total of 39 candidates and that one of the candidates withdrew and cancelled his candidacy. He added that candidates registry would end by Friday, January 22.

Shatti added voters would have to present their original citizenship certificate on election day and that those who do not have it could apply to the citizenship and

passports department to issue a one-time use certificate valid only for election day.

Speaking on the occasion, candidate Hisham Al-Baghli said that in view of the short time remaining for the current parliament in office, and if he wins the elections, he would support current lawmakers.

Candidate Abdul Kareem Al-Hendal said that the most important issue he would focus on if he wins would be building Kuwait.

Candidate Ali Jamal Al-Zanki said that he would review his electoral program on launching his campaign headquarters.

The Third Constituency seat came open upon the demise of the late lawmaker Nabeel Al-Fadhel who passed away suddenly during the 22 December parliamentary session. Fadhli's son, Ahmed, has registered to contest his late father's seat.



Ali Jamal Al-Zanki

## Crimes

report

بناء على القانون رقم (42) لسنة 2014 م في شأن حماية البيئة قرار تشكيل اللجنة (82) والقرار رقم (1129) تم انشاء ادارة شرطة البيئة بتاريخ 15-1-2015



Two people arrested yesterday for cutting grass in violation of the environment law.



An environment police officer takes a picture using his cell phone of the two men.

## DUO DEPORTED FOR CUTTING GRASS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Two people were arrested by environmental police yesterday for cutting grass and plants on Sixth Ring Road, and were deported, the Ministry of Interior's public relations and security information department said. The action was taken during an inspection tour by Director of Environment Police Lt Col Hussein Al-Ajmi, who spotted the two violating the environment law, so they were arrested. They said that they collect the vegetation and take it to animal farms.

### Complaint against food company

Environment police in cooperation with Ministry of Public Work's environment affairs department inspected a food preparation company following complaints of the company's kitchen dumping untreated oil in drainage sewers which clogged all manholes in that line. The complaint was sent to the public prosecution for further action.

### Restaurant fire

Firefighters tackled a blaze that was reported at a restaurant in the transit lounge at Kuwait International Airport yesterday. No injuries were reported. An investigation was opened to reveal the causes of the fire.

### Material stolen

Hawally detectives arrested two expatriates trading in stolen copper from several Ministry of Electricity and Water facilities, and utilize a fenced area in Amghara scrap area where they cut and melted the copper and stored it. Two containers full of stolen metal were found, of an estimated weight of 25 tons. Both were sent to concerned authorities.

### Drug smugglers nabbed at airport

Airport customs officers foiled attempts to smuggle marijuana and 5,000 illicit tablets in two separate cases. The first according to a customs source was when roaming officers suspected a Bangladeshi national entering Kuwait. When customs searched his luggage they found marijuana in a tamarind can, estimated at one kilogram. In the second case, another Asian man who works in a furniture store hid 5,000 tablets in his suitcase. The two were sent for investigations and prosecution. In a third drug case at the airport, customs officers, in cooperation with Mubarak Al-Kabeer detectives foiled an attempt by a Syrian man and a citizen to smuggle 230,000 Captagon tablets that arrived from Syria by air, and both were arrested. The tablets were hidden inside car transmission parts.

### Spying cameras confiscated

A container loaded with spying cameras was confiscated at the instructions of Acting Director General of Customs Department Adnan Al-Qudaibi. The cameras were not mentioned on the customs declaration form in order to avoid paying fees.

### Wafra liquor factory raided

Ahmadi police sent four men to the Drugs Control General Department for distilling liquor in Wafra area. Police authorities in Ahmadi received information about four Indian citizens who were making liquor in their Wafra area residence, so a warrant was obtained and raided the home where they found equipment and a large quantity of local liquor ready for sale. A total of 141 barrels full of liquor, 37 distillation barrels and 420 bottles were found.

### Municipality head congratulated

Communications Minister and State Minister for Municipality Affairs Essa Al-Kandari said his top priority now is completing strengthening of municipality law 5/2005, which was studied by the municipality and fatwa and legislation department, and is being discussed at the Cabinet for approval. He said the new law will deal with many negatives with regards to construction violations and will untangle conflicts between the municipality and other departments, besides organizing the work of the municipal council in cooperation with the National Assembly. Kandari was speaking during an event to congratulate Ahmad Al-Manfouhi over his appointment as director general of the municipality. He said "we congratulate the youth Ahmad Al-Manfouhi for the Cabinet's approval of his appointment as director general".

## KUWAIT ACTIVE TO SECURE KIDNAPPED CITIZEN'S RETURN: MP HUWAILAH

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Mohammad Al-Huwailah said that he had contacted top state officials to follow up the latest developments in the abduction of Kuwaiti citizen Mohsen Al-Ajmi in Lebanon. The officials include His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, his undersecretary and Kuwait's Ambassador to Lebanon Abdul Aa' Al-Qena'e. Huwailah added that the foreign minister stressed that Kuwait would spare no diplomatic efforts to ensure Ajmi's wellbeing and safe return. "We also contacted the charge d' affaires at our embassy in Lebanon, Mohammed Al-Weqayyan, who stressed that the entire embassy staff was on alert to locate Ajmi," he added.



MP Mohammad Al-Huwailah

### Projects going through

Housing projects that are already planned will be executed regardless of falling oil prices and the state's budget deficit, well-informed sources said. "These projects had been planned earlier and are basic components of the development plan," added the sources, noting that the projects would help provide enough housing units, especially when the budgets needed for them had been already allocated long ago.

### Vehicles impoundment

Traffic police have started putting a recent decision to impound violators' vehicles for up to two months into practice, said informed sources, noting that the decision was made to help the Interior Ministry enforce laws and protect all motorists, especially since 429 traffic deaths were reported in 2015 and over 4,000 over the past 10 years. "Strict measures made 2015 have the least number of accidents over the past five years," the sources highlighted.

## UK, KUWAIT BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP TAKES VITAL NEXT STEPS

KUWAIT: The Lord Mayor of the City of London Alderman the Lord (Jeffrey) Mountevans yesterday opened the Kuwait British Business Center with Dr Yousef Al-Ali, Minister of Commerce and Industry for the State of Kuwait and launched a new initiative: the "Kuwait British Business Club."

Office space has been developed adjacent to the British Embassy Kuwait into a business center to attract, support and develop British businesses seeking to enter the Kuwaiti market. Up to 9 UK companies can use the space, at any one time, to meet prospective Kuwaiti partners, benefit from a dedicated Kuwait telephone number, access to wifi and store their brochures and samples.

In addition, the Lord Mayor launched the new "Kuwait British Business Club". This service, extended to subscribers, has been created to develop trade and investment between Kuwait and the UK. Delivering high quality events with Kuwaiti and British Business leaders and VIP visitors, the Kuwait British Business Club will also offer an annual London conference, regular trade missions of UK companies to Kuwait, but most importantly act to introduce UK and Kuwaiti companies, developing relationships for future mutual benefit.

### Excellent relationship

Commenting on the occasion the Lord Mayor said: "Developing the excellent bilateral relationship between Kuwait and the UK in order to promote shared economic benefits is what this initiative is all about. Offering British businesses a high quality space from which to work is the first step in driving up the numbers of UK companies doing business in Kuwait and working with Kuwaiti companies. Creating a professional subscriber network of likeminded



companies in both countries and offering events and opportunities to foster ongoing relationships is the vital next step and I urge both UK and Kuwaiti companies to sign up and take part."

Welcoming the occasion of the Kuwait British Business Center opening, British Ambassador Matthew Lodge said: "The British Embassy, UK Trade and Investment and the Kuwait British Business Center work closely together to strengthen further the economic and commercial links between our two countries. Today's formal opening of the Kuwait British Business Center office space and the launch of the Kuwait British Business

Club represent excellent progress towards achieving this common objective."

Commenting on the occasion Martin Hall, CEO of the Kuwait British Business Center said: "Today's exciting event has been a long time in the planning, organization and delivery, but now our brand new, professional business center is up and running and we have launched our subscriber service I am confident that the Kuwait British Business Center will offer a step-change in the way UK companies approach doing business in Kuwait and indeed how Kuwaiti companies approach doing business with and in the UK."

## KIPCO COMMENDED FOR SUPPORTING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO) was commended for its support of young Kuwaiti entrepreneurs through its recent collaboration with the Youth Empowerment Symposium (Tmkeen) on the KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs. The award, worth 100,000 in services from the KIPCO Group, was won by Ajar Online.

KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive), Faisal Al-Ayyar, received Tmkeen representatives to discuss the impact that the award has had on the entrepreneurial community in Kuwait and means to provide more mentorship and support to businesses set up by Kuwait's talented young people.

Commenting on this occasion,



KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive), Faisal Al-Ayyar (right) with Tmkeen CEO, Ali Al-Ibrahim

KIPCO's Group Communications Director, Eman Al-Awadhi, said: "Young people have an important role to play in the development of Kuwait's business sector. At KIPCO, we strongly believe that the private sector must offer its support to young entrepreneurs as they pursue their passion in business. Our collaboration with Tmkeen has allowed us to engage in a dialogue with Kuwait's talented, young business community and to understand how the collective expertise of KIPCO as a Group can be passed on to them so that they can develop and grow their businesses into more sustainable models."

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1.8 L - 177 hp



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**3**  
Years

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or  
**30,000**  
Kilometers

**3**  
Years

Insurance & Registration  
Insurance  
+  
Registration



Al-Rai: 1833334 - (Izz Aldeen): 69015583 - (Ibrahim): 69015587 - (Monther): 69015574 - (Sayed):69015572 - (Yaser):67096118  
Al-Tilal Complex: 22256700 - (Sati): 69015582 Al-Ahmadi: 23981436/8/9 - (Sami): 65143777  
Our Branch at KFH: (Ali): 69015589  
Working Hours are 8:30 am to 9:00 pm | Friday from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm





# KUWAIT CULTURAL FESTIVALS KICK OFF

## AZHAR GRAND IMAM, VETERAN ACTORS HONORED

**KUWAIT:** Celebrations marking Al-Qurain Cultural Festival and Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016 kicked off on Monday, sponsored by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Addressing inaugural ceremony of the celebrations, held late Monday at Abdulhussein Abdulredha Theater, Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said the two celebrations genuinely underline the State of Kuwait status in the Muslim world.

Sheikh Salman, also the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, said while speaking on behalf of His Highness the Premier that organizing the festival is intended to affirm Kuwait's keenness on maintaining its cultural role; a role that has been characterized with moderation, openness, advocacy of peace, noble humanitarian values-adoption of such values has earned the country the UN designation, the "Global Humanitarian Hub."

The Minister, also Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, expressed gratitude to His Highness the Prime Minister, the chairman of the festivals' steering committee, for his generous patronization of the event and unlimited support for the major activity. Minister Sheikh Salman noted in his address participation of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed El-Tayeb-in his capacity as "the Personality of Kuwait as the Capital of Islamic Culture"-in the ceremony marking Kuwait as the capital of Islamic culture, lauding the veteran religious foundation that has enriched the Islamic civilization and culture.

He praised Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) Dr Abdulaziz bin Othman Al-Tuwajiri for his efforts within the organization as well as for sake of cementing solidarity and cooperation among the member states for serving joint Islamic action.

### Heritage

He stressed Kuwait "will remain faithful to its heritage, approach and role for sake of emitting the best image possible of Islam at times where some... are seeking to tarnish this image, on purpose or unintentionally, thus it is our duty to face challenges of the modern



**KUWAIT:** Veteran actor Abdulhussein Abdulredha is honored by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak and Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud at a ceremony held to launch the Al-Qurain Cultural Festival. (Right) Actors perform on stage during the ceremony. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

age, distinguished with technological development, speedy communications and interaction making the world a small village."

Sheikh Salman pledged to continue to back up the cultural sector for boosting values of tolerance, affection and peace, as well as for affirming moderation as an approach, also vowing to adhere to "our Islamic traditions and genuine customs so that we may chart a future of peace..." The steering committee has planned such activities, throughout the year, on basis of such values, as well as in line with guidelines set by the supreme political leadership namely His Highness the Amir, "the Leader of Humanitarian Action," His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister, who are concerned for the Muslims' unity, peace and prosperity of the nation, the Minister of Information said.

Noting that distinguished artists will be honored during the festival, Sheikh Salman reaffirmed Kuwait will remain advocate of openness and innovation. He reiterated the approach for maintaining the youth role in the sectors of culture, arts and literature.

Meanwhile, Tuwajiri expressed deep gratitude to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Sabah

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for his continuing support for ISESCO and efforts for safeguarding higher interests of the Muslim nation. Islamic capitals are chosen with consideration to their rich histories and contributions to boosting cultural action, he said, noting that the Islamic organization's programs in this respect aim at bolstering cultural unity of the nations and deepening the concept, Islamic solidarity.

Dr Abdullah Al-Ghnaim, in a statement on behalf of winners of the State encouraging awards, said such awards depict the State sponsorship of the citizens and guidelines for the individuals toward realizing development objectives. During the ceremony, Al-Azhar Grand Imam was honored in his capacity "the Personality of Kuwait as the Capital of Islamic Culture."

Among the honorees was the veteran actor, Abdulhussein Abdulredha, Dr Abdullah Yousef Al-Ghnaim, the poet Yaqoub Yousef Al-Sbayee, Sami Mohammad, the director Ahmad Abdulrahman Al-Khalaf, Dr Abdullah Mohammad Al-Hajri, Dr Maha Naji Ghanam, Dr Ahmad Sayyed Yaqoub Al-Refaei, Amal Al-Randi, Dr Ouayed Al-Meshaan, Fadhel Al-



Abbar, Faisal Abu Slaib, Abdullah Al-Saleh, Abdulaziz Al-Mtairi, Sami Saad, Mshari Al-Obaid and the director Kamel Alabduljelil.

### National celebrations

His Highness the Prime Minister meanwhile expressed his great joy in Kuwait's cultural celebrations, saying that these festivals coincide with Kuwait's national day celebrations, including the 55th National Day, the 25th Liberation Day, and the 10th anniversary of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's assumption of power. He wished long lasting grace and wellbeing for the country, as well as further development and prosperity for the Kuwaiti people.

Selecting Kuwait as the capital of Islamic culture this year is a crowning moment for all its efforts throughout the past years in spreading culture, awareness and enlightened intellect, in addition to its keenness on presenting the true image of Islam as a religion of peace and tolerance, he said, pointing out Kuwait's pioneering role, which dates back to the 1950s, and strive in spreading the moderation principle, one of Islam's main characteristics. In all its forms, culture is an important ele-

ment in society life, basic source for overall development, and strong motivation to activate fruitful initiatives, His Highness the Prime Minister noted, praising all the efforts exerted by Kuwaitis, including intellectuals, thinkers, and artists who carried their humanitarian message to boost Kuwait's place in the world.

He also stressed the importance to invest such important events in presenting the civilized side of the State of Kuwait, and launch serious steps towards supporting intellectual and cultural creativities, accepting other cultures, and boosting tolerance and brotherhood values in the world.

His Highness the Premier also confirmed the government's keenness on providing the appropriate atmosphere for creating and innovating, and encouraging creative Kuwaitis in various cultural and artistic fields, noting that inaugurating Abdulhussein Abdulredha Theater reflects Kuwait's great appreciation of its artists and pride of their role in enriching the artistic and cultural life in Kuwait and the region. The celebration of Kuwait as the Islamic capital will proceed till the year-end. Al-Qurain festival will end on February 6th. — KUNA



## DIPLOMATS HAIL HORECA'S ORGANIZATION, EXHIBITORS

**KUWAIT:** A number of diplomats and businessmen praised Horeca 2016, stressing that it is superbly organized and would surely contribute in diversifying sources of income, providing job opportunities and supporting small and medium businesses, especially in view of the participation of over 60 companies specialized in hospitality, food industries and hotel equipment.

Speaking at the opening ceremony held under auspices of Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud and attended by his undersecretary for foreign media and acting undersecretary for tourism Faisal Al-Metalqam, the dean of the diplomatic corps in Kuwait, Senegalese Ambassador Abdou Lahad Mbacke, praised the exhibition and stressed that it contributes in boosting the economy and enhancing cooperation amongst various companies with the ultimate goal of developing tourism.

Mbacke also hoped that embassies would be invited to participate in future editions at least three months before the exhibition, so that companies from Senegal could participate. He also suggested allocating special booths for embassies to display their countries' cuisines.

### Professional

Lebanese Ambassador Dr Kheder Hilwe stressed that Horeca Kuwait 2016 was professionally organized and was the outcome of private sector cooperation in both Kuwait and Lebanon, as the co-organizer, Hospitality Services Company, is Lebanese. "This exhibition is one of the most important ones in the Middle East," he underlined.

Also speaking on the occasion, chairman of the hotel owners union Ghazi Fahd Al-Nafisi hailed Horeca's continuous success in boosting the hospitality, food industries and hotel equipment sector with the aim of ultimately achieving the state's



Saleh Al-Tunaib

vision to achieve comprehensive touristic development and build new cities and urban communities. Farm Land Co owner Tony Obaid said that Kuwait was leading in organizing such specialized exhibitions that attract high level participation from Kuwait and various countries from around the world. Chairman of Horeca's organizing committee Mohammed Najia said that participating companies were displaying the latest in the hospitality business under one roof in addition to cooking competitions in which 250 of the best chefs competed with 16 cuisines under the supervision of nine international jury panel members. The manager of Star Fruit Co for fruits and vegetables stressed that his company imports fresh fruits and vegetables from various countries.

### First participation

The Sultan Center's development manager Rabe' Khalifa said that this was the first participation of TSC with the aim of getting in contact with hotels and restaurants and display the services it provides to them. Marooj representative, Amin Talaat said that this was his company's third participation and that it was a great opportunity to display the company's services and products.

ONCOST's operations executive manager Saleh Al-Tunaib said that his company's participation in Horeca 2016 comes within the company's strategy to take part in the most important hospitality, food industries and hotel equipment exhibitions in Kuwait. Al-Zad Company's purchase manager Mazen Al-Areedhi said that his company provides over 1,600 international products. Chairman of the Green Torch Gas Company Bashar Al-Qattan said that Horeca 2016 was well-organized according to the highest international standards and levels.



## SERVICE HERO: EARNING CUSTOMERS' TRUST HELPS COMPANIES MAKE MONEY

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Bad customer service is a usual and oftentimes valid complaint made by unsatisfied consumers, and many companies try to improve when there are third parties involved in analyzing or assessing products and services they provide. Service Hero, Kuwait's only annual customer satisfaction index, advises companies to perform better and gain more satisfied customers to eventually make more money.

Speaking to Kuwait Times, Faten Abu-Ghazaleh, President of Service Hero, said the annual index collects a record number of validated data assessments from more than 25,000 customers. The index measures customer expectations versus actual customer satisfaction across various services - reliability, speed, quality, value for money, location of offering, staff performance, call center and website.

"Service Hero is the Arab World's only 100 percent consumer powered customer satisfaction index. The scores are based entirely on consumer feedback and satisfaction, and they are validated via email and phone calls by our team," she said. "We have partnered with the American Customer Satisfaction Index, are members of ESOMAR and backed by an independent advisory council, ensuring results that are impartial, objective and accurately reflect the voice of the consumer," Abu-Ghazaleh said.

### Accuracy and authenticity

How accurate is Service Hero and how does the Service Hero team authenticate survey participants? The answer, according to Abu-Ghazaleh, is based on trust and credibility of her institution. "Even if there are inaccurate votes - and we don't claim 100 percent accuracy - we are confidently sure and vouch 95 percent preciseness of our survey results, considering the margin of error is plus or minus 3 percent. We validate every single vote from 25,000 survey participants; we slash about 4,000-5,000 votes that we know and suspect are bogus, as we know their names; we validate email addresses and we assess the company and remove suspicious votes; we do a lot of hard work to ensure what we are presenting is true and authentic and that our company can be trusted," she pointed out.

Service Hero, according to Abu-Ghazaleh, is a most reliable and trustworthy company, not just in Kuwait but globally. "Our company is the most trusted, unbiased, independent and neutral company collecting data for future use. We are independent organization powered by a team of people collecting data and we look and study the data very intently; there are a number of patterns before we finally determine that a particular person is legitimate or not. We use the formula that has been sent to us by our American partners ACSL. I don't want to give anyone a chance to cheat compa-



Faten Abu-Ghazaleh, President of Service Hero

### Below the list of nominees for 2015 from Service Hero

CAFÉ	Caribou Coffee	Norrinee
CAFÉ	Costa Coffee	Norrinee
CAFÉ	Second Cup	Norrinee
Car Service	Nissan	Norrinee
Car Service	Chevrolet	Norrinee
Car Service	Infiniti	Norrinee
Casual Dining	Ma's Alghanim	Norrinee
Casual Dining	P.F. Chang's	Norrinee
Casual Dining	Dean & DeLuca	Norrinee
Clothes	Next	Norrinee
Clothes	BHS	Norrinee
Clothes	American Eagle	Norrinee
Electronics	Eureka	Norrinee
Electronics	Best Electronics	Norrinee
Electronics	X-Cite / Algharim Electronics	Norrinee
Fast Food	Pizza Hut	Norrinee
Fast Food	Hardee's	Norrinee
Fast Food	McDonald's	Norrinee
Fine Dining	Sakura Japanese Restaurant	Norrinee
Fine Dining	Al Noukhaza Seafood Restaurant	Norrinee
Fine Dining	Le Notre	Norrinee
Home Furniture	Home Centre	Norrinee
Home Furniture	IKEA	Norrinee
Home Furniture	Safat Al Ghanim	Norrinee
Islamic Banks	Boubyan Bank	Norrinee
Islamic Banks	Kuwait Finance House	Norrinee
Islamic Banks	Ahl United Bank	Norrinee
ISPs	Ooredoo	Norrinee
ISPs	KEMS	Norrinee
ISPs	Zain	Norrinee
Mobile Operators	Ooredoo	Norrinee
Mobile Operators	Viva	Norrinee
Mobile Operators	Zain	Norrinee
New Car Sales	Infiniti	Norrinee
New Car Sales	Chevrolet	Norrinee
New Car Sales	Cacillac	Norrinee
Private Hospitals	Royale Hayat Hospital	Norrinee
Private Hospitals	Al Salam Hospital	Norrinee
Private Hospitals	Dar Al-Shifa Hospital	Norrinee
Regional Arab Airlines	Qatar Airways	Norrinee
Regional Arab Airlines	Jazeera Airways	Norrinee
Regional Arab Airlines	Emirates	Norrinee
Retail Bancs	National Bank of Kuwait	Norrinee
Retail Bancs	Ahl Bank of Kuwait	Norrinee
Retail Bancs	Burgan Bank	Norrinee
Supermarkets	Saveco	Norrinee
Supermarkets	Carrefour	Norrinee
Supermarkets	Lulu Hypermarket	Norrinee

nies; yes, such people exist, but these ideas can never be entertained. We have a system to validate votes. There are some immature companies that offer bribes, but we do not condone and accept such acts," she explained.

### Evolving techniques

Research techniques are also evolving, since companies in Kuwait are growing. "Before we used to invite companies to join the Service Hero nominations awards, but this year, we decided they'll be automatically included in the list which removes any biases. We automatically list the names of companies in the categories. The problems are in the clothing and restaurant categories, because they are so many of them," Abu-Ghazaleh said.

This year's annual index statistics include about 380 brands in Kuwait. They are not all big companies, but are representative of international and local brands in the market. "We overlook small stores or baqalas and small restaurants, because they are many and we do not have time to rate them all," she stressed.

Data are collected from Jan 1 to Dec 31, 365 days a year, and voting ends on Dec 31 for that year. "You can vote anytime during this period. We have finalized the results for 2015 already; we have the nominees and an announcement will be on Feb 15. We are validating them and authenticating them as needed. We are now open for 2016 assessments and nominations. We have two types of customers - companies that want to be categorized, and we list their strengths and weaknesses; and consumers, who trust us because we tell them the value of companies, and they are satisfied with us," Abu-Ghazaleh mentioned.

### Transparency

Customers respond to three questions: Will they hear (the company) if they include them in the list? Are they listening and do companies really care anyway? The decision and answer to customers' queries lies in the trustworthiness and transparency of the Service Hero Award. "This year, the result of the survey is now published on our website and the scores can be reviewed. The strong performers are happy, but many find it hard to accept, but what can we do - it's the result of transparent and scientific studies. The aim is to empower consumers, and we feel that we are giving people a voice," she mentioned.

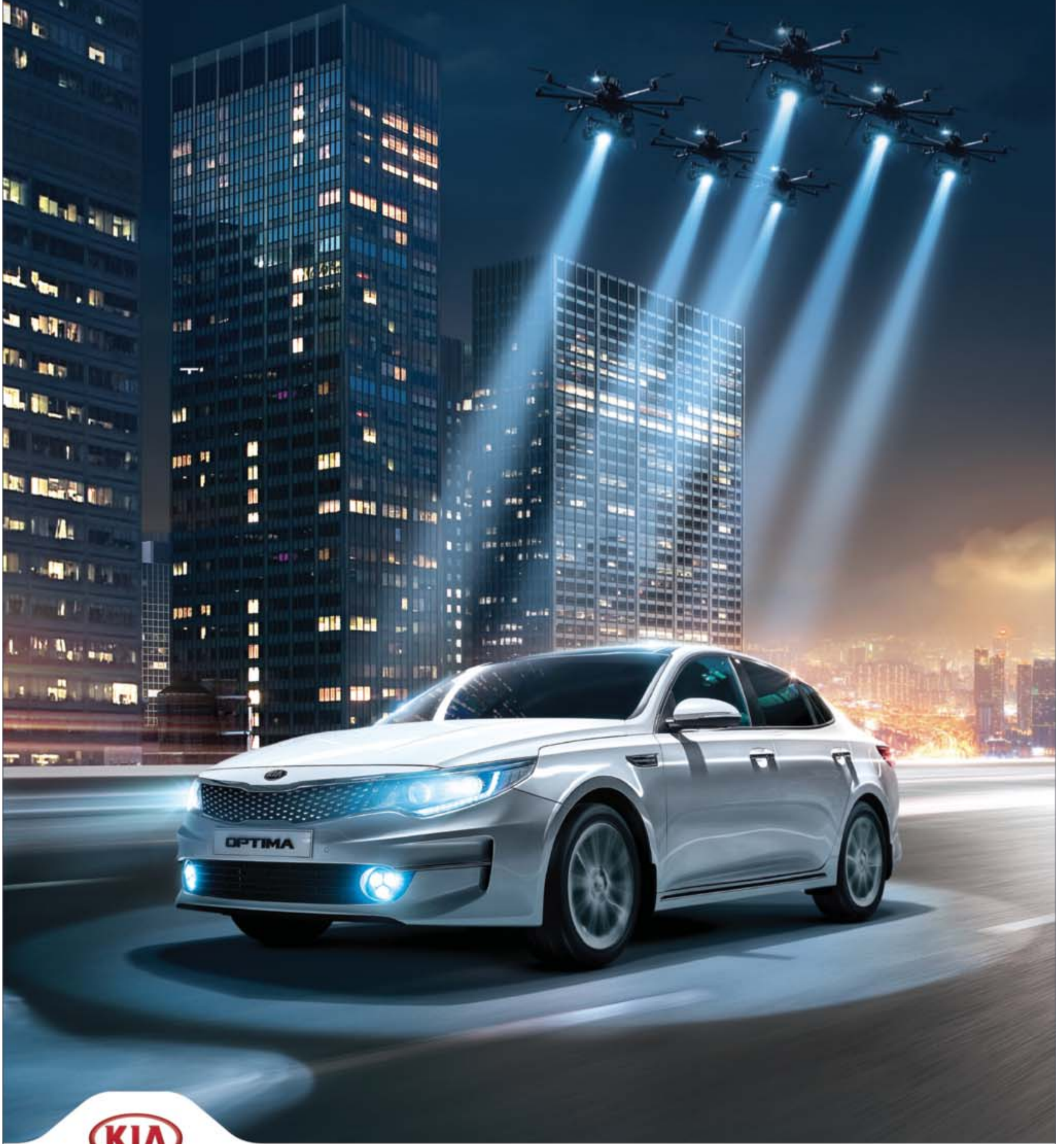
For the past six years, Service Hero has gained respect from various companies all over Kuwait. "What we do gives them an advantage. But there is more to this - to raise awareness and have healthy competition with scientific bases," she noted. Service Hero is part of Khayal Company, a consultancy firm with over 150 people. "The Service Hero team is small, but they are helping us greatly. We have academics involved in the ratings too," Abu-Ghazaleh said.



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## AIRPORT BRIBERY ATTEMPT THWARTED

**KUWAIT:** An employee at Kuwait International Airport foiled a bribery and prevented a banned person from traveling outside the country. The employee reported that a police officer was offered KD 2,000 to allow a Canadian citizen who is banned from traveling to leave the country. A security source said that a non-commissioned officer asked a data entry employee at the airport to help him enable a Canadian of Lebanese origin to leave the country illegally, by not registering his movement in the computer because he is wanted. The employee pretended to agree but he then reported the issue to his superiors headed by airport passports director Colonel Bader Al-Shaye, who coordinated with residency detectives. The public prosecution was informed to get a court order to record video and audio of the bribery taking place. But when the police officer went with the wanted man to the airport and reached the departure gate gave the money to the employee after receiving it from the Canadian both were arrested and sent to residency detectives.

### Drugs at farm

Two citizens were arrested in Kabd farms with 200g shabu, 2 firearms and DK 3800. Both were sent to Drugs prosecution. The arrest was made following information received by the Drugs Control General Department.

— Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa



## ROBBED GENERATIONS

By Saleh Al-Shayji

It is obviously clear that fear and concerns about Kuwait's financial and economic deterioration have not yet reached many Kuwaitis - probably the majority of Kuwaitis! We have become dominated by the spirit of consumption. We are living over-luxurious lives and have become eager for more, demanding more than we ever give and take more than we ever need.

Our houses are more like small palaces lined with marble and alabaster. We step on the most luxurious and expensive carpets, we sleep in kings' beds, we sit on couches covered with silk and some are decorated with gold. Each house has a long convoy of vehicles on its doorsteps. We even allocate certain ones for various tasks, like having one for the chalet, one for the farm, one for the madam, one for the master of the house and the rest for the beloved children including boys and girls. We even allocate one for the diver, which he uses to visit the co-op to bring back and load the house's fridges and freezers with many of the goods sold there before we throw away much of these for expiring before we can even use them.

Many households are competing in the number of housemaids and domestic helpers, which reminds me of one I know that has nine men and women, while family members are only six! We wear the most luxurious attires and the most expensive perfumes. We burn thousands of dinars worth of incense and bakhoor than soon vanish into thin air and never last.

Because of such alarming extravagant life patterns, we started to look down on others and evaluate people according to how much they own, as if barely living and having enough to lead moderate lives is a disgrace. Those less off are looking up to wealthy people and millionaires and trying to imitate them in their houses, vehicles, nutrition and beverages, so that they can be viewed as equals, because they know that the society's impression about people is limited to appearances, where they live, how their houses look, what type of vehicles they use and so on.

I have not been exaggerating in this article and most of what I said is true and from real life firsthand experiences. These dreadful facts have existed for decades, not years, and more than one generation grew up to such wasteful values. I am not writing to change facts, but rather to describe them so that future generations, who will curse us and accuse us of robbing them, can read about it.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



The winners in a group photo.

# OOREDOO CONGRATULATES WINNERS OF 3RD ARAB MOBILE CHALLENGE

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo has congratulated the winners of the regional finals of the 3rd Arab Mobile Challenge, at a special ceremony held in Algiers, Algeria, earlier this month.

Launched in 2013, the Arab Mobile App Challenge enables teams of up to six members under the age of 35 to develop mobile apps designed to make a difference across their communities.

Two winners won in different categories from Kuwait; Zeina Al-Bader, for developing Bookr, an app for booking appointments in salons and spas in Kuwait, while Bader Al-Essa's student social networking app My U qualified for the next phase which will take place in Barcelona in February. Both winners were among some forty applicants

who received extensive training by Ooredoo Kuwait in coordination with start-up accelerator Brilliant Lab since last October.

As a founder and a key partner of the Arab Mobile Challenge, Ooredoo was proud to participate in the regional final, which saw 24 teams from across the region present their app designs and business plans to a jury of industry experts and professionals.

Two teams received the prize of financial support for their apps, in order to bring them to market. These were the "VISIONGEEKS" developers from Sudan and "BOOKR" from Kuwait.

Five other winner teams advanced to compete at the Global Mobile Challenge, to be held during GSMA Mobile World

Congress in Barcelona in February. These teams were the developers of "SYNOOS" from Algeria, "DOHA GUIDE" from Qatar, "MY U TEAM" from Kuwait, "GRAVILOG" from Palestine and "RAYE7" from Egypt.

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al Thani, Group CEO, Ooredoo, said: "Ooredoo is a long-term partner of the Arab Mobile App Challenge, and we continue to be impressed by the quality of the entries and the commitment of the young developers looking to build these applications. Ooredoo is working hard to encourage the creation of more locally-relevant content and applications, because we believe they can have a real impact on the lives of people across our footprint."

Organized by IMTIAZ MIDDLE EAST,

more than twenty teams representing different countries participated in the regional final, including teams from Algeria, Qatar, Tunisia, Lebanon, Palestine, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, Oman and Sudan. Each team presented their idea for an app that could have a positive impact on their communities, including concepts to address specific issues in education, healthcare, entrepreneurship, employability, and entertainment. Ooredoo supports a wide range of incubation activities and entrepreneurial programs across its footprint, including Ooredoo's tStart and iStart programs in Algeria; Start-up Factory in Tunisia, Ooredoo Indosat's Ideabox in Indonesia and the "Digital and Beyond" incubator in the Qatar Business Incubation Center.



Zeina Al-Bader



Bader Al-Essa



## INDICATIVE OIL PRICE IN 2016-2017 BUDGET IS \$25: FINANCE MINISTRY

**KUWAIT:** At a time when oil prices dropped to record levels of \$21.5 per barrel, high-ranking oil sources recently stressed that deputy prime minister and acting oil minister Anas Al-Saleh decided that all ministries and government establishments should set their 2016-2017 budgets using indicative oil prices at \$25 per barrel. The sources added that this price would be temporary until a further decision was made on calculating the indicative oil prices in the new budget according to average prices of Kuwaiti oil.

The sources said that the finance ministry urged KPC, various ministries and government establishments to cancel success bonuses, cut expenses, cancel annual raises, excellent performance bonuses and promotions. The sources added that cancelling the annual raises would freeze salaries in the oil sector as they were the highest in the public sector, with an annual total of KD 1.5 billion. — Al-Anbaa

# EQUATE ISSUES ITS 1ST G4 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

**KUWAIT:** EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, has issued its first Sustainability Report as per the Guideline 4 (G4) set by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

EQUATE has issued its first Sustainability Report for the year 2011, and has since

then published more comprehensive GRI compliant reports. In addition, the 2014 Sustainability Report has set precedence in Kuwait by completing GRI's Materiality Disclosures Service regarding the feedback of EQUATE's stakeholders on its sustainability efforts and other applicable items.

GRI is an international independent organization that helps businesses, governments and other organizations understand and communicate the impact of business on critical sustainability issues such as climate change, human rights, corruption and many others.

### World record

EQUATE President and CEO Mohammad Husain said, "The title for our 2014 Sustainability Report of 'Making the Impossible Possible' is based on EQUATE setting a new world record in maintaining and updating petrochemical plants by finalizing a full-scale Turnaround (TA) within 30 days. With the participation of over 10,000 employees and contractors, EQUATE has realized the first of its kind international achievement by completing all operations within a record-time for petrochemical plants based on global standards. We have witnessed additional success in

'Making the Impossible Possible' with other world-class achievements, such as being the first company to realize a number unprecedented milestones locally, regionally and globally. The achievements included establishing Sweater Cooling Towers, applying Highly Reliable Organization (HRO) principles, initiating Plant Water Recycling Project, executing Six Sigma program, as well as obtaining Responsible Care accreditation and certification."

### Strategic objective

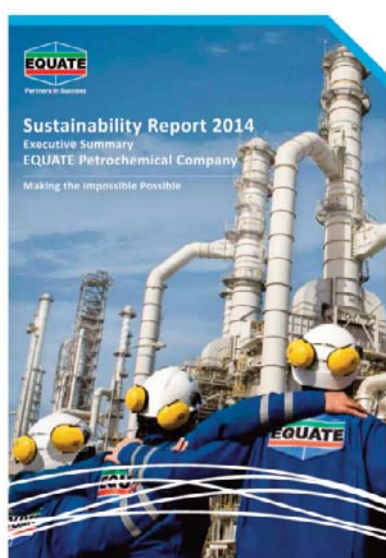
Husain noted, "For EQUATE, sustainability is a core strategic objective. It is applicable to every aspect of the company, and not a mere term or expression. EQUATE realizes the importance of sustainability to ensure being 'Partners in Success' with all stakeholders who represent individuals, organizations and communities, such as employees, their families, customers, shareholders and members of societies. In addition, sustainability is a key element in EQUATE's overall value creation for the benefit of individuals, economic growth and environmental protection."

Husain added, "EQUATE is not only a producer of petrochemicals, it is a fully integrated world-class organization that

aspires for sustainable excellence by benefiting from the advantages of combining innovation and industrial expertise with competent human resources, technological breakthroughs, rich feedstock, and valuable infrastructure. We are fully committed to sustaining solid partnerships with our stakeholders in How We Conduct Business, Our Impact on the Economies Where We Operate, Our Community, Environmental Stewardship, Our People and Quality in Our Operations, within and outside Kuwait."



EQUATE President and CEO Mohammad Husain

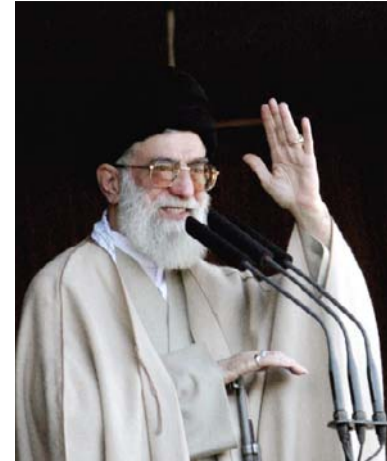


## GOVT REVIEWS SUBSIDIES WITH ASSEMBLY SOON

**KUWAIT:** The government is about to finish putting final touches on its plan concerning lifting subsidies, said informed ministerial sources, noting that once it was concluded, the Cabinet would refer a memo on the decisions to be taken on subsidies to the National Assembly in a few days. The sources added that the memo would neither be discussed in public nor behind closed doors, and that the government would only discuss it with MPs in a meeting in the parliament's office. "The government does not need to hold a parliamentary session to discuss its decisions since they are executive measures that are being reviewed with lawmakers for cooperation purposes only and do not need to be voted on," said the sources.

But parliamentary sources slammed discussing the decisions in a meeting and demanded discussing them in a public session. "The government had previously stressed full cooperation with the Assembly and that all related steps would be subject to discussion with lawmakers in a public session attended by citizens," stressed the sources. MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran stressed that he would demand allocating two hours of the Jan 26 session to discuss the economic situation and KSE's performance in view of falling oil prices and the government's austerity measures. — Al-Anbaa





**Khamenei warns against US 'deceit'**

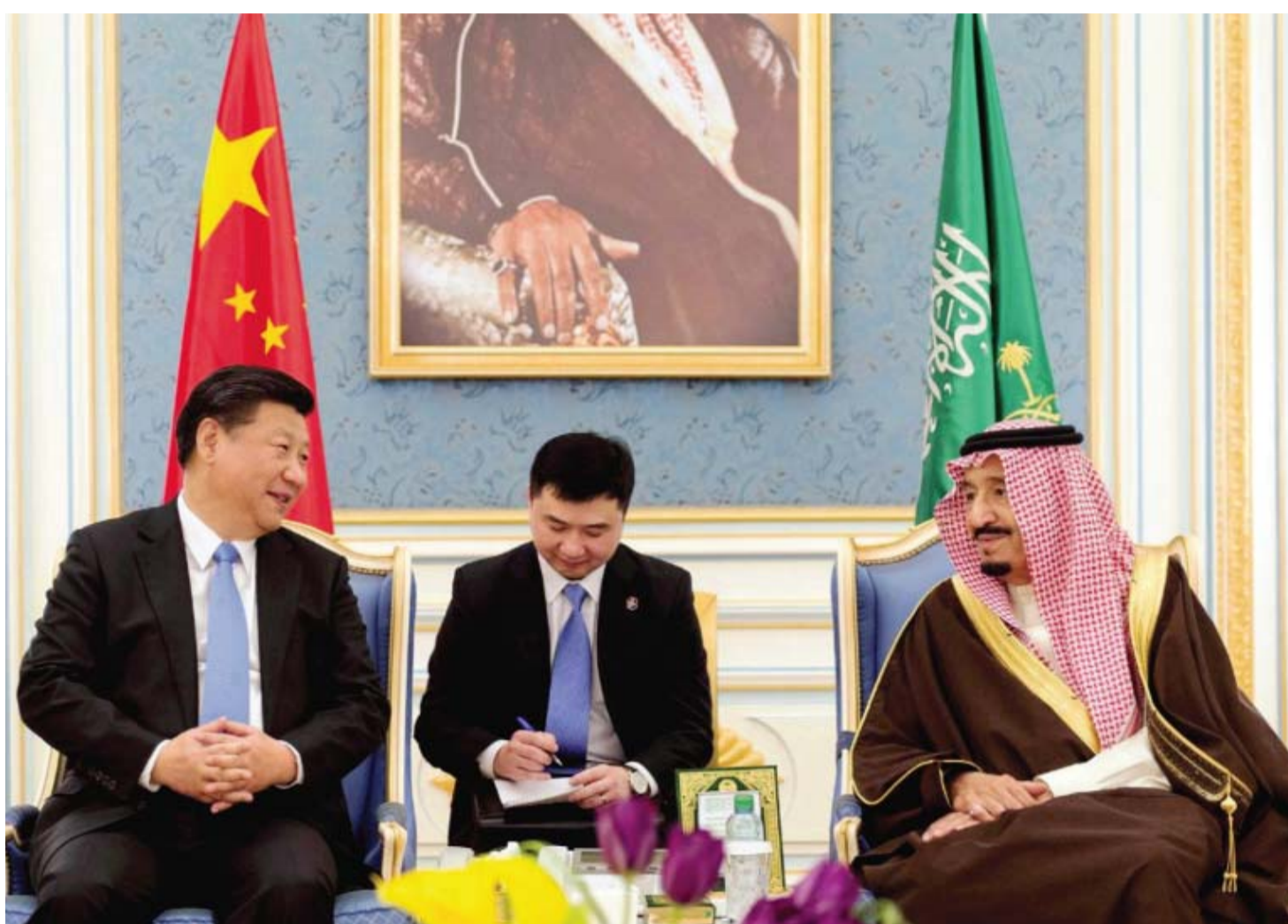
## PAK CHILD SEX ABUSE VICTIMS STRUGGLE TO REBUILD LIVES

# XI IN SAUDI ARABIA TO BOLSTER TIES

**RIYADH:** Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday, the first stop on a trip to raise the economic giant's political profile in a troubled Middle East. Xi, making his first presidential visit to the region, will also travel to Egypt and Iran during his five-day tour. State television showed Xi meeting with King Salman and the official Saudi Press Agency said the monarch held a luncheon banquet in his honor attended by several members of the royal family. "Since China and Saudi Arabia forged diplomatic ties 26 years ago, our relationship has developed by leaps and bounds, with mutual political trust deepening continuously and rich results in cooperation in various fields," Xi said in written remarks, cited by China's official Xinhua news agency.

Xi said he foresaw a fruitful visit "conducive to lifting our cooperation in various fields to a new level and to elevating the collective cooperation between China and GCC nations." He was referring to the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council to which Saudi Arabia belongs. Today, Xi is to join Salman for a ceremony to inaugurate an energy research centre in Riyadh. And they will also open, remotely from the capital, a refinery on the kingdom's Gulf coast. The refinery is a joint venture between state-owned Saudi Aramco and China Petrochemical Corp.

Red flags of China are flying in central Riyadh for the high-profile visit, to which the Arab News daily devoted a 10-page special supplement. Tensions between regional powerhouses Saudi Arabia and Iran reached a new high this month when Riyadh and a number of its Sunni Arab allies cut diplomatic ties with Tehran. They acted after protesters burned Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran following the kingdom's January 2 execution of Shiite cleric Nimr Al-Nimr. He was among 47 people put to death in a single day for "terrorism". Most



**RIYADH:** Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz meets Chinese President Xi Jinping upon the latter's arrival in the Saudi capital. — AFP

of those executed were Sunnis.

### Seeking Stability

"The kingdom and China both work

towards world stability, peace and security. And the kingdom appreciates your efforts towards this," Salman told Xi, according to SPA. Both Saudi Arabia and China maintain

tight control on civil society and have been criticized by rights activists. Xi arrived three days after a historic international deal lifted sanctions on Iran in return for a scaling back

of its nuclear capabilities. China and five other world powers helped broker that agreement. But Riyadh fears it will further embolden Iran, which it accuses of interference in Yemen, Syria and elsewhere.

Last week a Chinese diplomat urged "calm and restraint" between Saudi Arabia and Iran, but Xi's trip was probably organised before the discord, Zhu Feng, professor at Peking University's School of International Studies, told AFP. "Clearly now there are tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran, so he will be going there in the role of persuader," Zhu said before the visit. "China will try and do what it can, but it still won't play a main role."

In the past month, Beijing hosted high-level members from both the Syrian regime and its opposition. China has consistently urged a "political solution" to the Syrian war, despite being seen as sympathetic to President Bashar Al-Assad. Iran is one of Assad's main allies while Saudi Arabia backs rebel forces. In December Riyadh hosted an unprecedented meeting of the Syrian opposition aiming for unity before peace negotiations sought with Assad's regime.

The United Nations hopes those talks will begin in Geneva on Jan 25. "China is the biggest importer of Middle Eastern oil," Zhu said. "So stability in the Middle East is what China would most like to see." Beijing was trying to project power and influence in the Middle East, seeing an opening as US policy "hasn't been very successful under (US President Barack) Obama," said Willy Lam, professor of politics at Chinese University of Hong Kong. At the same time, Riyadh has been deepening ties with major powers beyond its traditional ally Washington, which it sees as insufficiently engaged, particularly in the face of alleged Iranian interference. Xi's predecessor Hu Jintao visited the kingdom in 2009. — AFP

## LIBYA UNITY GOVERNMENT FORMED, UN URGES SUPPORT

**TRIPOLI:** A Libyan unity government was formed yesterday under a UN-brokered deal aimed at ending years of bloodshed, but it was unclear whether the leaders have wide support from the warring sides. World powers are appealing to the country's rival parliaments to back the new administration to break political paralysis that has provided fertile ground for jihadists and people-smugglers. But less than half of the members of the two parliaments signed up to the UN-sponsored agreement last month.



**Fayez Al-Sarraj**

The unity government, headed by Fayez Al-Sarraj, who was named prime minister-designate under the UN-sponsored accord, comprises 32 ministers, the administration announced on its Facebook page. Sarraj, a businessman in his 50s from the capital Tripoli, holds degrees in business management and architecture and was a member of a committee that paved the way to national dialogue in Libya. UN envoy Martin Kobler urged the country's internationally recognised parliament, the House of Representatives, to "promptly convene" and endorse the unity government.

Two-thirds of the legislature must approve the new administration within 10 days so that it can begin carrying out its work. There was no immediate reaction from the two parliaments. Libya has been in

chaos since the 2011 ouster of longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi. A militia alliance including Islamists overran Tripoli in August 2014, establishing its own government and parliament and causing the internationally recognised administration to flee to the country's remote east. On Dec 17, under UN guidance, around 80 of 188 lawmakers from Libya's internationally recognised parliament and 50 of 136 members of the Tripoli-based General National Congress signed the unity government deal.

### 'Game Changer'

Analysts say the unity government is unlikely to be quickly embraced by controversial army chief General Khalifa Haftar, who has already said he was unhappy with the UN deal. "The main question is whether this government is supported by Haftar," said Mattia Toaldo of the European Council on Foreign Relations. "Reading the name of the defence minister it seems not to be the case." The key defence portfolio was given to Colonel Al-Mahdi Al-Barghathi, a prominent military figure who is popular in eastern Libya, from where he hails, and in the west where the GNC is based.

Barghathi is seen as a rival of Haftar although they fought side by side in Operation Dignity, an offensive led by Haftar against Islamists in second city Benghazi. His selection to be defence minister could help to win the support of the GNC - which opposes Haftar - for the unity government, according to analysts. "The name of the defence minister could be a game changer in shifting the position of some of the people in Tripoli," said Toaldo. Other key nominations are Al-Aref Al-Khoja, as the next interior minister and Marwan Abusrewil as the future foreign minister.

### Fighting IS 'Priority'

The power-sharing deal has been given added urgency by fears that the Islamic State jihadist group, under pressure in Syria and Iraq, is building a new stronghold on Europe's doorstep. France and Italy urged the opposing parties Tuesday to seize the chance to bring stability to the country. European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said Libya was at a "critical juncture" and urged all sides to endorse the unity government quickly. "It is now for the House of Representatives and its presidency to show the same spirit of compromise and sense of leadership, and promptly convene to endorse the proposed cabinet," she said.

"Only a united Libyan government, supported by all its citizens, will be able to end political divisions, defeat terrorism, and address the numerous security, humanitarian and economic challenges the country faces," she added. British ambassador Peter Millet echoed Mogherini. "Action against Daesh a priority," he said on Twitter, using an Arabic acronym for IS. The group first appeared in Libya in 2014 and has since claimed responsibility for beheadings and suicide bombings. It has established a stronghold in the coastal city of Sirte, Gaddafi's hometown, and is reported to have at least 3,000 fighters in Libya. In recent weeks its fighters have pushed east towards the so-called "oil crescent" along Libya's northern coast, attacking oil facilities. — AFP

## EX-FBI AGENT'S FAMILY 'OUTRAGED'

**WASHINGTON:** "Crushed and outraged" relatives of an American missing in Iran for nine years expressed deep frustration Monday that he was not included in a prisoner exchange over the weekend. "Why did Iran prisoner swap not include my father?" asked Sarah Moriarty, daughter of ex-FBI agent Robert Levinson, who has been missing for nearly a decade. Levinson, 67, 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.

Speaking on behalf of her "crushed and outraged" family, Moriarty noted the capture and US negotiations for the release of a number of Americans during her father's long captivity - 3,237 days thus far. "We are happy for their families. We shared their pain. But this news deeply hurts. And we can't hold back our devastation, let alone our anger, any longer," she wrote on CNN.com. 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. In exchange, Washington granted clemency to seven Iranians. And it withdrew international arrest notices for 14 Iranians.

Moriarty denounced "the calculated risk that was taken to decide that five hostages were enough for this deal." "A deadline to wrap up everything about our current relations with Iran in a pretty bow on January 16... meant to our family that our government was satisfied with leaving my father behind. Again," Moriarty added. "We watch as the TV cameras and newspaper and Internet headlines capture every moment of these families happily embracing their long-missed loved ones, while my father, the longest-held hostage in American history, languishes somewhere over there, growing weaker by the day. All but forgotten. Again." She also spoke of the American government's "betrayal" for not giving Levinson's family advance warning of the prisoner exchange. Moriarty noted that US officials took more than an hour to confirm to his wife that he was not part of the deal. "We are thankful that the president mentioned my father in his speech on Sunday, but he has yet to reach out to my mom to tell her what 'cooperating' means, or what he is doing next to get my dad home," Moriarty wrote. "We believe the US government did not use the best leverage it ever had to demand that my dad be brought home." — AFP

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## 'STAGGERING' DEATH TOLL FOR IRAQI CIVILIANS SINCE 2014

**GENEVA:** The number of civilians killed in violence in Iraq over the past two years is "staggering", the United Nations said yesterday, with at least 18,802 people killed and another 36,245 injured. The figures count only documented casualties from January 1, 2014 through October 31, 2015, and the actual numbers of people killed and maimed are likely far higher, according to a new report by the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the UN human rights agency.

"These are the minimum figures ... in terms of the impact of the violence on civilians," UNAMI chief Francesco Motta told reporters in Geneva by phone from Iraq, adding that the report authors used "very high standards for verification". UN human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein meanwhile said that the toll only counted people killed in violence and did not take into account those who perished from the broader impact of conflict. "Even the obscene casualty figures fail to accurately reflect exactly how terribly civilians are suffering in Iraq," Zeid said in a statement. "The figures capture those who were killed or maimed by overt violence, but countless others have died

from the lack of access to basic food, water or medical care."

Some 3.2 million people have been internally displaced in Iraq since the beginning of 2014, including more than one million school-aged children, according to the UN. "Many displaced persons are living in under-resourced locations in poor conditions, and are subject to violence and abuse," the report said. "The violence suffered by civilians in Iraq remains staggering."

### 'Crimes Against Humanity'

The dramatic upsurge in violence and in the numbers of people fleeing their homes came with the rise of the Islamic State (IS) group, which in 2014 declared a "caliphate" in a large swath of territory stretching across the Iraqi-Syrian border. Yesterday's report accused IS of "systematic and widespread violence and abuses of international human rights law and humanitarian law." The UN also documented violations and abuses carried out by Iraqi security forces and associated militia and other groups, including killings and abductions.

But the report gave particular attention to the atrocities committed by IS



**BRUSSELS:** UNHCR representative in Baghdad Bruno Geddo addresses the media on the humanitarian situation in Iraq at the UN Regional Information Centre yesterday. — AP

jihadists, detailing "numerous examples of killings ... in gruesome public spectacles, including by shooting, beheading, bulldozing, burning alive and throwing

people off the top of buildings." It also condemned reports of IS murdering child soldiers who tried to flee. In one incident, on Aug 14, IS members alleged-

ly killed 18 minors for having run away from fighting on the frontline, following a ruling from an IS self-appointed court, the report said.

It also said IS in May had used child soldiers to execute 15 of its fighters who had lost or retreated from battles. Jihadists meanwhile continue "to subject women and children to sexual violence, particularly in the form of sexual slavery," it said, adding that it believed around 3,500 people were currently being held in IS slavery. "These acts may, in some instances, amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and possibly genocide," according to the report, which was based largely on witness and victim testimony.

The experts said numerous mass graves had been discovered in Iraq, including several in areas that had been liberated from IS control, each containing the remains of dozens of people. Some of the mass graves found meanwhile date back to the rule of Saddam Hussein. The largest, found in Basra, contained the remains of 377 people, including women and children, killed during the 1991 Shiite uprising against the long-time Iraqi dictator. — AFP



**HEBRON:** A Palestinian street vendor sells cauliflower on the side of a road near this West Bank city on Monday. — AFP

## ISRAEL ARRESTS PALESTINIAN TEEN

**BEIT AMRA:** Israel yesterday arrested a Palestinian teen accused of stabbing a Jewish woman to death in the occupied West Bank and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to demolish his home after the attack provoked Israeli outrage. Sunday's killing and another stabbing of a pregnant woman inside an Israeli settlement on Monday further boosted tensions after months of unrest, raising fears of an escalation in violence as well as a harsh Israeli crackdown on Palestinians. Most of the previous knife attacks occurred in public places, including checkpoints and junctions.

Sunday's incident saw the woman stabbed to death at her home in the Otniel settlement while some of her children were in the house. Even after the arrest was announced, Palestinian workers were being temporarily barred from Israeli settlements in the West Bank as part of security measures. The family of arrested 15-year-old Murad Ideis said the raid occurred around 2:00 am at their home in the Palestinian village of Beit Amra near Otniel. Brief video footage of the raid distributed by the Israeli military showed forces arriving at a home in darkness before entering and advancing into a bedroom, where it appears two people are sleeping. The footage ends there.

Ideis's father defended his son, saying such an attack would be out of character. "His life is only school and home," Badr Ideis told AFP at his home. "I don't believe this. I know my son. Even if he tells me 'dad I did it', I won't believe it. I won't believe a 15-year-old-ignorant kid. How could he do this?"

### Controversial Demolitions

Netanyahu, during a visit to Otniel and facing pressure over a wave of Palestinian attacks, pledged to destroy the house where the suspect lives with his family. Israel regularly demolishes the homes of alleged attackers in what it describes as a deterrent. Rights groups say it amounts to collective punishment, with families forced to suffer for the acts of relatives. Netanyahu again accused Palestinian leaders of stirring up violence. "The hatred that caused this

murder has an address," he said. "It is the incitement campaign led by the Palestinian Authority and other elements such as the Islamic Movement and Hamas, and it is about time the international community stopped their hypocrisy and called things by their names."

A wave of Palestinian knife, gun and car-ramming attacks erupted in October, and many of the assailants have been young people, including teenagers. Some analysts say the attacks have been in part driven by frustration with the complete lack of progress in peace efforts, as well as by Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the fractured Palestinian leadership. Israel says incitement by Palestinian officials and news media has been a main cause of the violence.

In Sunday's attack, the Israeli army initially said the assailant broke into the home of Dafna Meir, a 38-year-old nurse and mother of six, and stabbed her to death. Israeli media have since quoted witnesses saying she was stabbed at the entrance to the house as she painted the door-frame. None of her children was hurt.

### 'Concerned and Perplexed'

Hours later on Monday, a new knife attack on a street in another West Bank settlement wounded a 30-year-old pregnant woman. The 17-year-old Palestinian assailant was shot by security personnel and taken to hospital in severe condition after the attack in Tekoa, south of Jerusalem. Israeli military chief of staff Gadi Eizenkot told a security conference on Monday that there had been no advance warning for the dozens of stabbings, making it difficult for security forces to counter them, local media reported.

At the same time, he spoke of seeking to avoid a harsh crackdown, such as new restrictions on Palestinian workers, that could push more Palestinians toward violence. "It would be a bitter mistake to impose curfews and closures," he said. "That would work against Israeli interests." US ambassador Dan Shapiro on Monday condemned the stabbings as "barbaric acts of terrorism," but also questioned Israel's policies concerning settlements in the West Bank. —AFP

# KHAMENEI WARNS AGAINST US 'DECEIT'

## PAK OFFERS TO HOST SAUDI-IRAN RECONCILIATION TALKS

**TEHRAN:** Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned yesterday against American "deceit", just days after the end of sanctions under a nuclear deal that the central bank said would unblock \$32 billion. The remarks underscored the still-strained relations between Tehran and Washington, which unveiled new missile-linked sanctions against Iran on Sunday almost as soon as the nuclear-related measures were scrapped. In his first comments since the atomic agreement was implemented at the weekend, Khamenei told President Hassan Rouhani in a letter to "guard against deceit and violations of arrogant states particularly the United States".

Rouhani wrote to Khamenei on Monday to provide an update after the UN atomic watchdog declared Saturday that Iran had met conditions stipulated in the nuclear deal. "We have to watch if the other parties fulfil their commitments," the supreme leader wrote in response. Washington cut diplomatic ties with Iran in 1979, when its embassy in Tehran was stormed by students, months after the Islamic revolution, leading to a 444-day hostage crisis. Khamenei has never endorsed repairing relations with the US and has largely followed a similar tack to Iran's late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who dubbed America the "Great Satan".

Meanwhile, Pakistan's prime minister offered yesterday to host talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia aimed at resolving disputes between the Middle Eastern rivals. Nawaz Sharif met Rouhani in Tehran, a day after meeting Saudi Arabia's King Salman in Riyadh. After his meeting with Rouhani, Sharif told reporters that Iran had expressed an interest in improving relations with Saudi Arabia and would appoint a focal person for future talks. Sharif said he would speak to Saudi Arabia to encourage the appointment of a focal person, and described reconciling the two countries as Pakistan's "prime duty and sacred mission." Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said that Islamabad is deeply concerned at the recent escalation of tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

### Recession and Unemployment

Opening up to the world cannot completely fix the economy, Rouhani said yesterday in a televised speech, warning the "difficult road has just begun". "Today is just the start for an innocent human who was kept chained unjustly by the hands and feet for 12 years," said the president. "Sanctions are gone but there is a long way between sanctions and development," he said, speaking to an economics conference in Tehran.



**TEHRAN:** Iranian President Hassan Rouhani meets Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday. — AP

"Today, our main problem is unemployment and recession, the lack of a booming economy and many structural and economic deficiencies."

Iran hopes that steps to ease its isolation, including the re-admission of its banks to the SWIFT system of international transactions, will inject new vigour into the economy. The central bank said that \$28 billion (25.8 billion euros) of the unfrozen funds would go to it and \$4 billion "will be transferred to the state treasury as the share of the government". The assets, which had been held in foreign banks, will be kept "in centralised and safe accounts" abroad, central bank chief Valiollah Seif was quoted by state television as saying, adding that the money could be used to pay for imports.

Iran's economy suffered greatly under the international sanctions that since 2006 targeted the Islamic republic's nuclear program and financial systems. Under the previous hardline government of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, inflation topped 40 percent. But moderate Rouhani, whose election in 2013 heralded more than two years of nuclear negotiations with world powers,

managed to curb inflation to 13 percent.

Iran needs annual foreign investment of \$30-\$50 billion to reach an eight percent growth target and cash in on sanctions relief, the president said Sunday. "Untapped potential in many industries indicates that domestic demand alone cannot drive the economy" towards that goal, he said, signalling a shift in policy. Iran announced a major boost of 500,000 barrels per day in oil production on Monday - a move Tehran had long planned for once its nuclear deal with world powers took effect.

The next budget starting in March is based on a projected oil price of \$40 per barrel price and exports of 2.25 million barrels per day. Iran, a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), now produces 2.8 million barrels of oil per day and exports just over one million barrels.

Low oil prices and years of US and European Union sanctions that barred much of Iran's foreign oil sales hammered its income from crude. But despite global prices falling below \$30, Iran intends to increase production to recoup lost market share. — AFP

# SUNNI MPs BOYCOTT IRAQ PARLIAMENT OVER VIOLENCE

**BAGHDAD:** Iraq's parliament suspended its meeting yesterday amid protests by Sunni Muslim MPs over violence that targeted their community in eastern Iraq and left dozens killed in apparent retaliation for anti-Shiite bombings claimed by Islamic State. Sunni lawmakers urged Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi to disband and disarm the Shi'ite militias which they accuse of being behind the latest attacks in and around the town of Muqaddiya, 80 km northeast of Baghdad.

Raad Al-Dahlaki and Nahida Al-Daini, two Sunni MPs from Diyala province where Muqaddiya is located, said 43 people had been killed over the past week and nine mosques fire bombed. Salah Muzahim, another MP, said the toll was over 40 dead. The rise of the Islamist militant group Islamic State, which follows a Sunni jihadist ideology, has exacerbated a long-running sectarian conflict in Iraq, mostly between the Shiite majority and minority Sunnis.

A surge in such violence would represent a further challenge to Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, a moderate Shi'ite Islamist who is trying to reconcile the

Sunnis and win them over to push Islamic State out of the mainly Sunni-populated areas in the country's north and west which it seized in 2014. "These killings are hindering Abadi's efforts to rebuild trust with the Sunnis which is essential to recover territory under ISIS control," said Mona Alami, a Beirut-based analyst with the Atlantic Council think tank, using an acronym for Islamic State.

Abadi toured Muqaddiya yesterday, walking through the town surrounded by guards and security officials. He denounced the use of force by non-state actors, without specifically mentioning the militias. "We consider any weapon outside this framework as a weapon (benefiting) the terrorist Daesh gangs," he said, according to a statement from his office, referring to Islamic State.

Earlier yesterday, Sunni politicians said they were boycotting two sessions of parliament, leading to its adjournment, in condemnation of the violence in Muqaddiya. "We demand the dissolution and disarmament of the (Shiite) militias," said the statement read by MP Ahmed Masari. Iraq's Interior Ministry has not published a toll for

Sunni casualties in Muqaddiya and neighbouring villages. The ministry's spokesman was not available to provide details on the latest violence.

### Sectarianism

Badr Organisation, the Iranian-backed Shiite militia which is dominant in Diyala, rejected the casualty figures quoted by the Sunni MPs. "Yes, there are people killed but this number is exaggerated," Mohammed Naji, an aide to Badr leader Hadi Al-Amiri, told Reuters. He described the attacks on Sunni mosques as violations by people who want to stir up sectarian tension in Diyala, which lies between Baghdad and the Iranian border and has a mixed population of Shi'ites and Sunnis.

At the height of Iraq's civil war nearly a decade ago, such violence often unleashed revenge killings and counter attacks across the country. Shiite militiamen deployed in Muqaddiya last week after two blasts killed 23 people near a coffee shop where they often meet. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks which they said had targeted

Shiites. The level of violence has receded but tension remains with the town still under the control of Shiite militiamen, Dahlaki and Daini said.

Badr Organisation has established itself as the ascendant militia in the region since rolling back Islamic State's advance. Amiri last week expressed regret over the violence in Diyala and offered to rebuild the destroyed Sunni mosques there. Iraqi officials declared victory over the insurgents in Diyala nearly a year ago, but the militants have remained active. Many Sunnis fled their homes in the province as Badr advanced and accused the militias of abuses, which they have denied or blamed on rogue members.

Shiite militias were left out of last month's battle against Islamic State in the western city of Ramadi over fears they would aggravate tensions in the mostly Sunni area. Abadi has touted the victory in the largest population centre retaken from the militants as vindication of his strategy to rely on US-led air strikes and rebuild Iraq's army, which collapsed in the face of Islamic State's initial advance. —Reuters

## News

in brief

### Warrant filed for men dancing in uniforms

**DUBAI:** Prosecutors in the United Arab Emirates have filed an arrest warrant for two men who wore military uniforms and danced in an Internet video. The state-run WAM news agency announced yesterday that Abu Dhabi prosecutors had filed the warrant for the men. It described the video as showing "two men donning military uniforms and making outrageous physical movements that did not respect the uniform, the morale and the value of national service." The country has suffered dozens of casualties in the ongoing Saudi-led war against Shiite rebels in Yemen, making authorities especially sensitive about its military.

### UAE officer in court for filming Messi's passport

**DUBAI:** A police officer in the United Arab Emirates has appeared in court over filming himself holding Barcelona star Lionel Messi's passport. Abu Dhabi's state-run The National newspaper reported yesterday that the police officer appeared in Dubai's Court of Misdemeanors over the posting the video to the mobile phone app Snapchat in December. The newspaper said the video included the caption: "Shall I burn the passport or just put it back!" The police officer, identified as J M, faces a charge of violating Messi's privacy. He said he made the video in jest and had the permission of Messi's bodyguard. The forward was in Dubai to receive the Player of the Year award at the Globe Soccer Awards. Messi also is a global ambassador for the coming Expo 2020 in Dubai.



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## HAMTRAMCK, A 12-MOSQUE TOWN IN THE HEART OF AMERICA

**HAMTRAMCK:** Three faces from afar a man in a headdress and a veiled girl and woman-greet patrons at a Yemeni restaurant in the US city of Hamtramck, gazing into the distance from a mural outside the eatery. The colorful painting is just another piece of the ever-changing backdrop in this industrial Michigan town, which made history in November when it became the first in America to elect a Muslim majority to its city council. Amid heated rhetoric on Muslims across the county during the presidential campaign season, Hamtramck-located just a 15-minute drive from Detroit-has embraced them.

The Paris attacks and San Bernardino killings sent a knee-jerk reaction through some quarters, with Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump going so far as to call for an outright ban on Muslims entering the country. But such is not the case here. Hamtramck is "a manifestation of what America is meant to be. A place of opportunity," said Mayor Karen Majewski, who proudly announced that Syrian refugees were recently welcomed into the city. One-story houses squeeze in tight next to each other in Hamtramck, which is home to 22,300 residents and has a total area of

just over two square miles.

On its two main streets, women in hijabs and niqabs-the latter cover the face completely except for an opening for the eyes-girls in tight jeans, men with closely shaved heads and youths in baggy pants pass by each other.

Stores, restaurants and supermarkets are equally diverse, welcoming Middle Eastern, Southeast Asian and Polish clientele. Kebab vendors coexist alongside Indian food joints.

### Call to prayer

Sitting across from a church is Al-Islah Mosque, one of the largest of the city's 12. Since 2004, a muezzin, who calls Muslims to prayer five times a day, has belted out from makeshift minarets. "We have no problem with the Polish, we have no problem with the black community. We are living together peacefully. Nobody complains about the call to prayer anymore," said mosque secretary Masud Khan. Muslim holy days, he noted, are public holidays here, and schools and city offices close on those days. A five-minute walk away, an imposing statue of late pope John Paul II serves as a reminder of a Catholic past in the city of immigrants, which

was founded by German farmers in the 1910s.

Hamtramck next became a bastion of Polish immigrants fleeing discriminatory laws in Detroit. However, the number of Polish residents has shrunk from 90 percent of the population in 1970 to 12 percent today, said historian Thaddeus Radzilowski, himself a Polish American. Most moved on to suburban areas. The city has also seen a steady exodus of African Americans, said Radzilowski. Meanwhile, the proportion of immigrants from Bangladesh (20 percent), Bosnia (seven percent) and Yemen (23 percent) has grown, attracted by low crime rates, cheap real estate and the now bygone US auto boom, according to the researcher. However, plants belonging to the "Big Three"-Chrysler, Ford and General Motors-have closed, and the city now has one of the highest poverty rates in the state of Michigan.

### Open bar

In front of the large Saint Florian Church, where Mass is still delivered in Polish, Father Mirek Frankowski said rapid demographic and political change has caused concern among the older generation. "They are afraid that the city will lose its

Eastern Europe character," he said, adding that Muslim youths had disrupted processions before.

"I tell them as long as you come to the church, as long as you participate in events here in Hamtramck, the city will have a small percent of Eastern (European) character." There is also a fear that Polish celebrations could disappear now that the six-person city council is majority Muslim, Radzilowski said. "We are known for our nightlife, music, food, restaurants and bars, and that's also a really important part of our identity and our economic vitality, so I think it's important that isn't constrained," Majewski said.

Anam Miah, who was born in Bangladesh and is one of the four Muslim city council members, said that he cherished "the diversity of cultures in our community." Many residents, like Polish art center co-owner Joan Bittner, are holding judgment to see how things go. "I am waiting to see," she said. Meanwhile, ads and signs for alcohol-which practicing Muslims largely consider banned by the Quran-still run rampant in the city. On Thursday evenings, Hamtramck, which has the largest number of liquor licenses in Michigan, practically turns into an open bar, Ladjilowski said. — AFP

# WHY BRITISH POLLSTERS GOT ELECTION WRONG?

## SAMPLING METHODS BLAMED

**LONDON:** A post-mortem into why opinion polls failed spectacularly to predict a Conservative Party victory in Britain's 2015 parliamentary election has blamed sample recruitment methods and, potentially, unintended herd behavior by pollsters. For months, right up to the eve of the May election, opinion polls were showing a dead heat between the ruling Conservatives and opposition Labor Party. In the event, Prime Minister David Cameron's party was ahead by well over 6 percentage points.

The polling fiasco angered many in politics and the media because expectations that neither party would win an overall majority in parliament meant the campaign was dominated by speculation about

potential alliances with smaller parties. This may have influenced the outcome, the argument goes, because there was little scrutiny of what a one-party Conservative government would do. It also bolstered Conservative warnings that Labor would need support from the pro-independence Scottish National Party to govern, an unpopular scenario in England.

The accuracy and impact of opinion polls remain live issues ahead of a referendum on whether Britain should remain in the European Union that could take place this year. Polls suggest a tight race between the "in" and "out" campaigns. After the May election, an association of pollsters commissioned an inquiry by a panel of statistics experts, who reported yesterday the

main problem was the make-up of samples. In particular, the samples had too many young voters and too few elderly ones. Young people are more likely to support Labor but less likely to vote, while the elderly are overwhelmingly Conservative-leaning and more likely to vote.

"We'll be suggesting some things that we think will reduce the risk of being wrong, but there's no silver bullet," inquiry chairman Patrick Sturgis, professor of research methodology at the University of Southampton said. The panel also said it could not rule out "herding", where pollsters considering ways to adjust their raw data select the option that produces the most "reasonable" results, which they may perceive to be those in line with other

polls. "When they're choosing what to do, they may be influenced by what they think the result should be. That comes from the other polls," Sturgis said, adding herding was unintentional.

Ben Page, chief executive of Ipsos MORI, said the pollster would make changes, such as asking extra questions to better filter out data from respondents unlikely to vote. Page said it was almost impossible to prove whether the inaccuracy of the polls had affected the result. "It may have influenced the media and that's why they're so cross about it," he told Reuters. "But would more accurate polls have prompted the voters to conduct forensic scrutiny of Conservative policies? I think that's much less likely." — Reuters

## BRITISH WEBSITE TARGETS PARENTS WHO FEAR CHILDREN MAY JOIN IS

**LONDON:** Britain launches a new website yesterday which aims to educate Muslim teenagers against groups like Islamic State, as the government backed the right of schools to ban girls from wearing veils. The Educate Against Hate site will warn parents and teachers to watch out for signs of radicalization amongst youngsters and keep track of what they are looking at online. It says the symptoms include "wanting to shut down debate or pursue the path of segregation" as well as spending too much time online.

Education Secretary Nicky Morgan was launching the initiative at a school in east London, several of whose students went to join the Islamic State group in Syria last year, some becoming jihadi brides. Ahead of the launch, Prime Minister David Cameron's government was drawn into a fresh debate about whether Muslim girls should be allowed to wear veils at school. Morgan told BBC radio that "it is very much up to the schools" to decide their own policy on the veil.

But she added: "There are certain things, particularly in relation to teachers who are teaching young children, particularly learning to read and to speak, where actually seeing the teacher's mouth is very, very important". Michael Wilshaw, the head of schools watchdog Ofsted, has backed a ban on veils in schools. And Cameron said he supported the right of schools to forbid students from wearing the veil as he announced Monday that Muslim women who fail to learn good English could face deportation from Britain. "When you are coming into contact with an institution or you're in court, or if you need to be able to see someone's face at the border, then I will always back the authority and institution," he said.

The numbers of Britons travelling to Syria to try and join jihadist groups such as IS is the subject of grave concern in Britain and Cameron's government has announced a string of initiatives to bring the numbers down. Some 800 Britons have travelled to the war-torn country since 2012, with half of them still thought to be there. A further 600 have been stopped from travelling. The Department of Education also promised Tuesday a "significant escalation" of investigations into unregistered schools. Ofsted inspectors said in December they had found 18 unregistered schools in recent months, including some whose curriculums were focused on Islam as opposed to the centrally-approved National Curriculum. — AFP



**Syrian refugee Fatimah who came from the central Syrian city of Palmyra, speaks to The Associated Press soon after arriving in the Turkish town of Reyhanli. She compared the Islamic State group's rule to that of Syrian President Bashar Assad, with the widespread use of informers to spy on the public. "We were also afraid to talk against Daesh to anyone we don't fully trust," said Fatimah, using the Arabic acronym for the group. She spoke on condition that her last name not be printed, fearing for her safety. — AP**



**LYNCHBURG:** Supporters of US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump attend a rally at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia on January 18, 2016. — AFP

## TRUMP COURTS EVANGELICALS CHRISTIANITY 'UNDER SIEGE'

**LYNCHBURG:** Donald Trump declared himself a defender of besieged Christians in a campaign speech to more than 11,000 people Monday, as the Republican presidential frontrunner openly courted evangelicals two weeks before the first nomination vote. The 69-year-old billionaire found a receptive audience at Virginia's Liberty University, an evangelical bastion and a rite of passage for conservative presidential candidates from Ronald Reagan in the 1980s to Ted Cruz, Trump's main Republican rival.

After a Christian rock band warmed up the crowd, the real estate tycoon stressed his ties with evangelicals, who largely vote for conservatives and play a key role in which candidate ultimately wins the party's nomination. But evangelicals also typically back Republicans that are conservative on social issues, an area of weakness for Trump. The audience at the Vines Center was mostly filled with youths, including students who were excused from class, but also included other supporters. Many attendees at the event, which was open to the public, wore t-shirts and sweatshirts bearing Trump's name.

"We've done great with the evangelicals. The evangelicals have been amazing," Trump told the crowd to cheers. "We're going to protect Christianity. If you look what's going on throughout the world-you look at Syria, where if you're Christian, they're chopping off heads." Trump, who is known more for his multiple wives, extravagant lifestyle and bombastic rhetoric than piety, kept

Christianity at the fore as he spoke at the university founded by Southern Baptist pastor Jerry Falwell. "You look at the different places, and Christianity, it's under siege," he said. "I'm a Protestant, I'm very proud of it, Presbyterian to be exact, but I'm proud of it, very, very proud."

### Controversy never far

Trump, who has urged a ban on Muslims entering the United States, upset some by speaking on a US holiday commemorating civil rights leader Martin Luther King. A handful of students who came to protest were quickly corralled by Secret Service agents behind barricades at a distance from the amphitheater. "Dr King is someone who spent more than a decade fighting for equality for all people," said protest organizer Eli McGowan, 21.

"Mr Trump, in his words and actions, likes to divide people and ridicule them. He magnifies people's differences. Their racial, ethnic and religious differences." During his speech, Trump brushed the criticism aside, declaring: "It's an honor to be here, especially on Martin Luther King Day. He was a great man." Trump again directed his anger and frustration at Washington politicians, which he says are incompetent, as the candidate, who has never served in public office, bolstered his anti-establishment credentials. "We've been dealing with politicians for so long. All they do is debate, but they never get things done," Trump said.

He also delved into the hot-button

issue of immigration, saying "we need powerful borders, strong borders," as he once again pressed for building a wall at the US border with Mexico. "Two thousand years ago, China built the Great Wall of China. This is a serious wall, and they didn't have Caterpillar tractors," he quipped. "I have to make it but I have to make it beautiful. Why? Because someday they'll name the wall Trump Wall." Audrey Bennit, sporting a Trump pin on her sweater, said she was blown away. "I think it was amazing, he talked about a lot of the things I was looking forward to him to talk about," she said. "Immigration is just a really big problem in this country... He's one of the only ones that talk about protecting Christians, that's very important."

### Two weeks from voting

Trump is locked in a tight race with Cruz in Iowa, which on February 1 becomes the first state to vote for party nominees. Cruz, a Texas senator whose father is a Cuban-born evangelical preacher, already enjoys strong support from the evangelical community. According to polls, nearly two-thirds of evangelical Republicans say a candidate's position on abortion is the most important issue driving their voting decision. But Trump, who during his political life has been a Democrat and an independent, is only a recent convert to the "pro-life" anti-abortion position. In recent weeks Trump has stressed his own faith as he steps up efforts to reach out to the critical group. — AFP

## News

in brief

### MI5 named Britain best gay-friendly employer

**LONDON:** Britain's MI5 spy agency was yesterday named the country's best employer for promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender diversity. The domestic counter-intelligence and security agency came top of the annual Workplace Equality Index conducted by Stonewall, an LGBT rights charity. It found the security service provided staff with quality employment policies, training, career development opportunities, and especially support for LGBT employees. MI5 beat more than 400 organizations to top Stonewall's Top 100 Employers list for 2016, after coming seventh in 2015. "Diversity is vital for MI5, not just because it's right that we represent the communities we serve, but because we rely on the skills of the most talented people whoever they are, and wherever they may be," said the agency's director-general Andrew Parker. "This accolade from Stonewall is a great acknowledgement of the continued progress we have made over recent years in ensuring we draw on the widest possible pool of talent in our vital work." Stonewall's workplace equality index uses a range of criteria and questions to establish employers' efforts to tackle discrimination against LGBT people, both in Britain and in their global operations.

### 1,200 flee as Indonesian volcano spews ash, gas

**KUPANG:** More than 1,200 people have been evacuated from their homes to escape a gurgling volcano in eastern Indonesia spewing clouds of ash and toxic gas into the air. Officials said yesterday they had distributed thousands of gas masks to villagers around Mount Egon in eastern Flores island as the choking fumes from the volcano intensified. All residents within three kilometers of the volcano were ordered to evacuate and roads were also closed. Authorities said they were prepared to issue a wide-scale evacuation order if the situation deteriorates further. "We are on a high alert and ready to evacuate any time," disaster mitigation official Silvanus Tobi said yesterday. The volcano began rumbling last month but has become more active in recent days, sending villagers fleeing from their homes. During its last serious eruption in 2008, Mount Egon blasted smoke and volcanic material nearly six kilometers into the atmosphere. It is one of 129 active volcanoes in Indonesia, which sits on the Ring of Fire, a belt of seismic activity running around the basin of the Pacific Ocean.

### Missing HG bookseller in China: City government

**HONG KONG:** China has confirmed that a missing Hong Kong-based bookseller, one of five men whose disappearance fuelled fears of an erosion of the city's freedoms, is on the mainland, the city's government said. The news will add to fears of pro-democracy law-makers, activists and some residents who believe mainland authorities are kidnapping critics to try to silence dissent. Lee Bo, who works for a publishing house that sells titles critical of Beijing, was last seen at a book warehouse in Hong Kong on December 30. He was the fifth employee of the Mighty Current publishing house to go missing in recent months. Three were in China when they vanished, but the disappearance of Lee from Hong Kong and of another man from Thailand has raised fears of Chinese authorities operating internationally. A Hong Kong government spokesman said yesterday police had received information from Chinese authorities that Lee was in China. The spokesman said the letter was issued by the public security department of Guangdong province, which borders Hong Kong, but it did not specify where the missing man was.

### S Korea implements 'anti-nut rage' law

**SEOUL:** South Korea brought a new "anti-nut rage" law into effect yesterday, prompted by an angry outburst by the daughter of Korean Air's boss over a bag of macadamias. The revised aviation law, which drastically toughens punishments on unruly passengers, was a direct result of the "nut rage" incident by Cho Hyun-Ah in December 2014, the transportation ministry said. "The amended law reflects mounting public demand for enhanced aviation safety and the prevention of unruly behavior during flight following the Korean Air nut rage incident," the ministry said in a press statement. Under the new law, anyone who disturbs the pilot during a flight could face up to five years in prison or a 50-million-won (\$41,000) fine. In the past, the same offence incurred only a five-million-won fine without the risk of a jail term. Under the new law, crew members are obliged to hand over unruly passengers to authorities and risk a 10-million-won fine for failing to do so. Cho, 41, served five months in jail before walking free in May last year after an appeals court overturned her conviction for violating aviation safety laws.



# AFGHAN HUSBAND CUTS OFF WIFE'S NOSE

**KABUL:** A young woman in a remote northern region of Afghanistan had her nose cut off by her husband, officials in the region said yesterday. Fawzia Salimi, a hospital director in Maymana, capital of Faryab province, said 22-year-old Reza Gul was brought in early Monday having lost a great deal of blood. Gul's husband, 25-year-old Mohammad Khan, has since fled their village. Salimi said the Afghan-Turk Hospital in Maymana was trying to arrange transport for Gul to Turkey for further treatment.

Domestic violence is widespread in Afghanistan, where women are often denied constitutional rights designed to protect them. Violence has also become somewhat entrenched in Afghan society after 40 years of war, with nearly non-existent mental health care and few options or outlets for a traumatized population.

Hafizullah Fetrat, the head of Faryab's provincial human rights commission, said violence in the area had risen by at least 30 percent in the past year. "It's not just in

Faryab, it is across the entire north of the country - poverty, high unemployment, ignorance about marriage," he said. Faryab borders Turkmenistan and is among the poorest regions of Afghanistan, with many people relying on government food handouts. Corruption is also rife, and many residents complaining that officials pilfer the aid. Over the past year, the Taliban's presence in the region has grown. The militant group has intensified its campaign following the drawdown of the international combat mission in 2014.

The district where Gul's family lives is under Taliban control, said Rahmatullah Turkistani, a member of Faryab's provincial council. Salimi said Khan had returned from Iran three months ago, and since then had repeatedly beaten and tortured his wife. He had also taken another wife who is just seven years old, she said. Community elders and Taliban representatives in their village had tried mediating with the family to help sort out their problems, a traditional method of dealing

with marital issues, Salimi said. Khan had disappeared from the village, and local security forces including the intelligence agency and police were searching for him, said the provincial governor's spokesman Ahmad Jawed Dedar.

The Taliban is also looking for him. Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said that the group's gunmen were "seriously searching the area to find" Khan. If and when he was found, "then he will be dealt with according to Shariah law," Mujahid said, referring to the Islamic legal system. Before cutting off his wife's nose, Khan had promised Taliban leaders in the village that he would stop harming Gul. As the village was under their control, the Taliban would likely find him first, Dedar said. Severing women's noses is not unheard of in Afghanistan and like most abuse probably happens more often than is publicly acknowledged. The case of Aisha Mohammadzai shocked the world in 2010 when she appeared on the cover of Time magazine with her nose cut off.—AP



**FARYAB:** Afghan woman Reza Gul, 20 whose nose was sliced off by her husband in an attack, lies on a bed with her baby as she receives treatment at a hospital in the northern province of Faryab yesterday. —AFP



**NEW DELHI:** Indian police detain students protesting the death of an Indian student who, along with 4 others, was barred from using some facilities at his university in the southern tech-hub of Hyderabad, in New Delhi yesterday. The protesters accused Hyderabad University's vice chancellor along with a federal minister of unfairly demanding punishment for the five lower-caste students after they clashed last year with a group of students supporting the governing Hindu nationalist party. —AP

## SUICIDE OF STUDENT TRIGGERS PROTESTS IN SOUTHERN INDIA

**HYDERABAD:** Shouting slogans and holding placards, hundreds of students yesterday angrily protested the death of an Indian student who, along with four others, was barred from using some facilities at his university in the southern tech-hub of Hyderabad. The protesters accused Hyderabad University's vice chancellor and a federal minister of unfairly demanding punishment for the five lower-caste students after they clashed last year with a group of students supporting the governing Hindu nationalist party. Police are investigating whether actions by the officials contributed to the 26-year-old doctoral student's death, which they say was a suicide. He had been a member of a group representing Dalits, the lowest caste in India's Hindu caste hierarchy.

The demonstrations in Hyderabad drew nationwide attention, with TV channels running updates throughout the morning. The students have boycotted their classes and were holding a sit-in in the university. "We want justice," they

shouted as scores of police stood by. Police detained eight students overnight yesterday following day-long protests on Monday. Students in Mumbai University also held protests yesterday and demanded the removal of the Hyderabad University vice chancellor. Rohith Vemula's body was found hanging in a hostel room, weeks after university authorities barred the five students from staying in the students' hostel or using the library or other facilities. The five had been living in a tent outside the gate of the university since their suspension on Dec 21.

University officials had cleared the five Dalit students in a preliminary inquiry into the clash, but reversed that decision in December and ordered that they be suspended. The protesting students say the university's decision to punish the five was due to pressure from federal minister Bandaru Dattatreya, who sent a letter to the Human Resource Development Ministry demanding action against the Dalits. —AP

# CHILD SEX ABUSE VICTIMS TRYING TO REBUILD LIVES

## SEX SCANDAL ROCKS PAKISTAN

**HUSSAIN KHAN WALA:** "I don't regret speaking out, but since then, people have looked at me with strange eyes," laments 16-year-old village boy Irfan. He was one of 20 children sexually abused by a gang who sold videos of the acts and used them for blackmail purposes, in a scandal that shocked Pakistan. The police, who had conspicuously failed to act despite pleas from some parents, eventually arrested 37 men after clashes between relatives and authorities brought the issue into the media spotlight last summer, years after the abuse began.

Six months after one of the country's biggest pedophilia scandal broke, police now confirm 17 of the accused remain in prison awaiting trial, while three more are out on bail. But the young survivors who defied taboos to seek justice say they have little hope for rebuilding their lives. In recent years, more and more families in this socially conservative Muslim country of 200 million have dared to speak out against sexual abuse of their children. But the fight against predators remains in its infancy. Powerful taboos, gaps in legislation and a lack of awareness continue to fuel a phenomenon that remains hidden, yet deeply embedded within society.

### Media glare

Irfan drags his feet listlessly in the narrow winding streets of Hussain Khan Wala, a large village in rural Punjab. Like the other abused teens, he feels stigmatized and without any kind of support after five years of abuse. "I feel terrible when my friends stare at me. I know what they are thinking," he mutters. "My classmates and teachers look down on me, so I stopped going to school." Though the scandal finally made it

to the national news media in July, the local police were found to have turned a blind eye to the crimes for several months "which amounts not only to criminal negligence, rather it was connivance," according to a report by the National Commission for Human Rights.

Several of the accused belong to locally influential families. It took a series of clashes between the survivors' families and police, in which dozens were injured, for politicians to act and demand arrests. The families and survivors were then served up to the media, with some local leaders placing the number of abused children at 280 - though that figure is believed to have been inflated as a result of attempts to leverage the tragedy for business and political gain. Authorities established that 20 youths were raped and sodomised, the only two sex crimes recognized under Pakistani law.

The country's penal code does not prohibit sexual abuse that does not involve penetration, nor child pornography. "This scandal shows there are no institutional structures to tackle sexual abuse or to protect children," says Valerie Khan, the director of Group Development Pakistan, a local NGO which advocates legal reforms. A law criminalizing sexual abuse of children is currently being debated by Pakistan's Senate. These reforms are all the more urgent given the growing number of cases being reported, according to child rights' group Sahil, which records statistics based on press reports in the absence of official data.

The group recorded fewer than 2,000 cases in 2008, but more than 3,500 in 2014, a rise it said "reflects an increase in social awareness of the problem". Veteran human rights activist Hina Jilani said that while

increased reporting was welcome, cases must be handled sensitively-noting that activists, judges and police were not trained in how to question child victims. Another obstacle to greater reporting of crimes are the families themselves, who are often reluctant to intervene when they feel their "honor" is at stake, according to Jilani.

### Loss of self-worth

Eighteen-year-old Sonia says it was unreported childhood abuse, and the subsequent loss of her honor that drove her toward prostitution. Forced to abandon her studies to work following the death of her father at the age of 16, she found herself at the mercy of an employer who she says raped her. "If I would tell my family, they would not go to the police station," says the frail young woman, because of the shame it would bring. It was difficult for her to make her complaint herself because "there (are) no lady police" at the station, she said, and she quit her job fearing more attacks.

Having lost her sense of worth, she turned to an intermediary at a beauty salon who guided her toward prostitution, which she now uses to support her family. Wearing light make-up and modern but modest clothing, she has all the airs of a carefree high-schooler-apart from the fact she walks the streets alone at night. Back in Hussain Khan Wala, the parents of abused children are waiting for the government to help them rebuild their lives anew elsewhere. Muhammad, a laborer whose 17 year old son was among those abused, said "(They) should be sent to Islamabad or abroad because they can not study here, you must remove them from the atmosphere." — AFP

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## Issues

## INDONESIA JAILS BREEDING GROUND FOR MILITANCY

By Randy Fabi and Kanupriya Kapoor

**A**ff was an inmate in a high-security Indonesian jail when he transformed from aspiring radical Islamist to soldier for Islamic State, ready to sacrifice his life for a group based thousands of miles away in the Middle East. His journey ended with his death last week on a busy intersection in central Jakarta, after the gun and suicide bomb attack he launched with three other militants that brought Islamic State's brand of violence to Southeast Asia for the first time.

Aff's graduation from jailbird to jihadi shines a light on a prison system where staff shortages, overcrowding and corruption have allowed extremists to mingle and emerge as determined killers in the name of Islam. Security officials say Aff, also known as Sunakim, was sentenced to seven years in prison for taking part in a militant training camp in the province of Aceh, where Islam is generally practised in a stricter form than other parts of Indonesia.

Once behind bars, he refused to follow deradicalisation programs, the officials added. Akbar Hadi, spokesman for the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, declined to comment on whether Aff's activities were monitored after he was released last August. Police said he planned the Jakarta siege with the three other attackers, one of whom was also a former convict. Four civilians died in the attack along with the militants.

A report by the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC) last year said that 26 prisons across Indonesia housed about 270 "convicted terrorists", but Islamic State supporters accounted for only a small minority of them. National Police Chief Badrodin Haiti told Reuters that at least five jailed militants were believed to have been in communication with the plotters in the lead-up to the attack.

### Couriers, Cell Phones

While inside Jakarta's Cipinang prison, Aff was one of some 20 convicts heavily influenced by fellow convict and firebrand Islamist cleric Aman Abdurrahman, experts said. From behind bars, Abdurrahman heads an umbrella organization formed last year through an alliance of splinter groups that support Islamic State. "They shared the same cells, they prayed together, they cooked together," said Taufik Andrie, Jakarta-based executive director of the Institute for International Peacebuilding.

Abdurrahman regularly spread "takfir" doctrine, a belief among Sunni militants who justify their violence by branding others as infidels, through his sermons and lectures. Abdurrahman was moved to a maximum security prison in Nusakambangan in Central Java in 2013, but continued to communicate with Aff and a growing group of around 200 followers using couriers and cell phones. A lawyer for Abu Bakar Ba'asyir, another high-profile radical inmate at Nusakambangan, told Reuters it is easy to convey messages to the outside world from inside prison. "Any kind of visitor is allowed and even if they don't exchange any cell phones, there is still an exchange of information and the visitor can interpret that," said Achmad Michdan.

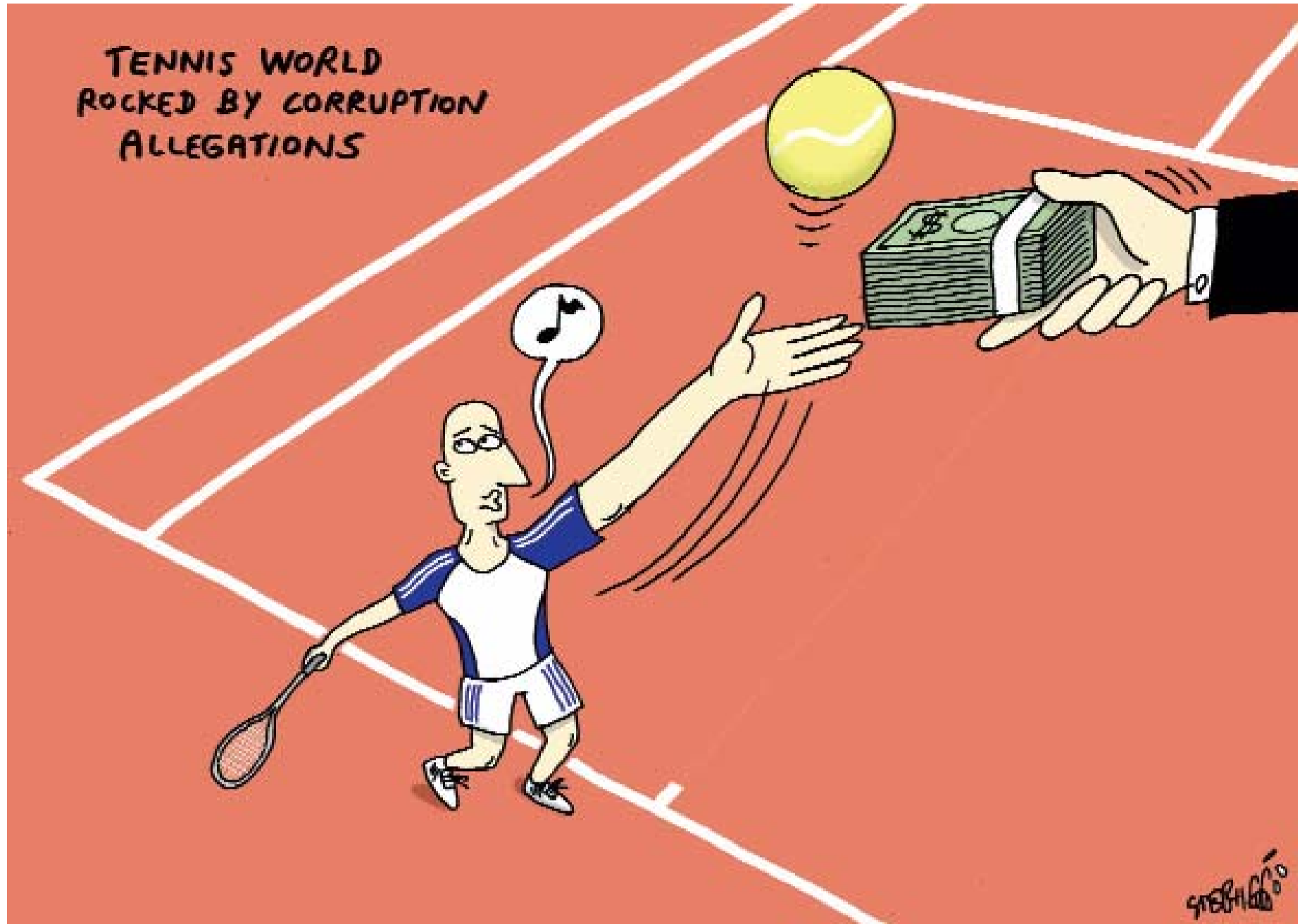
### Social Media a Key Tool

Experts say radical inmates like Abdurrahman still get away with disseminating sermons by email, Facebook, and hard copies. Despite being behind bars, Abdurrahman was able to make an online pledge of allegiance to Islamic State in 2014. "Those with more radical thinking can also hold religious sermons on a regular basis and it is very easy to convey radical ideas to others," said Farihin, a former militant who participated in a government deradicalisation program during his time in a prison in Palu on the island of Sulawesi.

Indonesia's counter-terrorism chief, Saud Usman Nasution, told Reuters in November that prison officials were unable to halt this type of communication because of overcrowding. "We are aware that there is a problem with convicts being allowed to communicate using the Internet and cell phones. There is definitely room for improvement," said Ministry of Law and Human Rights spokesman Hadi, adding that inmates cannot be forced to join deradicalisation programs.

Experts say access to social media and messaging apps like Telegram is a large part of the problem. Police believe the alleged mastermind of the Jakarta attack, an Indonesian fighting with Islamic State in Syria called Bahrin Naim, used social media to communicate his radical ideas to followers in Indonesia. He may also have transferred thousands of dollars to accounts here, police said. Since the attack, Indonesia has blocked websites and sent letters to social media networks Twitter, Facebook and Telegram, asking them to take down radical content. — Reuters

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## IS DOUBLE STANDARDS SOW GROWING DISILLUSION

By Hamza Hendawi

**M**ohammed Saad, a Syrian activist, was imprisoned by the Islamic State group, hung by his arms and beaten regularly. Then one day, his jailers quickly pulled him and other prisoners down and hid them in a bathroom. The reason? A senior Muslim cleric was visiting to inspect the facility. The cleric had told the fighters running the prison that they shouldn't torture prisoners and that anyone held without charge must be released within 30 days, Saad told AP. Once the coast was clear, the prisoners were returned to their torment.

"It's a criminal gang pretending to be a state," Saad said, speaking in Turkey, where he fled in October. "All this talk about applying Shariah and Islamic values is just propaganda, Daesh is about torture and killing," he said, using the Arabic acronym for IS. Syrians who have recently escaped the Islamic State group's rule say public disillusionment is growing as IS has failed to live up to its promises to install a utopian "Islamic" rule of justice, equality and good governance.

Instead, the group has come to resemble the dictatorial rule of Syrian President Bashar Assad that many Syrians had sought to shed, with a reliance on informers who have silenced a fearful populace. Rather than equality, society has seen the rise of a new elite class - the jihadi fighters - who enjoy special perks and favor in the courts, looking down on "the commoners" and even ignoring the rulings of their own clerics.

Despite the atrocities that made it notorious, the Islamic State group had raised hopes among some fellow Sunnis when it overran their territories across parts of Syria and Iraq and declared a "caliphate" in the summer of 2014. It presented itself as a contrast to Assad's

rule, bringing justice through its extreme interpretation of Shariah and providing services to residents, including loans to farmers, water and electricity, and alms to the poor. Its propaganda machine promoting the dream of an Islamic caliphate helped attract jihadis from around the world.

In Istanbul and several Turkish cities near the Syrian border, the AP spoke to more than a dozen Syrians who fled IS-controlled territory in recent months. Most spoke on condition they be identified only by their first names or by the nicknames they use in their political activism for fear of IS reprisals against themselves or family.

"Daesh justice has been erratic," said Nayef, who hails from IS-held eastern Syrian town of al-Shadadi and escaped to Turkey in November with his family, largely because of Russian airstrikes. "They started off good and then, gradually, things got worse." He insisted that his last name not be printed, fearing for his safety. The group has recruited informers in the towns and cities it controls to watch out for any sign of opposition. "Like under the (Assad) regime, we were also afraid to talk against Daesh to anyone we don't fully trust," said Fatimah, a 33-year-old whose hometown of Palmyra was taken over by IS early last year. She fled to Turkey in November with her husband and five children to escape Russian and Syrian airstrikes.

IS has also become less able to provide public services, in large part because military reversals appear to have put strains on its finances. US and Russian airstrikes have heavily hit its oil infrastructure - a major source of funds. Over the past year, the group has lost 30 percent of the territory it once held in Iraq and Syria, according to the US-led anti-IS coalition. Many of those interviewed by the AP said there are lengthier cutoffs of water and electricity in

their towns and cities and prices for oil and gas have risen.

### Acceptance

Abu Salem, an activist from the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, said public acceptance of IS rule is eroding. "It has made an enemy of almost everyone," he told the AP in the Turkish city of Reyhanli on the Syrian border. One sign of the distance between the claims and realities is a 12-page manifesto by IS detailing its judicial system. The document, a copy of which was obtained by the AP, heavily emphasizes justice and tolerance. For example, it sets out the duties of the Hisba, the "religious police" who ensure people adhere to the group's dress codes, strict separation of genders and other rules.

A Hisba member "must be gentle and pleasant toward those he orders or reprimands," it says. "He must be flexible and good mannered so that his influence is greater and the response (he gets) is stronger." Yet, the escaped Syrians all complained of the brutal extremes that the Hisba resorts to. One woman who lived in Raqqa said that if a woman is considered to have violated the dress codes, the militants flog her husband, since he is seen as responsible for her. When her neighbor put out the garbage without being properly covered, she said, the woman's husband was whipped.

Abu Manaf, a 44-year-old from Deir el-Zour, said some clerics challenged the group's enforcers over their wanton use of strict Shariah punishments like beheadings, stoning to death, flogging and cutting off limbs. More moderate clerics in IS argued that such punishments can only be implemented under specific conditions. They also complained about the jihadis' custom of displaying bodies of the beheaded in public as an example to others, violating Islamic tenets

requiring the swift burial of the dead.

"Many of those moderate clerics disappear, are killed or jailed for crimes they did not commit," said Abu Manaf, who left Deir el-Zour in November, then stayed in the Islamic State group's de facto capital, Raqqa, for three weeks before he reached Turkey. Saad's account of his imprisonment in his home city of Deir el-Zour reflected the tensions between the fighters and some clerics. He was arrested because of his media activism, reporting on the anti-Assad opposition. IS suspected him of belonging to the rebel Free Syrian Army, which is fighting the extremists. The day the cleric came to inspect the prison - set up in a former police station - he heard the cleric asking the guards if the prisoners were getting enough food and water, and whether they were being beaten, Saad said.

On another occasion, a cleric and a judge visited and spoke to the prisoners in their cells. Saad said they told him to write on a piece of paper his name, why he'd been jailed and whether he had been tortured or made to confess under duress. He wrote that he had not been beaten, because he knew the guards would punish him if he said he had been, Saad said. After five months in custody, Saad said he secured his release by agreeing to do media work for IS. For three months, he helped put together videos and other propaganda before escaping to Turkey.

The Syrians interviewed in Turkey said that in IS courts the judges often show a bias toward IS operatives in any legal dispute with the general public. Judges justify the bias by pointing to Quranic verses or sayings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), including "God prefers those who fight in jihad over those who sit." Often, IS members refer to the general population by the dismissive term "al-awam," Arabic for "the commoners." — AP

## SYRIA REGIME'S SECRET WEAPON: MOTORBIKES

By Maher Al-Mounes

**A**s Syrian forces battled to recapture the rebel stronghold of Salma last week, they relied not only on Russian air support but also a secret weapon: Motorbikes. Adapting a tactic used by both their rebel opponents and the pro-regime fighters of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, government forces used dozens of the vehicles to navigate the town's tiny alleys. Soldiers said they were key to the recapture of Salma, a town that was a rare rebel stronghold in the regime bastion of coastal Latakia province.

Syrian army soldier Hany, 25, said he spent most of the past nine months on a motorbike, fighting street battles for the town that fell from government control in 2012. "The way we fight has changed since the beginning of the war, and we have developed our offensive methods," he said, dismantling from his muddy vehicle after a spin through the recaptured town. "Nowadays, we use motorbikes for their speed and mobility," he said.

While rebel snipers managed to hit a car delivering meals to regime forces several times, Hany said he could outmanoeuvre such fire. "My bike is harder to track and is too light to set off landmines," he said. While small, Salma's many narrow alleys, and the forests and hills that surround it, made the fight for its recapture long and hard. Some of the streets were entirely unnavigable with cars, armoured vehicles or tanks, troops said.

### Guerrilla Tactics

"It was the use of more than 80 motorbikes in the last battle for the town that had the greatest impact in terms of winning in the final 72 hours," one field commander told AFP. "The motorbikes allowed us to transfer the

wounded, carry light ammunition and food and were used by fighters carrying machine guns and night vision binoculars," he said. He too had ended up riding one to inspect his troops and frontlines. "I check on my troops by motorbike because they are fast and light, and much more difficult to track than a car would be," the commander said.

Motorbikes have long been used by rebels in Syria and beyond, and the commander acknowledged the tactic is one regime forces picked up from their foes. "We don't deny that we learned the tactic of using motorbikes from the militants," he said. "We've come up

with an advanced course on street fighting and guerrilla warfare, and fighting on motorbikes may become a tactic that regular armies come to rely on," he added.

Another soldier, 38-year-old Reda Haj, said his first encounter with motorbikes on Syria's battlefields was in Qalamun in Damascus province, where the pro-regime Hezbollah movement used them. The Shiite militant group has been a key force multiplier for the Syrian regime, fighting alongside its troops on several fronts. "We observed the great flexibility that the speed of a motorbike gives, and that it was harder for the enemy to track,

and little by little we began using them in our tactics and attacks," he told AFP.

### 'Essential Equipment'

Haj said motorbikes were introduced to the battle for Salma some nine months ago, when the regime committed to a new offensive to take the town. "We were divided into groups, with each group assigned three motorbikes that were used to move food and ammunition and transport the wounded from areas that ambulances couldn't access," he said. "It's fun to ride in times of peace, and in times of war they are useful. Eventually they'll become an essential piece of equipment, like a gun or ammunition."

The battle for Salma was fierce and destructive, and much of the town has been left in ruins. Whole facades of buildings have been ripped down and balconies that once looked out into the hills surrounding Salma have collapsed. For now, civilians have yet to return, and graffiti left by rebel groups that included Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front, is still daubed on walls. But the capture of the town has been a key victory for the regime, which last year suffered a string of defeats.

The government launched several offensives across Syria after staunch ally Russia began air strikes in late September. Some of those operations have stalled, but the Salma recapture, which saw Russian planes carry out dozens of air strikes, has been a much-sought boost for government forces. In one alleyway in the town, a group of Syrian soldiers sat warming themselves around a fire, drinking yerba mate, a tea drink popular in Syria. "I haven't put my weapon down for nine months," said Abdul Karim Mahfuz, a 26-year-old soldier, smiling as he sat with his comrades. "We were always at the ready... But today I'm holding a cup of mate in my hands, and my gun is by my side." — AFP



Syrian army soldiers ride a motorcycle in the village of Salma in the north-western province of Latakia on Jan 15, 2016. — AFP





People take selfies on the seafront at the Corniche, or waterfront promenade, in Beirut yesterday. Temperatures in Beirut took a dip, reaching 10 degrees Celsius at night. — AP

## GULF STATES UNLIKELY TO DROP DOLLAR PEG: S&P

**DUBAI:** Gulf states are not expected to drop their long-term monetary link to the US dollar after the sharp drop in oil prices and fiscal reserves, Standard and Poor's said yesterday. "We expect (Gulf Cooperation Council) GCC countries to maintain the exchange rate peg over the medium term, mainly because we assess GCC states as having sufficient funds available to defend their currencies," the ratings agency said.

Five of the GCC states - Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates - peg their currencies to the greenback while Kuwait links its dinar to a basket of currencies. Due to the sharp drop in oil prices, most GCC states have posted a budget deficit and resorted to their fiscal reserves to finance the shortfall. Speculation has increased recently about GCC states ending the dollar peg in favour of a flexible exchange rate regime because of the divergence between slowing GCC economies and the US economy.

Last month, most GCC states raised their interest

rates to follow similar measures by the US Federal Reserve. "At a time of already significant change and regional geopolitical instability, politically conservative regimes such as the GCC are unlikely to decide to increase uncertainty about their economic stability by amending this fundamental macroeconomic policy," S&P said. The inflationary and social repercussions of a lower exchange rate are likely to outweigh the benefit to the fiscal budget, the agency said. If the exchange rate loses value as a result of de-pegging, the GCC states could become less attractive to foreign investors, it added.

Saudi Arabia last week said its currency was stable despite volatility in the futures market and that it would maintain the peg to the dollar. "In our view, the GCC pegs are to a large degree consistent with the reliance of their economies, to varying degrees, on US dollar-based oil revenues," S&P said. "Over the longer term, should GCC economies continue to diversify, the case for more exchange rate flexibility is likely to become more convincing," it said. — AFP

## FIRST FLOWER BLOOMS ON ISS

**WASHINGTON:** A bright orange zinnia has blossomed aboard the International Space Station, marking a first in space. "First flower even grown in space makes its debut," US astronaut Scott Kelly wrote on Twitter, with a photo of the flower. Zinnias grow easily on Earth and blossom in abundance in summer. But on the ISS, where they were taken to carry out experiments, they have had trouble adapting to microgravity.

Several were doing poorly back in December as mold grew on some of their leaves because of high humidity, NASA said. But Kelly was seemingly able to nurture them back to health. Growing such flowers - zinnias are edible - is part of a long term NASA project known as Veggie. It is designed to produce food with

an eye to long, manned missions to Mars. Such autonomy is key to astronauts' survival in space, NASA says.

Crew on the ISS have already grown and eaten lettuce last year aboard the orbiting craft and hope to produce tomatoes by next year. Growing vegetables on the space station began in mid-2014. They are grown aeroponically - without soil, in an air or mist environment. The system requires much less water and fertilizer, and plants grow three times faster than on Earth, NASA says. Gioia Massa, a scientist working on the Veggie project, said the plants grown so far are not perfect but have helped researchers on Earth understand better how they grow in conditions of microgravity. — AFP



This Monday handout photo taken by US astronaut Scott Kelly onboard the International Space Station shows a zinnia in bloom. — AFP

## KPC DENIES REPORTS OF CUTS IN FUEL...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, MP Faisal Al-Kandari yesterday warned that a drop of oil prices below \$20 a barrel is a catastrophe and urged the government to propose alternative measures to diversify sources of income, which heavily depend on oil. Kandari also called on the government to submit its vision for the present and the future in the face of low oil prices, adding that Kuwait's dependence on oil as the only source of income poses a serious risk for economic collapse. He warned that Kuwaiti fiscal reserves are not enough to support public spending if oil prices continue to fall in the current pace.

KPC yesterday said the price of Kuwaiti oil plunged to \$20.20 on Monday, the lowest level in 13 years. Brent and WTI crude prices rallied slightly to around \$30 a bar-

rel a day after dropping below \$29 a barrel. The fall came as global and Gulf stock markets were routed with continuous losses since the start of the year. Gulf bourses however made a comeback yesterday with Qatar rebounding 5.5 percent and Saudi Arabia gaining 4.1 percent.

Kandari said that contingency plans must be devised and implemented within well-defined periods in order to face the consequences of the price collapse. All Gulf states except Kuwait have cut energy subsidies in a bid to boost non-oil revenues. The government plans to meet with MPs to brief them about plans to cut subsidies on commodities and services including petrol, electricity and water. No time has been fixed for the proposed meeting between ministers and MPs to discuss the issue.

## EXTINCT CRUSTACEAN WAS ALL EYES

**PARIS:** A tiny but scary-looking marine critter that died out with the dinosaurs, caught prey with the aid of two monstrous eyes - each a quarter of its body length, scientists said yesterday. The giant peepers were composed of 18,000 lenses each - a record only ever surpassed by modern-day dragonflies, a team wrote in the science journal *Nature Communications*. The sophisticated organs belonged to *Dollocaris ingens*, an extinct arthropod which lived about 160 million years ago, during the Jurassic geological period better known for the rise and fall of the dinosaurs.

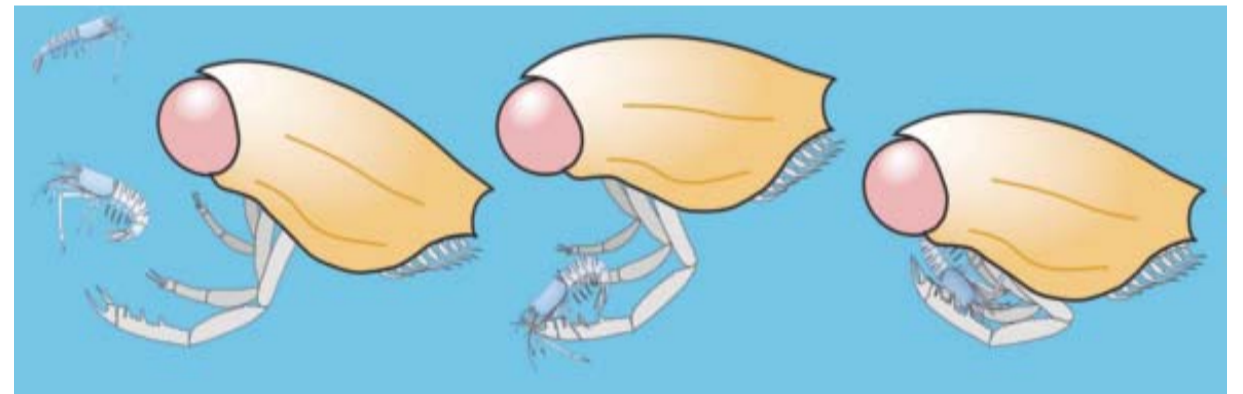
An arthropod is an animal with an exoskeleton and segmented body - including groups like today's insects, spiders and crustaceans. *D. ingens*, a swimmer, would have had a crab-like shell, with three pairs of clawed, segmented legs with which to catch tiny shrimps, and eight pairs of stubby swimming appendages. It would have been about five to 20 cm long, and each eye about a quarter of that.

For the study, experts used special microscopes and scans to examine fossilized *D. ingens* eyes dug up in southeast France. It is extremely rare to find well-p-

served samples of internal eye structure. The first compound eyes, made up of many individual units like those of ants, are thought to have appeared in the Cambrian period some 500 million years ago - revolutionizing animal development, according to study co-author Jean Vannier from France's University of Lyon.

"To see and be seen changed everything - with eyes you could become a more effective hunter, while prey became more easily detectable," he explained. "All this led to a new dynamic - for some to better protect themselves, for others to become better at detection, and new evolutionary pressures." Their examinations confirmed that *C. ingens* was a "visual hunter," said Vannier.

Its eyes shared features with those of modern-day insects and crustaceans. "It is clear that its huge, panoramic, multi-faceted acute eyes were crucial to scanning its environment and to detecting potential moving prey," the study authors wrote. It was probably not a very dexterous swimmer, and more likely an "ambush predator" pouncing on prey from a concealed position. While this line of animals disappeared, its eye type continued independently in other animals. — AFP



This handout image provided by the science journal *Nature Communication* yesterday shows an artist's reconstruction of a *Dollocaris*, a visual predator of the Jurassic seas. — AFP

## GULF BANKS EYE IRAN PROSPECTS

Continued from Page 1

entering the Iranian market, two sources familiar with the matter said. "Regional institutions will test the water and other foreign banks will watch to see what happens," said Stuart Jones Jr, an executive director at EY and a former US Treasury attache to the Middle East. "There are certain regional institutions taking legal advice to manage very real risks associated with doing business with Iran."

Emirates NBD (ENBD), Dubai's largest lender, has in recent months met with the Iranian business community in Dubai and discussed potential banking opportunities involving Iran once sanctions lifted, the two sources said. ENBD said its lawyers were reviewing the sanctions changes but would not be making any changes to its policies yet. "Any re-engagement with Iran will take place in several stages and will require updates to policies, procedures, systems and controls as well as ongoing communication with regulators and correspondent banks," the bank said in a statement, adding it did not currently have any material assets or liabilities in Iran.

ENBD and Qatar National Bank (QNB), the Middle East's largest bank, have representative offices in Tehran, but ENBD's has not been operational since 2008. The status of QNB's office is unclear and the bank did not respond to a request to comment on its Iran plans. The UAE is Iran's fourth largest trading partner, home to a large number of ethnic Iranians and a channel for consumer goods imports into that country. But that relationship has been dented by sanctions and a spat between Iran and Saudi Arabia. State Bank of India also has an Iran representative office, according to its website, although calls to the branch were unanswered.

Aside from trade finance, wealth management and project finance are seen as potential sweet spots for banks entering Iran, though some banks will be wary of their chequered history of Iranian business dealings. Commerzbank and Deutsche Bank are among several international banks fined in the past for violating US sanctions. Commerzbank is nevertheless looking into Iran. "Commerzbank is monitoring the development very closely and is reviewing a possible adjustment of its policy (of doing business with Iran)," a spokeswoman said.

Other Western lenders are more cautious though. "Deutsche Bank will, for the time being, stick to its decision of withholding from doing business connected to Iran," a spokesman said. Standard Chartered was fined

\$667 million in 2012 for breaking US sanctions and branded a "rogue institution" by New York's banking regulator at that time, and threatened with loss of its state license. A spokeswoman for the Asia-focused bank said it would not undertake any new transactions involving Iran.

Foreign banks considering establishing a subsidiary in Iran will in most cases require a partnership with a local entity unless they set up in one of a handful of free zones, said Nicholas Gilani, senior partner at Arjan Capital, a consultancy advising on Iran business. Since Saturday's deal, many Iranian banks are in the process of being switched back into the SWIFT financial message system, a key to them re-entering the international financial network.

But some Iranian banks remain on the sanctions list, a potential obstacle for any foreign bank seeking a partner. SWIFT said in a statement it "remains prohibited from providing specialized financial messaging services to the EU-sanctioned Iranian banks that remain listed under EU Regulation". The Dubai office of consultancy Promontory Financial Group, which advised several global banks on sanctions compliance, has received a flood of enquiries from lenders since Sunday including from the Gulf, Lebanon and Turkey. "They are very interested, but very cautious," said Walid Alameddine, Promontory boss for the Middle East and Turkey.

Another complication is that banks and businesses will not be able to use US correspondent banks for clearing or settling any Iranian business deals. Iran will instead have to secure dollars through non-US banks, money changers or convert other currency reserves into dollars. In turn, for those banks to maintain relationships with US clearing banks, they will have to find ways to demarcate their dollar business from their Iran dealings. Some Gulf lenders have already been taking legal advice on how to facilitate such a move, a legal source said.

There are other potential risks. Sanctions remain in place for Iran's hardline elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and companies and entities linked to it. Banks or other entities found to be trading with the IRGC or affiliates faces being fined or frozen out of the US financial system or even sanctioned themselves. "One of my biggest concerns is the possibility of snapback. What happens if the US turns around in, say, six months and says Iran has reneged on its commitments," said a sanctions manager at a major UK-based bank. "I don't think any of the banks will want to be seen as the 'go to' bank - at least for now." — Reuters



## EMBATTLED COE 'NOT IN DENIAL' OF CHALLENGE FACING IAAF

**PARIS:** Embattled IAAF president Sebastian Coe admits that his five-month tenure of athletics governing body has been a "real challenge", but insisted in an interview with AFP that he is under no illusions about the problems ahead. Since taking over from the disgraced Lamine Diack, Coe has had to battle through a scandal that has seen Russia banned over "state-sponsored" doping and a raft of top officials, including Diack, accused of taking bribes from doped athletes.

"The last few months have been a real challenge, you would be surprised if I said it wasn't. The sport has been hit hard," Coe said in a wide-ranging interview. "I can't tell you that I sit here taking a great deal of comfort from very much at the moment." In a career that has seen him win two Olympic 1500m gold medals before becoming a successful businessman and a member of the British parliament, Coe knows how to dodge and take a bullet or two. The 59-year-old found himself at the eye of the storm after a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) independent commission published two damning reports detailing "embedded" corruption within the top echelons of the IAAF.

Coe, who served eight years as a vice-president under Diack, was a member of

the IAAF Council that should have been aware of the astonishing level of corruption, WADA said. Dick Pound, former WADA president and author of the reports, handed Coe a lifeline, however, when he publicly endorsed him as the right man to lead the IAAF out of the storm engulfing the Olympics' top sport. "I'm grateful to the independent commission because they have spent a lot of time helping shed light onto something we need to understand as much as we possibly can," Coe said.

"I took some comfort from some of the conclusions that our systems are not chronically broken, that the IAAF has a good record in addressing these issues, that it did do the pioneering work on the blood passport and accredited laboratories, and, in their (WADA) words not mine, the IAAF did follow up where it was at all possible. "We're not in denial about the challenge that there is, but I was pleased to have the report confirm that good people did do what they could to raise their concerns and through an ethics commission and we need to make sure the future of our sport is built on good people."

### Baffled

Coe said he understood widespread confusion over conflicting messages

from Pound's report, criticizing the IAAF Council but then backing Coe. "Yes, I do understand and I think that is in large part because it's not at all obvious to most people the nature and structure of sport," he said. "You have an elected council and four vice-presidents and a senior vice-president. I was never senior vice-president, I was never number two in the organization. I was a vice-president and this sits at the heart of changes I want to make."

Coe has come under attack in the media and from some athletes over his apparent inaction—he insists he suspected nothing, even giving Diack a glowing valedictory speech when he took over in August. Coe also does not consider himself facing a personal attack. "I tend not to see this as a personal issue," Coe said. "There are two very different issues here. There is the scrutiny that my own organization, the IAAF, has been under and the broader issue about anti-doping protocols around the world. So I don't tend to sit here, really genuinely thinking I'm the subject of a witch hunt. "I have to go on doing what I'm doing. I'm not oblivious to the commentary accompanying what we're trying to do and I will absorb. There's no monopoly on wisdom here."

Coe said reforms he has instigated to



**UNTERSCHLEISSHEIM:** The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)'s President Sebastian Coe attends a press conference on the report of the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) concerning allegations of widespread doping in international athletics, in Unterschleissheim near Munich, southern Germany.—AFP

restore the trust and confidence of both the public and athletes would take time. "We cannot expect the public to immediately turn around and say we trust you," he said. "It's a long process. The changes I can make may not take that long to make, but the journey to trust is a longer one and it's not scientific." He

added: "I feel the pain that we all feel at the moment because we love our sport. It's been painful to see where our sport is at the moment in public perception, so I only have one focus which is to do whatever I can to put systems in place that regain the trust primarily of the clean athletes."—AFP

## SRI LANKA CAPTAIN MATHEWS DEFENDS PLAYERS AFTER COACH GETS FIXING BAN

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews defended the team's cricketers yesterday after recording a statement before police in connection with a match-fixing scandal that has led to the suspension of a bowling coach. Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) handed Anusha Samaranyake a two-month ban on Monday over his relationship with net bowler Gayan Vishwajith, who allegedly approached national team players to under-perform during a test match against West Indies in October. "Sri Lanka Cricket has received several complaints regarding the close acquaintance of Anusha Samaranyake and the main suspect Gayan Vishwajith, who had



**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka cricket skipper Angelo Mathews leaves the police Financial Crimes Investigation Division (FCID) building in Colombo yesterday.—AFP

approached several national players for the alleged illegal activities of match-fixing," the SLC said in a statement.

"Pursuant to a preliminary inquiry con-

ducted in this regard, Sri Lanka Cricket has decided to suspend Anusha Samaranyake for a period of two months until further investigations are concluded. "Gayan Vishwajith has been totally barred from participating in any capacity whatsoever in Sri Lanka Cricket in the future." The police's Financial Crime Investigation Division (FCID) has interviewed wicketkeeper Kusal Perera and leading spinner Rangana Herath about an alleged offer of thousands of dollars to engineer a batting collapse for a West Indies victory in the match at Galle.

"We all want this game to be clean and whoever has done something wrong, we want them to bring before the courts and take certain decisions," the 28-year-old Mathews told reporters after spending five hours at the FCID. "As captain of the team I have to mention that the cricketers felt really uncomfortable the last few days because they are the ones who came forward and reported this to ICC (International Cricket Council) and SLC." Sri Lanka went on to win the first test by an innings and six runs and the two-match series 2-0 after another victory in Colombo.

Perera, 25, is facing a four-year ban after world governing body the ICC provisionally suspended him for failing an out-of-competition anti-doping test in October. Sri Lanka Sports Minister Dayasiri Jayasekera suggested last month that Perera could have paid the price for reporting the alleged match-fixing offer and said the country would appeal against the wicketkeeper's suspension. "Both players (Perera and Herath) had been approached by some people to lose the second test match against West Indies in Galle last year," a sports ministry official said. "Then they both complained to the authorities and the sports minister. Based on the complaints, the FCID started the investigations."—Reuters



**MELBOURNE:** India's Ishant Sharma falls to the ground after bowling to Australia's James Faulkner during their one day international cricket match in Melbourne, Australia.—AP

## PAKISTAN GAMBLES ON T20 LEAGUE TO BOOST COFFERS

**KARACHI:** Pakistan is rolling the dice on global superstars such as Chris Gayle and Kevin Pietersen to boost the country's cash-strapped cricket board when its new high-octane, short-form Twenty20 league begins in the UAE next month. But insiders warn Pakistan's first franchise-based league may not be enough to overcome revenue and time lost during the country's long exile from hosting international cricket. Pakistan has been forced to play nearly all its home series at neutral venues since Islamist fighters attacked the Sri Lanka team's bus in 2009, killing eight people and injuring nine others, including six touring cricketers.

After two aborted attempts, the first edition of Pakistan Super League (PSL) will be held next month at two venues—Dubai and Sharjah - in the United Arab Emirates, the team's home away from home. "This was long overdue," former PCB CEO Ramiz Raja said. "I think the spread and the pie will be larger and the PSL will give hope and scope to Pakistan cricket besides helping emerging and middle-tier players." But insiders agree there is little hope for the tournament to continue if it can't eventually return home for greater gate and TV revenues.

With lower salary caps than leagues elsewhere, it will also need to steer clear of the ever-present threat of fixing that has hit its predecessor leagues in India and Bangladesh, resulting in bans for the likes of international stars Shanthakumaran Sreesanth of India and Mohammad Ashraful of Bangladesh. With Pakistan's young pace star Mohammed Amir making his international comeback after five years in the wilderness for spot-fixing, the country can ill afford a repeat of the sort of controversy that has blighted it more than any other team since the phenomenon emerged in the late 1990s.

### Lost time, lost revenue

The board estimates it has lost nearly \$200 million in TV and ticketing revenue from 2009 to date, a period which has also coincided with a boycott by India-cricket's wealthiest nation, which guarantees massive paydays for opponents. To set about improving its economic health, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) decided it needed to replicate the success of the cash-rich Indian Premier League (IPL), but two earlier attempts were aborted after a lack of sponsorship, in 2013 and 2014.

PSL chairman Najam Sethi was bullish. "Teams will use merchandising and hopefully we will make this product profitable which will help us stand on our feet and we will not need to take money from anyone," he said on a TV show he hosts recently. But compared to the IPL and Australia's Big Bash League (BBL), the PSL looks like a "poor man's league". The IPL earned \$700 million from the sale of eight franchises

and attracted a whopping \$1.75 billion from the sale of TV rights over a 10-year period.

By contrast, the PSL's five teams were sold for \$93 million for a period of a decade while TV rights and title sponsorship fetched around \$20 million for three years. While the teams - Karachi, Islamabad, Quetta, Lahore and Peshawar - were given a total salary cap of \$1.1 million each, the IPL salary cap rose to \$52.8 million for all teams combined in 2011. In 2014, India's World Cup heroes Gautam Gambhir and Yuvraj Singh earned \$2.4 million and \$2.33 million. But the top five "icon players" in the PSL - Chris Gayle of the West Indies, England's maverick Kevin Pietersen, Australian all-rounder Shane Watson, and Pakistan's all-round pair of Shoaib Malik and Shahid Afridi - will earn \$200,000.

With its comparatively lower wage structure and smaller returns, former Pakistan captain Rashid Latif fears PSL could be particularly susceptible to fixing. "Teams will not be able to recover expenses without fixing," Latif, who as a player blew the whistle on fixing teammates, said. "If they don't use that, they will suffer huge losses." Gayle, arguably the tournament's most high-profile T20 star, recently damaged his own standing after being involved in a sexism row following flirtatious remarks made to an

Australian reporter in the BBL. He remains a box-office pull however, and warmed up for his PSL stint with a record-equalling 50 off just 12 balls in his final BBL innings on Monday night.

### Bringing the game home

On the financial side, bringing the league to Pakistan soil as soon as possible is key to its lasting success, a management source said. "Everybody's hoping and projecting that the league will come to Pakistan. If it doesn't come in two to three years then the viability becomes difficult. "It's a bit untested. You're playing 25 to 30 matches in two venues. There is a limit you can draw. You don't get the league feel of home and away games until you bring it to Pakistan—that's when you can create a genuine buzz." He added that the concept of merchandising was new to Pakistan, where rampant piracy remains an issue, and it would be difficult to give the competition a genuine league feel away from home. But some in Pakistan's business community are more optimistic. "Our money box is empty and we have to cajole India (to participate), but I am sure people will support it and in my opinion in the next three to five years it will make profits," said Pakistani businessman Zafar Motiwala.—AFP

## RUGBYU: NOVES RINGS THE CHANGES FOR SIX NATIONS

**PARIS:** New France coach Guy Noves rang the changes, calling up eight newcomers, including France Sevens star Virimi Vakatawa, in his 31-man squad for the upcoming Six Nations tournament. "We tried to involve young players on every line," explained Noves, who took over following France's ignominious World Cup exit in October and a record 62-13 quarter-final defeat to winners New Zealand. Fiji-born centre Vakatawa, 23, who started his career at Racing 92, has over the past year established himself as a star of international calibre in France's Sevens team, with his explosive and versatile style catching the eye of Noves and his coaching staff.

"We tried to build a team which will allow us to work in continuity, with an eye to the next four years," said Noves. Scrum-half Sebastien Bezy, lock Paul Jedrasiak, flankers Yacouba Camara and Kevin Gourdon, prop Jefferson Poirot, hooker Camille Chat and centre Jonathan Danty will also join the group from January 25-27 before France open their Six Nations cam-

paign against Italy on February 6. The eight newcomers have already linked up with the team during group training sessions on January 4 and 11. Veteran fly-half Francois Trinh-Duc, still recovering from a shinbone injury, has been provisionally left out of the squad and replaced by Toulouse's Jean-Marc Doussain.

"We had a discussion with Francois... He knew that his presence depended on his performances on the pitch. We know that Francois has resumed training very seriously," said Noves. The main surprise however was the inclusion of Stade Francais flanker Antoine Burban, also on the comeback trail after three months out injured. Burban, 28, who has three caps, replaces South African-born flanker Bernard Le Roux, who is absent for personal reasons. France begin their Six Nations campaign at home to Italy at the Stade de France in Paris on February 6. In four tournaments under Noves' predecessor Philippe Saint-Andre, Les Bleus never finished above fourth and even took the wooden spoon in 2013.—AFP



France coach Guy Noves

## IAAF SCANDAL 'WORSE THAN SOCCER'S CRISIS'

**LONDON:** The corruption scandal that has rocked athletics is worse than the one that has plunged soccer body FIFA into crisis because it punished clean athletes, four-times Olympic gold medalist Michael Johnson said yesterday. "With athletics, if you think about the victims, it is absolutely worse," the 400 metres world record holder told BBC radio. "The victims here are those (clean) athletes. They never had the opportunity to stand on the podium and they should have," added the American sprinter. An independent commission of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has stated in a damning report that "corruption was embedded" at the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

The report found that a clique run by former IAAF president Lamine Diack covered up organized doping and blackmailed athletes while senior officials looked the other way. Diack is under formal investigation in France on suspicion of corruption and money-laundering linked to the concealment of positive drug tests in concert with Russian officials.

FIFA is facing the worst crisis in its history as a total of 41 individuals and entities have been charged with corruption-related offences in the United States. FIFA also faces a parallel Swiss probe. Sepp Blatter, the soccer body's long-serving head, has been banned for eight years.

Johnson said the IAAF, now led by Britain's Sebastian Coe, needed to be "completely restructured" but saw little merit in a suggestion that world records should be reset as a way of moving on from the crisis. "It doesn't make sense to me how a reset of all the world records is going to deal with the issue of people cheating," said Johnson. "It doesn't create a clean competition and that does not deter anyone from cheating." The American also questioned whether Russia's ban from all competitions as a result of state-sponsored doping should extend to this year's Rio Olympics. "Do you ban an entire country that ostensibly could include clean athletes, from participating in Rio? That is a very difficult decision to make," he said.—Reuters





## THE FIRST NATIONAL GUARD SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The first National Guard Shooting Championship was just concluded at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex in the presence of Brig Bader Abdallah Al-Ahmad, operations commander at the National Guard, President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi, Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Secretary General Obaid Al-Osaimi, Kuwait Shooting Sport Club Board Member, Eng Hussam Al-Roumi and officials from the National Guard.

The championship included Olympic Skeet and Trap as a large number of guardsmen participated. In his speech,

during the closing ceremony, Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi highly appreciated the role of the National Guard President HH Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, and Vice-president Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in supporting the development of shooting. Al-Otaibi thanked the political leadership that gave Kuwait Shooting the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex.

Results of the tournament were as follows: SKEET: Abdallah Hadi, Abdellatif Al-Namlan, Abdallah Hamad. - TRAP: Abdelaziz Mane, Abdallah Sultan, Fahad Awadh. Meanwhile, the Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations thanked Sheikhha Latifa Al-Fahad Al-Salem Al-Sabah for her support in the annual Late Sheikh Fahad Al-Salem Al-Sabah Tournament, which will be held from Jan 21 until Jan 23. The tournament will include the 10 Meter Pistol and Rifle, the 50 Meter Pistol and rifle and Archery with the participation of national teams, club shooters and the National Guard.

Al-Osaimi said the tournament carries the name of one of the national symbols who participated in the development of modern Kuwait, when he headed several departments and laid the corner stones for a large number of vital facilities that are still bearing his name. Al-Osaimi lauded the major support Sheikhha Latifa Al-Fahad gives to shooting and shooters.



## EWAN STORMS 1ST STAGE OF TOUR DOWN UNDER

**ADELAIDE:** Australia's newest cycling star Caleb Ewan unleashed a withering turn of speed to claim the opening stage of the UCI Tour Down Under in South Australia yesterday. Ewan, 21, burst onto the world cycling scene in 2015 with a series of strong results, including winning a stage at Spain's Vuelta. He showed his class yesterday, biding his time perfectly to overwhelm the rest of the field and win in three hours, 24.13 minutes. The ORICA GreenEDGE rider finished a clear bike length ahead of fellow Australian Mark Renshaw (Team Dimension Data) and Cannondale's Wouter Wippert from the Netherlands. "I felt really good all day and the team obviously backed me all day because they rode at the front from the start," Ewan said.

"I'm just so happy I could finish it off for them." The 130.8-kilometre opening stage from Prospect, just north of Adelaide, to the Barossa Valley town of Lyndoch, went ahead in oppressive heat that tested the cyclists in their first race of the year. Temperatures reached 40 degrees Celsius throughout the day, while riders also had to deal with strong winds and high humidity. The first stage had a familiar feel to it when UniSA's Sean Lake attacked at the four-kilometre mark, a standard tactic at the Tour Down Under from the local team made up of promising Australian riders.

Lake was joined at the front by France's Alexis Gougeard (AG2R La Mondiale) and Dutchman Martin Keizer (Lotto NL-Jumbo) with the trio breaking away to lead by over two minutes. But the peloton, led by ORICA GreenEDGE's Michael Hepburn, never let them get away and slowly began to reel them in. Keizer was dropped with 38 kilometers to go and Gougeard gave up at the 22km mark, but Lake persevered until inside the last 10 kilometers, when he was finally caught. First Team Sky and then African outfit Dimension Data came to the front to try and set the race up for their respective sprinters Ben Smith and Renshaw.

But Ewan glided up on the long finishing straight and with 50 meters to go, changed gear and surged to the lead for an emphatic victory. "You have to be super-conservative because the sprinters are so fast these days it's usually the guy with the freshest legs and the strongest team who wins," said Ewan, who will now wear the ochre leader's jersey. "It's a really proud moment for me. I've never led a World Tour race and to lead my first one in my own country is a real honor for me." Today's 132km second stage starts in Adelaide and finishes in the picturesque town of Stirling, a ride expected to favor the general classification hopefuls rather than the sprinters.—AFP



**ADELAIDE:** Australian Caleb Ewan from Orica Greenedge wins stage 1 of the Tour Down Under from Prospect to Lyndoch in Adelaide yesterday.—AFP

## JOURNEYMEN PROS CROWD FUND, COUCH SURF TO CHASE TOUR DREAM

**MELBOURNE:** Aspiring tennis professionals are washing their shirts in hotel baths, sleeping on sofas and relying on crowd-funding to chase their Grand Slam dreams—a stark contrast with star players which some fear could be fuelling corruption in the sport. Tennis was rocked on Monday following reports that authorities had failed to deal with widespread match-fixing, just as the Australian Open, the first grand slam tournament of the year, kicked off in Melbourne.

Experts said tennis was ripe for corruption due to the ease of fixing a one-on-one sport, as well as the large disparity between the multi-million dollar earnings of top players and the lower rungs of professionals, where even mundane costs like laundry add up. "Hotel laundry was \$10 a shirt and there was no other laundry, so I hand washed everything," American pro Denis Kudla, who balked at the cost at a hotel in the South Pacific island of Noumea, told a small group of reporters.

"I filled up a bath and did 30 pieces of clothing then used anything I could to hang everything all over the place." Kudla, now 69th in the ATP rankings, says he has never

been approached about match fixing and was surprised by the reports. While he now makes a comfortable living from the tour, many of his colleagues do not. According to research conducted on behalf of governing body, the International Tennis Federation, almost 45 percent of the 13,736 players at all professional levels of the sport earned nothing from it in 2013.

Only about 10 percent covered their costs. The research carried out by Kingston University in London, also found that players ranked in the top 50, on average, earn more than \$1 million a year on both the men's and women's tours. Those from 51-100 earn in excess of \$200,000, while 101-250 average around \$85,000. For those players ranked from 251-500 the earnings drop away to just \$16,000 a year. The average cost just from food, travel, accommodation and equipment to play professional tennis in 2013 was \$38,800 for men and \$40,180 for women, the Kingston research found. By comparison, US secondary school teachers earn roughly \$59,000 a year, while journalists earn about \$45,000 according to US Department of Labor statistics.—Reuters



**GLENDALE:** The Buffalo Sabres and Arizona Coyotes get involved in a post game fight following the NHL game at Gila River Arena on January 18, 2016 in Glendale, Arizona. The Sabres defeated the Coyotes 2-1.—AFP

## BLUES FLY OVER PENGUINS 5-2

**ST LOUIS:** Paul Stastny had a goal and three assists, and the St Louis Blues beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 5-2 on Monday night. Alexander Steen, Vladimir Tarasenko, Troy Brouwer and Kevin Shattenkirk also scored for the Blues, who have won four of five following a five-game losing streak. Brian Elliott made 36 saves. Evgeni Malkin and Chris Kunitz scored, and Kris Letang had two assists for the Penguins. They have lost three of four and five of seven. Jeff Zatkoff, making his first start since Dec. 31, stopped 20 shots.

### OILERS 4, PANTHERS 2

Taylor Hall snapped a scoring drought with two goals, Cam Talbot stopped 30 shots and Edmonton added to Florida's slide. Teddy Purcell had a goal and two assists for Edmonton, which led 3-0 after two periods and then withstood a Florida rally in the final 20 minutes. Jordan Eberle also scored for the Oilers. Hall, who had an assist as well, scored just one goal in his previous 14 games. Reilly Smith and Quinton Howden scored early in the third period for Florida, which has dropped four straight since winning 12 in a row. Al Montoya gave up three goals on the first seven shots he faced, and the Panthers had their club-record home winning streak snapped at seven games. Since their winning streak, the Panthers have been outscored 16-5.

### AVALANCHE 2, JETS 1

Carl Soderberg had a goal and an assist to help Colorado defeat Winnipeg. Jarome Iginla scored his 13th of the season and Semyon Varlamov made 36 saves for the Avalanche. Joel Armia scored his second NHL goal for Winnipeg, and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 31 shots. The Jets again failed in an attempt to win a third straight game this season.

### SABRES 2, COYOTES 1

Jack Eichel had a goal and an assist, Chad Johnson made 26 saves and Buffalo beat struggling Arizona. Jamie McGinn also scored and Rasmus Ristolainen had two assists for the Sabres, who have won two straight and four of five following a six-game skid. Antoine Vermette's goal at 8:04 of the third period ended a scoreless drought of more than six periods for Arizona in its third straight loss. Louis Domingue stopped 26 shots in his first regulation defeat in 11 starts since taking over for injured Mike Smith. Johnson made 11 saves in the first period when the Coyotes failed to score despite being on the power play for 6 minutes. Arizona went 0 for 5 with the man advantage.

### SENATORS 4, SHARKS 3, SO

Zack Smith tied the game with a short-handed penalty shot and Mika Zibanejad scored the lone goal in a shootout to help Ottawa rally past San

Jose. Max McCormick and Bobby Ryan scored to stake the Senators to a 2-0 lead, but Ottawa once again needed a late comeback two days after scoring four third-period goals to win 5-3 in Los Angeles. Craig Anderson made 32 saves and helped kill a late penalty in overtime with the help of two

pucks off the post. He was perfect in the shootout to earn the win. Tomas Hertl, Logan Couture and Matt Nieto scored for the Sharks, who had their five-game winning streak snapped. Alex Stalock made 14 saves but was beaten by Zibanejad in the second round of the shootout.—AP



**FLORIDA:** Edmonton Oilers right wing Jordan Eberle (14) shoots for a goal against Florida Panthers goalie Al Montoya (35) during the first period of an NHL hockey game on Monday, Jan 18, 2016 in Sunrise, Fla.—AP

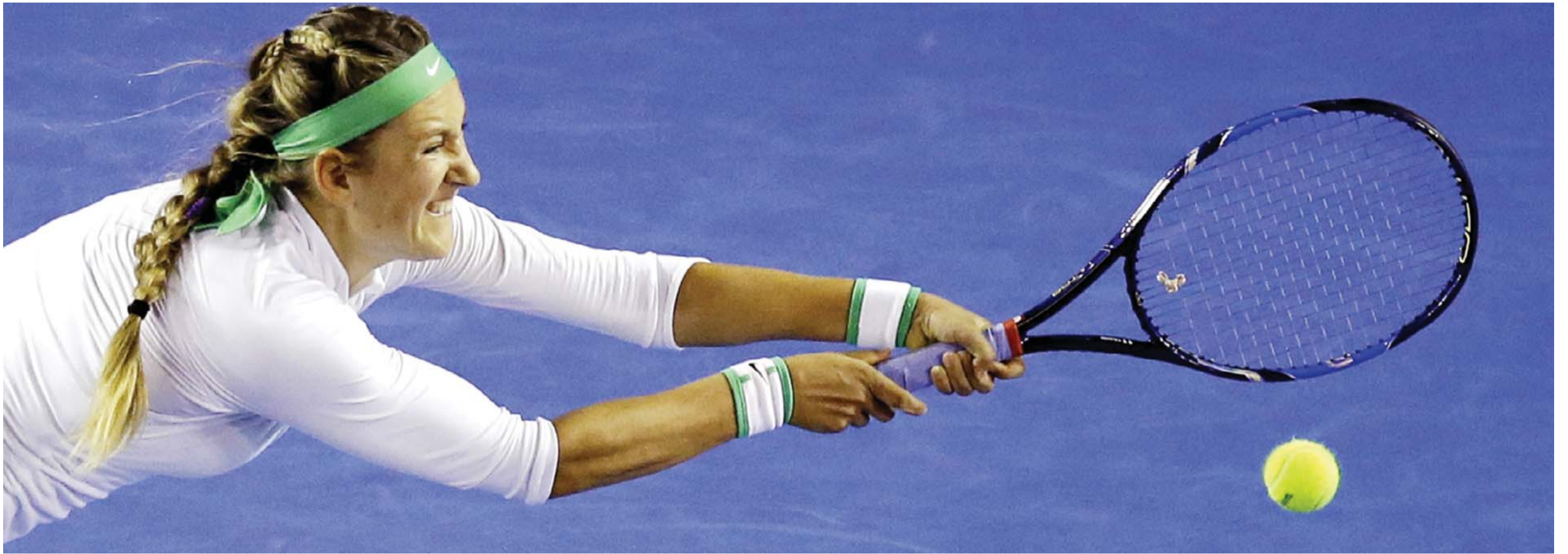
### NHL Results/Standings

Edmonton 4, Florida 2; St. Louis 5, Pittsburgh 2; Colorado 2, Winnipeg 1; Buffalo 2, Arizona 1; Ottawa 4, San Jose 3 (SO).

Western Conference						Eastern Conference							
Central Division						Atlantic Division							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		
Chicago	31	13	4	140	110	66	Detroit	23	14	8	111	116	54
Dallas	29	12	5	154	124	63	Tampa Bay	24	17	4	119	107	52
St. Louis	27	15	7	126	123	61	Boston	23	16	5	133	116	51
Minnesota	22	15	8	113	106	52	Montreal	23	19	4	128	118	50
Colorado	23	21	3	131	130	49	Ottawa	22	18	6	129	141	50
Nashville	20	17	8	116	123	48	Buffalo	19	23	4	107	123	42
Winnipeg	21	22	3	119	131	45	Toronto	16	20	7	108	122	39
Pacific Division						Metropolitan Division							
Los Angeles	28	13	3	118	99	59	Washington	34	8	3	149	97	71
San Jose	23	18	3	127	121	49	NY Islanders	24	15	6	123	112	54
Arizona	22	18	5	123	135	49	NY Rangers	24	16	5	129	120	53
Vancouver	19	17	10	111	127	48	Pittsburgh	21	17	7	110	113	49
Anaheim	19	18	7	88	105	45	New Jersey	22	19	5	101	110	49
Calgary	20	20	3	116	131	43	Philadelphia	20	15	8	98	114	48
Edmonton	19	23	5	115	136	43	Carolina	20	19	8	111	129	48
Eastern Conference						Atlantic Division							
Florida	26	15	5	121	105	57	Columbus	17	25	4	116	146	38

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).





MELBOURNE: Melbourne Victoria Azarenka of Belarus makes a backhand return to Alison Van Uytvanck of Belgium during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne yesterday. — AP

## TENNIS STARS ASK WHY IS COURTSIDE GAMBLING OK?

MELBOURNE: Andy Murray finds it “hypocritical” that tennis authorities are trying to stamp out match-fixing run by gambling syndicates but have partnered with a major gambling company that is now advertising on the Australian Open’s show courts. The two issues are separate but have collided at this year’s Australian Open, where tennis was overshadowed for a second day Tuesday by allegations that match-fixing has gone unchecked in tennis. The controversy ignited Monday when the BBC and BuzzFeed News published reports alleging that the sport’s highest authorities had ignored evidence of match-fixing involving 16 players who had been ranked in the top 50 over the past decade. The report said that half of those players were at this year’s Australian Open

but did not name names.

The governing bodies for tennis have presented a unified front in rejecting the claims, and highlighted the fact that five players and an official had received life bans after investigations from the Tennis Integrity Unit which was set up in 2008. No 2-ranked Murray and other top players, including Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, say authorities could be doing more to combat the problem. The players said they have known the issue existed but they doubt any top players have been involved. Murray said the sport was sending mixed messages by allowing betting company William Hill to become one of the Australian Open’s sponsor’s this year and advertise on the tournament’s three main show courts.

For the first time at Melbourne Park, electronic advertising boards at Rod Laver Arena, Margaret Court Arena and Hisense Arena display the name “William Hill” during breaks in play. “I’m not really pro that,” Murray, a four-time finalist in Melbourne said Tuesday, after advancing to the second round. “I think it’s a little bit hypocritical,” Murray added. “You know, because I don’t believe the players are allowed to be sponsored by betting companies, but the tournaments are. I don’t really understand how it all works. I think it’s a bit strange.” A day earlier, No 1-ranked Djokovic called it “borderline.” “It’s a fine line. Honestly, it’s on a borderline, I would say,” Djokovic said. “Whether you want to have betting companies involved in the big tournaments in our sport or not, it’s hard to say what’s right and

what’s wrong.”

Tennis officials defended the partnership with gambling sponsors and provided an explanation that one Australian paper, The Age, called “positive topspin.” ATP Chairman Chris Kermode said that betting on sports was “a legal pastime” - not to be confused with corrupt forms of gambling like match-fixing. “The distinction to make is that betting itself is not an illegal pastime and many people do bet on sport. What we are talking about is corruption,” he told a news conference Monday called to reject claims that any evidence on match-fixing had been suppressed or gone unchecked. Kermode added that legitimate betting agencies could even help tennis authorities to spot corruption, since stamping out illegal gambling benefits them too.

Fernando Verdasco joined the conversation, after staging the tournament’s biggest upset so far by beating Rafael Nadal in a first-round five-setter Tuesday. The No 45-ranked Verdasco was still basking in his victory over the 14-time Grand Slam winner when asked, in English, at his post-match news conference about the match-fixing allegations. He said he did not approve of gambling on tennis matches. “I would take out the betting. But I can’t take it out,” Verdasco said. “We are trying to fight against that.” For No 13 Milos Raonic the focus on gambling was an unwanted distraction. “Tennis is a beautiful (sport),” said Raonic, after winning his first-round match. He called it unfortunate that “the attention of the first Grand Slam of the year is more on that than the Australian Open.” — AP

## CURRY HUMBLER LEBRON AS WARRIORS ROUT CAVS

CLEVELAND: Stephen Curry scored 35 points in three quarters, Andre Iguodala added 20 and the Golden State Warriors returned to the floor where they won the NBA championship last season and embarrassed the Cleveland Cavaliers 132-98 on Monday night. The Warriors built a 30-point lead in the first half and bounced back from a shocking loss in Detroit over the weekend by winning their fifth straight over Cleveland. Only a late flurry of points helped the Cavs avoid their worst home loss in franchise history. Curry made seven 3-pointers - his last put the Warriors ahead by 40 late in the third quarter - and the reigning league MVP seemed right at home in Quicken Loans Arena, where the Warriors clinched their first title since 1975 last June. LeBron James scored 16 for Cleveland, just back from going 5-1 on its longest road trip this season.

Brooklyn with 29 points and 10 rebounds. The Nets have lost three straight and eight of their last nine. The game featured eight lead changes and 11 ties. Toronto took a 103-98 lead with 5:48 left behind five straight points from Terrence Ross.

### MAVERICKS 118, CELTICS 113, OT

Dirk Nowitzki scored 31 points for Dallas, and Deron Williams had 10 of his 20 points in overtime. Dallas hit its first four 3-pointers to open overtime. The Mavericks rallied from a six-point fourth-quarter deficit after leading by 17 in the first half, and Nowitzki scored 14 points in the fourth and seven in overtime. Isaiah Thomas and Marcus Smart led Boston with 20 points apiece. Avery Bradley had 19. Jae Crowder, traded from Dallas to Boston last season, sent the game to overtime by hitting three free throws with 6.7 seconds left after being fouled by Raymond Felton.

### TRAIL BLAZERS 108, WIZARDS 98

CJ McCollum made six 3-pointers and scored 25 points, helping Portland rebound from its worst loss of the season. Portland was up by 17 points in the first half, but Washington grabbed the lead in the third quarter. The Trail Blazers responded with a 23-1 run. Meyers Leonard added 18 points for Portland, which lost 114-89 at lowly Philadelphia on Saturday. Damian Lillard scored 16 points, and Mason Plumlee had 10 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists. Washington star John Wall was limited to nine points on 4-of-17 shooting. He had 36 points and 13 assists in Saturday’s 119-117 loss to Boston.

### GRIZZLIES 101, PELICANS 99

Marc Gasol had 16 points and 10 rebounds, leading the balanced Grizzlies to the victory. Matt Barnes, Jeff Green and Courtney Lee also had 16 points apiece for Memphis, which has won three in a row and five of six. Mike Conley added 15 points and 10 assists. Lee converted a free throw with 3.5 seconds left. He missed the second one, but Gasol tapped the ball into the backcourt, and Barnes let it roll until time expired. Jrue Holiday led the Pelicans with 23 points and nine assists. Anthony Davis had 21 points, eight rebounds and three blocks, and Ryan Anderson scored 14 points.

### BULLS 111, PISTONS 101

Pau Gasol had 31 points and 12 rebounds, and Chicago won again without Joakim Noah. Noah dislocated his left shoulder Friday and likely will miss the rest of the season, but the Bulls have had success without him. They improved to 9-2 in 2015-16 when he doesn’t play. Ersan Ilyasova had 19 points and 11 rebounds for Detroit, which was outplayed after taking a 13-point lead in the first quarter. The Pistons also lost their cool, getting called for three technical fouls in the third. Detroit guard Kentavious Caldwell-Pope received two of them and was ejected. Derrick Rose had 20 points and Jimmy Butler added 16 for Chicago.

### HAWKS 98, MAGIC 81

Al Horford scored 15 points, Paul Millsap had 13 points and 12 rebounds, and the Hawks earned their second straight win. Atlanta had six players score in double figures and led the entire game. Jeff Teague had 14 points, and Mike Scott scored 12. Aaron Gordon finished with 18 points and Elfrid Payton scored 16 for the Magic. Orlando was held to 34.5 percent shooting from the field, lowest this season for an Atlanta opponent. The Magic have lost seven of eight. — AP



CHARLOTTE: Charlotte Hornets’ Cody Zeller (40) gets his dunk attempt and head blocked by Utah Jazz’s Rudy Gobert (27) during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Monday Jan 18, 2016. — AP

### NBA Results/Standings

NY Knicks 119, Philadelphia 113 (OT); Charlotte 124, Utah 119 (OT); Portland 108, Washington 98; Memphis 101, New Orleans 99; Chicago 111, Detroit 101; Atlanta 98, Orlando 81; Toronto 112, Brooklyn 100; Golden State 132, Cleveland 98; Dallas 118, Boston 113 (OT); LA Clippers 140, Houston 132 (OT).

Eastern Conference				Western Conference				
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB				
Toronto	26	15	.634	-	Oklahoma City	30	12	.714
Boston	22	20	.524	4.5	Utah	18	23	.439
NY Knicks	21	22	.488	6	Portland	19	25	.432
Brooklyn	11	31	.262	15.5	Denver	16	25	.390
Philadelphia	5	38	.116	22	Minnesota	13	29	.310
					Pacific Division			
Cleveland	28	11	.718	-	Golden State	38	4	.905
Chicago	24	16	.600	4.5	LA Clippers	27	14	.659
Indiana	22	19	.537	7	Sacramento	17	23	.425
Detroit	22	19	.537	7	Phoenix	13	29	.310
Milwaukee	18	25	.419	12	LA Lakers	9	34	.209
					Southwest Division			
Atlanta	25	17	.595	-	San Antonio	36	6	.857
Miami	23	18	.561	1.5	Memphis	24	19	.558
Orlando	20	20	.500	4	Dallas	24	19	.558
Washington	19	21	.475	5	Houston	22	21	.512
Charlotte	19	22	.463	5.5	New Orleans	13	27	.325

## TENNIS WORLD REELS AMID ALLEGATIONS OF ENDEMIC CORRUPTION, BETTING SCAM

PARIS: A pioneer in terms of prevention, the fight against match-fixing and corruption, tennis is also one of the most vulnerable sports, tempting for international mafia groups’ bid to thwart the betting markets. A report alleging widespread corruption in tennis cast a shadow over the start of the Australian Open as officials vigorously denied suppressing evidence of match-fixing. Pim Verschuren, co-author of ‘Sports betting and corruption’, believes however that tennis has “several risk factors” which makes it particularly easy to manipulate.

“Firstly it’s an individual sport, so easier to manipulate. Then, there is a big financial gap between the players, and finally, you can bet on anything, any aspect of the game,” continued Verschuren, who works as a researcher at the Institute of International and Strategic Relations

(IRIS). In this way tennis, which represents an estimated 20-25 percent of global online sports betting, has climbed to a 50 percent share of the live-betting market-the highly specialized betting offered throughout a game until its conclusion. British website Bet 365, one of the leaders in online betting, has specialized in point by point betting on major tournaments including Wimbledon.

And the more precise the bet, the easier it is to manipulate. “You can say to a player to lose the fifth game, or someone in the crowd signals so he loses a point,” explains Christian Kalb, former head of the sports betting for France’s state-controlled lottery and betting monopoly La Française des Jeux, who now works as a consultant on the subject. “While five years ago this type of thing mainly concerned small tournament matches, now we are

witnessing corruption involving more important games,” said Kalb. On a “big” game, in fact, the amount of money wagered makes it easier to hide potential match-fixing where bets can go up to several hundred thousand euros.

### 200 billion euros

It is estimated that the fortnight of the French Open generates more than a billion euros in betting globally, and the entire tennis season over 200 billion euros. Of this, only 15 percent relates to the legal market. A situation so flourishing that the sums offered by match-fixers are swelling faster than the prize money being offered by tournament organizers. “If a mafia wants to launder hundreds of thousands of euros via a bet, it can put 50,000 or 100,000 euros (\$55,000/\$109,000) on the table to bribe a player,” explained Kalb. — AP



## INFANTINO EYES REGIONAL WORLD CUP IF ELECTED FIFA PRESIDENT

**LONDON:** The World Cup could be spread across entire regions, emulating the continent-wide 2020 European Championship, if Gianni Infantino wins next month's FIFA presidential election. The UEFA secretary general used his manifesto, which was published Tuesday, to say FIFA should not limit the tournament to be held in one or two countries. The 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea is the only time the event has been co-hosted. Infantino, working alongside Michel Platini at UEFA, spearheaded spreading Euro 2020 across 13 countries.

In November, Infantino told The Associated Press of his plan to expand the World Cup to 40 teams. Allowing several countries to stage matches in about a dozen stadiums would ensure the tournament is not limited to just a few wealthy potential hosts. "FIFA should investigate the possibility of organizing the World Cup not only in one or two countries but in a whole region, so enabling several countries to enjoy the

honor and benefits of hosting the World Cup," Infantino's manifesto says.

The first World Cup bidding after the Feb. 26 election is for the 2026 tournament. The launch of the contest has been stalled since last year when FIFA was swept up in a global soccer corruption scandal, which led to Sepp Blatter announcing plans to quit before being banned. Infantino, who is Swiss, is one of five presidential candidates currently seeking votes from FIFA's 209 member associations. In an attempt to entice federations, Infantino is also offering them a greater share of FIFA's wealth, saying a "proper risk analysis must be conducted" into whether the governing body requires cash reserves as high as \$1.5 billion.

Each of FIFA's members will be offered \$5 million to invest in development projects and running costs - a huge increase on the \$2.05 million per federation 2011-2014 - and another \$1 million, if required, for travel, which would be attractive to small nations in remote regions. Additionally, each of the six confederations

will be handed \$40 million to invest in development projects and their regional offshoots in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Central America can request another \$4 million to organize youth tournaments. The amounts are all within a four-year cycle. "If the target of 50 percent of distribution of FIFA's income is reached, these amounts will further increase significantly," Infantino said.

Infantino only entered the race after Platini, his boss at European governing body UEFA, was initially suspended by FIFA in October before being handed an eight-year ban last month. Distancing himself from Platini, who blocked high-tech goal-line aids being used in the Champions League, Infantino champions expanding technology in the game. "FIFA shall start an open debate with all stakeholders on the further use of technology in the game," the manifesto says. "Proposals should be fully tested and the potential impact on the flow of the game should be studied in detail. Finally, this

has to be an objective assessment based on the best interests of football."

The International Football Association Board is already preparing to approve trials with a type of video replay system for referees. One idea Infantino proposes, which seems unique in an election campaign with few differences between the candidates, is starting a globe-trotting team of the game's greats. Legends games, organized by third-parties, have attracted big crowds in recent years. Infantino envisages that the FIFA Legends Team would organize matches "against local line ups throughout all continents to promote football, social projects and charitable aims."

"Players who wish to give something back to the world of football should be positively encouraged to do so and FIFA should provide a platform for them," writes Infantino, who is best known to soccer fans as the face of Champions League draws. The 45-year-old Infantino, a lawyer who has risen to UEFA's top administrative job since joining in 2000,



UEFA secretary general Gianni Infantino

was born in the Swiss town of Brig - close to Blatter's birth place of Visp. For the FIFA presidency, Infantino is competing against Asian Football Confederation President Sheikh Salman Bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa of Bahrain, former FIFA vice president Prince Ali bin al Hussein of Jordan, former FIFA official Jerome Champagne and South African businessman Tokyo Sexwale.—AP

## EIBAR ROUT GRANADA

**MADRID:** Two goals each by Borja Baston and Sergi Enrich helped Eibar down Granada 5-1 in the Spanish league on Monday. Japan midfielder Takashi Inui opened the scoring for Eibar after he raced into the box and connected with Sergio "Keko" Gontan's looping cross to beat goalkeeper Andres Fernandez in the 35th minute. Three minutes later Keko supplied another assist for Enrich to put past

Fernandez for Eibar's second. Morocco forward Youssef El-Arabi pulled one back for Granada in the 65th, but two minutes later Enrich put the match beyond doubt when he added Eibar's third. Baston got his first goal in the 74th and added another five minutes later to complete Granada's rout. Eibar is sixth-placed on 33 points with Granada in 17th with 17 points after 20 rounds.—AP

### Spanish League results/standings

**MADRID:** Spanish La Liga table after Monday's match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Atletico Madrid	20	15	2	3	30	8	47	Valencia	20	5	9	6	25	21	24
Barcelona	19	14	3	2	50	15	45	Malaga	20	6	6	8	15	17	24
Real Madrid	20	13	4	3	57	19	43	Real Sociedad	20	5	6	9	23	28	21
Villarreal	20	12	4	4	26	16	40	Espanyol	20	6	3	11	18	33	21
Celta Vigo	20	10	4	6	32	30	34	Real Betis	20	5	6	9	13	28	21
Eibar	20	9	6	5	32	21	33	Las Palmas	20	4	6	10	19	30	18
Sevilla	20	9	5	6	28	22	32	Granada	20	4	5	11	21	41	17
Deportivo	20	6	10	4	27	24	28	Rayo Vallecano	20	4	4	12	23	45	16
Athletic Bilbao	20	8	4	8	27	28	28	Sporting Gijon	19	4	3	12	17	34	15
Getafe	20	7	5	8	24	28	26	Levante	20	3	5	12	17	36	14

## MONREAL EXTENDS ARSENAL STAY, SIGNS NEW CONTRACT

**LONDON:** Nacho Monreal has signed a new contract with Arsenal, the English Premier League leaders announced yesterday. The Gunners said Monreal, 29, had signed a "long-term" deal but did not disclose the exact length of his contract. Monreal, who joined the north London club from Malaga for a reported £10 million (\$14 million, 13 million euros) in January 2013, has been ever-present in all of Arsenal's 22 Premier League matches so far this season. "I'm really happy because my intention was to keep playing for Arsenal. I feel really good playing here," Monreal told Arsenal Player.

"I have a good relationship with my team-mates and we keep improving year after year," added the Spaniard, who has won successive FA Cups with Arsenal Wenger's side and displaced Kieran Gibbs as the Gunners' left-back. "I wanted to stay here and I could extend my contract. I would like to play here for many more years." But Monreal said he had found it hard, initially, to adjust to life in England. "I'm very happy with my performances this season. At the beginning it was difficult

because I was a new signing and I didn't speak English. "But now I feel more comfortable with my team-mates and with everything in general so that has helped me to play better because I have more confidence in myself."

Meanwhile veteran manager Wenger acknowledged Monreal's influence since the defender's arrival from La Liga three years ago. "He is a very important player at the club because he can play left-back and centre back," said Wenger, whose side lead the Premier League table on goal difference from surprise title contenders Leicester City. "He has the consistency in his performances that is requested at the top level." The Frenchman added: "Everyone in the Premier League would say that he has become a very strong player. Arsenal are gifted at the moment, I must say, with two top-class left backs. We have many young players. They need to be surrounded by experienced players, especially at the back. "We now have experience at the back. Nacho is part of that - he's a good example for the young players and we have a good bunch of young players."—AFP

## HAYATOU GIVES UP SOME CAF DUTIES

**CAIRO:** FIFA's acting president Issa Hayatou has given up some of his powers as Confederation of African Football (CAF) leader ahead of the increasingly controversial election campaign to head football's world body. Hayatou will leave CAF's handling of the FIFA election and relations with other regional confederations to his two vice presidents, according to an official statement. CAF decided the move on Saturday, a day after FIFA presidential contender Prince Ali bin al Hussein made a complaint over an accord made by the CAF and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

CAF officials denied there was a link however. "The president, in agreement with the executive committee, just wants to exclusively wear his FIFA hat in handling the election for which the final phase will start on January 26 with the final list of candidates," said a CAF spokesman Junior Binyam. Hayatou took over at FIFA when Sepp Blatter was suspended by the world body in October. Blatter faces a criminal investigation in Switzerland over a suspect \$2 million payment to UEFA chief Michel Platini. CAF said its executive committee on Saturday "authorised a delegation of powers" to first vice president Suketu Patel and second deputy Almamy Kabele Camara.

"They will be in charge of relations between CAF, other confederations, members and candidates for the FIFA presidential elections until the conclusion of the FIFA electoral process." Patel and Camara will also lead the African delegation at the FIFA election in Zurich on February 26. CAF is to decide on February 5 which of the five FIFA candidates it will back. Prince

Ali has asked FIFA's Electoral Committee to look into an accord made on Friday by the CAF and the AFC, which is headed by Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim al Khalifa a leading rival for the FIFA presidency.

"I am concerned that there has been an attempt to breach electoral rules in the FIFA presidential election," Prince Ali said of the CAF-AFC accord announced in Kigali on Friday. But Shaikh Salman has strongly denied any hint of misconduct saying negotiations had started before he became a candidate for the FIFA presidency. "I am astonished about my friend's comments, which are wholly dismissed and entirely inaccurate," Shaikh Salman said in a statement. The other FIFA candidates are UEFA secretary general Gianni Infantino, South African business tycoon Tokyo Sexwale and former FIFA official Jerome Champagne of France.—AFP



Issa Hayatou



Sepp Blatter

## BLATTER STILL RECEIVES HIS SALARY DESPITE BAN

**MIAMI:** FIFA's Sepp Blatter may have been banned for eight years from the game but he is still receiving his president's salary from world soccer's governing body, a spokesman for FIFA's Audit and Compliance Committee told Reuters on Monday. Blatter was suspended for 90 days by FIFA on Oct 8 and then banned from the game for eight years last month for ethics violations over a \$2 million payment FIFA made to European soccer boss Michel Platini with Blatter's approval in 2011.

But Blatter, a Swiss national who has been president of FIFA since 1998, will continue to be paid until a new president is elected on Feb 26, the spokesman Andreas Bantel said. That would mean Blatter would have been paid for nearly five months during which time he was unable to carry out his duties, and a period in which FIFA has appointed an acting president, African soccer head Issa Hayatou.

The compensation sub-committee of FIFA's Audit and Compliance Committee recently ruled that it could stop Blatter's bonuses but not, according to his contract, his salary. "Until the election of a new president on February 26, Mr Blatter is the elected president and therefore - according to his contract - is entitled to receive his remuneration," Bantel said. Blatter's US lawyer and his Switzerland-based spokesman could not be immediately reached for comment.

FIFA is facing the worst corruption crisis in its history as a total of 41 individuals and entities, including many former FIFA officials, have been charged with corruption-related offences in the United States. The US investigation is far from over and FIFA also faces a parallel Swiss probe. Blatter's bonuses have been stopped because he was not carrying out his duties of supervising the organization, including its general secretary. Only last week, FIFA announced that Jerome Valcke was fired from his position as general secretary. It gave no reason but an investigation had followed allegations of corruption related to World Cup ticket sales.

### Compensation a secret

"The duty of supervision is listed explicitly in the target agreements for the payment of bonuses. The compensation committee has therefore decided, at its last meeting, not to make any further bonus payments to Mr Blatter," said Bantel. The size of Blatter's compensation from FIFA has remained secret although reforms to be voted on at the organization's February Congress call for the disclosure of individual compensation for the president and top executives.

It is also unclear what Hayatou is getting paid to be acting president. FIFA's finances may have taken a blow in the past year because of the costs and distractions of the corruption scandal. According to a report from the UK's Press Association late last year, the organization suffered its first loss last year since 2001. Bantel declined to discuss what proportion of Blatter's payments came from his bonuses. The FIFA Ethics Committee said the payment to Platini, made at a time when Blatter was seeking re-election, lacked transparency and presented conflicts of interest, though both men denied any wrongdoing. Platini has also been banned from soccer for eight years. Both Blatter and Platini have said they will appeal against their bans.—Reuters

## EX-PRODIGY PENNANT INKS 'SEXY' DEAL IN SINGAPORE

**SINGAPORE:** Former Arsenal and Liverpool winger Jermaine Pennant signed with a Singapore football club yesterday, hoping to revive what was once one of the game's most promising careers and boost the ailing local professional league. The 33-year-old reformed wild boy joined Tampines Rovers, five-time winners of the local S-League, under a one-year contract. Tampines chairman Krishna Ramachandra would not give details of his salary, telling reporters only it was a "sexy" figure. The Straits Times newspaper said last week that Pennant would be paid about Sg\$40,000 (\$28,000) a month, or less than a quarter of his last drawn salary with Wigan Athletic.

His salary could rise with bonuses related to his number of appearances, performance and team's achievements, state broadcaster Channel NewsAsia reported. Despite the hefty cut, Pennant will be the highest paid player in the S-League's 21-year history. He was also presented with a car at the signing ceremony. "No matter where you go in the world, it's always a great chance to prove yourself, no matter the level," said Pennant, who has insisted that his wild days are behind him following the birth of his son in 2010. "I don't look at it as lesser league, it's just another chapter in my career," Pennant added, referring to the S-League, which has suffered from waning attendances.

Pennant will don the number nine jersey for Tampines, the league's runners-up last season. The winger, approaching the tail-end of his once-promising career, had been on trial with the club since arriving on

January 7. "The financial component (of the contract) is one not typical to what we traditionally pay our players. We've been fortunate that a couple of sponsors have stepped up to absorb the cost associated with the signing on," Ramachandra told AFP last week.

Team officials hope Pennant's star appeal can help revitalize the S-League, which has seen dwindling attendances since crowds of 30,000 packed the stands during the inaugural season in 1996. "It will inject more confidence into the fan base. In the long term, this is the necessary fillip that Singapore football has needed," Ramachandra said. Ahead of Tuesday's signing, a Facebook fan page for Pennant was set up. Pennant was England's most expensive teenager when he was snapped up for two million pounds by Arsenal as a precocious 15-year-old. He was acquired by Liverpool in 2006 for 6.7 million pounds. He later featured for a number of clubs including Stoke City, Wolves, Wigan and Spanish side Real Zaragoza.

But Pennant's career was marred by his off-pitch misdemeanors, including disciplinary issues and drink-driving convictions. In 2005, while on loan from Arsenal at Birmingham City, Pennant played wearing an electronic tag after being freed from jail for drink-driving. Despite his chequered past, Ramachandra has been impressed by the player, describing him as a "total professional". Before arriving in Singapore, Pennant also had a spell with Pune City in India and tried out with Thai Premier League outfit Muangthong United.—AFP



SINGAPORE: Teo Hock Seng (right) advisor for Tampines Rovers presents former Arsenal and Liverpool winger Jermaine Pennant a jersey with his name after the signing ceremony with Tampines Rovers in Singapore yesterday. — AFP



# Sports

Curry humbles  
LeBron; Warriors  
rout Cavaliers



FIFA's Blatter still  
receives salary  
despite ban



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EIBAR ROUT GRANADA 5-1 IN SPANISH LEAGUE

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MELBOURNE: Rafael Nadal (right) of Spain is consoled by compatriot Fernando Verdasco after his first round loss to Verdasco at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia yesterday. — AP

## NADAL, HALEP STUNNED AS SHOCKS ROCK OPEN

### WAWRINKA TAKES EASY ROUTE INTO ROUND TWO

**MELBOURNE:** The more familiar shock of falling seeds added to the ructions caused by allegations of tennis corruption as former champion Rafa Nadal and highly-fancied Simona Halep both departed in the first round of the Australian Open yesterday. Nadal arrived at Melbourne Park with high hopes of arresting his recent grand slam decline only to depart, his optimism crushed, under a barrage of winners from fellow Spaniard Fernando Verdasco.

Shortly after a dejected Nadal walked off court having tasted his first opening round loss at the Australian Open, women's second seed Halep bid farewell while another high-profile casualty was seven-times major champion Venus Williams. Andy Murray, the men's second seed, and 2014 champion Stan Wawrinka both impressed as the on-court action took centre stage after the allegations of matchfixing in the sport overshadowed Monday's program.

Nadal appeared confused at how he had managed to blow a 2-0 lead in the final set to go down 7-6(6) 4-6 3-6 7-6(4) 6-2 to Verdasco in a four hour 41 minute battle that

had echoes of their marathon 2009 semi-final but with a reversed result. The fifth seed, who failed to win a grand slam title last year for the first time in a decade, lost the last six games as world number 45 Verdasco unleashed a series of explosive forehands to take his place in the second round. "He was playing amazing in the last set. If you decide everything in one set, the opponent is ready to hit all the balls at hundred percent, then you are in trouble," the 2009 champion told reporters.

#### Tearful Zhang

"The real thing is I was not enough aggressive with my forehand during the whole match. I didn't feel it. I tried. I fought. I was ready to do it, and I didn't. I am sad for that," Halep gave similar reasons for her 6-4 6-3 defeat at the hands of Chinese qualifier Zhang Shuai, who was ranked 131 places below the Romanian in the rankings going into their contest over on Margaret Court Arena. "I think it wasn't my good day but I give her a lot of credit as she played without fear and hit every ball," Halep, who has

been struggling with an Achilles injury, told reporters. "She beat me. It's tough but it's only one day, only one match and I have many matches ahead of me."

Zhang burst into tears after winning her first grand slam singles match at the 15th attempt, later revealing that she had considered quitting the sport. "I wanted try one more time, only one more time, yeah," she said. "If Australia Open not good, maybe I finish tennis." Like Nadal, veteran Williams had been hoping to carry a resurgence in form from 2015 into the New Year but she was similarly disappointed after a 6-4 6-2 defeat at the hands of British number one Johanna Konta. The 35-year-old eighth seeded American faces a likely fine from organizers after holding a post-match news conference.

Seventh seed Angelique Kerber had to save a match point to stave off a fourth shock, rallying to beat Japan's Misaki Doi 6-7(4) 7-6(6) 6-3, while third seed Garbine Muguruza beat Estonian Anett Kontaveit 6-0 6-4. Victoria Azarenka, twice an Australian Open champion, underlined her return to form and fitness, thrashing Belgium's Alison

Van Uytvanck 6-0 6-0 in the final match of the day. Murray's earlier encounter with teenager Alexander Zverev was delayed in the second game when the German suffered a nosebleed but the former Wimbledon champion's path to the second round otherwise ran smoothly.

The British four-times runner-up won 6-1 6-2 6-3 on Hisense Arena while Wawrinka, his possible semi-final foe and the only man to have broken Novak Djokovic's grip on the Melbourne Park title in the last five years, had an even shorter day, going through when Russian Dmitry Tursunov retired hurt after the second set of their contest. Former world number one Lleyton Hewitt delighted the Rod Laver Arena crowd by extending his career for at least another two days with a 7-6(5) 6-2 6-4 victory over fellow Australian James Duckworth. Hewitt, who is retiring after his 20th Australian Open, sent his compatriots into a frenzy when he wrapped up the match with a trademark lob to set up a clash with eighth seed David Ferrer. "This is what I'm going to miss the most, the buzz from the crowd," he said. — Reuters



**SWANSEA:** Watford's Uruguayan defender Miguel Britos (right) clears the ball with an overhead kick away from Swansea City's Gambian-Swedish striker Modou Barrow during the English Premier League football match between Swansea City and Watford at The Liberty Stadium in Swansea, south Wales on January 18, 2016. — AFP

## WILLIAMS LIFTS SWANSEA OUT OF RELEGATION ZONE



**SWANSEA:** Swansea gave new head coach Francesco Guidolin the perfect welcome present as they beat Watford 1-0 to climb out of the Premier League relegation zone on Monday. Guidolin was announced as Swansea head coach, to work alongside interim manager Alan Curtis, just hours before kick-off at the Liberty Stadium. The 60-year-old Italian will have the final say on team selection, but he was in a watching brief only as he looked on from the stands before his first official fixture at Everton on Sunday.

Guidolin's presence had the desired effect as Ashley Williams' first

half goal secured Swansea's first win in their last five games in all competitions. Swansea's second success in their last 13 matches lifted them above Newcastle into 17th place and Guidolin will begin work with the south Wales club one point clear of the bottom three as he bids to maintain their top-flight status for a sixth successive season. With only one victory in seven games under Curtis since he replaced the sacked Garry Monk, Swansea felt compelled to make a change and the early signs were promising.

Since leaving his role at Udinese last May, Guidolin had worked as a technical supervisor for the three teams belonging to the Pozzo family-Udinese, Watford and Granada-so he may have had a few interesting insights to pass along to Curtis. Jack Cork fired over from long-range and Andre Ayew prodded a shot straight at Watford goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes in a lively opening from the hosts. After dominating the initial

skirmishes, Curtis's team were rewarded in the 27th minute when Wales international Williams rose highest to power in Ki Sung-yueng's cross for the first goal by any Swansea defender since March 2014.

Watford didn't have their first shot on target until a minute before half-time when Ben Watson's free-kick was only cleared as far as Jurado, who shot straight at Swansea goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski. Watson was the provider again when Watford came close to equalizing early in the second half, but this time Miguel Britos flicked a header narrowly over the crossbar from the midfielder's inswinging free-kick. The visitors were starting to hit their stride and Jurado was just off-target from the edge of the area after exchanging passes with Odion Ighalo. Jurado forced Fabianski into a decent save as Watford pushed for a late equalizer but when Troy Deeney shot wide in stoppage-time, Guidolin was finally able to start celebrating. — AFP

#### ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE

**LONDON:** English Premier League table after Monday's match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Arsenal	22	13	5	4	37	21	44
Leicester	22	12	8	2	39	26	44
Man City	22	13	4	5	43	21	43
Tottenham	22	10	9	3	38	18	39
Man Utd	22	10	7	5	28	20	37
West Ham	22	9	8	5	34	26	35
Stoke	22	9	6	7	24	22	33
Crystal Palace	22	9	4	9	23	24	31
Liverpool	22	8	7	7	25	28	31
Southampton	22	8	6	8	31	24	30
Everton	22	6	11	5	39	32	29
Watford	22	8	5	9	25	25	29
West Brom	22	7	6	9	22	30	27
Chelsea	22	6	7	9	31	34	25
Bournemouth	22	6	6	10	26	37	24
Norwich	22	6	5	11	24	38	23
Swansea	22	5	7	10	20	30	22
Newcastle	22	5	6	11	24	39	21
Sunderland	22	5	3	14	27	45	18
Aston Villa	22	2	6	14	18	38	12



**SWANSEA:** Watford's Miguel Britos centre left, heads the ball towards the goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Swansea and Watford, at The Liberty Stadium, in Swansea, Wales. — AP



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BEIJING: A man delivers goods in the street of Beijing. — AFP

## CHINA GROWTH SLOWS TO WEAKEST IN 25 YEARS

### NATION AIMS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY MODEL

**BEIJING:** China's GDP grew at its slowest in a quarter of a century last year, creating pressure for more stimulus policies to ensure a soft landing for the economy that is a crucial driver of global growth. The 6.9 percent figure was the slowest in the People's Republic since the 3.8 percent of 1990, a year after the bloody Tiananmen Square crackdown rocked the country and isolated it internationally.

But while the outcome is much smaller than the double-digit rates seen before the financial crisis, it is seen as the "new normal" and within Beijing's target range as it looks to recalibrate the economy to a more sustainable model.

The data-in line with a median forecasts in an AFP survey-was welcomed by strong gains on markets in China and across Asia and Europe as dealers bet on a new round of monetary easing measures, including more interest rate cuts. Global markets have been hammered in recent weeks by worries over China, the world's number two economy, wiping trillions off valuations.

"Expectations for further cuts in interest rates and banks' reserve ratios increased after the economic figures," Zhang Gang,

an analyst at Central China Securities said. China's leaders—who targeted growth of "about seven percent"—are looking to transform the economy away from the investment and exports of the past to one more oriented towards domestic consumer demand. The services sector accounted for 50.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2015, the first time it was more than half the economy, the National Bureau of Statistics said as it released the figures.

#### 'Crucial period'

The structural transformation was still underway, it added, calling it "a crucial period during which challenges need to be overcome and problems need to be resolved". Last year's growth was well below the 7.3 percent of 2014, and the AFP survey projected it would fall to 6.7 percent this year.

NBS chief Wang Baoan told reporters that this year would be "more or less the same as in 2015 and China's economic growth will still face a complicated and volatile international situation", but said he was confident growth will "remain stable".

The Communist party is widely expect-

ed to lower the growth target this year, and President Xi Jinping has said expansion of 6.5 percent will be sufficient for China's needs. "It's a very difficult balancing act for the Beijing authorities," Standard Bank China economist Jeremy Stevens said.

"What we expect is growth to slow, and them to limp ahead with the reforms they can, at the time that they can. "And when the macro-economic data is too weak, they probably pause or flip-flop on some of those policy choices. "The economy is in the process of stabilization, but it hasn't stabilized yet," Liao Qun, chief economist at Citic Bank International in Hong Kong said.

Questions have repeatedly been raised about the accuracy of official Chinese economic statistics, which critics say can be subject to political manipulation, and even Premier Li Keqiang has reportedly expressed doubts about the data.

#### 'Strong headwinds'

Unexpected moves in the Yuan exchange rate—after a surprise devaluation in August—have also disturbed investors in recent weeks, with fears the real picture is worse than portrayed and authorities may

not be able implement reforms to make the economy more market-driven. Julian Evans-Pritchard, China economist for Capital Economics, said in a note: "The continued stability of the official GDP figures will do little to assuage concerns over their credibility."

While official figures should not be taken at face value, he said, the data "don't suggest that China is now entering a deeper economic crisis" and his group expects China's results "to gradually turn more upbeat over the next few months". But some economists forecast a rockier year.

Zhao Yang of Nomura reiterated the bank's 5.8 percent forecast for 2016 due to "strong headwinds" and overcapacity in manufacturing, along with an excess supply of property. China's industrial production, which measures output at factories, workshops and mines, rose 5.9 percent year-on-year in December, the NBS said, and retail sales, a key indicator of consumer spending, were up 11.1 percent—both below the forecasts in a survey by Bloomberg News. Fixed asset investment, a measure of spending on infrastructure, expanded 10.0 percent in the year—its weakest since 2000. — AFP

## TWITTER SUFFERS GLOBAL OUTAGE

**PARIS:** Millions of Twitter users were blocked from their feeds yesterday as the social networking site went down in several countries, suffering one of the worst outages in its 10-year history. "Some users are currently experiencing problems accessing Twitter. We are aware of the issue and are working towards a resolution," the US site said, without giving details of the cause of the outage.

A spokesperson for Twitter Europe confirmed the site was down, while users in South Africa, Brazil, the Philippines, Nigeria and Uganda also reported problems accessing the site with the hashtag #twitterdown on Facebook. Users in affected countries were met with the message: "Something is technically wrong."

After a shutdown lasting about an hour yesterday morning, the site was back online in London and Paris—but users in both cities experienced intermittent service in the afternoon. Users elsewhere, including Russia, were also still experiencing problems.

Many took to Facebook to report the outage with the hashtag #twitterdown. The shutdown was also the butt of jokes from some social media channels, with British TV channel E4 posting on its Facebook page: "Twitter is down. Worker productivity hits record levels. UK is out of recession!!!"

Rick DeVens, a local US radio host, posted on Facebook: "We may never get back some of the clever thoughts I had during this tragic outage." Twitter has regularly suffered outages since its launch in 2006, but generally of a shorter duration. Its social media rivals Facebook and Instagram have also had to deal with brief shutdowns.

During a site breakdown in July 2012, frustrated Twitter addicts were unable to post for two hours due to problems at its data centres. Twitter shares have tumbled 20 percent on the New York stock exchange since the start of the year—notably on rumors that it may scrap the 140-character limit that has kept its posts pithy for the last decade.

Tech news website re/code reported this month that tweets of up to 10,000 characters could be available from March, winning a mixed response from netizens. Twitter chief executive Jack Dorsey did not confirm the plan, but said the company is "not going to be shy about building more utility and power into Twitter." The site continued to lose money over the first three quarters of last year. In October it reported a third quarter loss of \$132 million, on a disappointing 11 percent year-on-year increase in regular users to 320 million. —AFP

## IRAN SEES \$32BN OF UNFROZEN ASSETS

**TEHRAN:** Iran will receive \$32 billion of unfrozen assets after sanctions were lifted under its nuclear deal, the central bank said yesterday, in a boost to an economy sapped by years of isolation. The unblocking of funds, which had been held in foreign banks, comes after the UN atomic watchdog confirmed at the weekend that Iran had complied with measures in the July atomic accord.

The assets will be kept "in centralized and safe accounts" abroad, central bank chief Valiollah Seif was quoted by state television as saying, adding that the money could be used to pay for imports. Seif said that \$28 billion (25.8 billion Euros) would go to the central bank and \$4 billion "will be transferred to the state treasury as the share of the government". Iran hopes that steps to ease its isolation, including the re-admission of its banks to the SWIFT system of international transactions, will inject new vigor into the economy.

#### Recession and unemployment

But opening up to the world cannot completely fix the economy, President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday in a televised speech, warning that the "difficult road has just begun". "Today is just the start for an innocent human who was kept chained

unjustly by the hands and feet for 12 years," he said. "Sanctions are gone but there is a long way between sanctions and development," he said, speaking to an economics conference in Tehran. "Today, our main problem is unemployment and recession, the lack of a booming economy and many structural and economic deficiencies," he added. Iran's economy suffered greatly under the international sanctions that since 2006 targeted the Islamic republic's nuclear program and financial systems. Under the previous hardline government of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, inflation topped 40 percent. But moderate Rouhani, whose election in 2013 heralded more than two years of nuclear negotiations with world powers, managed to curb inflation to 13 percent.

#### Foreign investment

Iran needs annual foreign investment of \$30-\$50 billion to reach an eight percent growth target and cash in on sanctions relief, the president said Sunday. "Untapped potential in many industries indicates that domestic demand alone cannot drive the economy" towards that goal, he said, signalling a shift in policy.

Iran announced a major boost of 500,000 barrels per day in oil production on Monday—a move Tehran had long planned

for once its nuclear deal with world powers took effect. The next budget starting in March is based on a projected oil price of \$40 per barrel and exports of 2.25 million barrels per day.

Iran, a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), now produces 2.8 million barrels of oil per day and exports just over one million barrels. Low oil prices and years of US and European Union sanctions that barred much of Iran's

foreign oil sales hammered its income from crude. But despite global prices falling below \$30, Iran intends to increase production to recoup lost market share.

Tehran aims to seize the momentum of its thawing relations with the outside world to attract foreign investment. EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, who was actively involved in the negotiations that led to the nuclear accord, said Monday that she planned to travel to Iran soon. — AFP



TEHRAN: Iranian shareholders monitor shares prices on screens at the Tehran Stock Exchange. —AFP



## IRANIAN DOTCOMS EYE FOREIGN INVESTMENT, NEW CUSTOMERS

**DUBAI:** Tehran-based e-commerce firm Takhfifan found it impossible to attract foreign investment when it launched in 2011 but it took only two days for a potential foreign investor to get in touch after sanctions on Iran were lifted.

"When I was launching my company I talked to several foreign investors but none of them was interested in doing any business with Iran," the company's 32-year-old founder, Nazanin Daneshvar, said in a telephone interview yesterday. "There are now VCs (venture capital firms) that are ready to sign contracts with us." Daneshvar declined to name the European company that had expressed interest in her company but said a deal, if it went ahead, would be that firm's first investment in Iran. The United States, European Union and United Nations on Saturday lifted international sanctions imposed over Iran's nuclear program. The move has caused huge excitement in the community of dotcom entrepreneurs who set up online businesses in the Islamic Republic, some of which are growing rapidly, despite international isolation and a slumping economy. They could now face tougher competition as foreign companies, with deeper pockets and more sophisticated technology, enter Iran's market of almost 80 million people.

But the Iranian ventures, which are believed to number in the dozens, also see new opportunities: Now that sanctions are no longer stifling the economy, they expect a consumer boom and some hope to obtain foreign partners and funding. Many say they do not fear foreign competition because they believe foreigners will need local assistance to negotiate obstacles such as Iran's complex bureaucracy, sometimes erratic Internet service and cultural differences. "Experience shows the international companies that tried to launch their business in Iran without the help of local entrepreneurs failed, or did not achieve what they expected," said Daneshvar.

Also, some US sanctions on Iran will remain, which could make American tech giants more wary of entering the country, even though the US Treasury has said it will allow foreign subsidiaries of American firms to deal with Iran.

Daneshvar founded Takhfifan - meaning "discounts" in Farsi after learning about the model used Groupon, a global e-commerce marketplace that connects millions of subscribers, when she was working in Germany as an information technology manager. Her company says it now has over 100 employees, more than 1 million active subscribers and contracts with 10,000 merchants in Tehran.

### Start-ups

Many of the Iranian dotcoms resemble well-known US tech firms, with adjustments to suit Iran's business conditions. For example,

Takhfifan asks corporate clients to offer discounts to customers and charges a commission. There is also an Iranian version of online retailer Amazon, named Digikala, and a local incarnation of ride-hailing service Uber, named Snapp.

"Iran's economic recovery could significantly boost our business. More money would only mean more consumers," said Ilia Vakili, 32, Snapp's chief technology officer, a graduate of Tehran's prestigious Shahid Beheshti University who began programming computers as a boy. "We are interested in meeting potential new partners and/or investors, in the local market or abroad."

Founded in late 2014, the company says it has nearly 100 staff and tens of thousands of people use its homegrown app. Eventually, Snapp may seek to expand internationally, Vakili said, sounding like a Silicon Valley start-up investor as he discussed business metrics, the strength of his pricing algorithm and the need to maintain service quality.

Hamid Mohammadi, 36, who founded Digikala eight years ago, said the end of sanctions could benefit his firm by making it easier for top foreign brands to sell their products in Iran. "Our main challenge during the sanctions was that the main brands were not directly present in Iran. The imports were taking place through non-transparent channels, and Digikala, as a retailer, couldn't create a successful partnership with international brands," he said.

Some brands, especially South Korean ones such as Samsung and LG, eventually had success by establishing operations in Iran. "It was much easier to work with them compared to Apple, which despite high demand, could not provide a sustainable supply chain or customer service in Iran," Mohammadi said.

That may now start to change. "I think after the lifting of sanctions the purchasing behavior of the Iranian consumers will be more similar to the international market," he said. Digikala says it employs 900 people and processes 10,000 orders a day, but that with online shopping still accounting for less than 1 percent of retail sales in Iran, it has plenty of room to grow. Mohammadi said he would welcome investment in his firm by "strategic and credible" firms.

International banks are expected to move into Iran only slowly, partly because of the risk of falling foul of the US sanctions that are still in place. But Mohammadi said that when they did enter, credit-card use could take off, and this would revolutionize online shopping in Iran. "We see the lifting of sanctions more as an opportunity than as a threat. We are so established in Iran's e-commerce ecosystem that it would be very difficult for international companies to compete with us," he said. — Reuters



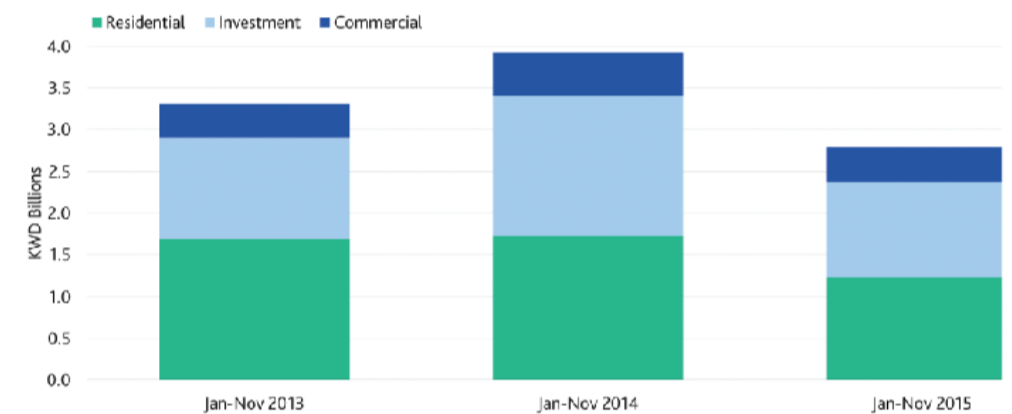
LAHORE: Pakistani traders wait for customers at a fruit and vegetable market. — AFP

## KUWAITI BANKS' RISKS INCREASE AMID REAL ESTATE SLOWDOWN

**KUWAIT:** Last Wednesday, a Kuwait International Bank report showed a significant 29% decline in Kuwait's (Aa2 stable) 2015 real estate sales amid softening prices, suggesting low sales volumes and lower real estate values in 2016. A decline in real estate sales would adversely affect banks' new business volumes and earnings. A decline in real estate values would increase credit risks for Kuwaiti banks that are highly exposed to real estate through collateral. More granular data show that by November 2015 all major real estate segments suffered declines in aggregate sales after several years of strong performance and a record year in 2014, with investment property sales declining 32% year-on-year - more than other segments, as shown in the exhibit below.

"Investment property" is an official classification in Kuwait for apartments that are typically rented out and provide income to landlords. We attribute the slowdown in this sector partly to reduced investor interest amid low oil prices. It has not yet affected real estate companies: listed companies' aggregate profits were up 7% year-on-year for the first nine months of 2015. However, further pressures in 2016 will adversely affect the sector's revenues and likely drive prices down. Real-estate-related lending drove banks' growth for the past several years and the real estate slowdown reduces growth prospects. Between year-end 2008 and 2014, the compound annual growth rate of real estate and installment loans (ie, long-term personal loans for the repair and purchase of private homes) was a high 8.1%, compared to 4.5% growth in total domestic loans. Declining real estate prices in 2016 will also increase credit risks for Kuwaiti banks, which are highly exposed to the sector. According to the Central bank of Kuwait, as of September 2015, 25% of banks' domestic loans were to the real estate sector, while a further 28% were installment loans to individuals. Furthermore, around 40% of banks' total loan collateral is linked to real estate.

### Aggregate Real Estate Sales in 2015 Declined Substantially, Led by the Investment Properties Segment



The sector was one of most severely affected in the wake of the global financial crisis in 2007-08 and banks' asset quality experienced significant impairment.

Nonetheless, Kuwaiti banks are now better positioned to withstand higher impairments from potential shocks in the real estate market. At the end of 2014, Basel III Tier 1 ratios were 14.8% on average for rated banks. We also expect capitalisation will continue to improve because the Central Bank of Kuwait is conservatively introducing Basel III capital requirements that are 2.5 percentage points higher than Basel recommendations. Rated banks in Kuwait also maintain a high level of general provisions, equivalent to 3.6% of gross loans as of year-end 2014, because the central bank has been requiring banks to book substantial precautionary provisions against performing loans.

The central bank has also taken various macro-pru-

dential measures to address the resurgence of real-estate related risks. In late 2013, it issued guidelines on loans for purchasing and/or developing real estate. These guidelines include loan-to-value ceilings of 50% for the purchase of undeveloped land, 60% for the purchase of existing real estate and 70% for construction purposes. Together with the initial implementation of Basel III capital requirements, the central bank also issued regulations in December 2014 where the previous treatment of real estate collateral as a risk mitigant in the calculation of risk-weighted assets (RWAs) is to be phased out. In the past, banks could use 50% of the value of real estate collateral as a discount against relevant RWAs. The elimination of this discount, by 10% yearly over five years, will gradually increase RWAs, forcing Kuwaiti banks to hold higher capital buffers against real estate exposures. — Credit Outlook

## INSURER CAUTION TO SLOW IRAN'S OIL TANKER MARKET

**LONDON:** Foreign oil tanker owners are expected to make a slow return to Iran despite the lifting of many sanctions as insurers tread carefully, leaving shipping players unwilling to pick up cargoes as quickly as Tehran has wanted. A nuclear deal between world powers - known as the P5+1 - and Iran led to the removal on Saturday of international oil export prohibitions as well as restrictions on banking, insurance and shipping for Tehran.

With US sanctions still in place, which exclude US persons, banks and insurers from trading with Iran including dollar business, shipping and marine insurance sources say many foreign companies are likely to take their time. They are also mindful of sanctions being re-imposed in a "snap back" if Iran reneges on commitments. "In shipping terms, we think the impact will be a slow development. The initial oil sales will be the oil currently stored on (Iranian) ships in the Persian Gulf," said Paddy

Rodgers, chief executive of oil tanker company Euronav. "It will take time for this increase in production to be transported on the commercial tanker fleet given the financial sanctions still in place and reluctance of insurance providers to cover given the snap-

back provisions in the P5+1 agreement."

"So, any additional increase in Iranian barrels being produced will be shipped on Iranian vessels," Securing international insurance cover as well as reconnecting with the international banking system will be key to determine how quickly Iran can ramp up oil exports and re-engage with the foreign shipping sector.

Third-party liability insurance and pollution cover for vessels is provided by P&I clubs - marine insurers owned by shipping clients and reinsured internationally. "There will be a time period whilst all financial services and businesses sit there and work out what the opportunities are, what the risks are before re-engaging," said Mike Salthouse, deputy global director with ship insurer North of England P&I Association.

"Some of the teething issues will need to be worked through," Salthouse said since the 2008 financial crisis, the financial services industry had become more focused on compliance, which included sanctions regulations. "There is probably less appetite for risk in the world today than in 2010 and we are all much more aware of the risks presented by any jurisdiction that presents compliance-type issues," he said. — Reuters

## CANON TOP JAPANESE COMPANY FOR US PATENTS FOR 11TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

**DUBAI:** Canon, leader in imaging solutions, announced that it was again ranked first among Japanese companies and third overall for the number of US patents awarded in 2015, according to the latest ranking of preliminary patent results issued by IFC CLAIMS Patent Services in January 2016.

As part of its research and development efforts, Canon actively pursues patents in a number of countries and regions while tak-

ing into consideration local business strategies and technology trends. Among these, the United States, with its many high-tech companies and large market scale, represents a particularly important region in terms of business expansion and technology alliances.

Canon's focus on research and development is a high priority and key attribute of its corporate DNA, with continued investment

in developing a wide variety of powerful tools, solutions and services within its core markets and in new business areas.

Through close cooperation between Canon's technology and intellectual property divisions, the Company aims to improve its technological capabilities while further enhancing its intellectual property rights. Canon has ranked in the top five patent holders for 30 consecutive years.

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.597
Indian Rupees	4.507
Pakistani Rupees	2.901
Sri Lankan 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
Qatari Riyal	83.661
Omani Riyal	791.060
Bahraini Dinar	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	223.100
10 Gram	114.500
5 Gram	58.100

### UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES		TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000	
Australian Dollar	200.70	British Pound	200.70
Canadian Dollar	213.40	Czech Korune	213.40
Swiss Franc	306.88	Danish Krone	306.88
Euro	334.61	Euro	334.61
US Dollar	304.70	Japanese Yen	304.70
Sterling Pound	436.91	Nepalese Rupees	436.91
Japanese Yen	2.63	Malaysian Ringgit	2.63
Bangladesh Taka	3.884	Chinese Yuan Renminbi	3.884
Indian Rupee	4.508	Thai Bhat	4.508
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.122	Turkish Lira	2.122
Nepali Rupee	2.819		
Pakistani Rupee	2.901		
UAE Dirhams	0.08292		
Bahraini Dinar	0.8098		
Egyptian Pound	0.03881		
Jordanian Dinar	0.4334		
Omani Riyal	0.7912		
Qatari Riyal	0.08401		
Saudi Riyal	0.08122		

### 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 Franc	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 Peso	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	0.427219	0.436219
Czech Korune	0.004235	0.016235
Danish Krone	0.040315	0.045315
Euro	0.325747	0.333747
Norwegian Krone	0.030161	0.035361
Romanian Leu	0.072950	0.072950
Slovakia	0.009104	0.019104
Swedish Krona	0.031394	0.036394
Swiss Franc	0.295568	0.305768
Turkish Lira	0.096146	0.106446

COUNTRY	Australasia	America
	Australian Dollar	0.201197
New Zealand Dollar	0.189829	0.199329
Canadian Dollar	0.204590	0.213090
US Dollars	0.300400	0.304900
US Dollars Mint	0.300900	0.304900

Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003525
Chinese Yuan	0.044811
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036910
Indian Rupee	0.004227
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017
Japanese Yen	0.002502
Kenyan Shilling	0.002967
Korean Won	0.000241
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066000
Nepalese Rupee	0.002887
Pakistan Rupee	0.002626
Philippine Peso	0.006332
Sierra Leone	0.000071
Singapore Dollar	0.208339
South African Rand	0.012054
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001767
Taiwan	0.008919
Thai Baht	0.008076

Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.800802
Egyptian Pound	0.035481
Iranian Riyal	0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000201
Jordanian Dinar	0.425485
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021569
Nigerian Naira	0.001259
Omani Riyal	0.784488
Qatar Riyal	0.082927
Saudi Riyal	0.080313
Syrian Pound	0.001291
Tunisian Dinar	0.146521
Turkish Lira	0.096146
UAE Dirhams	0.081923
Yemeni Riyal	0.001376



## YOUR SMARTPHONE'S PARTS MAY BE MADE BY DR CONGO'S CHILD LABOR

**KINSHASA:** Cobalt mined dangerously by children in the Democratic Republic of Congo could end up in the lithium batteries of smartphones and electric cars made by Apple, Samsung or Sony, Amnesty International said yesterday.

After questioning 16 multinationals, the human rights watchdog said world-class electronics brands are failing to ensure that no child miners were involved in lithium-ion batteries used in their products, according to a joint report released with Afreewatch. The DR Congo accounts for more than half of global production of cobalt, mainly from the southeastern Katanga province.

Thousands of clandestine miners including numerous young children work in tunnels with rudimentary tools at risk to their

health and their lives. The firms contacted by the report were identified as clients of Asian battery manufacturers that acquire processed cobalt from Chinese mineral conglomerate Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Ltd, which wholly owns a subsidiary in DR Congo, the report said.

The report describes how traders buy cobalt from areas where child labour is rife and sell it to a local subsidiary of Huayou Cobalt. Once processed, the cobalt is sold to battery component manufacturers in China and South Korea, which supply the multinationals.

The report, entitled 'This is what we die for: Human Rights Abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo power the global trade in cobalt', also includes testimony from adult and child miners who

work long shifts with no protective equipment, in danger of fatal accidents and permanent lung damage.

### Investigating the claims

One company interviewed the link, but two multinationals denied sourcing cobalt from DR Congo and others took intermediate positions. Six said they were investigating the claim. "Crucially, none provided enough details to independently verify where the cobalt in their products came from," the report said.

Leading automobile and electronics firms such as Daimler, Lenovo, Microsoft and Samsung were unable to declare the origin of the cobalt used in their lithium-ion batteries, Amnesty said. Amnesty urged "multinational companies who use lithium-

ion batteries in their products to conduct human rights due diligence, investigate whether the cobalt is extracted under hazardous conditions or with child labour, and be more transparent about their suppliers."

"Millions of people enjoy the benefits of new technologies but rarely ask how they are made," said Mark Dummett, business and human rights researcher for the non-governmental organisation. "It is a major paradox of the digital era that some of the world's richest, most innovative companies are able to market incredibly sophisticated devices without being required to show where they source raw materials for their components," Afreewatch executive director Emmanuel Umpala said.

The vast DR Congo in central Africa has immense mineral resources but remains

one of the least developed nations in the world. Rather than easing poverty, mining has helped fund more than 20 years of conflict, particularly in the eastern North and South Kivu provinces, which furnish large amounts of gold, tin, coltan and tungsten.

To prevent companies from indirectly financing conflicts, a US law on so-called "blood minerals" took effect in 2014 obliging firms listed in the United States to inform its regulators if they use such raw materials, mined not only in DR Congo but its nine neighboring countries. In a report published jointly in April 2015 with Global Witness, another non-governmental organization, Amnesty International accused major American firms of neglecting their duties under the legislation. — AFP



DAVOS: People are seen outside of the Congress Center at the opening of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting. — AFP

## DAVOS CHIEF SAYS EUROPE, OIL AMONG KEY WORRIES

GAPING WORLDWIDE INEQUALITIES ANOTHER CHIEF CONCERN

**DAVOS:** As leaders from the world of politics and business arrived yesterday in droves for the start of the World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort of Davos, the event's founder is in somber mood. Klaus Schwab, the 77-year-old chief of the world's most recognized annual economic meeting, said he's worried about Europe's future, the fallout from plunging oil prices and gaping inequalities worldwide.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Schwab also justified the decision of the WEF to disinvite a delegation from North Korea, including its foreign minister, for its claim earlier this month that it had tested a hydrogen bomb. The WEF has been working hard to bring the North Koreans to the 45-year-old annual gathering at the highest level since the 1980s.

### 'Global world opinion'

"We had to show solidarity with the global world opinion," Schwab said late Monday. "We never cede to any pressure, but we have one principle which means that we observe UN sanctions. We do not know yet how the UN sanctions will come out, but we didn't want to have the coincidence of the UN expressing sanctions - tough sanctions - this week and at the same time, we act against those sanctions."

Schwab said he was "very much looking forward" to the arrival of the North Korean delegation and laid out his hope that the country would qualify one day "hopefully sooner rather than later." The revocation

prompted a sharp letter of retort by its ambassador in Geneva, but Schwab insisted Davos organizers had little choice amid a growing prospect of new sanctions against Pyongyang.

With the world facing a myriad of problems such as climate change and war, Schwab said he wanted a "forward-looking" theme to dominate discussions this year, which officially runs from Wednesday through to Saturday; and has built this edition around the idea of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

He said vast, speedy technological advances in the digital age in areas like nanotechnology and automation threaten to leave many unskilled workers without jobs or at an economic disadvantage. In Davos, about two-thirds of the 2,500-plus attendees are decision-makers from the business world: The boardroom, not the shop room floor, has an outside representation in this snow-capped, ultra-chic Alpine resort. World leaders, including U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, Prime Ministers David Cameron of Britain and Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan, and German President Joachim Gauck are set to attend.

### Iran deal

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is likely to be a headline-act after international sanctions against his country were lifted over the weekend under a deal on Tehran's nuclear program. Some business leaders will be contemplating a resumption of

economic ties with the long-isolated, oil-rich Islamic republic. Iran's Oil Ministry announced plans Monday to boost oil production by 500,000 barrels per day after the sanctions were lifted, and Schwab noted the possible harmful impact of even more supply on developing countries that depend on oil revenues at a time when crude prices have already slumped to their lowest level in more than 12 years.

"Of course, we will have to absorb now a larger supply dimension. What concerns me is the impact - the social impact - it has on certain countries," said Schwab. "Just think of Nigeria, which so much depends on oil, and other African countries ... not to speak about what's the impact on Russia and so on."

As for Europe's struggle to manage an influx of more than 1 million refugees and migrants last year, he said the continent was at a "crossing point." Europe needs to find the right balance between its values and its capabilities of taking them in, and assuage tensions that have put the Schengen zone - which eases cross-border travel - to the test, he said. "My concern is that Europe, at the moment, is in a phase of disintegration," Schwab said. "Europe would be completely marginalized if we break up into different nation-states again."

He said solidarity with refugees was a core European value. "It's not a question whether we should have solidarity or not, it's how much can we afford? And here I think we haven't found the right answer yet," he said. — AP

## LOONIE'S DECLINE HITS CANADIANS HARD

**MONTREAL:** The rapid fall of the Canadian dollar alongside plunging oil prices is hitting Canadians hard, with a marked increase in the cost of imported goods forcing households to reduce spending. At parity with the US greenback from 2010 to 2013, the Canadian dollar has lost nearly a third of its value since then, falling below 70 cents last week for the first time in more than a decade.

The plummeting "loonie," named after the bird that appears on the Canadian dollar coin, has closely followed the drop in commodity prices, notably oil, which was until very recently the country's main export product. Crude prices have fallen below US\$30 a barrel, after reaching new highs above \$100 in 2014.

Meanwhile, Canadians are paying more for fresh fruit and vegetables imported from the United States, and winter vacations to equatorial hotspots. And they can expect more steep price increases in other areas soon, including likely for hockey tickets, with no bounce expected in the currency for the foreseeable future.

In 2015, food prices rose faster than inflation for a fourth year in a row, with an increase of four percent, according to a study from the University of Guelph in Ontario. Vegetable price increases hit 10 percent, while the prices of fruits and nuts rose nine percent. Overall, Canadians spent Can\$325 more at checkout for groceries in 2015 than the previous year, and according to the University of Guelph study, food prices are forecast to rise another four percent this year.

And there's little way around it. "Of all the fruits and vegetables (Canadians) consume, 80 percent is imported," explained Sylvain Charlebois, one of the study's authors. Canadian

prices for fresh vegetables have skyrocketed in recent months after local harvests-the last one usually in September or October-were eaten up.

The phenomenon was illustrated in a National Post editorial cartoon last Thursday showing a couple at a bank asking for a loan to buy cauliflower. The price of this vegetable has quadrupled in recent months (also partly due to supply shortages in the United States), costing as much as Can\$8 in some Canadian cities.

### Soaring hockey salaries

The devaluation of the currency has also hit Canadians' vacation plans, with many choosing to stay home instead of flying south for a splash of sun and warmth in the southern United States or Caribbean in the dead of winter.

That might normally mean less empty seats at Canadian hockey arenas, except that tickets for hockey games are likely to rise too, because National Hockey League teams pay their player salaries in US dollars but the seven Canadian NHL teams earn their revenues in Canadian dollars. Canadians won't be out of the woods anytime soon, warned economist Hendrix Vachon of Desjardins bank. He is predicting a widespread price increases going forward, including for clothing and electronics. In 2015, he pointed out, the Canadian dollar depreciated "against all other currencies of developed countries," a dozen in all, from the Chinese yuan to the South Korean won, and the British pound to the euro. In the short term, there is hope that a recovery in the United States-Canada's neighbor and biggest trading partners-will bolster the Canadian economy and currency. Vachon said the loonie could rise to US\$0.75 by the end of the year, if that happens. — AFP



AHMADABAD: Clothes and other belongings of Indian laborers hang from above as they rest under a tree where they live on a roadside in Ahmadabad, India. The world's political and business elite are being urged to do more than pay lip service to growing inequalities around the world as they head off for this week's World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort of Davos. Two reports published Monday, from Oxfam and public relations firm Edelman, warned that the widening gap between the haves and have-nots since the global financial crisis is undermining a decades-long effort to reduce global poverty and fueling the rise of populist politicians. — AP

## MORGAN STANLEY SWINGS TO PROFIT, BEATS EXPECTATIONS

**NEW YORK:** Morgan Stanley swung back to a profit in the fourth quarter as the bank moved on from large legal settlements, its wealth management division improved and investment bank advisory activity picked up.

The New York-based investment

bank said yesterday it had a profit of \$908 million in the three month period ending in December, or 39 cents per share. That's compared to a loss of \$1.6 billion, or \$1.37 per share. Morgan Stanley had \$3.1 billion in legal expenses in 2014, when the bank settled with

state and federal regulators over its role in the housing bubble and subsequent financial crisis. Removing an adjustment tied to the value of Morgan Stanley's debt, the bank earned \$986 million, or 43 cents per share. Analysts were looking for Morgan Stanley to earn 33 cents per share, according to FactSet.

Morgan Stanley's institutional securities division, which includes the bank's trading desk and investment banking businesses, had a mixed quarter due to the difficult trading environment last quarter. While equity sales and trading revenues rose to \$1.8 billion from \$1.6 billion a year earlier, bond trading and commodities sales and trading fell to \$550 million from \$599 million in 2014.

Morgan Stanley's investment bank advisory revenue was \$516 million in the quarter compared with \$488 million a year earlier. The bank's wealth management business, which includes what used to be known as Smith Barney, had a pre-tax profit of \$768 million compared with \$736 million a year earlier.

Under CEO James Gorman, Morgan Stanley has been trying to focus more on wealth management in an effort to make Morgan Stanley less exposed to the wild swings of the financial markets. Morgan Stanley's revenue was \$7.74 billion compared with \$7.76 billion the year before. Morgan Stanley shares rose 3.5 percent in pre-market trading. — AP



NEW YORK: This Aug 12, 2014, file photo, shows the headquarters of Morgan Stanley, near Times Square. — AP

## TECH 'UNICORNS' FACING TOUGH ROAD FOR FUNDS

**WASHINGTON:** Those billion-dollar tech startups known as "unicorns," which feasted on record capital inflows for much of last year, are facing tougher challenges for funding, a survey showed yesterday. Venture-backed startups globally saw a 30 percent drop in funding in the fourth quarter to \$27.2 billion, according to the survey by KPMG and research firm CB Insights. The number of funding rounds fell 13 percent from the previous quarter to 1,742.

Some of the exuberance has worn off after the feverish pace of funding in the first nine months of 2015, according to the report. "Although it ended with a bit of a whimper, 2015 was a gargantuan year for venture capital-backed companies. In aggregate, they raised the most money since 2000," said Anand Sanwal, chief executive of CB Insights. For the year, the report found \$128 billion in venture funding for startups, up 44 percent from 2014. The number of funding rounds was more than 7,800.

Yet the latter part of the year saw some signs of cooling, with less funding and write-downs in the value of some hot startups, the researchers noted. Unicorns-a moniker designed to highlight the relatively rare occurrence of billion-dollar startups-have been growing as companies found private equity funding without using the con-

ventional path of a stock market initial public offering (IPO). But some venture capital investors have been warning about a bubble in private funding values, and these fears have been borne out to a degree in late 2015.

### Falling short

"A number of IPOs fell short of recent private valuations, no doubt rattling VC investor confidence," the report said. "In the US, several mutual funds marked down a number of startup valuations related to 'unicorn' companies-no doubt prompting more scrutiny of additional VC investment activities." Mobile payments startup Square made its stock market debut in November, raising \$243 million at a market value of \$3 billion-or roughly half the level from its latest private funding round.

Several other startups such as the social network Snapchat and benefits administrator Zenefits have seen their valuations slashed, although the biggest unicorns such as Uber and Airbnb have seen their values continue to rise. The latest trends have fueled fears of "wounded unicorns" and lower valuations, which could spill over to publicly traded tech firms.

### Unicorn 'births' down

The report cited 72 unicorn "births" in 2015, but only 12 in the fourth quar-

ter. CB Insights in a separate report said there were 150 unicorns worldwide as of Friday with a total valuation of \$525 billion. "An uncertain global economy, a projected slowdown in China, and expected interest rate increases following the recent increase in the US appear to be driving many VC investors to be more cautious," the report said. The report added that venture investors are paying closer attention to the profit potential of startups, not just how fast they are expanding. "Up until the third quarter of 2015, we saw as much capital going into companies that were generating negative cash flows as those that were generating positive ones," said Brian Hughes of KPMG's venture capital practice. "Now, there's been a divergence. In 2016, the fundamentals are really going to start to matter again. Startups that may be operating with negative gross margins, excessive burn rates and inflated valuations will be the most impacted." The report said tech startups took in some 78 percent of venture funding in the past quarter, a level consistent over the past year. By region, North America received the largest amount in the quarter (\$14.1 billion) but the drop from the past quarter was 32 percent. Asian startups raised \$9.7 billion in the quarter, a drop of more than 31 percent, while European startups took in \$3 billion, down 17 percent. — AFP



# STOCKS RISE AS SLOWING CHINA BOOSTS STIMULUS PROSPECTS

LONDON: Shares in Europe and Asia rose and the dollar gained after data showing China's economy grew last year at its slowest pace in a quarter of a century prompted investors to anticipate more efforts to spur growth.

Oil prices rose after strong Chinese fuel demand halted a slide to 2003 lows triggered by the lifting of sanctions on Iran, while metals prices rose. Concerns about Chinese authorities' ability to rebalance the slowing economy have rattled investors this year after a plunge in stock markets and the yuan currency raised concerns growth may be slowing more rapidly than previously thought.

China's economy grew 6.9 percent last year, and 6.8 percent year-on-year in the fourth quarter, down from 6.9 percent in the third and the weakest pace since the first quarter of 2009, data showed. Quarter-on-quarter, growth slipped to 1.6 percent in the last three months of 2015 from 1.8 percent in the third.

In a harbinger of slower growth to come, retail sales, industrial output and fixed-asset investment last month all came in below the expectations of analysts polled by Reuters. Mining company shares led European shares higher after metals prices rose following the Chinese data. The pan-European FTSEurofirst

300 index rose 2 percent, rebounding from a 13-month low hit on Monday. The STOXX Europe 600 Basic Resources index, which includes miners, added 5.5 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 index rose 1.9 percent, with Anglo American up 11 percent and Glencore adding 10.5 percent.

### Additional measures

"As figures weaken in absolute terms, we can potentially see additional stimulus measures. That is helping investors' appetite for risk," said Philippe Gijssels, head of research at

BNP Paribas Fortis Global Markets. Wall Street looked set to open higher, with e-mini index futures up 1.6 percent.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 1.7 percent, bouncing off a four-year low touched earlier. Chinese shares rose on strengthened expectations of more stimulus. The CSI 300 index of the largest listed companies in Shanghai and Shenzhen closed up 3.0 percent while the Shanghai Composite gained 3.2 percent, after hitting a 13-month low on Monday.

Tommy Xie, economist at OCBC Bank in Singapore, said he expected more stimulus from the Chinese central bank, but that the stability of the yuan, also known as the renminbi, was critical to maintaining growth. "If the renminbi continues to weaken, the volatility and capital outflows get worse, then that is likely to pose a challenge to growth."

The yuan traded at 6.5785 to the dollar in onshore markets, little changed from the previous close. The International Monetary Fund cut its global growth forecast for the third time in less than a year, to 3.4 percent in 2016 from 3.6 percent previously, citing a

sharp slowdown in Chinese trade and weak commodity prices.

The dollar gained against the safe-haven Japanese yen in anticipation of further action by Beijing, possibly as soon as next month. The US currency gained 0.6 percent to 117.97 yen while the euro fell 0.2 percent to \$1.0872. The Australian dollar, whose fortunes are closely linked to China, a major market for Australia, rose 1.1 percent to \$0.6935.

The rise in stock markets nudged yields on low-risk German government bonds higher. Ten-year yields rose 1.7 basis points to 0.49 percent. Oil prices took heart from data showing Chinese fuel demand last year rose compared with 2014, up 2.5 percent to 10.32 million barrels a day.

Brent crude, the global benchmark, rose \$1.30 a barrel to \$29.81. It hit lows not seen since 2003 on Monday as the prospect of Iranian output swelling a global glut. Copper, of which China is the major consumer, rose 1.3 percent to \$4,434 a ton, having earlier hit a one-week high at \$4,476 a ton. Nickel prices also rose. Gold held broadly steady at \$1,087 an ounce. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Tuesday 19 January 2016						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	
Price index	▲ 29.57	5,084.21	5,054.64	5,090.98	5,053.26	
Weighted Index	▲ 2.31	342.30	339.99	345.52	339.99	
KSX 15	▲ 6.60	797.09	790.49	809.32	790.49	

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	114	114	20000	2,280	1	114	▲ 0.0
IKARUS	73	69	153,400	10,845	10	73	▲ 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	315	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	630	▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	37.5	37.5	2,000	75	2	37.5	▲ 1.0
GPI	41.0	39.0	4,929,861	197,547	125	40.5	▲ 1.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	126	▲ 0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>5,105,261</b>	<b>210,747</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>774.96</b>	<b>▲ 3.23</b>
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	▲ 0.0
BPCO	435	430	50,542	21,744	4	435	▲ 5.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	172	166	468,771	79,143	38	170	▲ 2.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>519,223</b>	<b>100,888</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>866.19</b>	<b>▲ 7.16</b>
KCEM	395	350	3,050	1,203	3	350	▼ -20.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0
CABLE	320	310	54,917	17,360	12	320	▲ 15.0
SHIP	146	146	30,000	4,380	2	146	▼ -2.0
PCEM	1,000	990	3,750	3,715	4	1,000	▲ 20.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	▲ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	54	▲ 0.0
ACICO	270	270	5	1	1	270	▼ -10.0
GMCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	490	▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	132	▲ 0.0
KPAK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	360	▲ 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0
NICBM	230	218	200,691	43,759	2	230	▲ 2.0
EQUIPMENT	53	52	148,210	7,727	6	53	▲ 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	▲ 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	72	71	7,063	507	3	72	▲ 1.0
AGLTY	410	400	1,454,652	587,381	65	405	▲ 15.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	228	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	37.0	36.0	12,000	432	2	36.0	▲ 0.0
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	▲ 0.0
KGL	37.5	37.5	55,000	2,063	4	37.5	▲ 1.5
KPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	218	▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	800	▲ 0.0
NAFAIS	110	100	27,340	2,997	7	110	▲ 10.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0
GFC	25.5	25.0	2,000	51	2	25.5	▲ 0.0
MAYADEEN	18.0	17.5	6,635,480	117,980	85	18.0	▲ 1.0
CGC	770	760	510	393	2	770	▼ -10.0
MTCC	53	49.5	1,202,880	62,135	63	53	▲ 3.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	▲ 0.0
ALAFCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	▲ 0.0
MUBARRAD	60	57	2,483,258	145,131	94	59	▲ 1.0
LOGISTICS	50	46.5	597,000	28,187	35	46.5	▲ -1.5
SCEM	81	80	101,000	8,081	2	81	▲ 1.0
GCEM	68	68	1,000	68	1	68	▲ 5.0
QCEM	78	68	260	18	2	68	▲ -5.0
FCEM	71	71	1	0	1	71	▲ 1.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	▲ 0.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>13,020,067</b>	<b>1,033,568</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>940.84</b>	<b>▲ 4.03</b>
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	220	▲ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	▲ 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	▲ 0.0
CATTL	126	126	100	13	1	126	▲ 6.0
DANAH	74	69	450,503	31,738	20	70	▼ -4.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	▲ 0.0
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,900	▲ 0.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>450,603</b>	<b>31,751</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1026.95</b>	<b>▼ -1.48</b>
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▲ 0.0
YIACO	134	116	42,750	5,498	12	118	▼ -6
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>42,750</b>	<b>5,498</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>891.29</b>	<b>▼ -4.31</b>
KCIN	940	900	40,480	36,472	3	940	▲ 50
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	220	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	56	55	35,000	1,950	5	55	▼ -2
CABLETV	26.0	25.0	11,500	298	3	25.0	▼ -3
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	335	▲ 0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	▲ 0.0
OULAFUEL	100	99	442,054	43,962	27	100	▲ 1
MUNTAZAHAT	89	87	103,200	8,980	9	89	▲ 5
JAZEERA	800	780	36,090	28,381	9	780	▼ -40
SOOR	106	100	38,652	3,948	13	104	▲ 4
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	▲ 0.0
ALNAWADI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	▲ 0.0
ALRAI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142	▲ 0.0
ZIMAH	90	85	1,728,020	149,578	115	88	▼ -2
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	132	▲ 0.0
KOUTFOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	660	▲ 0.0
Mezzan	970	117,157	113,834	12	970	▲ 0	
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>2,552,153</b>	<b>387,403</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>949.42</b>	<b>▼ -0.40</b>
ZAIN	330	325	3,237,875	1,059,457	97	325	▲ 0
OREDOO	1,060	1,060	1,526	1,618	2	1,060	▲ 0
HITSTELEC	26.0	24.5	689,087	17,334	13	26.0	▲ 2
VIVA	990	980	276,721	271,878	100	990	▲ 0
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>4,205,209</b>	<b>1,350,286</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>581.76</b>	<b>▲ 4.74</b>
NBK	720	700	4,018,227	2,838,996	99	700	▲ 0
GBK	218	214	615,100	132,062	23	216	▲ 4
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	500	▲ 0.0
ABK	345	325	28,441	9,493	3	345	▲ -15
ALMUTAHED	460	450	302,040	136,053	11	450	▲ 25
KIB	200	200	72,500	14,500	4	200	▲ 8
BURG	315	305	1,055,125	328,452	19	310	▲ 5
KFIN	470	455	6,059,086	2,796,443	237	455	▲ 0
BOUBYAN	415	400	1,788,822	729,574	64	405	▲ 0
AUB	194	192	293,437	56,759	16	194	▲ 2
ITHMR	40.0	38.5	16,282,129	638,028	268	39.5	▲ 2
WARBABANK	170	164	1,035,338	173,240	114	166	▲ 2
<b>Banks</b>			<b>31,550,245</b>	<b>7,853,599</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>802.42</b>	<b>▲ 11.72</b>
KINS	320	305	84,477	25,803	2	320	▲ 10
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	750	▲ 0.0
AINS	415	415	10	4	1	415	▼ -20.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	▲ 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▲ 0.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.0	▲ 0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>84,487</b>	<b>25,807</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1085.90</b>	<b>▼ -1.53</b>

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	32.0	28.0	468,509	144,195	114	32.0	▲ 2.5
KRE	47.0	45.5	4,694,806	217,019	58	45.5	▲ 0.0
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	97	▲ 0.0
NRE	81	78	888,432	69,881	47	79	▲ 1.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	360	▲ 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	▲ 0.0
AREEC	138	130	9,500	1,239	2	130	▼ -8.0
MASALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	61	▲ 0.0
ARABREC	28.0	28.0	1	0	1	28.0	▲ 1.0
ERESCO	57	54	12,000	653	4	55	▼ -1.0
MABANEE	840	820	1,293,736	1,077,034	50	830	▲ 40.0
INJAZZAT	79	79	10,000	790	1	79	▲ 1.0
INVESTORS	20.5	18.0	3,426,005	67,519	69	20.0	▲ 1.5





# Unveiling the most powerful V8 performance cars ever developed by Lexus

## NEW BENCHMARK FOR THE MIDDLE EAST LUXURY HIGH PERFORMANCE CAR SEGMENT

**KUWAIT:** Mohamed Naser Al Sayer has launched the "F" technology from Lexus powered by innovative engineering, setting new benchmark for the Middle East luxury high performance car segment. Under the F line two of the most powerful Lexus cars ever made: GS F performance-oriented GS F four-door sports sedan and RC F were unveiled.

The launch press conference was attended by Mr. Faisal Bader Al Sayer Vice Chairman Al Sayer Group Holding, representatives from Lexus Mr. Yukihiko Yaguchi Chief Engineer for GS F, Mr. Nobuyuki Takemura General Manager Sales and Marketing, Mr. Simon Frith Business Director and Mr. Bader Musaed Al Sayer Deputy Business Director from Lexus Kuwait, General Manager from Al Sayer business units, Celebrities from social media Mr. Yaqoob Boushari, Ms. Fatema Al Momen, Mr. Abdulwahab Alissa, Mr. Mohamed Al Shemari along with distinguished members of the press and media.

With a style eminently suited to everyday driving, the Lexus GS F conveys the appeal of the 'F' series to a wide demographic, thus enabling Lexus to further enhance its brand image of exhilarating performance. Speaking during the launch event Mr. Faisal Bader Al Sayer Vice Chairman Al Sayer Group Holding "Lexus brand is always in motion driving positive changes. During the past decades the transformation it has made is incredible. The 2 Lexus models - GS F and RC F which will be unveiled today under the F line, are groundbreaking, it will set new benchmarks in the industry."

The GS F embodies the philosophy of the 'F' series which stands for fast dynamic response, high efficiency and seamless performance on everyday roads in addition to racetracks that can be enjoyed by everyone. The GS F is the first new 'F' series sedan



Management (VDIM) that incorporates an Expert mode and an Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) that utilizes vertical acceleration sensors.

The interior and exterior of the GS F fuse a breathtaking simplicity and elegance of design, and capture the mature, luxurious sportiness unique to the 'F' series. In addition, the vehicle utilizes the Lexus Safety System+ active safety package to provide a multi-faceted approach to active safety, further enhancing the safety and peace of mind of its occupants.

### GS F Key Features Engine that emphasizes sound, response and acceleration

Equipped with Direct Injection 4-stroke Gasoline Engine Superior Version (D-4S), the 5.0-liter V8 engine features an optimized Variable Valve Timing-intelligent (VVT-i) to produce exceptional power. The

produced sound in a new, advanced four-speaker system (two speakers in front and two behind) that provides more powerful engine and exhaust noises.

### Exceptional performance that thrives on the track

To achieve superior body stiffness, the GS F makes use of the latest Lexus body technologies. These include laser welding, an increase in the number of spot welding points, high-stiffness adhesives and laser screw welding. The vehicle achieves high body rigidity well suited to all conditions, even on the track.

The GS F utilizes an engine under-cover with a flat, streamlined surface, allowing the vehicle to achieve outstanding aerodynamic performance. In addition, the attachment of aero-stabilizing fins to each section of the under-cover actively directs airflow to guarantee superb driving stability.

The GS F's stopping power is provided by Brembo(r) brakes that feature lightweight, highly rigid opposing six-piston aluminum mono-block calipers on the front, and opposing four-piston aluminum mono-block calipers on the rear. By increasing the diameter of the master cylinder and optimizing pedal ratios, the brakes achieve superb responsiveness and linear stopping performance. They also guarantee high rigidity and anti-fading performance through the use of high-friction pads. The high-performance brakes can be emphasized by selecting optional front and rear orange brake calipers. Special features of the GS F's vehicle control systems include a newly adopted vertical G sensor in the ABS control, to ensure optimum brake force even when the vehicle is airborne.

The GS F's suspension parts have been redesigned with the aim of achieving the ideal geometry. The steering response has been improved by retaining high suspension rigidity, optimizing roll stiffness, and by harmonizing these with the steering system. The TVD torque control system is equipped as standard and provides optimal electronic control of the torque of the left and right rear wheels according to the driving situation, achieving ideal vehicle behavior during cornering. The GS F comes with three modes-Standard, which delivers a high level of stability and agility, Slalom, which places additional emphasis on steering response, and Track, which provides additional stability when driving at higher speeds, allowing the driver to accelerate with confidence. The 'Expert' mode, which is part of the VDIM system, allows drivers to hone their trackdriving skills. In this mode, VDIM is almost fully disengaged and only intervenes to prevent loss of control. VDIM has further evolved through integration of TVD with ABS, which uses acceleration sensors to deliver both high vehicle stability and an enjoyable ride.

### Exterior design with dynamism and functional beauty

The exterior of the GS F exudes dynamism and functional beauty - the front view emphasizes a wide stance with a low center of gravity. From the side, the substantial overhang of the fender flares underscores the high performance of the V8 unit. The front fascia is defined by an aggressive representation of Lexus' trademark spindle grille, featuring a special 'F' series mesh and a pair of dramatically wide and tall air inlets beneath the headlights. These openings funnel massive amounts of air into specially-designed ducting inside the grille to maximize brake cooling and provide excellent performance. The grille also features a new black lacquer plated lower molding exclusive to the 'F' series, which provides down force



to the front of the car. Wide front fender flares with large air outlets allow excess airflow to escape down the sides of the vehicle, while broad fenders and sculpted rocker panels provide visual muscle, hinting at the car's sporty character. In addition, the center pillar and outer mirrors are painted in a dark, glossy metallic hue that is coordinated with the color of the wheels to further enhance the element of sportiness in the 'F' series. The newly designed, 19-inch polished aluminum wheels are first forged, and then subjected to three-dimensional cutting.

The rear of the vehicle follows the same aggressive design theme as the front, highlighted by the 'F' brand's trademark quad exhaust tips. Other highlights here include a downforce-generating rear



spoiler mounted on the trunk lid, a rear diffuser beneath the rear bumper section, fin-shaped aerodynamic enhancements adopted at the bottom edge of the rear bumper's lower garnish to improve airflow and reduce drag, and organically-shaped rear taillights. Available exterior paint colors include Lava Orange, Heat Blue, White Nova, Sonic Silver, Sonic Titanium, Mercury Gray, Graphite Black and Red.

### Interior that promotes driving styles to the highest levels of luxury

The interior of the GS F tastefully melds superior craftsmanship and affluence with world-class ergonomics and functionality. However, with the GS F being a performance premium sedan, designers

crafted rear seats share design characteristics with the high-back sports seats used in the front, including the same distinctive sewing and stitching patterns.

The genuine-leather steering wheel has a thickness and grip perfected through repeated track outings by Lexus test drivers. The large paddle-shift levers are designed to be operated while holding the steering wheel, even when cornering. The steering wheel and shift knob employ three-color overlock stitching in white, black, and blue - colors that symbolize the F series. The GS F utilizes aluminum sports pedals and foot rests.

The foldable rear center armrest is equipped with a cup holder, storage box and control panel to



ensured that they place special emphasis on creating a driver-centric cockpit. This pilot-focused design theme is characterized by the information display/gauges positioned directly in front of the driver. Close attention has been paid to important details such as the size and thickness of fonts and indicators for easy recognition by the driver.

The large-diameter instrument panel is located in the center of the dashboard and displays essential driving data. The data content displayed on the large-diameter LCD center meter changes depending on which out of the four drive modes-NORMAL, ECO, SPORT S and SPORTS+ is selected, while sports driving is supported through a carefully thought-out, easy-to-use multi-information display. The optional color heads-up display (HUD) allows the driver to view necessary information swiftly and without the need for excessive eye movement. On top of fundamental information such as speed and basic mapping, in both of the 'Sport' modes, HUD also provides data on engine rpms and shift position.

The gauge hoods, upper part of the instrument panel, center console, palm rest and door trim armrests are finished in Alcantara(r) in a design that combines the performance of a premium sports model with the feel of a luxury interior. In addition, the sur-

manage air conditioning, audio and electric rear window sunshade. The genuine aluminum ornament panel, front doors and rear armrest-in Naguri finish, medium-silver-are produced using Naguri machining techniques that have been recreated with the latest production technologies and workmanship. Carbon and forged composite carbon are available as additional options. In developing the audio systems for the GS F, the engineering team targeted a speaker system that replicates the sensation of sound experienced in a concert hall or movie theater. A 17-speaker Mark Levinson(r) surround sound system with an amplifier capable of outputting the equivalent of 750 watts, which includes GreenEdge(tm) speaker technology that enables more than double the sound output with the same amount of power.

### Advanced safety technologies protect passengers through Lexus Safety System+

Lexus Safety System+ helps avoid or mitigate collisions across a wide range of vehicle speeds and conditions. Introduced globally as either standard or optional equipment, Lexus Safety System+ integrates several technologies:

#### Active Safety

- **Pre-Crash System (PCS):** Utilizing a camera and a millimeter wave radar sensor, the available PCS detects other vehicles or (depending on the region) pedestrians in front of the vehicle. If the system judges that there is a possibility of a collision, a warning is activated so that the driver may perform evasive maneuvers. After the warning, the amount of additional hydraulic brake pressure generated when the driver depresses the brake pedal is increased in stages according to the level of the collision possibility.

- **Dynamic Radar Cruise Control System (DRCC):** In addition to maintaining a set cruising speed, the DRCC also has a vehicle-to-vehicle distance control mode.

- **Lane Departure Alert (LDA):** The LDA issues an audible signal if the vehicle strays from its intended lane.

- **Automatic High Beam (AHB)/Adaptive High-beam System (AHS):** AHB helps provide optimal forward visibility during nighttime driving and automatically turns off the high beam headlamps when another vehicle is detected. When no other vehicle is present, the system turns on the high beams. AHS, an optional upgrade for the AHB, automatically optimizes the headlamp light distribution so that the high beams do not directly illuminate preceding or oncoming vehicles.

- **Blind Spot Monitor (BSM):** Employing a millimeter wave radar installed on the back of the vehicle, BSM can detect a vehicle present in adjacent lanes as well as the vehicle traveling at a high speed approaching into the driver's blind spot.



model since the launch of the IS F in 2007.

According to Chief Engineer Yukihiko Yaguchi, "With the GS F, our aim was to develop a car that combines the versatility of a sedan with the agility and dynamic character of the 'F' brand. A car that is fun to drive every day, whether it is on a busy street or a winding road, regardless of one's driving skills. Having the driver say 'That was fun', 'That was great' after driving the car - that's what the 'F' brand is all about." "To enhance its dynamic performance and hone its handling, our team also spent countless number of hours on some of the most famous tracks of the world, including Fuji Speedway in Japan and the Nürburgring in Germany," added Yaguchi.

Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, TOYOTA Motor Corporation, said, "True to the spirit of all the 'F'-line models, we developed the GS F to create a sense of excitement for our customers whenever and wherever they drive it. The GS F's high-speed performance and handling, which have been nurtured on race tracks around the globe, reflect our attempt to provide the ultimate driving experience."

Yoshitsugu added: "The sedan embraces the virtues of sound, response and limitless power feel to support Lexus' 'F' brand identity of a performance car. We look forward to delighting our customers with this latest model and would like to acknowledge their support over the years." Highlighting the Lexus F technology Simon Frith Business Director Lexus Kuwait "Lexus F cars are the pinnacle of performance. From concept to completion Lexus uses the most innovative engineering to help overcome any challenge. F is an exceptional achievement of obtaining optimal performance that would satisfy the most demanding of performance drive enthusiasts."

The GS F is based on the partially revamped GS model and boasts outstanding performance; the 5.0-liter V8 engine features enhanced response and engine-revolution smoothness, while chassis stiffness has been improved through cutting-edge technologies such as laser screw welding. Furthermore, the vehicle comes equipped with a variety of standard features to ensure both excellent driving stability and an enjoyable ride, including Torque Vectoring Differential (TVD), Vehicle Dynamics Integrated

engine delivers 471hp at 7,100 rpm and 54.0kg-m of torque at 4,800-5,600 rpm. After assembly, the balance of each engine while running is adjusted, further enhancing the linear power and superior response that are characteristic of a naturally aspirated engine. The GS F's engine uses the Atkinson cycle to improve fuel efficiency and environmental performance. The Atkinson cycle essentially allows the engine's intake valves to remain open during combustion, improving the breathing qualities of the unit. This reduces pumping losses and increases the engine's thermal efficiency.

To maintain the same level of efficiency, the GS F's V8-engine comes mated to an equally efficient gearbox; the 8-speed Sport Direct Shift (SPDS) automatic transmission that offers smooth shift feel, excellent drivability, instantaneous acceleration and exceptional fuel economy under all driving conditions. In the M-position, the transmission takes as little as 0.1 seconds per shift, enabling the driver to enjoy genuine sporting performance. The Drive Mode Select system offers enhanced driving performance and enjoyment by allowing the driver to choose the most appropriate drive mode to match their preferred driving style and/or situation. Selections include NORMAL, ECO, SPORT S and SPORT S+ modes.

Transmission performance is further improved with the adoption of the Lexus G-force Artificial Intelligence Shift control (G AI-SHIFT). When driving in the SPORT S mode, the system selects the suitable gear ratio for sporty driving by monitoring the vehicle's G sensor while simultaneously tracking the degree of throttle opening; if the driver invokes a higher degree of throttle (i.e. wants to accelerate more briskly), a quicker upshift will take place due to high-response shifting. Furthermore, the G AI-SHIFT control further elevates spirited driving by intuitively and succinctly blipping the throttle on downshifts. When driving in the top-flight SPORT S+ mode, performance driving is further aided by the system allowing the engine to maintain a higher rpm level, which comes in handy when driving under high-load conditions such as on a race track or a winding road.

Active Sound Control (ASC) combines the natural noise of the vehicle's engine mainly with artificially





Accessorized Tahoe



HE the US Ambassador checking the new Silverado 2

## THE 2016 SILVERADO STEALS THE LIGHT AT MALL 360 SHOW

### PART OF CHEVROLET ALGHANIM'S OUTSTANDING PARTICIPATION IN THE 2016 AUTOMOTO EVENT

Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, is participating in the 2016 Auto Moto show that is currently taking place at Mall 360, from January 17th until January 23rd, 2016. Showcasing its latest additions to its wide range of cars, Chevrolet Alghanim promises its attendees a great time at its stand where not only it will display its most coveted masterpieces, but also assist customers in answering their questions, scheduling their test drives and booking their purchases. In addition, Chevrolet Alghanim is proud to unveil the main attraction of the show and the toughest truck ever, the 2016 Silverado, among a slew of other vehicles that not only are available at great prices and with even greater offers, but also with impressive customizable features.

Engineered to make the toughest jobs easier with new technologies, the 2016 Silverado fea-

tures integrated cruise control, power train grade braking and diesel exhaust braking to enhance control. Also included is the new Digital Steering Assist system that continuously adjusts the amount of hydraulic assist provided to the driver while he or she is steering. Not to mention the award-winning MyLink system, which has been enhanced for the 2016 model, offering greater connectivity and improved performance as well as a new radio with a 7-inch-diagonal capacitive touch screen and Apple CarPlay and Android Auto capability (which is also available in the 8-inch systems).

Regular, double cab and crew cab models are offered across the lineup, as well as gas and Duramax diesel power trains. 2500HD and 3500HD regular cab models are matched with an 8' box, and trim levels include Work Truck (WT), LT, LTZ and High Country. The LTZ trim is offered on dou-

ble cab and crew cab models, while the High Country - Chevrolet's premium heavy-duty pickup - is offered exclusively on the crew cab.

#### Functional form

The design of the Silverado is all about functional form, with elements such as a grille designed to deliver more efficient airflow to the cooling system and engine air intake, helping maintain power when towing under adverse conditions. The bold and upright two-port grille is flanked by prominent headlamps pushed to the corners. Halogen projector-beam lamps are standard on all models. Silverado's cabs also feature inlaid doors, which fit into recesses in the body side to help reduce wind noise for a quieter cab, and the double cab body features front-hinged rear doors with outside pull handles at the rear, for easy access in tight parking spaces.

When it comes to the interiors, they are roomy, quiet and functional as Silverado are designed to make cabins feel like intuitive extensions of the owners' workplaces. All models have extensive interior storage, tailored to the way customers use their trucks. The center console - available on vehicles with front bucket seats - offers nearly one cubic foot (24.5 liters) of combined storage space, with the depth and width to conceal a laptop computer.

Additionally, the locking console accommodates hanging files for owners who use their truck as a rolling office, as well as controls for overhead ambient lighting, map pockets along the side, movable cup holders and reconfigurable compartments. It also includes USB ports, two 12-volt power points, a 110-volt outlet and a cord management system, allowing owners to leave their phone charger plugged in for quicker access when it's needed, but remains concealed and without a dangling cord when it's not. Plus, there's a location on the console designed specifi-



Kuwait Trucks Group visit to Chevrolet Alghanim Stand

cally for cell phone storage.

#### Impala and Tahoe

At the Auto Moto show, Alghanim Automotive is also showcasing the refined Impala and the powerful Tahoe, which customers can customize through a designated list of specs for each car. For the Impala, customers can add carbon fiber sticker on the roof, mirrors, and handles; add a black matte sticker on grille; paint the wheels smoke silver; install black leather with red piping; restyle the interior with carbon fiber; and tint the windows. As for the Tahoe, customers can customize and add 2 1/4" leveling kit, off road wheels and tires, front grille guard, front LED light bar, Z71 sticker as well as tint the windows. Chevrolet Alghanim is also availing to both attendees and customers its limited time offer on Tahoe, Silverado, Malibu, Trailblazer, Impala and Traverse, which includes the highest trade-in value, plus up

to 1,000 KD upon purchasing any of the aforementioned vehicles. Interested customers will be guided to a Chevrolet showroom near them, as to take full advantage of this promotion and make their dreams of owning a Chevrolet car come true.

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Alghanim will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance. Customers are welcome to visit Chevrolet Alghanim's Auto Moto stand at Mall 360, from January 17th until January 23rd, 2016, and marvel at the stunning lineup of Chevrolet cars available.



New Silverado 2016 - Z71

## EQUATE ISSUES ITS FIRST G4 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

**KUWAIT:** EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, has issued its first Sustainability Report as per the Guideline 4 (G4) set by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

EQUATE has issued its first Sustainability Report for the year 2011, and has since then published more comprehensive GRI compliant reports. In addition, the 2014 Sustainability Report has set precedence in Kuwait by completing GRI's Materiality Disclosures Service regarding the feedback of EQUATE's stakeholders on its sustainability efforts and other applicable items.

GRI is an international independent organization that helps businesses, governments and other organizations understand and communicate the impact of business on critical sustainability issues such as climate change, human rights, corruption and many others. EQUATE President & CEO Mohammad Husain said, "The title for our 2014 Sustainability Report of 'Making the Impossible Possible' is based on EQUATE setting a new world record in maintaining and updating petrochemical plants by finalizing a full-scale Turnaround (TA) within 30 days. With the participation of over 10,000 employees and contractors, EQUATE has realized the first of its kind international achievement by completing all operations within a record-time for petrochemical plants based on global standards.



We have witnessed additional success in 'Making the Impossible Possible' with other world-class achievements, such as being the first company to realize a number unprecedented milestones locally, regionally and globally. The achievements included establishing Sweater Cooling Towers, applying Highly Reliable Organization (HRO) principles, initiating Plant Water Recycling Project, executing Six Sigma program, as well as obtaining Responsible Care accreditation and certification."

Husain noted, "For EQUATE, sustainabil-

ity is a core strategic objective. It is applicable to every aspect of the company, and not a mere term or expression. EQUATE realizes the importance of sustainability to ensure being 'Partners in Success' with all stakeholders who represent individuals, organizations and communities, such as employees, their families, customers, shareholders and members of societies. In addition, sustainability is a key element in EQUATE's overall value creation for the benefit of individuals, economic growth and environmental protection."

## NBK REWARDS CUSTOMERS WITH BIG DRAWS AND INSTANT PRIZES UPON SALARY TRANSFER

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) launched a new campaign, the largest of its kind in Kuwait, dedicated to existing and new customers who transfer their salary to NBK. The campaign will run until December 31st, 2016.

Upon establishing a salary account at NBK, new customers will get to choose between either an instant cash prize starting from KD 100 up to KD 10,000 or a 0% interest loan up to KD 10,000. The campaign also rewards existing and new customers with chances to win one of six brand new Range Rover Evoque. New customers will get one chance while existing customers will get two chances in the draw that will occur every two months.

"This campaign is part of NBK's approach to provide customers with new products and special offers," said Mohammed Al Othman, NBK's Deputy General Manager, Consumer Banking



Mohammed Al Othman

Group. "NBK expands its focus by offering customers unique and wide range of services and benefits."

"New salaried customers will receive a host of offers and unique benefits and services, including instant prizes, while all

salaried customers at NBK will get the chance to win one of 6 brand new Range Rover Evoque," Al Othman added.

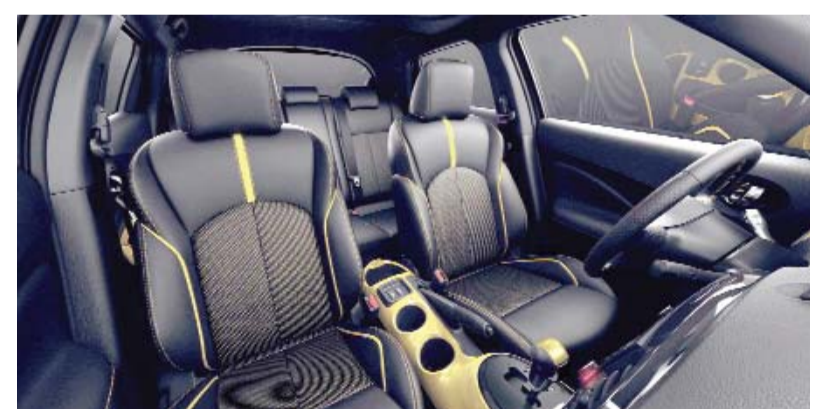
NBK provides its customers with easy, convenient and fast services. Customers will enjoy easy salary transfer process, instant card issuance and quick loan approvals. Moreover, unique services and benefits are available to suit the customer's lifestyle and needs. This includes the NBK Rewards program, the largest loyalty program in Kuwait that offers guaranteed rewards and instant redemption service at many of the best international and local brands in Kuwait. NBK customers will also enjoy a free credit card for the first year. Complimentary airport lounge access, concierge service and many exclusive global offers are available when using NBK Credit Cards. For more information please contact NBK Call Center 1 801 801 or visit the website www.nbk.com.



## NISSAN'S AWARD-WINNING JUKE GETS PERSONAL WITH NEW OPTIONAL KITS

**DUBAI:** Nissan has made the award-winning new Nissan Juke crossover even more distinctive for Middle East customers and enthusiasts, with two new optional 'Personalization Packs' exclusive to the region. "The new Nissan Juke recently won the 'Best Compact Utility Vehicle' categories in two important regional industry awards with the judges for both Middle East Car of the Year and Arab Wheels justifiably giving it top honors," says Samir Cherfan, Nissan Middle East's Managing Director. "Building on these significant achievements, Nissan is now giving Juke enthusiasts the opportunity to make their iconic cars more personal to them - something that motorists are extremely keen to do in this part of the world."

Available as options on both SL and SL Turbo model Jukes, two packs are available depending on the specific market. With contrasting colored exterior mirrors and door handles, as well as interior accents, they make the Nissan Juke stand out from the crowd like never before, asserting its big personality with attention grabbing color combinations of 'red & white' or 'black & yellow' available for customers in the lower



gulf markets. As in Saudi Arabia, customers can choose between two packs, the 'black & yellow' and 'yellow & black'. "The new Nissan Juke is already one of the world's most distinctive and individual vehicles," adds Cherfan. "It offers class leading levels of safety, practicality, efficiency and value for money. Now our customers have even greater choice when it comes to expressing their unique personalities through their cars, with fun color schemes that cannot fail to turn heads wherever they go."

The Nissan Juke SLis powered by a 1.6-litre naturally aspirated engine that generates 117hp and 158Nm of torque, while the SL Turbo punches above its weight with direct injection and forced induction bringing 190hp and 240Nm. Standard features include cloth upholstery, four-speaker CD/MP3 stereo with AUX port, power windows, electric mirrors, rear-view camera and the 60/40 folding rear seats. Leather upholstery is available, as is Nissan Connect, sunroof, fog lamps, automatic air conditioning and intelligent keyless entry with starter button. Over the past year, the Nissan Juke has forged ahead with highly impressive sales results. The vehicle now has a six per cent share of the SUV-S market segment - jumping from five per cent a year ago. In the UAE, the Juke's share has jumped from eight to 11 per cent and, in March 2015, it was the best-selling car in its segment in the entire country. It's a success story repeated throughout the region and, as Nissan looks forward to 2016, it does so from a position of enormous strength through 'Innovation that Excites.'





## WINDOWS 10 NOW ACTIVE ON OVER 200 MILLION DEVICES

**DUBAI:** As 2016 begins, Microsoft is excited to bring you more Windows innovations, more incredible devices, and great new Windows apps and games that will deliver more productivity and entertainment experiences across the broadest range of devices.

As of today, there are more than 200 million monthly active devices around the world running Windows 10. And Windows 10 adoption is accelerating, with more than 40% of new Windows 10 devices becoming active since November last year. Windows 10 also continues to be on the fastest growth trajectory of any version of Windows - ever - outpacing Windows 7 by nearly 140% and Windows 8 by nearly 400%. Here are a few fun facts on what people have been doing on Windows 10:

- Over 44.5 billion minutes spent in Microsoft Edge across Windows 10 devices in just the last month.
  - Over 2.5 billion questions asked of Cortana since launch.
  - Around 30% more Bing search queries per Windows 10 device vs. prior versions of Windows.
  - Over 82 billion photos viewed within the Windows 10 Photo app.
  - Gaming continues to grow on Windows 10 - in 2015, gamers spent over 4 billion hours playing PC games on Windows 10. Gamers have streamed more than 6.6 million hours of Xbox One games to Windows 10 PCs.
- These are just a few of the recent highlights for Windows and devices. We're grateful for a strong 2015 and look forward to delivering more great experiences in 2016!



## SECURING ENTERPRISE DATA FROM DNS-BASED THREATS

By Cherif Sleiman



Cherif Sleiman

**D**NS, or Domain Name System, is the protocol used for converting fully qualified domain names (FQDNs) like www.google.com into machine-usable IP addresses that computers use to communicate with each other. Without a working DNS protocol, it would be almost impossible to have an Internet of Things that communicate with each other and organizations would not have a cyber-presence. In short, the internet as we know it would not exist without a robust DNS infrastructure.

Given that DNS servers are mission-critical infrastructure, it is crucial that they continue to respond to queries even when they are under attack. When designing a DNS infrastructure, it is important to build an environment that is not only sufficient for current needs, but also provides room for future growth. In addition, while architecting the DNS, it is also important to understand the security threats the DNS might be vulnerable to. Securing the DNS platform against hacking

Hacking of DNS servers is becoming more prevalent every day. Conventional DNS servers have multiple attack surfaces and extraneous ports such as port 80 and port 25 that are open for attack. Hackers can use these ports to access the operating system (OS) and hack the servers. If an enterprises' DNS servers don't support tiered security privileges, any user could potentially gain access to OS-level account privileges and cause configuration changes that could make the servers vulnerable to hacks.

In order to protect DNS services from various hacks, DNS servers should be secured in the following ways:

- Hardened appliance with minimal attack surface - The infrastructure should not have any extra or unused ports to access server or power external devices (e.g. Wi-Fi) and no root login access within operating system. It should have role-based access to maintain overall control
- Secured access methods - There should be two-factor authentication for secured login access, web and API access should use encryption to secure communication and DNS TSIG keys should be used for strong authentication of DNS updates
- High availability and disaster recovery - Simple, configurable fail-over and fail-back to ensure service availability
- Simple, unified updates for OS and applications - Updates for both the OS and applications should be accomplished in a single process to reduce downtime and risk of incompatibility
- Simple DNSSEC implementation - DNSSEC reduces the risk of attacks like cache poisoning. It should be simple to implement and self-manage the updating of encryption keys between servers
- Secure Forwarder Configuration - Restrict queries to DNS Forwarder servers to those sent by authorized addresses
- Detailed audit logging - This enables compliance and control over server configurations and operations

### Defending against DNS attacks

Another consideration is the protection of the DNS infrastructure from external attacks. Authoritative DNS servers are reachable from the internet. Even though the server sits behind a firewall, most of these attacks cannot be mitigated by typical firewalls. Firewalls are ill-prepared to protect DNS against application-layer attacks. The ones that do, the so-called NextGen firewalls, tend to have very little coverage for DNS protocols. These solutions typically spread their security policies across a large number of protocols and sacrifice depth for breadth of coverage.

There are whole spectrums of attacks that can target DNS:

- Dos/DDoS - Send 10s or 100s of thousands of queries per second to the DNS server in order to exhaust resources on the server and cause a service outage
- DNS reflection/DrDoS - Use 3rdparty DNS servers (open resolvers) to propagate DDoS attacks
- DNS amplification - Use specially crafted queries to amplify response and congest bandwidth
- DNS-based exploits - Attacks that exploit vulnerabilities in the DNS software
- Protocol anomalies - Cause the server to crash by sending malformed packets and queries
- Reconnaissance - Attempts by hackers to get information on the network before launching attacks
- DNS tunneling - Tunneling of another protocol through DNS for data exfiltration
- Protection from these attacks should be done at the DNS level. The DNS appliance should have:
  - Intelligent detection and mitigation - It should detect and drop the attack queries before they reach the core DNS server. The DNS server should not spend valuable CPU and memory resources to process these requests. This can be achieved by offloading the threat protection to built-in dedicated compute
  - Automatic threat updates - It should stay up-to-date with new and evolving threats automatically. There should be no need for writing scripts or manually applying new protection rules to the DNS server every time a new threat is detected
  - Fine-tuning of protection - DNS traffic patterns and attacks might not be the same for each organization and customization of protection is necessary to minimize false positives. It should allow for adjusting of parameters for each rule and customize them for the environment

### Preventing malware and APTs from using DNS

Data breaches are growing at a staggering pace. Investing in next-generation firewalls or Intrusion Prevention Systems (IPSs) can stop some Malware from entering the network, but not all. Trends like Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) complicate the situation further and provide new avenues for Malware to enter and go undetected for longer periods of time.

Malware and APTs evade traditional defenses by using DNS to find and communicate with botnets and command-and-control servers. Botnets and command-and-control servers hide behind constantly changing combinations of domains and IP addresses. Once internal machines connect to these devices, additional malicious software is downloaded or sensitive company data is infiltrated.

Sometimes Malware and APT attacks are hidden or disguised by external attacks on networks. During an external attack, IT staff are distracted in protecting the network and might miss alerts or warning logs about Malware and APT activity within the network. In order for DNS to detect and block queries for malicious domains and networks, a Response Policy Zone (RPZ) must be configured and implemented.

Many IT organizations today are using load-balancers, IPS and firewall devices, generic DDoS protection solutions and cloud-based solutions to try and counter DNS-based attacks. All of these solutions are limited in what they can and cannot protect. Most of them are external solutions that are "bolted on" rather than built from the ground up to secure enterprises' DNS against attacks. None of them can compare to the effectiveness of a purpose-built, DNS-specific defense solution. — **Courtesy of Infoblox**



# MICROSOFT LUMIA 950 PHONES A TREAT TO USE

By Islam Al-Sharaa

**T**he latest flagship smartphones by Microsoft seek to make the Windows 10 experience seamless across desktop, tablet and mobile. The Lumia 950 XL and Lumia 950 devices loaned to Kuwait Times for testing proved that Microsoft is on the right track to narrow the gap between its Windows phones and its Android and iOS rivals. The phones are sleek, comfortable to use and packed with features to make life easier. With a standout camera and impressive controls, the phones are fun for both professional and casual users.

As the name indicates, the XL telephone is the larger of the two sets. Its exquisite features means that it is the dream phone for fanatics in technology on paper, yet are those features enough to attract the attention of users, and compete with Android and iOS sets?

### Design On the front:

It has a 5.7 inch AMOLED screen covered with a Gorilla glass sheet to protect the screen. This screen occupies most of the front side with the "Microsoft" mark on top. On the back, just like the rest of company sets, has a large area of dull black polycarbonate and it has a large camera with a pure view Zeiss silver ring, in addition to the Windows mark in the middle of the back cover.

The power button and voice control buttons are on the right side of the set, as the power button in the middle, and although it is easy to press on the buttons, they have a sharp touch. The photography button is on the same side, making it easier to take shots.

On the backside, which is one of this phone's features, as the rest of companies are opting for irremovable covers, we find two slots for nano SIMS, as the phone has a dual SIM feature, in addition to a slot for a micro SD card, which accepts a memory of 200 GB capacity, in addition to a removable battery. Though the set is a phablet, it is very comfortable to use with one hand.

### Screen:

The vision under the sun is very good, but it would be better if the screen becomes a little brighter.

Accuracy of the screen: K2

Pixel density: PPI pixel density 518 making it an outstanding screen, and as expected from AMOLED screen, the contrast is outstanding.

Colors are clear and black is deep, the corners are great without variation in brightness, and there are options to adjust the white color balance from the setting list, while the phone supports the Glance feature, as it displays some information on the screen while in the sleep mode.

### Features of Lumia 950

#### Design:

It has the same design as Lumia 950 XL, but little smaller, as we said the frame is made of the polycarbonate plastic, which is saddening for Windows phone users, as it was expected the phone will come with metal design to compete with other phones, but anyway, the attractive design may compensate for that, and it is easy to use in the hand. Microsoft removed the front screen buttons and placed them in the screen to reduce the phone dimensions.

#### Screen and sound

The screen is slightly different, as the phone comes with 5.2 inch with 1440 x 2560 pixel accuracy, with AMOLED color technology and density of PPI 564 pixels, and although it is smaller, it is clearer as far as the pixels density is considered. The screen is protected with Gorilla glass to protect it against any scratches.

Both phones have AMOLED screens with the technology of clear back, which reduces the light reflection on the screen and makes vision clear under the sun. The phone has four microphones in order to improve the quality of the sound for calls and video recording with the least distortion.

#### Performance and processor

It comes with a Qualcomm Snapdragon 808 with hexagonal nucleous with 1.8 gigahertz frequency, while the problem of that processor remains the excessive heat, but Microsoft solved the problem by providing the phone with a water cooling feature, and equipped with drawing processor of the Adreno 418 category, and a USB Type - C to transfer data faster.

It has a large random memory at 3 G of DDR4, so there is no problem for multi functions and applications with an internal memory of 32 GB and expandable to 200 GB.

#### Camera:

Lumia 950 is equipped with a 20 megapixel camera and an F1.9 lens with pure view technology and a triple flash, with a front camera of 5 megapixel accuracy. Video recording with K4 accuracy and a speed of 30 frames per second, while the front camera has 1080p accuracy and 30 frames per second, and these are the same features of Lumia XL 950.



### 5 things you may not know about Windows Lumia

**O**ur mobile phones have become an extension of who we are. They're our first port of call for communication, business, photography and entertainment. Microsoft's range of Windows Lumia phones are no different. Not only are they sleek in design and easy on the wallet, but they also boast several features that make everyday life easier. We picked out the top five things you probably didn't know your Lumia could do. We think they're game changers no matter what you use your phone for.

#### 1. Unlock your phone just by looking at it

Thanks to Windows 10's new Hello feature and an iris scanner located in the top right hand corner of the Lumia, unlocking your phone has never been easier. You can unlock your phone easily and securely, simply by looking at it - no PIN or password required. To do this, go to Settings > Personalisation > Lock Screen > Sign-In Options. Find the Windows Hello option and once you've taken a few seconds to stare into the front-facing camera, you're all set.

#### 2. Turn your phone into a PC

The Continuum feature allows you to turn your Lumia into a fully-fledged PC simply by connecting it to Microsoft's Display Dock, a mouse and keyboard, and an external display. Just like that, all your phone's content appears on the bigger screen, automatically adjusted to fit the new size and resolution. It looks just like Windows 10 on a PC.

Even better, when your phone is connected to the external monitor and you are using the display to work in the Office apps or let your kids watch a movie, you can continue to use your phone to check emails and answer calls. If you don't have an external mouse, you can also choose to use your phone's screen as a trackpad.

#### 3. Take great photos wherever you are

The Lumia's 20-megapixel sensor, Zeiss optics and triple LED natural flash all mean the photos you take on your phone are of higher quality than ever before. Added to this, the phone's

camera reacts to its environment so that you can get the best possible shot no matter the conditions. For example, if you're trying to get a photo of your child on the soccer field, your phone will adjust its own shutter speed to capture the shot without the usual motion blur.

#### 4. Make your phone child-friendly

For those parents who know all too well how it feels to have children who are more tech-savvy than you are, this one's for you. Windows Mobile's Kid's Corner feature separates pre-selected content such as apps, videos and games that your kids can access. No more worries about them getting their hands on unsuitable content or sending an inappropriate email to your boss.

To activate this feature on your Lumia, go to Settings > Accounts > Kid's Corner and select which content you'd like to make available. Once it's set up, you can access Kid's Corner by right swiping from the lock screen.

#### 5. Track your movements to stay healthy

It's never been easier to keep track of your health and fitness, with a little help from your Lumia. The phone tracks your movements so that your health apps can use the data. To customise how this works on your phone, go to Settings > Extras > Lumia Motion Data and select your options. You can switch between basic and detailed data collection to choose whether to include your standing, walking, running, driving and cycling data.

Besides these features, the Lumia also has a host of shortcuts to make using your phone as easy as possible. For example, the Outlook email app has gesture-based actions and shortcuts; SMS Messages can integrate with Skype; and the Quick Reply feature means you can see your messages and pull down to reply to them without switching from whatever you are doing.

Whatever you use your phone for - work or play - these features and shortcuts are designed to make your life easier. Give them a try and see how they work for you.

#### System:

As we said above all Microsoft phones are now working with Windows 10 system, which is good, and there is an investment by the company with many companies to improve Windows 10 store for applications.

#### Battery:

950 Lumia comes with Li-ion 3000 removable battery, and works for 18 continuous hours of calls through third generation networks and 67 continuous hours of music.

Both phones support the quick charging technology quick charge 2.0, through which the battery can

be charged from 0% to 50% in 30 minutes only. It is a good battery compared with the phone size, and Windows 10 does not use much energy contrary to its Android competitor. These Windows Hello feature, which allows the identification of the users phone to open the phone, and it is available in Lumia 950 XL and also allows the opening of the phone through the eye's iris!

We now come to a fantastic feature, which is continuum, which is a small system that allows you to transform your small phone into a personal computer that operates with Windows 10, with a keyboard, mouse and everything.





## HEADING HOME AFTER EBOLA, IVORIAN REFUGEES IN LIBERIA BEAR SCARS OF WAR

**BAHN REFUGEE CAMP, Liberia:** Yamthe Lambert's eyes fill with tears as he recalls searching for his wife and six children while masses of people fled their homes in fear at the height of Ivory Coast's 2011 civil war. The 63-year-old, who was working as a miner away from his home city of Guiglo when the conflict erupted, rushed home to search for his family as the country descended into chaos, but instead found his house and car set ablaze. "I was too late, they had already gone," he said, sitting inside his home at Bahn refugee camp in northeast Liberia, a vast tract dotted with trees and clay-brick houses some 50 km (30 miles) from the Ivory Coast border.

Lambert was among more than 200,000 Ivorians who fled to Liberia after a disputed presidential election in November 2010 plunged Ivory Coast into its second civil war in a decade. Having crossed the border to Liberia alone in 2011, Lambert feared he would never see his family again. But when an aid worker who moved from Bahn to another camp spotted a boy that resembled Lambert and discovered that it was his son, the family were reunited - after three years apart. "When my family arrived at Bahn, we embraced tightly for 20 minutes without letting go - we couldn't let go," Lambert said.

Now, five years after the civil war forced them to seek refuge in Liberia, and a year-and-a-half after their hopes of heading home were crushed by the world's worst Ebola outbreak, Lambert and his family are preparing

to go home. Most of the Ivorians who sought refuge in Liberia started heading home a year after the 2011 conflict. But some 35,000 refugees who remained were left in limbo when the spread of Ebola caused Liberia to shut its borders to curb the outbreak.

With the epidemic under control, and the establishment of a humanitarian corridor as the border remains closed, the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) has restarted a drive to take refugees home and help to rebuild their lives. Several convoys carrying hundreds of people have crossed the border since December, and with almost a third of the refugees having expressed a desire to go home as soon as possible, thousands more are set to follow in the coming months. "We are desperate to go back - to have a real home, and a real life," said Lambert, squeezing his wife's hand tightly.

### Scarred by violence

On the outskirts of Bahn, one of three camps hosting Ivorian refugees in Liberia, several women sift through a wheelbarrow piled high with clothes, picking out tops, skirts and shoes. Nearby, a group of men in brightly coloured shirts huddle in the shade to avoid the midday sun as they discuss their futures. "Many people have been eager to go back since December, but there are also a lot waiting to hear what life is like for those who return before making a decision," said Augustus Taylor from the Liberia Refugee

Repatriation and Resettlement Commission.

Many refugees bear the scars of the abuse and violence they witnessed and suffered, and some are unsure if they will or can ever go back. Mother-of-five Theodile Goun fixes her eyes on the ground as she explains how she was forced to strip naked by armed rebels loyal to Ivorian president Alassane Ouattara and threatened with rape in front of her children.

"My youngest girl is traumatized and often has flashbacks - screaming for her brother who died after being shot in the leg." While some of Bahn's 5,000 refugees refer to the camp as a big family, tensions have flared between supporters of Ouattara and those loyal to former leader Laurent Gbagbo. Gbagbo's refusal to accept Ouattara's win in 2010 sparked the brief conflict that killed around 3,000 people, and refugee Richard Gouanoun said his status as a former member of Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front party had made him a target in the camp. He said he was arrested and detained for weeks after pro-Ouattara refugees accused him of training other refugees in the camp to carry out attacks in Ivory Coast. "There is no way I can ever go back to my country, it would be too dangerous. But I don't feel safe in the camp either, we are too close to Ivory Coast here," 44-year-old Gouanoun said.

### Struggle to adapt

While grateful for the shelter and security



**KENEMA, Sierra Leone:** This file photo taken on November 15, 2014 shows a health worker wearing protective equipment giving to drink to an Ebola young patient at Kenema treatment center run by the Red cross Society. — AFP

provided by the camp, many refugees have struggled to adapt to life in Bahn - frustrated by limited food rations and lack of opportunities. "It isn't easy being in a remote area, with no power, living in darkness - it is a far cry from Abidjan," said Philochard Gonto, 30, who is impatient to return home to finish his degree in Ivory Coast's main city. Monthly rice rations have been cut by almost half as funding has dried up, and those picking up the sacks are subdued as they balance them on their heads or bundle them into wheelbarrows.

The UNHCR has provided training to teach skills such as soap making, hairdressing and tailoring, but only a few refugees have been given such opportunities, said mother-of-four Veh Elisee. The lack of secondary education in Bahn camp means that children also have little to do, leading to a number of young girls falling pregnant, according to the 33-year old Ivorian. "There are 12-year-olds having sex and children of their own because their is nothing to occupy them... what can you do if your child meets a boy who promises her a few dollars for sex?" — Reuters

## FIRST LADY, SCHOOL MEAL DIRECTORS MAY BE HEADED FOR TRUCE FIGHT 'UNTIL THE BITTER END'

**WASHINGTON:** A bipartisan Senate agreement would revise healthier meal standards put into place over the last few years to give schools more flexibility in what they serve the nation's schoolchildren, easing requirements on whole grains and delaying an upcoming deadline to cut sodium levels on the lunch line. While legislation released by the Senate Agriculture Committee on Monday would placate some schools that have complained the rules are burdensome, it is greatly scaled back from an unsuccessful 2014 House Republican effort to allow some

committee's top Democrat, Sen Debbie Stabenow of Michigan.

### School nutrition

"In the absence of increased funding, this agreement eases operational challenges and provides school meal programs critical flexibility to help them plan healthy school meals that appeal to students," the association's president, Jean Ronnei, said. The White House has yet to weigh in, but committee aides said the administration was involved in negotiations and is

whole grain and sodium standards within 90 days of the bill's enactment, meaning the new standards could be in place by next school year if Congress acts quickly. Under the agreement between those negotiating the bill, the new rules would scale back the whole grain standards to require that 80 percent of grains on the lunch line must be whole grain rich, or more than half whole grain. Currently, all grains are required to be whole grain rich, though some schools are now allowed to get waivers from that requirement. Schools have said the whole grain rules were too tough in some cases, as whole grain pasta is harder to cook and some kids don't like it as much. Southern schools have had problems finding tasty whole grain biscuits and grits; schools in the Southwest say their students reject whole grain tortillas.

### New standards

The agreement would also delay stricter standards on sodium that are scheduled for the 2017 school year. They would now be delayed two years, and a study would measure the benefits of those reductions. The legislation would also require the government to figure out how to reduce waste of fruits and vegetables, which children are now required to take on the lunch line. Some just throw them away.

The bill requires the Agriculture Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to come up with solutions like sharing tables where children can leave food they don't want. Some local health authorities have discouraged that approach. The legislation would also put more resources into summer feeding programs and attempt to expand the ways in which those foods are served. The rules phased in since 2012 set fat, calorie, sugar and sodium limits on foods in the lunch line and beyond. Schools have long been required to follow government nutrition rules if they accept federal reimbursements for free and reduced-price meals for low-income students, but the new standards are stricter.

The compromise seemed impossible just a year and a half ago, when the association aggressively lobbied against the administration's standards and backed the GOP effort to allow schools to opt out of them. The first lady held a rare event at the White House, calling out the School Nutrition Association by name. She said she would fight "until the bitter end" to keep the rules intact. Supporters of the Senate bill are hoping that an agreement among the formerly feuding parties could influence the House, which has not yet introduced a bill. — AP



**WASHINGTON:** In this file photo first lady Michelle Obama speaks in the State Dining Room of the White House. — AP

schools to opt out of the rules entirely. The panel is scheduled to vote on the measure today.

After more than two years of public quarreling, the bill signals a possible truce for a group of school nutrition directors and first lady Michelle Obama, an outspoken proponent of healthier eating during her husband's seven years in office. The School Nutrition Association, which represents school nutrition directors and companies that sell food to schools, said it is supportive of the agreement negotiated by Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and the

expected to be supportive. The aides declined to be identified because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the legislation. Nutrition advocates who have fiercely defended the rules were also positive.

"Given all of the aggressive lobbying against school nutrition over the past few years, it's remarkable that the Senate bill is as strong a way forward as it is," said Margo Wootan of the Center for Science and the Public Interest. The five-year Senate legislation would direct the Agriculture Department to revise the

## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION HOPES TO ERADICATE POLIO IN 2016

**AMMAN, Jordan:** An official says the World Health Organization hopes to eradicate polio in 2016, after containing outbreaks in conflict-ridden Syria, Iraq and Somalia by immunizing millions of children over two years. Christopher Maher, who runs the regional polio eradication program, says there's a chance to "finish polio forever" this year. He says the disease still occurs in Pakistan and Afghanistan, but that the caseload is

dropping.

Maher spoke Sunday at the inauguration of a WHO regional center for health emergencies and polio eradication in Jordan's capital, Amman. The agency says it faces unprecedented demand for basic health services. It says half the region's 22 countries are in conflict or affected by it, and that the Middle East is home to the largest number of internally displaced people anywhere. — AP

## LIMITING INFANTS TO ALMOND MILK CAN RESULT IN SCURVY

**NEW YORK:** Plant-based beverages like almond milk can't be used to replace breast milk or infant formula, a new report warns. The authors of the report describe an infant in Spain who was fed only almond beverages or almond flour-based formulations from age two months to 11 months and developed fractures and failure to thrive due to scurvy. Scurvy is a serious condition caused by lack of vitamin C in the diet. Once the scourge of sailors who did not have access to sources of vitamin C during many months at sea, scurvy is rare today.

Dr Isidro Vitoria of the Hospital Universitario y Politécnico La Fe in Valencia, Spain, and coauthors report the case of a male baby who was born at term, vaccinated according to Spanish guidelines, and fed with a cow's milk based formula for the first two and a half months of life. When he developed skin inflammation, a medical doctor recommended he be switched to daily intake of a prepared mixture including almond drink, almond flour, sesame powder, brown rice malt, brown rice, millet and a sachet of probiotics and prebiotics marketed in Spain.

From age six months onward, his mother offered him pureed fruits and vegetables that he would not eat. At 11 months of age, the baby was tired, irritable, had failed to thrive and refused to support his legs on a solid surface, crying even when an adult moved his legs for him. He had abnormal levels of zinc, vitamin D, thyroid stimulating hormone and ascorbic acid, or vitamin C. X-

rays revealed fractures in his legs and back and thinning bones. The almond formula was stopped and replaced with infant formula, cereals, meat, fruits and vegetables supplemented with vitamin C and D replacement therapy. One month later his x-rays had improved. Soon afterward, his vitamin C and D levels had normalized.

Two months after stopping the almond formula he started walking, the authors reported in Pediatrics. In the first year of life, babies should consume 50 to 60 milligrams of vitamin C every day, the authors say. On average, 8 ounces (240 ml) of breast milk contains about 11 milligrams of vitamin C. Infant formulas should contain 10 to 30 milligrams per 100 calorie serving, the authors write.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that infants be exclusively breastfed for about the first six months of life, and then solid foods can be introduced. Fruits like oranges, strawberries and kiwis are also good sources of vitamin C. When almond beverages are processed, some vitamins, including vitamin C, lose their biological activity, the authors note. Although some such beverages in Spain are fortified with vitamins and nutrients, the particular formula this baby received was deficient in vitamin C, D, calcium, iron and zinc. "Pediatricians and parents should be aware that plant-based beverages are not a complete food and they may not replace breastfeeding or infant formula," the authors write. — Reuters

## TOBACCO GIANT PHILIP MORRIS FACES \$2.2 BILLION THAI TAX FINE

**BANGKOK:** Tobacco giant Philip Morris is facing an eye-watering \$2.2 billion fine if found guilty of dodging tax on cigarette imports to Thailand, prosecutors said yesterday. The allegations are part of a long simmering tax dispute between the kingdom the local unit of the tobacco company, which has also clashed with authorities over plans to increase the size of health warnings on cigarette packs.

Thai prosecutors say Philip Morris, which owns the Marlboro and L&M brands, avoided around 20 billion baht (\$551.27 million) tax by under declaring import prices for cigarettes from the Philippines between 2003 and 2006. "Philip Morris as a corporation, as well as seven Thais, were indicted yesterday on custom tax evasion," Somnuk Siengkong, a spokesman for Thailand's Office of the Attorney General told reporters yesterday. Chartpong Chirabandhu, deputy director general of the office's special litigation department, said a court could impose a fine of up to 80 billion baht (\$2.2 billion) if the company was found guilty.

Four foreign executives at the company have also been charged but are outside the country, prosecutors added. Philip Morris Thailand Limited described the charges as "unjust" and vowed to fight them. "The company intends to vigorously defend itself against these meritless charges and demonstrate that it is in full compliance with Thai law and international

standards of customs valuation," the company said in a statement. The cigarette manufacturer added that their import valuations complied with World Trade Organization agreements and had been cleared by local Thai customs officials.

The investigation first surfaced in 2006 under the administration of Thaksin Shinawatra, shortly before his ousting in a military coup. Thailand has since been hit by a decade of political instability with frequent government changes and a second coup in 2014. In 2011, the attorney general at the time recommended against charging the tobacco giant, but the prosecution was restarted two years later. That year Philip Morris was among leading cigarette firms to challenge in court plans by Thai health officials to increase health warnings on cigarettes. The World Health Organization has accused the tobacco industry of deploying legions of lobbyists and lawyers to block packaging changes.

The tobacco lobby has also tried to block laws curbing advertising or raising taxes on cigarettes. But more countries are adopting the approach with Thailand something of a regional leader on the issue in Southeast Asia. Action on Smoking and Health Foundation Thailand says more than 50,700 people die every year from smoking-related diseases with around 13 million of the country's 67 million inhabitants addicted to cigarettes, 2.2 million of whom are minors. — AFP

## VOLUNTEERS SEND WATER AS S AFRICAN TEMPERATURES SOAR

**BOKSBURG, South Africa:** In a large shed to the east of Johannesburg men stacked tens of thousands of liters of water onto a flatbed truck as part of a neighborhood volunteer campaign to save South Africa's dry towns.

The water comes in two-liter soft drink bottles, five-liter plastic drums and a 1,000-litre bowser-all of it donated by city residents, as intense drought and continuous heat waves devastate South Africa's farms. For Janine Boshoff, 35, the spur to action was a Facebook post by a cattle farmer who was distraught at the choice of either watching his starving herd die-or shooting them. "I thought if a farmer could feel that much for an animal, I would hope that humans could feel something for each other, too," she told AFP.

She began rallying neighbors in suburban Boksburg to fill their old bottles and bring them to her house. Within days, her sister's employer had offered a company truck to transport the haul a few hours' drive to parched towns in the Free State, South Africa's agricultural heartland. Boshoff's neighbor, Jolanda du Plessis, 46, and her housekeeper began walking the local streets handing out flyers. At night, the two families shut down the electric fence

between their homes and passed the day's collection over the wall to store at Boshoff's house-in the hallway, on the patio, and in every available room. For 14 years, the families had been neighbors without so much as a friendly wave between them. Now they plotted the water delivery rescue mission together in Du Plessis' lounge, their phones ringing and pinging as messages of

more donations flooded in.

### Record highs

The regional drought, now in its second year, has been brought on by the El Nino weather phenomenon and exacerbated by climate change, pushing temperatures higher in a string of blistering heat waves. This week, the Washington-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric



**BENONI, GAUTENG, South Africa:** Factory workers pile up donated water bottles by South African residents from the Johannesburg outskirts town of Benoni to be delivered in drought stricken rural communities. — AFP

Administration (NOAA) is expected to declare 2015 the hottest year on record worldwide. On one Tuesday last October, 18 weather stations across South Africa recorded new monthly highs, all above 38 degrees Celsius (100.4 Fahrenheit). And in early January, both Johannesburg and the capital Pretoria saw all-time record maximums of 38 and 42.5 degrees Celsius respectively.

Such figures highlight the huge challenge of capping global warming at below two degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels-the goal set at UN negotiations in Paris in December. "The abnormally high temperatures and low rainfall during 2015 are a combination of a natural effect, which is the El Nino phenomenon, and the rising baseline caused by human-caused global climate change," explained Robert Scholes, systems ecology professor at the University of the Witwatersrand. "At this stage, they approximately equally contribute to the observed high temperatures." But while emergency community efforts can provide drinking and washing water to otherwise crippled small towns, they cannot replace the absent rains as fields turn to dust. Nor are they a long-term solution to the country's hot, dry future. — AFP



# MORE THAN 7,000 BABIES STILLBORN EVERY DAY

**PARIS:** About 7,200 babies are stillborn every day some 2.6 million per year — and half of these deaths occur during delivery, according to a quintet of studies published by The Lancet yesterday. The figures for 2015 represented a meagre drop from around 24.7 to 18.4 deaths for every 1,000 total births from 2000 to last year, the medical journal reported. The overwhelming majority of stillbirths, about 98 percent, occur in low- and medium-income countries.

"But the truly horrific figure is 1.3 million" stillbirths that occur during delivery, The Lancet editors Richard Horton and Udani Samarasekera wrote in a comment. "The idea of a child being alive at the beginning of labor and dying for

entirely preventable reasons during the next few hours should be a health scandal of international proportions. Yet it is not." For the purposes of the study, stillbirths were counted as fetuses lost during the final three-month trimester, or after 28 weeks of pregnancy. Deaths before this cutoff are termed miscarriages. The series found that prolonged pregnancy-delivery several days beyond the estimated birth date was the main cause of stillbirths, contributing 14 percent. Next in line were maternal health problems. Nutrition, lifestyle factors such as obesity or smoking, and non-infectious diseases like diabetes, cancers or cardiovascular problems, each accounted for about 10 percent of stillbirths.

Malaria infection accounted for about eight percent of stillbirths and syphilis 7.7 percent, the analysis showed. An estimated 6.7 percent of stillbirths was attributed to the expectant mother being older than 35, and 4.7 percent to eclampsia—a serious condition of pregnancy that can cause seizure-inducing high blood pressure.

### Rich, poor gap

Sub-Saharan Africa had more stillbirths than any other region. Given the slow rate of improvement, "over 160 years will pass before the average pregnant woman in sub-Saharan Africa has the same chance of her baby being born alive as does a woman nowadays in a

high-income country," the study said. But the series also highlighted wide gaps between rich and poor people even in high-income countries. A poor woman in a wealthy country has about double the risk of stillbirth than a rich one.

"Stillbirth rates for women of south Asian and African origin giving birth in Europe or Australia are two-to-three times higher than white women," said a statement. The country with the lowest rate, with 1.3 stillbirths per 1,000 total births, was Iceland, and Denmark was next at 1.7 per 1,000. They were followed by Finland, the Netherlands, Croatia, Japan, South Korea, Norway, Portugal and New Zealand. The worst performer, out of 186 countries measured, was

Pakistan with 43.1 stillbirths per 1,000 total births.

The rest of the bottom 10 were Nigeria, Chad, Niger, Guinea-Bissau, Somalia, Djibouti, Central African Republic, Togo and Mali. In 2014, the World Health Assembly—the world's highest health policy body—endorsed a target of 10 or fewer stillbirths per 1,000 total births by 2035. But the Lancet series found the average annual rate of reduction, at two percent, was far slower than for maternal deaths (three percent) or deaths of children under five (4.5 percent). The series was comprised of five research papers compiled by more than 200 authors, investigators and advisers from 43 countries. — AFP

# STUDY QUANTIFIES FAULTY GENE'S ROLE IN OVARY CANCER RISK

'FINDING THESE WOMEN WILL HELP PREVENT MORE CANCERS AND SAVE LIVES'

**PARIS:** Women who carry an inherited fault in the BRIP1 gene are three times more likely to develop ovarian cancer than those without it, researchers said yesterday. The gene variant had already been linked to cancer of the ovaries, but the size of the additional risk has now been quantified in a study in the Journal of the US National Cancer Institute. "Around 18 women in every 1,000 develop ovarian cancer, but this risk increases to around 58 women in every 1,000 for women with a fault in the BRIP1 gene," said a statement from Cancer Research UK, whose researchers led the research.

The fault inhibited tissue cells from properly repairing their own DNA, causing genetic damage to build up over time, and leading to cancer, said the team. The rare but deadly disease, with few early symptoms, is often diagnosed at a very advanced stage, hence its reputation as

a silent killer. About 60 percent of patients die within five years.

There is no standard or routine test for early detection of ovarian cancer—a process known as "screening"—to boost survival chances by allowing for treatment to begin as soon as possible after disease onset. The study compared the genes of over 8,000 European women—including a group diagnosed with ovarian cancer, a healthy group, and a third with a family history of the disease.

### Lower their risk

They found that women who carried the BRIP1 mutation were more likely to be diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer, at a later stage and at an older age. "Our work has found a valuable piece of the puzzle behind ovarian cancer and we hope that our work

could eventually form the basis of a genetic test to identify women at greatest risk," said Paul Pharaoh, a cancer epidemiology professor at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute. "Finding these women will help us prevent more cancers and save lives. This would be important in a disease like ovarian cancer, which tends to be diagnosed at a later stage when the chances of survival are worse."

Women with a mutation on the BRCA1 gene, for example, carry a very high risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. Those diagnosed with the variant is found, can opt to surgically remove their breasts and ovaries in order to lower their risk. Ovarian cancer is the seventh most common cancer in women worldwide, with 239,000 new cases diagnosed in 2012, according to the World Cancer Research Fund International. — AFP



**JAPAN:** In this Aug 21, 2015, file photo, Yasutaro Koide, 112, holds the Guinness World Records certificate as he is formally recognized as the world's oldest man at a nursing home in Nagoya, central Japan. — AP

# SAUDI SUSPENDS FRENCH IMPORTS OVER BIRD FLU



**BENESSEE-MAREMNE, Southwestern France:** This file photo taken on December 10, 2015 shows ducks roaming in an outdoor enclosure in a farm in Benessee-Maremne, southwestern France. — AFP

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia on Monday suspended the import of poultry, eggs and dairy products from seven French regions over a bird flu outbreak. The Saudi Food and Drug Authority said the regions include France's southwestern Dordogne, where the highly virulent H5N1 strain of the virus was identified in November. Several countries including Japan and China have already banned French poultry imports as a result. "This temporary ban is to continue until the health status of the livestock is stable," SFDA said.

It added that poultry, eggs and dairy products that have been treated thermally or in another way to eliminate the virus are exempt from the suspension. According to Business France, the French export promotion agency, France was the second-biggest exporter of poultry products to Saudi Arabia in 2013 and volume had risen 64 percent since 2009. The World Health Organization says the H5N1 virus does not infect humans easily but when it does it is fatal in about 60 percent of cases. — AFP

# THE WORLD'S OLDEST MAN, A JAPANESE, DIES AT AGE 112

The world's oldest man, a Japanese who died at the age of 112, said his secret to a long life was not to smoke, drink or overdo it. Yasutaro Koide, born on March 13, 1903, died two months short of his 113th birthday. Koide (pronounced "Koy-deh") worked as a tailor when he was younger. He was recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest man in August.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare said he died early yesterday at a hospital in Nagoya, central Japan, where he

had been treated for chronic heart problems. In Japan, 111-year-old Tokyo native Masamitsu Yoshida, born on May 30, 1904, succeeds Koide as the oldest man. It was not immediately known whether Yoshida is also the world's oldest male. Japan, a rapidly aging country, has more than 61,000 centenarians, according to the nation's family registration records. Nearly 90 percent are women. The world's oldest person is an American woman, 116-year-old Susannah Mushatt Jones of Brooklyn, New York. — AP

# HIGH FISH CONSUMPTION IN PREGNANCY TIED TO BRAIN BENEFITS FOR KIDS

**NEW YORK:** When mothers eat three sizeable servings of fish each week during pregnancy it may benefit children's brains for years to come, according to a large study in Spain. Researchers followed nearly 2,000 mother-child pairs from the first trimester of pregnancy through the child's fifth birthday and found improved brain function in the kids whose mothers ate the most fish while pregnant, compared to children of mothers who ate the least. Even when women averaged 600 grams, or 21 ounces, of fish weekly during pregnancy, there was no sign that mercury or other pollutants associated with fish were having a negative effect that offset the apparent benefits. "Seafood is known to be an important source of essential nutrients for

brain development, but at the same time accumulates mercury from the environment, which is known to be neurotoxic," lead author Jordi Julvez, of the Center for Research in Environmental Epidemiology in Barcelona, said in an email.

### Women's consumption

In an attempt to balance the potential harms of such pollutants with the general health benefits of fish, the US Food and Drug Administration's 2014 guidelines encourage pregnant women to eat fish, but no more than 12 ounces per week. The European Food Safety Authority recently issued a scientific opinion endorsing 150 g to 600 g of fish weekly during pregnancy, Julvez and colleagues

note in the American Journal of Epidemiology. But, the study team writes, the effects of maternal fish consumption during development are still not well understood and more research could help give pregnant women clearer guidance.

The researchers analyzed data from the Spanish Childhood and Environment Project, a large population study that recruited women in their first trimester of pregnancy, in four provinces of Spain, between 2004 and 2008. Julvez and colleagues focused on records of the women's consumption of large fatty fish such as swordfish and albacore tuna, smaller fatty fish such as mackerel, sardines, anchovies or salmon, and lean fish such as hake or sole, as well as shellfish and other seafood.

Women were tested for blood levels of vitamin D and iodine, and cord blood was tested after delivery to measure fetal exposure to mercury and PCB pollutants. At ages 14 months and five years, the children underwent tests of their cognitive abilities and Asperger Syndrome traits to assess their neuropsychological development. On average, the women had consumed about 500 g, or three servings, of seafood per week while pregnant. But with every additional 10 g per week above that amount, children's test scores improved, up to about 600 g. The link between higher maternal consumption and better brain development in children was especially apparent when kids were five.

### Strongest associations

The researchers also saw a consistent reduction in autism-spectrum traits with increased maternal fish consumption. Mothers' consumption of lean fish and large fatty fish appeared most strongly tied to children's scores, and fish intake during the first trimester, compared to later in pregnancy, also had the strongest associations. "I think that in general people should follow the current recommendations," Julvez said. "Nevertheless this study pointed out that maybe some of them, particularly the American ones, should be less stringent." Julvez noted that there didn't appear to be any additional benefit when women ate more than 21 oz (about 595 g) of fish per week. — Reuters

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## CHEVROLET ALGHANIM'S FREE WINTER CHECKUP PROMOTION A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

In one of the biggest auto service campaigns created to offer customers maximum value and highest safety standards, Yusuf A Alghanim and Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, is still continuing its massive free winter checkup promotion on all Chevrolet vehicles being serviced in Chevrolet service centers at Shuwaikh and Fahaheel until February 13th, 2016.

The promotion, which has been enjoying an amazing customer response since launch, entails a professional, detailed checkup and report that guarantees the safety and peace of mind of all Chevrolet passengers. Performed by professionally trained service advisors, the checkup includes a thorough inspection on all aspects related to car safety such as wipers, brakes, engine and oil, all at a no cost to the customer.

Once the checkup has been performed, customers will receive an exhaustive report detailing the condition of the car, the required maintenance and pricing. Customers will also benefit from a 30% discount on spare parts and a 10% discount on labor for work ordered out of the technical report provided by the service advisors. And because Chevrolet Alghanim is committed to total customer satisfaction, the promotion will also cover Chevrolet vehicles with expired warranty.

The discounts mentioned above are valid for a period of 2 months from the date of inspection, which reflects Chevrolet Alghanim's dedication to customer excellence and support, cement-

ing the company's reputation as Kuwait's best customer-centric automotive company. With great savings on maintenance cost and professional service, customers are guaranteed to enjoy a peace of mind all year long, especially during the beginning of winter and summer seasons when potential malfunctions and risks can be easily identified and prevented.

The Yusuf A Alghanim and Sons Service Center in Shuwaikh is the biggest and most advanced automotive service center in the world, with 73,000 sq m of built up area, servicing 1,000 vehicles every day. Throughout the facility, advanced technology is used to provide customers with high-quality and efficient service, including a team of technicians highly trained in modern technology who provide necessary advice and support as well as reliable and cost-effective operation of customers' vehicles.

In addition, the service center hosts spacious and comfortable lounges for customers whose cars are being professionally attended and serviced. With a variety of TV channels, ready-to-use Internet stations, free wireless access and KromOzone shopping outlets, customers can kick back, relax, and enjoy a sip of coffee from the café as they utilize their time more effectively.

Valid until February 13th, 2016, Chevrolet Alghanim encourages customers to take advantage of this free checkup and service discount promotion before it's too late, and certainly before their cars get untimely malfunctioned in the middle of a rainy street.



## MAIN SKATING HALL CLOSED

The Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) announced closing the main skating hall at the Ice Skating Rink as of last Monday to prepare the theater that will host concert during the Hala February 2016 festival. The Ice Skating Rink will continue to welcome visitors at its minor hall, said Omar Al-Samera'ie, the Ice Skating Rink's Supervisor at TEC, adding that the hall is open every day from 8:30 am to 10:00 pm.



Omar Al-Samera'ie

## HILTON KUWAIT WINS HILTON WORLDWIDE EXCELLENCE IN QUALITY AWARD 2015

Hilton Kuwait Resort has been awarded the prestigious "Excellence In Quality" Award from Hilton Worldwide after completing five consecutive Outstanding Quality Assurance evaluations.

The resort underwent stringent audits over a three-year period achieving outstanding results each time. The process included bi-annual checks on hotel operations, team member train-

ing, Brand Standards and cleanliness and condition. The property successfully showcased its commitment to quality in all areas of businesses, with the award win also recognizing the hotels' sustainable achievements.

Commenting on the momentous achievement, Ziad Tantawi, General Manager, Hilton Kuwait Resort said, "To maintain a high standard of quality of well-established property is chal-

lenging but with the contribution of all departments and their dedicated team members, we have achieved recognition worthy of sharing with the Hilton family and guests. "I would personally like to thank everyone involved at Hilton Kuwait Resort for their ongoing commitment to excellence and for helping to win this extremely important award."



Kuwaiti fashion designer Muntaha Al-Ajeil was recently awarded in Dubai as 'Fashion Icon' by the Emirates International Business Group in cooperation with the GCC Chambers Union, American Leading Development, and the Malaysian Business Leaders Magazine.



## MILAD MAHFIL, DOA HELD FOR PEACE OF DEPARTED SOUL

A Milad Mahfil and Doa was held for seeking eternal peace of the departed soul which organized by deceased son Kamrul Hasan who is a well-known Electronics Print Media personality and organizer from Bangladesh.

The occasion was held at Rajdhani Hotel in Kuwait City attended by Bangladesh most popular Private TV Channel- 'Bangla Vision,' 'Daily Dinkal,' Daily Manab Kantha, Kuwait Representative and Editor of Online Newspapers www.primenewsbd24.com. and Secretary General of Kuwait BNP and volun-

teer team of Central Executive and associates bodies, relatives, friends and well-wishers are joined the Milad and Doa Mahfil. A special Munajat was offered for deceased Nurul Haque Majumder on the occasion. The Munajat likely was conducted by eminent Islamic scholar and Imam Bangla Khutba Mosque Kuwait Maulana Masudur Rahman.

President of BNP Kuwait Ikram Ali Babul presided over the occasion and brief discussed about many points on activities of late Nurul Haque Majumder. TV Channel- Bangla Vision representative and Politician deceased

elder son Kamrul Hasan Bablu discussed also many points of his late father and requested to all attendance for Doa of departed soul.

The occasion attended the Leader of Awmi League and its associate bodies BNP and its associate bodies, Jatiyo Party, various Social Organization, Journalists and more than 5 hundred expatriates attended the occasion.

Late Nurul Haque Majumder was served Bangladesh Air force before liberation in 1984 and after then he was Joint Kuwait Air force invited by UNO from 1984 to 1999.





## BURGAN BANK SPONSORS 'SPARK MARATHON 2016'

**B**urgan Bank is proud to have been a sponsor of 'SPARK Marathon 2016', which was held on Saturday January 16th, 2016 at Marina Mall Crescent Area. The event was organized by Spark Athletic Centre, and came under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs. The marathon aimed at spreading health

awareness across Kuwait as well as supporting charities and non-profit organizations through the Burgan Bank Marathon Village in Marina Crescent. The event took place for 3 days and demonstrated great success and a promise to provide a healthy outlet for people to participate in and enjoy in Kuwait. Families and people from all ages participated in the marathon, which was divided into 4 cate-

gories: 5 km run, 10km run, 21 km run and 42 km run. Participants and visitors alike enjoyed a fun program full of entertaining activities for all ages. At the awards ceremony Burgan Bank presented the winners of the 42 km race with their awards. At the end of the event, all sponsors were honored for their support to the community and to the Spark Marathon charity initiative.

During the awards ceremony, His Excellency Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, stated that SPARK Marathon was an ideal platform to raise sports awareness and encourage sport activities among the citizens of Kuwait. Such community interactions further reinforces Burgan Bank's leadership and

social dedication to the wellbeing of the society. As part of its overall social responsibility framework, the bank has pledged to support initiatives that work on familiarizing the public with the benefits of maintaining a healthier lifestyle as well as engaging all segments of the society in an interactive manner.



The Ministry of Health concluded its first training program for medical staff at the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Hospital, which was held under the patronage of Dr Jamal Al-Harbi, the Assistant Undersecretary for Support Services. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

## REHAB TRAINING PROGRAM CONCLUDES





- Discovery Channel HD**
- 00:20 Misfit Garage
  - 01:10 Bear's Wild Weekend With Stephen Fry
  - 02:00 Dual Survival
  - 02:50 River Monsters
  - 03:40 Storage Hunters UK
  - 04:05 The Liquidator
  - 04:30 Storage Wars Canada
  - 05:00 What Happened Next?
  - 05:30 How Machines Work
  - 06:00 Yukon Men
  - 06:50 Wheeler Dealers
  - 07:40 Misfit Garage
  - 08:30 Storage Hunters UK
  - 08:55 The Liquidator
  - 09:20 Storage Wars Canada
  - 09:45 What Happened Next?
  - 10:10 How Machines Work
  - 10:35 Bear's Wild Weekend With Stephen Fry
  - 11:25 Dual Survival
  - 12:15 River Monsters
  - 13:05 Storage Hunters UK
  - 13:30 The Liquidator
  - 13:55 Storage Wars Canada
  - 14:20 Yukon Men
  - 15:10 Wheeler Dealers
  - 16:00 Misfit Garage
  - 16:50 What Happened Next?
  - 17:15 How Machines Work
  - 17:40 Mythbusters
  - 18:30 The Carbonaro Effect
  - 19:20 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
  - 20:10 The Liquidator
  - 20:35 Storage Wars Canada
  - 21:00 Mythbusters
  - 21:50 The Carbonaro Effect
  - 22:40 You Have Been Warned

- Discovery Science**
- 00:35 Mythbusters
  - 01:20 How It's Made: Dream Cars
  - 01:44 How It's Made: Dream Cars
  - 02:08 Food Factory
  - 02:31 Food Factory
  - 02:55 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
  - 03:42 How The Universe Works
  - 04:29 Mythbusters
  - 05:16 Food Factory
  - 05:39 Food Factory
  - 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
  - 10:38 How It's Made: Dream Cars
  - 11:23 Strangest Weather On Earth
  - 12:08 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
  - 12:53 Prototype This
  - 13:38 Mythbusters
  - 14:23 How It's Made: Dream Cars
  - 15:10 How The Universe Works
  - 15:57 Strangest Weather On Earth
  - 16:44 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
  - 17:31 Prototype This
  - 18:18 How The Universe Works
  - 19:05 Mythbusters
  - 19:50 Invent It Rich
  - 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 Invent It Rich

- ID. Investigation Discovery**
- 00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
  - 01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
  - 01:30 The Haunted
  - 02:20 Ghost Lab
  - 03:10 Deadly Sins
  - 04:00 Deadly Women
  - 04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
  - 05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
  - 05:30 The Haunted
  - 06:20 Deadly Affairs
  - 07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
  - 08:00 Dr. G: Medical Examiner
  - 08:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
  - 09:40 Fatal Encounters
  - 10:30 Murder Shift
  - 11:20 Deadly Affairs
  - 12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
  - 13:00 The Will
  - 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
  - 14:40 California Investigator
  - 15:05 Dr. G: Medical Examiner
  - 15:55 Fatal Encounters
  - 16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
  - 17:35 Murder Shift
  - 18:25 I Almost Got Away With It
  - 19:15 The Will
  - 20:05 Deadly Affairs
  - 20:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
  - 21:45 California Investigator
  - 22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
  - 22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
  - 23:00 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion
  - 23:50 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall

- Disney Channel**
- 00:00 Violetta
  - 00:45 The Hive
  - 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
  - 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
  - 01:40 Wolfblood
  - 02:05 Violetta
  - 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 Violetta
  - 05:00 The Hive
  - 05:50 Mouk
  - 06:00 Lolo Rock
  - 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
  - 09:20 That's So Raven
  - 09:45 Austin & Ally
  - 10:10 Austin & Ally
  - 10:35 A.N.T. Farm
  - 11:00 A.N.T. Farm
  - 11:25 Jessie
  - 11:50 Jessie
  - 12:20 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

- OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**
- 17:00 The Next Step
  - 17:25 Liv And Maddie
  - 17:50 Jessie
  - 18:15 Austin & Ally
  - 18:40 I Didn't Do It
  - 19:05 First Class Chefs
  - 19:30 Violetta
  - 20:20 The Next Step
  - 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
  - 21:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
  - 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
  - 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
  - 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
  - 23:10 Wolfblood

- OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**
- 00:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons
  - 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
  - 01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
  - 02:20 Giuliana & Bill
  - 03:15 Christina Milian Turned Up
  - 04:10 E! Entertainment Special
  - 06:00 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
  - 06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
  - 07:50 Style Star
  - 08:20 New Money
  - 09:15 Giuliana & Bill
  - 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
  - 12:05 The Grace Helbig Show
  - 13:05 Fashion Bloggers
  - 14:05 Dash Dolls
  - 15:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
  - 16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
  - 17:00 Hollywood Cycle
  - 18:00 Dash Dolls
  - 19:00 Dash Dolls
  - 20:00 Fashion Bloggers
  - 20:30 Fashion Bloggers
  - 21:00 House Of DVF
  - 22:00 WAGs
  - 23:00 WAGs

- OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**
- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
  - 02:00 Man V Food
  - 03:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
  - 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
  - 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
  - 06:00 Chopped
  - 07:00 Man Fire Food
  - 08:00 Chopped
  - 09:00 Grandma's Secret Cookbook
  - 10:00 The Kitchen
  - 11:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
  - 12:00 Chopped
  - 13:00 Guy's Big Bite
  - 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
  - 15:00 Man Fire Food
  - 15:30 Man Fire Food
  - 16:00 Chopped
  - 17:00 The Kitchen
  - 18:00 Siba's Table
  - 18:30 Grandma's Secret Cookbook
  - 19:00 Chopped
  - 20:00 Guy's Grocery Games
  - 21:00 Chopped
  - 22:00 All Star Academy
  - 23:00 Iron Chef America

- OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**
- 00:10 Pick Me!
  - 01:05 Emmerdale
  - 01:30 Coach Trip
  - 02:00 Coronation Street
  - 02:30 Murdoch Mysteries
  - 03:25 Vera
  - 05:15 The Chase
  - 06:10 Cook Me The Money
  - 07:05 Coach Trip
  - 07:30 Vera
  - 09:20 Murdoch Mysteries
  - 10:15 The Chase
  - 11:10 Coach Trip
  - 11:35 Pick Me!
  - 12:30 Cook Me The Money
  - 13:25 Emmerdale
  - 13:50 Coach Trip
  - 14:20 Coronation Street
  - 14:45 Murdoch Mysteries
  - 15:35 Pick Me!
  - 16:30 Code Of A Killer
  - 17:25 Safe House
  - 18:20 Cook Me The Money
  - 19:10 Coronation Street
  - 19:35 Pick Me!
  - 20:30 Code Of A Killer
  - 21:25 Safe House
  - 22:20 Coronation Street
  - 22:50 Emmerdale
  - 23:15 Cook Me The Money

- OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**
- 00:00 The Liability-PG15
  - 02:00 The Outsider-PG15
  - 04:00 Jaws III-PG15
  - 06:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow
  - 12:00 Last Passenger
  - 14:00 Jaws: The Revenge
  - 16:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow
  - 18:00 The Prince
  - 19:45 Last Passenger
  - 21:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2

- OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**
- 00:00 22 Jump Street
  - 02:00 The Devil Wears Prada
  - 04:00 Happy Gilmore
  - 06:00 Blues Brothers 2000
  - 08:00 Streetdance: All Stars
  - 10:00 Happy Gilmore
  - 12:00 The Devil Wears Prada
  - 14:00 The Ladykillers
  - 16:00 Streetdance: All Stars
  - 18:00 Date Night
  - 20:00 Mystery Men
  - 22:15 Without Men

- OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**
- 01:30 Middle Of Nowhere-PG15
  - 03:15 Blood-PG15
  - 05:00 Late Bloomers-PG15
  - 07:00 The Truth About Emanuel
  - 09:00 Reclaim-PG15
  - 11:00 Late Bloomers-PG15
  - 13:00 The Dependables-PG15
  - 15:00 I'll Follow You Down-PG15
  - 17:00 Reclaim-PG15
  - 19:00 Scenic Route-PG15
  - 21:00 Fury-PG15
  - 23:30 Horns-18

- OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**
- 00:00 Defiance
  - 02:00 Supergirl
  - 03:00 Scream Queens
  - 04:00 Complications
  - 05:00 The Night Shift
  - 06:00 White Collar
  - 07:00 Drop Dead Diva
  - 08:00 Witches Of East End
  - 09:00 Complications
  - 10:00 The Night Shift
  - 11:00 Drop Dead Diva
  - 12:00 Coronation Street
  - 12:30 Coronation Street
  - 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
  - 14:00 Witches Of East End
  - 15:00 Live Good Morning America
  - 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
  - 18:00 Witches Of East End
  - 19:00 The Fosters
  - 20:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
  - 22:00 The Flash
  - 23:00 American Horror Story: Hotel

- OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**
- 00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
  - 01:00 Good Morning America
  - 03:00 Downton Abbey
  - 04:00 Blood & Oil
  - 05:00 Good Morning America
  - 07:00 Coronation Street
  - 07:30 Coronation Street
  - 08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
  - 09:00 Supernatural
  - 10:00 Coronation Street
  - 10:30 Coronation Street
  - 11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
  - 12:00 Resurrection
  - 13:00 Shark Tank
  - 14:00 Supernatural
  - 15:00 Survivor: Cambodia
  - 16:00 The Voice
  - 18:00 Shark Tank
  - 19:00 Supernatural
  - 20:00 Resurrection
  - 21:00 Shark Tank
  - 22:00 Downton Abbey
  - 23:00 Blood & Oil

- OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**
- 00:00 Ironclad: Battle For Blood
  - 02:00 The Liability
  - 04:00 The Outsider
  - 06:00 Jaws III
  - 08:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow
  - 10:00 Stranded
  - 12:00 Last Passenger
  - 14:00 Jaws: The Revenge
  - 16:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow
  - 18:00 The Prince
  - 19:45 Last Passenger
  - 21:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2

- OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**
- 00:00 A Single Shot-18
  - 02:00 Ninja: Shadow Of A Tear
  - 04:00 The Mistle-Tones-PG15
  - 06:00 Befriend And Betray-PG15
  - 08:00 Life After Beth-PG15
  - 09:45 The Past-PG15
  - 12:00 Next Goal Wins-PG
  - 14:00 Mercenaries-PG15
  - 16:00 Life After Beth-PG15
  - 18:00 Grudge Match-PG15
  - 20:00 Hot Pursuit-PG15
  - 22:00 Filth-R

- OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**
- 01:00 Outcast-PG15
  - 03:00 Guardians Of The Galaxy
  - 05:15 Curve-PG15
  - 07:15 Tinker Bell And The Legend Of The NeverBeast-FAM
  - 09:00 Brick Mansions-PG15
  - 11:00 Dragonheart 3: The Sorcerer's Curse-PG15
  - 12:45 The Imitation Game-PG15
  - 14:45 Get On Up-PG15
  - 17:00 Brick Mansions-PG15
  - 19:00 Lucy-PG15
  - 21:00 Madame Bovary-PG15
  - 23:15 The Gambler-18

- OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**
- 01:00 Das Boot: Director's Cut
  - 04:30 Lost Christmas
  - 06:30 A Civil Action
  - 08:30 The Butler
  - 10:45 The Man Who Would Be King
  - 13:00 A Civil Action
  - 15:00 The Nightmare Before Christmas
  - 16:30 The Butler
  - 19:00 The Immigrant
  - 21:00 Reds

- OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**
- 01:00 Egon And Donci
  - 03:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
  - 04:30 Mamma Moo And Crow
  - 06:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
  - 07:30 Ghatokchach - Master Of Magic
  - 09:30 The Dragon Pearl
  - 11:15 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
  - 13:15 Daddy I'm A Zombie
  - 14:45 Barse And The City Of Thieves
  - 16:00 Back To The Sea
  - 18:00 The Dragon Pearl
  - 20:00 Christmas Is Here Again
  - 22:00 Barse And The City Of Thieves
  - 23:30 Back To The Sea

- OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**
- 00:00 A Single Shot-18
  - 02:00 Ninja: Shadow Of A Tear
  - 04:00 The Mistle-Tones-PG15
  - 06:00 Befriend And Betray-PG15
  - 08:00 Life After Beth-PG15
  - 09:45 The Past-PG15
  - 12:00 Next Goal Wins-PG
  - 14:00 Mercenaries-PG15
  - 16:00 Life After Beth-PG15
  - 18:00 Grudge Match-PG15
  - 20:00 Hot Pursuit-PG15
  - 22:00 Filth-R

- OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**
- 00:00 The Liability-PG15
  - 02:00 The Outsider-PG15
  - 04:00 Jaws III-PG15
  - 06:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow
  - 10:00 Stranded
  - 12:00 Last Passenger
  - 14:00 Jaws: The Revenge
  - 16:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow
  - 18:00 The Prince
  - 19:45 Last Passenger
  - 21:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2

- OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**
- 00:00 The Dragon Pearl
  - 11:15 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
  - 13:15 Daddy I'm A Zombie
  - 14:45 Barse And The City Of Thieves
  - 16:00 Back To The Sea
  - 18:00 The Dragon Pearl
  - 20:00 Christmas Is Here Again
  - 22:00 Barse And The City Of Thieves
  - 23:30 Back To The Sea

- OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**
- 00:00 The Liability-PG15
  - 02:00 The Outsider-PG15
  - 04:00 Jaws III-PG15
  - 06:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow
  - 10:00 Stranded
  - 12:00 Last Passenger
  - 14:00 Jaws: The Revenge
  - 16:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow
  - 18:00 The Prince
  - 19:45 Last Passenger
  - 21:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2



- LAST PASSENGER ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD**
- 15:45 Brannigan
  - 17:35 Nobody's Fool
  - 19:20 Everybody's Fine
  - 21:00 Ricochet
  - 22:50 Les Miserables (1998)
  - 01:10 Kuffs
  - 02:50 Ricochet
  - 03:00 They Took Our Child, We Got Her Back
  - 04:00 When Life Means Life
  - 05:00 Campus Nightmares
  - 06:00 My Ghost Story
  - 07:00 Crime Stories
  - 08:00 Surveillance Oz
  - 09:00 Surveillance Oz
  - 10:00 I Killed My BFF
  - 11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
  - 12:00 Crime Stories
  - 13:00 Homicide Hunter
  - 14:00 I Survived
  - 15:00 I Killed My BFF
  - 16:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
  - 17:00 Crime Stories
  - 18:00 The First 48
  - 19:00 I Survived
  - 20:00 Homicide Hunter
  - 21:00 Crime Stories
  - 22:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
  - 23:00 My Haunted House
  - 00:00 The Haunting Of...
  - 01:00 The Ghost Inside My Child
  - 02:00 My Haunted House
  - 03:05 Calimero
  - 03:20 Zou
  - 03:30 Loopdidoo
  - 03:45 Art Attack
  - 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
  - 04:20 Calimero
  - 04:35 Zou
  - 04:45 Loopdidoo
  - 05:00 Art Attack
  - 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
  - 05:35 Calimero
  - 06:00 Loopdidoo
  - 06:15 Art Attack
  - 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
  - 06:50 Calimero
  - 07:00 Zou
  - 07:20 Loopdidoo
  - 07:35 Art Attack
  - 08:00 Calimero
  - 08:10 Zou
  - 08:25 Loopdidoo
  - 08:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
  - 09:05 Sofia The First
  - 09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
  - 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 Pirates
  - 12:00 Miles From Tomorrow
  - 12:25 Special Agent Oso
  - 12:40 The Hive
  - 12:50 Handy Manny
  - 13:15 Jungle Junction
  - 13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
  - 14:00 Sofia The First
  - 14:25 Doc McStuffins
  - 14:50 Henry Hugglemonster
  - 15:15 Zou
  - 15:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
  - 15:55 Loopdidoo
  - 16:10 Miles From Tomorrow
  - 16:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
  - 17:00 Sofia The First
  - 17:25 Jungle Cubs
  - 17:50 Aladdin
  - 18:15 Gummi Bears
  - 18:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
  - 19:05 Miles From Tomorrow
  - 19:30 Sofia The First
  - 19:55 Doc McStuffins
  - 20:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
  - 20:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
  - 21:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
  - 21:35 Sofia The First
  - 22:00 Jungle Cubs
  - 16:55 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything
  - 17:25 K. C. Undercover
  - 17:50 Supa Strikas
  - 18:15 Lab Rats
  - 18:40 Mighty Med
  - 19:10 Annedroids
  - 19:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
  - 20:00 Kirby Buckets
  - 20:25 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything
  - 20:55 K. C. Undercover
  - 21:20 Supa Strikas
  - 21:45 Lab Rats
  - 22:10 Mighty Med
  - 22:40 Super Matrak
  - 23:05 Super Matrak
  - 23:30 Boyster
  - 00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am KSA

- OSN MOVIES ACTION HD**
- 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
  - 07:25 K. C. Undercover
  - 07:50 Supa Strikas
  - 08:15 Lab Rats
  - 08:40 Annedroids
  - 09:10 Kirby Buckets
  - 09:35 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
  - 10:00 Rocket Monkeys
  - 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
  - 10:50 Boyster
  - 11:20 Pair Of Kings
  - 11:45 Pair Of Kings
  - 12:10 Lab Rats
  - 12:35 Lab Rats
  - 13:00 Phineas And Ferb
  - 13:30 Phineas And Ferb
  - 14:20 Kickin' It
  - 14:45 Kickin' It
  - 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
  - 15:15 Rocket Monkeys
  - 15:40 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
  - 16:05 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
  - 16:30 Kirby Buckets

- OSN MOVIES ACTION HD**
- 03:00 The Liability-PG15
  - 04:00 The Outsider-PG15
  - 06:00 Jaws III-PG15
  - 08:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow
  - 10:00 Stranded
  - 12:00 Last Passenger
  - 14:00 Jaws: The Revenge
  - 16:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow
  - 18:00 The Prince
  - 19:45 Last Passenger
  - 21:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION 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
  - 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
  - 11:00 Winx Club
  - 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
  - 12:12 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
  - 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
  - 17:00 Sanjay And Craig
  - 17:24 Harvey Beaks
  - 17:48 Breadwinners
  - 18:12 Henry Danger
  - 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
  - 19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
  - 19:24 Max & Shred
  - 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
  - 20:12 Harvey Beaks
  - 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
  - 21:24 Breadwinners
  - 21:48 Breadwinners
  - 22:12 Sanjay And Craig
  - 22:30 SpongeBob SquarePants
  - 23:48 Henry Danger
  - 00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
  - 00:36 Max & Shred
  - 01:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
  - 01:24 Sanjay And Craig
  - 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- sundance CHANNEL**
- 04:00 The Great Train Robbery Pt.2
  - 05:30 Choking Man
  - 06:50 Everest
  - 07:40 Marc Bolan: The Final Word
  - 08:35 ATP: All Tomorrow's Parties
  - 10:00 Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries
  - 11:00 Good Rockin' Tonight: Legacy Sun Records
  - 12:55 Les Paul: Chasing Sound
  - 14:25 Charge!
  - 16:00 All On The Line
  - 17:00 Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries
  - 18:00 Heartland
  - 19:40 Good Rockin' Tonight: Legacy Sun Records
  - 21:35 Les Paul: Chasing Sound



# CLASSIFIEDS



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

SHARQIA-1	TIME	RIDE ALONG 2	TIME
KUNG FU STYLE	1:00 PM		1:15 AM
KUNG FU STYLE	3:00 PM		
FORECLOSURE	5:00 PM	<b>FANAR-1</b>	11:30 AM
THE HATEFUL EIGHT	7:00 PM	DADDY'S HOME	1:30 PM
FORECLOSURE	10:15 PM	DADDY'S HOME	3:30 PM
THE HATEFUL EIGHT	12:15 AM	NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	6:30 PM
		NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	9:45 PM
		DADDY'S HOME	1:00 AM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>		<b>FANAR-2</b>	
THE 5TH WAVE	11:30 AM	THE HATEFUL EIGHT	11:30 AM
RIDE ALONG 2	1:45 PM	FORECLOSURE	2:45 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	3:45 PM	THE HATEFUL EIGHT	4:30 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	5:30 PM	FORECLOSURE	7:45 PM
THE 5TH WAVE	7:30 PM	THE HATEFUL EIGHT	9:45 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	10:00 PM	THE HATEFUL EIGHT	11:45 PM
THE 5TH WAVE	12:05 AM		
<b>SHARQIA-3</b>		<b>FANAR-3</b>	
THE REVENANT	12:30 PM	KUNG FU STYLE	12:15 PM
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD	1:30 PM	KUNG FU STYLE	2:15 PM
THE REVENANT	3:30 PM	THE REVENANT	4:15 PM
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	6:30 PM	THE REVENANT	6:15 PM
THE REVENANT	6:45 PM	THE REVENANT	9:15 PM
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	9:30 PM	THE REVENANT	12:15 AM
THE REVENANT	10:00 PM		
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	12:30 AM	<b>FANAR-4</b>	
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD	1:15 AM	RIDE ALONG 2	12:15 PM
		RIDE ALONG 2	2:15 PM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b>		RIDE ALONG 2	4:15 PM
KUNG FU STYLE	1:00 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	6:15 PM
KUNG FU STYLE	3:00 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	8:15 PM
KUNG FU STYLE	5:00 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	10:15 PM
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	7:00 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	12:15 AM
DILWALE - Hindi	7:00 PM		
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	10:15 PM	<b>FANAR-5</b>	
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD	1:30 AM	THE 5TH WAVE	11:30 AM
		THE 5TH WAVE	1:45 PM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b>		THE 5TH WAVE	4:15 PM
THE 5TH WAVE	12:45 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	6:45 PM
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DEAD	1:30 PM	THE 5TH WAVE	9:45 PM
THE REVENANT	3:30 PM	THE 5TH WAVE	12:45 AM
SOOGGADE CHINNI NAYANA -Telugu	3:30 PM		
THE REVENANT	6:30 PM	<b>MARINA-1</b>	
SOOGGADE CHINNI NAYANA -Telugu	6:30 PM	FORECLOSURE	1:00 PM
		THE 5TH WAVE	3:00 PM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b>		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		
NANNAKU PREMATHO-Telugu	4:45 PM	<b>MARINA-2</b>	
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

### Hiring of Accounts Supervisor PIA Kuwait

Pakistan International Airlines Kuwait is seeking to hire a Accounts Supervisor as per the below mentioned job specifications:-

Minimum Qualification: Graduate/B.Com with 2nd Division from a recognized University

Communication skills, Computer Skills MS-Office, Knowledge of Finance Supervisory Skills, Knowledge of Budgeting.

Fluent in English & Urdu. Arabic will be an advantage.

Experience: 05 Years relevant experience in a reputable Airline/organization

Maximum Age Limit: 33 years

Preferred Nationality: Pakistan

Transferable Kuwait Visa

Candidates meeting the above criteria may submit their latest CV, 01 recent Photograph on or before the due date: January 30, 2016, through email at kvuiuk@gmail.com. or at the following address:-

**COUNTRY MANAGER PIA KUWAIT**  
 Al Rashid Complex, Fahad Al Salem Street, Mezzanine Floor  
 Kuwait City, Kuwait  
 Tel: 00965-22428784/796/798  
 Fax: 00965-22401268



### CHANGE OF NAME

I Syed Abbas Ali S/o Syed Nazeeruddin holder of Indian Passport No. G2275319 Marathi Str, Akkayapalli R.V. Nagar, Kadapa, hereby changed my name to Syed Abbas Ali Syed Nazeeruddin. (C 5114) 20-1-2016

Passport No. K2095732, address: Seffipura Bada, Partapur, Banswara (Raj), hereby change my name to Akil Fakhruddin. (C 5113) 16-1-2016

**Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988**

Akil, holder of Indian

### Prayer timings

Fajr:	05:20
Shorook	06:43
Duhr:	11:59
Asr:	14:56
Maghrib:	17:16
Isha:	18:36



## RECRUITMENT Open Day

A leading Automobile importer in KUWAIT is looking for following positions in their Parts Department

- Counter Salesman
- Outdoor Salesman

- Minimum of 3 years experience in selling automotive parts, preferably commercial vehicles parts.
- Transferable residence
- Age between 25 to 45 years
- Good knowledge of areas in Kuwait for position 2
- Valid Kuwaiti Driving is a must for position 2

Location of interview  
 "Al Zayani (TATA Garage), Al Rai, Kuwait.  
 Contact Tel 24753971 "  
 Date 26.01.2016 from 9am to 4pm.

Interested candidates, meeting the above requirements may bring latest CV, Copy of Passport, Copy of Driving License, Copy of Work Permit (Izne Amal) and one passport size photo or send their CV with complete details to  
**hrjobz2012@ymail.com**

## Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 20/1/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05
SYR	343	Damascus/KAC	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05
DLH	635	Doha	01:35
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
CLX	784	Luxembourg	01:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30
KKK	6507	Istanbul	02:50
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05
RJA	644	Amman	03:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15
CEB	7694	Manila	03:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25
AGY	680	Alexandria	04:30
PGT	5620	Istanbul	04:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
OMA	641	Muscat	07:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	08:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30
KAC	344	Chennai	08:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:50
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
IRA	665	Shiraz	10:40
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:50
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:15
FDB	8055	Dubai	11:20
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30
AGY	684	Sohag	11:35
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55
KAC	204	Lahore	12:20
SAW	701	Damascus	12:20
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
IRM	1188	Mashhad	12:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50
IRC	6511	ABD	13:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15
IZG	4167	Mashhad	13:30
KAC	382	Delhi	13:50
KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50
IRC	526	Mashhad	13:55
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10
IRM	1186	Tehran	14:15
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30
KAC	672	Dubai	14:45

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

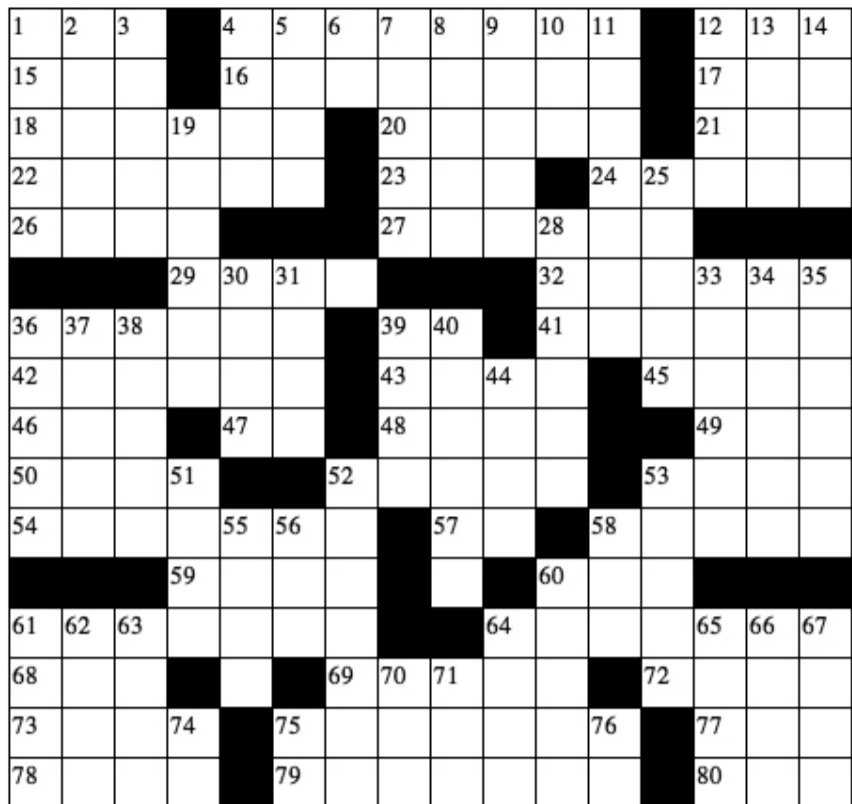
**In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats**

Departure Flights on Wednesday 20/1/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
MSC	404	Asyut	00:55
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55
MSC	416	Sohag	01:00
SYR	344	Damascus	01:10
KAC	283	Dhaka	02:10
THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
KAC	203	Lahore	03:05
CLX	784	GyD	03:15
KAC	381	Delhi	03:30
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
KKK	6508	Istanbul	03:50
PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55
OMA	644	Amman	03:55
FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
MSR	613	Cairo	04:10
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15
QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
THY	765	Istanbul	05:15
CEB	7695	Manila	05:20
AGY	685	Sohag	05:30
JZR	560	Sohag	06:10
PGT	5621	Istanbul	06:25
FDB	070	Dubai	06:30
JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
RJA	645	Amman	07:05
THY	771	Istanbul	07:05
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10
GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:30
QTR	1087	Doha	08:40
BAW	156	London	08:45
OMA	642	Muscat	08:55
JZR	1358	Mashhad	08:55
JZR	534	Cairo	09:15
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
KAC	117	New York	09:55
KAC	541	Cairo	09:55
JZR	482	Istanbul	10:00
KAC	561	Amman	10:00
KAC	671	Dubai	10:05
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25
KAC	175	Frankfurt/Geneva	10:30
KAC	501	Beirut	10:30
JZR	356	Mashhad	10:30
FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
KAC	153	Istanbul	10:40
QTR	1071	Doha	11:00
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
IRA	664	Shiraz	11:40
IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:50
FDB	8056	Dubai	12:10
AXB	890	Mangalore	12:15
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20
KAC	103	London	12:25
UAE	874	Dubai	12:30
AGY	681	Asyut	12:35
MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
KAC	545	Alexandria	13:25
MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
IRM	1189	Mashhad	13:40

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**



CROSSWORD 1143



ACROSS

1. A graphical recording of the cardiac cycle produced by an electrocardiograph.
4. Soviet physicist and dissident.
12. The residue that remains when something is burned.
15. A unit of conductance equal to the reciprocal of an ohm.
16. Variety of endive having leaves with irregular frilled edges.
17. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
18. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
20. An imaginary elephant that appears in a series of French books for children.
21. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
22. Coming next after the seventh and just before the ninth in position.
23. The United Nations agency concerned with international maritime activities.
24. Sports equipment that is worn on the feet to enable the wearer to glide along on wheels and to be propelled by the alternate actions of the legs.
26. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
27. Type genus of the Tetraonidae.
29. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
32. Very small free-living arachnid that is parasitic on animals or plants.
36. A city in central Tanzania.
41. Remove or make invisible.
42. A rectangular block of hewn stone used for building purposes.
43. Of a quality, as in.
45. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
46. The cry made by sheep.
47. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
48. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
49. An anxiety disorder characterized by chronic free-floating anxiety and such symptoms as tension or sweating or trembling of light-headedness or irritability etc that has lasted for more than six months.
50. (used as a sentenced connector) Therefore or consequently.
54. Cleansing agent consisting of soaps or detergents used for washing the hair.
57. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
59. A port city on the Caspian Sea that is the capital of Azerbaijan and an important center for oil production.
61. A Penutian language spoken by the Maidu people.
68. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
69. A mountain peak in the southern Sinai Peninsula (7,500 feet high).
72. Made from residue of grapes or apples after pressing.
73. (Greek mythology) The Muse of history.
74. A vessel (usually cylindrical) with a wide mouth and without handles.
78. A large oven for firing or burning or drying such things as porcelain or bricks.
79. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
80. A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.

DOWN

1. A person who acts as host at formal occasions (makes an introductory speech and introduces other speakers).
2. A seat for one person, with a support for the back.
3. Italian histologist noted for work on the structure of the nervous system and for his discovery of Golgi bodies (1844-1926).
4. A space reserved for sitting (as in a theater or on a train or airplane).
5. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
6. One thousand periods per second.
7. An established custom.
8. An edible seaweed with a mild flavor.
9. A mechanism that can move automatically.
10. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
11. Italian fashion designer (1946-1997).
12. A city in northern India.
13. Singing jazz.
14. Stable gear consisting of either of two curved supports that are attached to the collar of a draft horse and that hold the traces.
19. Any of a class of weakly acidic organic compounds.
25. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
28. Twist or braid together, interlace.
30. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
31. An aggressive remark directed at a person like a missile and intended to have a telling effect.
33. Popular music originating in the West Indies.
34. A Greek island west of Greece.
35. Quieten or silence (a sound) or make (an image) less visible.
37. The fourth month of the Hindu calendar.
38. God of wealth and love.
39. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
40. A cylindrical drawstring bag used by sailors to hold their clothing and other gear.
44. Agency of the United States government charged with mediating disputes between management and labor.
51. Fast-growing herbaceous evergreen tree of South America having a broad trunk with high water content and dark green oval leaves.
52. A lawyer who pleads cases in court.
53. An assertion of a right (as to money or property).
55. Sheet glass cut in shapes for windows or doors.
56. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
58. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
60. (Greek mythology) The last king of Troy.
62. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
63. A correctional institution used to detain persons who are in the lawful custody of the government (either accused persons awaiting trial or convicted persons serving a sentence).
64. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
65. A Hindu prince or king in India.
66. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
67. A very light brown.
70. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
71. Horny projecting mouth of a bird.
74. In operation or operational.
75. An informal term for a father.
76. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Starting new projects can be quite exciting since you can't wait to see what's next. Although your mind is on fire with lots of amazing ideas, you're not interested in jumping into an unstable set of circumstances just for the thrill factor. But you need to know that even the most brilliant plans you initiate now might not produce tangible results for at least another week. Take your time and make sure you're working toward sensible goals before you set out in a new direction.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You might think you are rounding a corner now and are ready to apply everything you know to get ahead at work. But even your most innovative plan will fail unless you can thoroughly ground it by taking the most practical approach. Leaning on your peers is tempting but only carries you so far. Even if you receive unexpected support today, you'll still be disappointed if you expect too much from others. Practicing self-sufficiency is the safest way to ensure your success.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your efforts may be for naught today, especially if you try to accomplish too much at once. You want to participate in every cool activity on your radar, but it's best to limit your involvement in projects that don't further your agenda. Trusting your initial impulse is dangerous now because you are likely to underestimate the resources needed to complete a task. Just do the best job you can without making promises that are impossible to keep. Say "less is more" until you believe it.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

It's tempting to fantasize your way to success because today's vision can grow into tomorrow's reality. However, the Moon's presence in your 12th House of Imagination gives you the wrong impression if you play out a familiar scenario in your mind and assume it will automatically occur. One way to take control is to color your mental pictures in with as much detail as possible. Adding specific pieces of information to your developing ideas facilitates bringing them into existence. Creating a viable plan is the most logical first step as long as it's followed by lots of determination and hard work.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

It seems as if your current life path is on a collision course with your dreams once you realize where you're going today. However, learning the truth is only the first step in a longer process that can help you break through blocked energy in a relationship. Free yourself from responsibilities you no longer need to carry by letting go of old habits and unhealthy patterns. Exercise your individuality and set yourself back on a realistic course that will lead you straight to your true goals.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your natural efficiency often separates you from others because you are less worried about social acceptance than you are about getting the details exactly right. Nevertheless, your pursuit of perfection could become a major obstacle on your way to finding happiness today, especially if you feel the pressure of being short on time. Sometimes it's wiser to be expedient rather than getting stuck struggling with the minutiae. The sense of pride you feel is so much more satisfying if you finish the job on time.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are certain your future holds the promise of success and you're willing to wait a little while longer if you think it will help you get what you want. Nevertheless, your patience is running thin and your desires are growing strong. Luckily, it's more constructive to be optimistic because you truly believe that your hard-earned rewards are right around the corner. Your positive attitude, in turn, directly impacts your chances for satisfaction.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Although channeling most of your energy into your career may be required these days, you still need to schedule a little downtime for yourself. The Sun's shift into conceptual Aquarius and your 4th House of Home and Family motivates you to downplay professional pressures so you can focus on more personal goals. Thankfully, slipping away from the office early won't raise any eyebrows or make you any less productive now. In fact, your newly found joie de vivre enables you to wrap up your work quicker than before.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You're conflicted about your options today, yet you know the importance of keeping your word. But with serious Saturn settled into your sign for the long haul, you're tired of being the one who rides to the rescue to bail someone out at the last possible moment. You're tempted to just let things fall apart now, but it's not a smart idea to abandon your commitments. Give it your absolute best shot to help those in need and then call it a day without trying to take responsibility for the actions of anyone else.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Making an appointment is easy today, but showing up for one may be a lot tougher. However, your current story is not about irresponsibility or disrespect. It's just that you might choose to avoid making commitments for a while because you believe it's wise to explore all your options now. Unfortunately, your newly found compulsion to keep a flexible schedule is counterproductive to your ambitions. Ironically, honoring a calendar gives your day the structure you need to achieve your goals.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You've been patient long enough; you're pacing the floors, anxious to make your move. The Sun's shift into your heady sign may find you sitting on pins and needles. The road ahead leads into unknown territory, which might surprisingly rattle your nerves. Fortunately, you can reduce the negative effects of your uncertainty by recognizing the pressure comes from within. Take all the time you need to determine your most intelligent course of action before you embark on the next amazing phase of your journey.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You don't want everyone to know your business now that the Sun is camping out in your 12th House of Secrets. Although there's no need to hide your emotional reactions from your friends, it's still prudent to use discretion when revealing your true feelings today. It's really not about the words you speak since people are able to read your intentions through your actions. Thankfully, you can contain your energy by simply monitoring your thoughts and carefully choosing which ones to share. Rely on your instincts to tell you the best time to bring others into your confidence.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

90's Songs 3

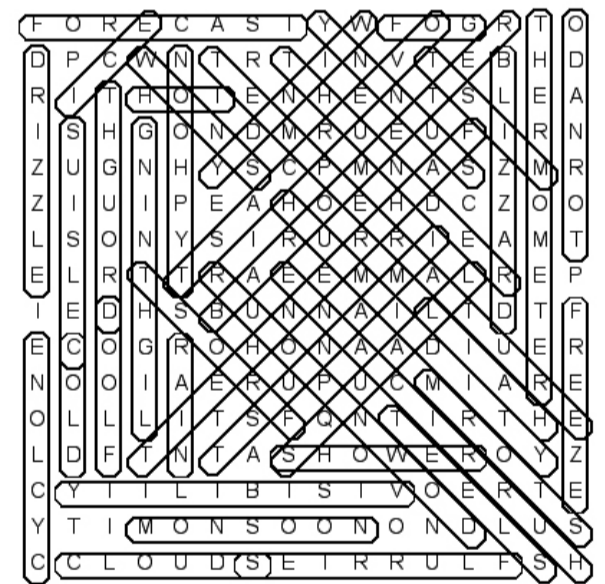
Find and circle all of the 1990's songs that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional song.

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

- |               |             |            |                |
|---------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| ANGELS        | HANDS       | LULLABY    | THE POWER      |
| ANOTHER NIGHT | HIGH ENOUGH | MIAMI      | THIS HOUSE     |
| BABY          | HOLD ON     | MY BODY    | TOGETHER AGAIN |
| BLACK         | HOOK        | ONE WEEK   | TOO MUCH       |
| CANDY RAIN    | HYPNOTIZE   | POISON     | TUBTHUMPING    |
| CUPID         | I BELIEVE   | REGULATE   | UNPRETTY       |
| DITTY         | IMPULSIVE   | RELEASE ME | WATERFALLS     |
| DREAMLOVER    | INSENSITIVE | SABOTAGE   | WHAT'S UP      |
| EVERY MORNING | IRONIC      | SHINE      | WHATTA MAN     |
| FLY AWAY      | JEREMY      | SHY GUY    | WILD NIGHT     |
| FORTUNATE     | KISS ME     | SWEET LADY | ZOMBIE         |
| FROZEN        | LAST NIGHT  | TEMPTATION |                |

Yesterday's Solution

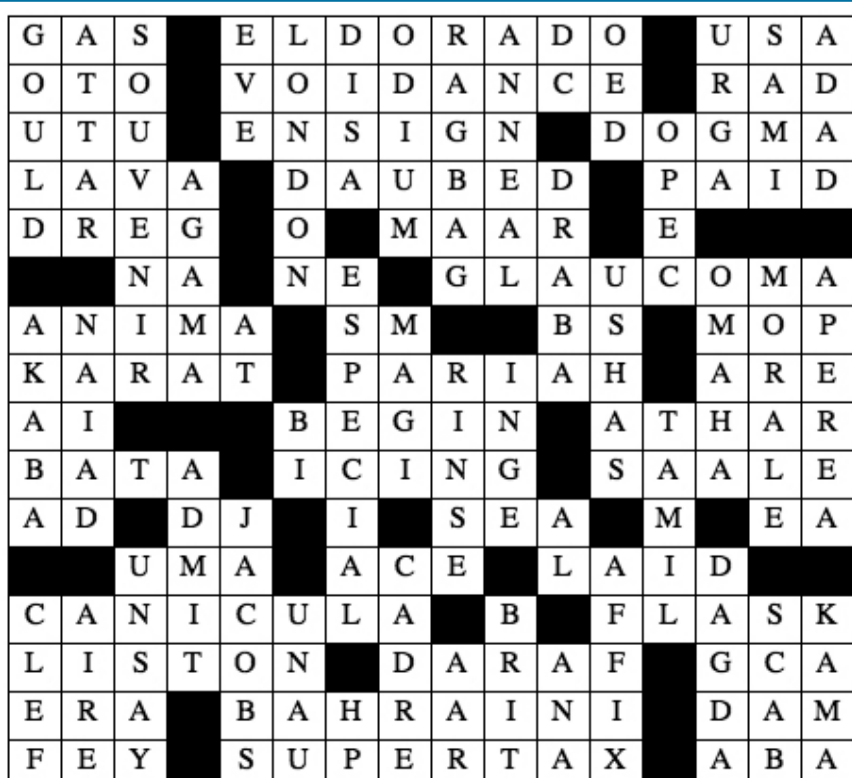
Weather



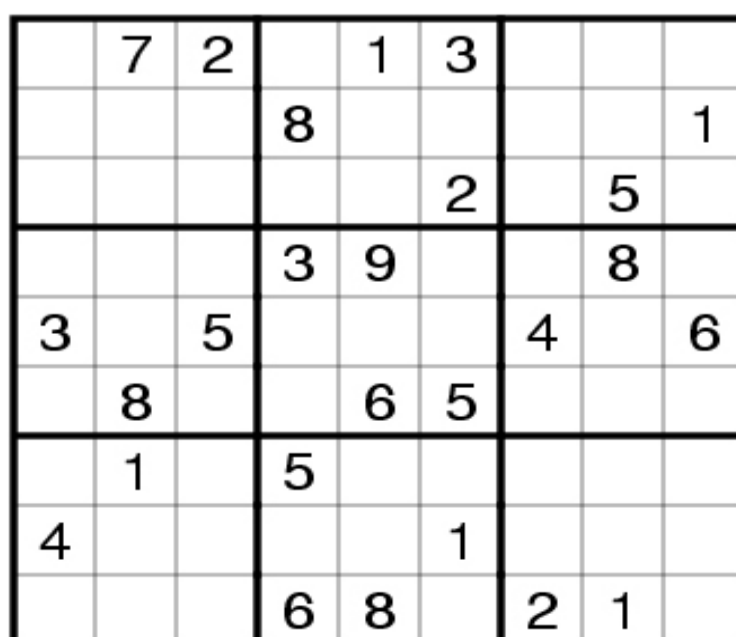
- |            |           |           |             |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| BAROMETER  | FLOOD     | ICE       | STORM       |
| BLIZZARD   | FLURRIES  | LIGHTNING | SUNNY       |
| CELSIUS    | FOG       | MIST      | TEMPERATURE |
| CLOUDS     | FORECAST  | MONSOON   | THERMOMETER |
| COLD       | FREEZE    | OVERCAST  | THUNDER     |
| CYCLONE    | FROST     | RAIN      | TORNAO      |
| DOWNPOUR   | HAIL      | SHOWER    | TSUNAMI     |
| DRIZZLE    | HOT       | SLEET     | TYPHOON     |
| DROUGHT    | HUMIDITY  | SNOW      | VISIBILITY  |
| FAHRENHEIT | HURRICANE | SQUALL    | WINDY       |

The hidden word is: PRECIPITATION

Yesterday's Solution

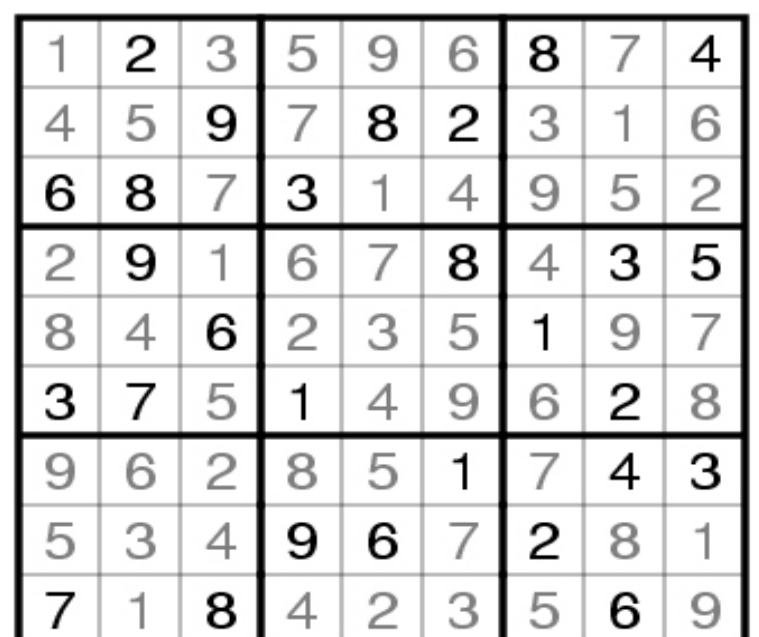


Daily SuDoku



very hard

Yesterday's Solution



hard





This file photo taken on April 24, 2014 shows an artist redrawing a Lascaux painting in a workshop in Montignac, southern France. — AFP photos

A worker completes the finishing touches on a facsimile at the future international cave arts museum, Lascaux IV.

The facsimile of a rock painting stored at the future international cave arts museum.

# French artists finish replica of 'magical' cave paintings

An army of artisans have laid down their paintbrushes, chisels and pigments after three years of painstaking work to create a true-to-life replica of renowned Stone Age cave paintings long hidden away in southwestern France. "Absolutely all the work you see on the wall has been engraved, worked and sculpted, chiselled by hand, with little paintbrushes and sometimes even tools used in dentistry," said Francis Ringenbach, the artistic director of the project to replicate the 18,000-year-old Lascaux cave paintings.

The meticulously faithful copy of what has been dubbed the "Sistine Chapel of prehistoric art" is now ready to be transported one segment at a time — 46 all together—and installed just down the road from the original at a site semi-buried in a hillside in Montignac, in the Dordogne region. The International Centre of Parital (rock wall) Art, 150 meters long (500 feet) and nine meters high, designed by Norwegian architectural firm Snohetta, will open by the end of the year.

The nearly 2,000 Upper Paleolithic wall paintings depicting rhinos, horses, bison, deer

and panthers make up Europe's most important collection of prehistoric art and were inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list in 1979. The caves, discovered in 1940 by four teenagers, quickly became a massive tourist draw, with around a million people flocking to see the work of the oldest known modern humans, who came to Europe from Africa via Asia. Authorities closed them to the public in 1963 out of concern over the danger posed by humans to the delicate micro-climate.

A limited set of reproductions have been on display in Montignac since 1983, while Chicago's Field Museum hosted the first exhibit outside France of copies of the paintings last year titled "Scenes from the Stone Age". The 57 million-euro (\$65 million) project to replicate the entire set has married cutting-edge technology with a desire for the utmost authenticity in the reproduction. Ringenbach, himself a sculptor, says the need to be as faithful as possible to the original slowed the team down. "Sometimes one has to spend hours reproducing just 10 square centimeters (1.5 square inches)," he says.



Painters work on a facsimile from the bull room, a famous painting of the Lascaux cave.

**A 'magical' feeling**  
The artists benefitted from 3D digital scans of the original paintings that were projected onto the walls, creating a task akin to using tracing paper as they applied layer upon layer of natural pigments. Chief painter Gilles Lafleur said of the original works: "We try to understand them really, to understand how and why they were painted this way." But he admits that "time has taken its toll and these animals don't look the way they would have when they were painted. Time has had a visible impact, so we must also recreate that." Ringenbach says he doffs his cap to the talent of our ancient forebears who only had rudimentary tools to create their masterpieces. "They were extraordinary technicians, reproducing animal likenesses from memory with their highly vivid movements," he marvels. Reproducing the originals is, he says, a "magical" feeling. Whereas the smaller-scale original museum could give only "limited insight" into the site's significance, "here, we reach a whole new level in terms of helping people to understand what Lascaux represents for science, the history of art, prehistory." — AFP

## Hunt for stolen Kashmir sapphire takes mysterious turn

When Geneva-based jeweler Ronny Totah received an offer last November to view a rare Kashmir sapphire set for auction with an asking price of up to \$12 million, his jaw dropped. The large glimmering blue sapphire pictured in the prospectus from the Phillips auction house was, he was convinced, a gem his company once owned before it was audaciously snatched from a Milan hotel nearly two decades earlier.

"I looked at the certificate, and I had this feeling. I said to myself: 'That's it. That's it,'" he told AFP in an interview last week. The story reads like the plot of a mystery novel, with a multitude of twists and turns, a second disappearance and yet unresolved ending centered around a New York pawn shop. It all started in 1996, when the Horowitz & Totah (H&T) jewelers had offered for auction a Cartier bracelet bearing a stunning 65.16-carat unheated Kashmir sapphire with an unusual elongated cushion-cut.

On November 14 that year, days before the anticipated sale in Geneva focused exclusively on Cartier jewels, auction house Antiquorum displayed the pieces at the Four Seasons hotel in Milan. According to Swiss daily Le Temps, more than 50 people were in the viewing room when the bracelet, the main attraction of the show, vanished.

### 'A shock'

"It was terrible. It is always a shock when you get robbed," Totah said. H&T's insurers dished out the \$1.8 million—the price they had expected to fetch at the time—and Totah and his colleagues put the uncomfortable incident behind them. Until November 8, 2015, when he received an email from Phillips offering a Geneva viewing of a 59.57-carat Kashmir Sapphire ahead of an auction in New York. Totah did not view the stone, but studied the certificate carefully. Considering "there are basically no stones with this origin, weight and shape out there ... it is 'very, very, very probably' the stolen H&T sapphire," he said.

The fact that the gem in the prospectus was a little smaller than the one stolen 19 years earlier did not make Totah less suspicious, since jewel thieves will often file down a stone to alter its weight or shape. He suggested the sapphire being offered by Phillips had been filed down to just under the 60-carat mark to make it less spectacular and noteworthy. Renowned US gem expert Donald Palmieri agreed. "The Stolen H&T Sapphire and the Subject Sapphire that Phillips intended to auction are much more likely than not to be one and the same stone, albeit after an apparent re-cutting or re-polishing," he said in an affidavit. He pointed out that in his 45-year career, "I have never seen evidence of a faceted Kashmir sapphire approaching or exceeding 60 carats in weight," besides those "two" stones.

Soon after receiving the viewing invitation, Totah contacted Phillips to voice his suspicions, and also put in a call to his insurers, who had become the rightful owners of the stolen gem. But when the insurers contacted Phillips, they learned that the auction house had withdrawn the sapphire from the sale, and sent it back to its alleged, undisclosed owner in New York.

### Pawn broker

Worried the stone had vanished again, the insurers hired New York lawyer Owen Carragher to help track it down. According to court filings, he determined that a company named Auction House 43, based in New York's diamond district, had presented the sapphire to Phillips for auction. The firm is owned by a Boris Aronov, who also owns a number of other companies, including Modern Pawn Broker, listed at the same address.

Court filings indicate that the pawn broker received the sapphire and other jewels from a man named Rafael Koblenz in 2011 as collateral for a \$3.75-million loan. Koblenz, who according to Le Temps is in fact a business partner of Aronov, failed to repay the loan, offered at an annual interest rate of 60 percent or more than \$6,000 a day. Modern Pawn foreclosed and said his collateral would be sold at auction, court documents showed. — AFP

This handout picture released on January 14, 2016 by the Office of the Public Prosecutor of Geneva shows a detail of an Etruscan sarcophagus in Geneva. — AFP photos



## Switzerland returns looted archaeological treasures to Italy



A detail of an Etruscan vase.

Switzerland has returned to Italy 45 boxes of ancient Etruscan art stolen during illegal excavations and stashed away for more than 15 years, including two rare sarcophaguses, authorities. "The antiques were given back to Italian authorities today," a statement from Geneva's public prosecutor's office said. Italy had asked the wealthy Alpine country for assistance in 2014 to track down a stolen Etruscan sarcophagus that was believed to have transited through the toll- and customs-free zone that makes up the Geneva Free Ports.

"The search led by prosecutor Claudio Mascotto ... at the Geneva Free Ports revealed an unexpected treasure," the statement said. Two rare Etruscan earthenware sarcophaguses, with beautifully sculptured lids representing a reclined man and woman, were found in a warehouse at the Free Ports, along side "many other invaluable archaeological remains".

"The prosecutor ordered the seizure of the sarcophaguses first, then extended the decision to all items, considering their suspected illegal provenance," it said. Among the items were delicately painted bas-reliefs, vases and fragments of decorated vases, frescos, heads, busts, and several other votive or religious pieces, it added. The mysterious, seafaring Etruscan civilization ruled swathes of the Mediterranean until it was swallowed up by Rome in the first century BC. The antiques had been brought to Geneva by a former high-profile British art dealer, previously



A detail of an Etruscan sarcophagus, linked to trading looted antiquities, the prosecutor's office said, without divulging the art dealer's name.

The artefacts had remained stored in the warehouse for more than 15 years, registered under the name of an off-shore company, it said. An Italian expert had concluded that the artefacts came from illegal excavations mainly carried out in the Umbria and Lazio regions, and Italian investigators linked some of the items to so-called tombaroli, or tomb raiders, they already had in their sights. — AFP



A detail of an Etruscan sarcophagus.



# Eagles guitarist Glenn Frey dead at 67

Guitarist Glenn Frey, who helped make The Eagles one of the most successful acts in US rock history with hits such as "Hotel California," died Monday. He was 67. "It is with the heaviest of hearts that we announce the passing of our comrade, Eagles founder Glenn Frey, in New York City," the Grammy Award-winning band wrote on its website. Frey died of complications from rheumatoid arthritis, acute ulcerative colitis and pneumonia, The Eagles said. "We are all in a state of shock, disbelief and profound sorrow," fellow Eagle Don Henley said in a statement.

"He was the spark plug, the man with the plan. He had an encyclopedic knowledge of popular music and a work ethic that wouldn't quit." The Eagles, fronted by Frey and drummer-vocalist Henley, dominated the American rock charts throughout the 1970s with hits including "Take It Easy," "One of These Nights" and "Hotel California"—songs that endure as cover-band classics to this day.

The Eagles pioneered the West Coast sound of laid-back, country-tinged rock that dominated early 1970s American pop and saw a changing cast of core members throughout the decades. The Eagles' 1975 greatest hits collection has sold more than 29 million copies in the United States, more than any album except Michael Jackson's "Thriller," according to the Recording Industry Association of America. The Eagles had been due in December to receive the prestigious Kennedy Center Lifetime Artistic Achievement award but the band said it would postpone its appearance by a year due to Frey's health.

## Triumphs and tensions

Frey was born in Detroit on November 6, 1948, the son of a machinist. The rock group was founded in the early 1970s and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1998. Its



File photo shows musicians Glenn Frey, left, and Don Henley, of the Eagles, perform at Madison Square Garden in New York. — AP

six Grammys range from Record of the Year in 1977 for "Hotel California" to Best Pop Instrumental Performance in 2008 for "I Dreamed There Was No War." The Recording Academy, which presents the Grammys, in a statement called Frey's death "a huge loss for the music community," saying he was "an integral part of one of the most storied bands in pop history." The Eagles split following a 1980 political benefit concert that exposed disagreements within the band. The tensions had been exacerbated by drugs and alcohol, although the band members did not have the same bad-boy image as some of their peers. "We weren't the Stones, but we weren't the Osmonds either. Somewhere in between," Frey

told CBS television's "60 Minutes" in 2007, referring to the notoriously rough-living Rolling Stones and the Mormon family singers The Osmonds. Pressed on where The Eagles stood on the spectrum, he replied: "Closer to the Stones than The Osmonds—that's right." Frey stayed cryptic until the end about the meaning of "Hotel California," which was generally seen as a wide-eyed account of the state's excesses by two transplants but has long inspired elaborate theories on potential alternative meanings. In a 2003 interview with the San Francisco Chronicle, Frey said that vagueness was the "primary tool of songwriters." "I've seen fire and I've seen rain," Frey said, quoting a line from contemporary James Taylor. "What the hell



This file photo taken on October 16, 2013 shows Glen Frey and Don Henley of the Eagles performing during "History Of The Eagles Live In Concert" at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee. — AFP

does that mean? But it works, it means whatever the listener wants it to mean."

## Perfectionist until end

Frey and Henley pursued successful solo projects in the 1980s but reunited as The Eagles in 1994. The Eagles last performed together in July last year in Louisiana, capping two years of touring that followed a documentary on the band. Frey "was like a brother to me; we were family, and like most families, there was some dysfunction," Henley said. "The bond we forged 45 years ago was never broken, even during the 14 years that the Eagles were dissolved." The band's website added: "Words can neither describe our sor-

row, nor our love and respect for all that he has given to us, his family, the music community and millions of fans worldwide."

Voices from across the music community chimed in to wish Frey farewell. "Glenn Frey, you will be sorely missed. Thank you for all you gave us," folk-pop singer Sheryl Crow wrote on Twitter. Fellow Detroit-born rocker and frequent collaborator Bob Seger told Billboard magazine that Frey was a perfectionist and the driving force behind The Eagles. Seger said that every time he saw Frey in recent years he would tell him, "Isn't it amazing, Bob, we're still doing this at our age? I am so grateful that these fans keep coming out." — AFP

## Star of film about dolphin killing detained at Tokyo airport

The star of the Oscar-winning documentary "The Cove," about a dolphin-killing village in Japan, has been detained by immigration authorities at Tokyo's Narita international airport. Ric O'Barry, the former dolphin trainer for the "Flipper" TV series, said immigration officials barred him at the airport Monday and told him he couldn't enter Japan on a tourist visa because he wasn't a tourist, according to his lawyer, Takashi Takano.

Takano said officials accused O'Barry of having close ties with the anti-whaling group Sea Shepherd, which O'Barry denies. O'Barry is the director of Dolphin Project, which is dedicated to the protection of dolphins worldwide. Immigration officials said it is their policy not to comment on individual cases. Takano said he appealed the detention, and that the Japanese government will decide whether to allow

O'Barry into the country or deport him. The timing of the decision isn't clear, but is expected within the next several days. Takano said O'Barry's treatment sent a negative message about Japan.

"It seems to show Japan does not allow critical views," he said. "The Cove," which won the 2009 Academy Award for best documentary, shows dolphins being herded into a cove in the fishing village of Taiji and then speared and bludgeoned to death. "The Japanese government is cracking down on those who oppose their war on dolphins," O'Barry said in a statement sent by email to The Associated Press through his son, Lincoln O'Barry. Officials in Taiji, a small village in central Japan, and fishermen have defended the hunt as traditional, saying that eating dolphin meat is no different than eating beef or chicken. — AP



In this Nov 2, 2010, file photo, Ric O'Barry, a leading global dolphin activist whose efforts to save dolphins is documented in the Oscar-winning film 'The Cove,' speaks to the media in Taiji, western Japan. — AP

## McLean arrested for domestic violence

Don McLean, the author and singer of the enigmatic hit song "American Pie," was arrested Monday for domestic violence in the state of Maine, US media reported. The 70-year-old was detained without incident after police responded to a call at his residence in the city of Camden, local news affiliate Fox411 said, quoting the city police chief. He was then taken to nearby Knox County Jail and released on bail, it said. Celebrity gossip website TMZ reported that bail had been set at \$10,000. McLean is scheduled to appear in court on February 22.

"American Pie" was named the fifth greatest song of the 20th century by the Recording Industry of America and the National Endowment of the Arts, and was also inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2002. The original manuscript for the 1971 song sold at



an auction in New York in April for \$1.2 million. McLean said he wanted to release the lyrics to help people understand the true meaning of the song, which depicts turbulent upheavals of the latter half of the 20th century. — AFP



This file photo taken on November 28, 2012 shows English musician and singer-songwriter Gordon Sumner known by his stage name Sting, as he performs during a concert in Beirut. — AFP

## Sting, Peter Gabriel announce joint North America tour

Two of Britain's most influential rock artists, Sting and Peter Gabriel, yesterday announced a tour of North America that will include collaborations on each other's songs. The 19-date "Rock Paper Scissors" tour will open June 21 in Columbus, Ohio and include headlining slots at two festivals, the Festival d'Ete de Quebec in Quebec City and Summerfest in Milwaukee. Gabriel and Sting, who first toured together in the 1980s to support Amnesty International, have stayed active in recent years but have focused on side projects as much as their own work.

On the tour, Gabriel and Sting will perform

both separately and together on stage. "I'm very happy that we're taking the chance to experiment this way. I think people will be intrigued; I certainly am," Sting said in a statement. Both artists fronted popular bands in the 1970s—Gabriel was a founder of Genesis and Sting led The Police. Gabriel in particular has focused on experimentation as a solo artist and founded Real World Records and the WOMAD festival to bring a greater audience to international artists. Sting, who merged reggae into pop music with The Police, recently wrote a Broadway musical, "The Last Ship," that had mixed commercial success. — AFP



In a Thursday, June 25, 2015 file photo, Jada Pinkett-Smith arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "Magic Mike XXL" at the TCL Chinese Theatre. — AP

## Calls for boycott of Oscars grow over diversity of nominees

Amid calls for a boycott of the Academy Awards over its all-white acting nominees and Spike Lee and Jada Pinkett Smith both announcing they would sit out this year's ceremony, the academy's president said it was time for major changes - and soon. Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences President Cheryl Boone Isaacs issued a statement promising more diversity, and quickly, after both Lee and Pinkett spoke out Monday. In a lengthy Instagram post, Lee said he "cannot support" the "lily white" Oscars. Noting that he was writing on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lee - who in November was given an honorary Oscar at the Governors Awards - said he was fed up: "Forty white actors in two years and no flava at all," he wrote. "We can't act!"



In a Tuesday, Dec 1, 2015 file photo, Spike Lee attends the premiere of "Chi-Raq" at the Ziegfeld Theatre, in New York.

In a video message on Facebook, Pinkett Smith also said she wouldn't attend or watch the Oscars in February. Pinkett Smith, whose husband Will Smith wasn't nominated for his performance in the NFL head trauma drama "Concussion," said it was time for people of color to disregard the Academy Awards. "Beggining for acknowledgement, or even asking, diminishes dignity and diminishes power," she said. "And we are a dignified people and we are powerful." She added: "Let's let the academy do them, with all grace and love. And let's do us differently." The video had amassed 4.5 million by mid-Monday afternoon.

## 'Disappointed'

Last year's all-white acting nominees also drew calls for a boycott, though not from such prominent individuals as Lee and Pinkett Smith. Whether it had any impact or not, the audience for the broadcast, hosted by Neil Patrick Harris, was down 16 percent from the year prior, a six-year low. Isaacs has made a point of presenting

a more inclusive show this year. The Feb 28 broadcast will be hosted by Chris Rock and produced by "Django Unchained" producer Reginald Hudlin and David Hill. On Saturday, Rock, unveiling a new promotion for the broadcast, called the ceremony "The White BET Awards." When Oscar nominations were announced Thursday, Isaacs acknowledged she was "disappointed" that all 20 acting nominees were again white and promised to "continue the conversation" on diversity. Isaacs has worked to diversify membership for the academy, which a 2012 study by the Los Angeles Times found is overwhelmingly white and male. But on Monday, Isaacs was more explicit and promised an examination of the academy and a more intense drive to diversify. "This is a difficult but important conversation, and it's time for big changes," she said in a statement released Monday night. "The Academy is taking dramatic steps to alter the makeup of our membership. In the coming days and weeks we will conduct a review of our membership recruitment in order to bring about much-needed diversity in our 2016 class and beyond."

## Viewed as racist

Many awards handicappers expected nominations for Idris Elba of "Beasts of No Nation" and Benicio Del Toro for "Sicario." The N.W.A. biopic "Straight Outta Compton" also failed to earn a best picture nomination, despite some predictions it would. Ryan Coogler's acclaimed Rocky sequel "Creed" scored a nomination only for Sylvester Stallone. (Lee's own movie, the Chicago gang violence hip-hop musical "Chi-Raq" - celebrated by some and scorned by others - also went unnoticed.) The hashtag "OscarsSoWhite," created last year, was quickly resurrected online following the nominations. The Rev. Al Sharpton - who last year met with former Sony head Amy Pascal following leaked emails that some viewed as racist - on Friday lambasted the academy.

"Hollywood is like the Rocky Mountains, the higher up you get the whiter it gets and this year's Academy Awards will be yet another Rocky Mountain Oscar," said Sharpton. In his post, Lee made it clear the Academy Awards is only part of the problem in an industry with deep-rooted diversity issues. In his Governors Awards speech, Lee said, "It's easier to be the president of the United States as a black person than to be the head of a studio." "The Academy Awards is not where the 'real' battle is," wrote Lee. "It's in the executive office of the Hollywood studios and TV and cable networks. This is where the gatekeepers decide what gets made and what gets jettisoned to 'turnaround' or scrap heap. This is what's important. The gatekeepers. Those with the 'green light' vote." — AP



This file photo shows singer Axl Rose of Guns N' Roses as he performs at The Joint inside the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino during the opening night of the band's second residency, "Guns N' Roses - An Evening of Destruction." — AFP

## Guns N' Roses announce new reunion shows in Las Vegas

Hard rock legends Guns N' Roses yesterday announced two more concerts for their reunion, which is shaping up to be one of the year's most coveted tickets. Guns N' Roses were revealed earlier this month as the headliners for California's Coachella festival, with singer Axl Rose and guitarist Slash performing together after 23 years. The band announced on its website that it would also play on April 8 and 9 at the new T-Mobile Arena that is opening on the Las Vegas Strip.

The concerts threaten to steal some thunder from Coachella as they will come before Guns N' Roses take the stage at the festival on April 16 and April 23. Coachella, one of the world's most prominent and profitable festivals, takes place over two consecutive weekends. Tickets quickly sold out after the lineup announcement. Guns N' Roses roared onto the global music scene in 1987 with "Appetite for Destruction," which remains the top-selling US debut album ever.

The band won critical praise for merging Rose's soaring range and raw anger with Slash's intricate guitar, but the pair also had well-publicized off-stage tensions. The original lineup last played together in 1993 in Argentina at the end of the "Use Your Illusion" tour, although Rose kept leading Guns N' Roses without Slash. The Los Angeles rockers are believed to have long received multimillion-dollar offers for a reunion. — AFP



# Milan designers

## look to the future and past



Milan designers looked both to the future and the past to create contemporary looks for men next winter and fall. The fashion world continued its heartfelt tributes to David Bowie, celebrated as an icon in the music, art and fashion worlds alike, the



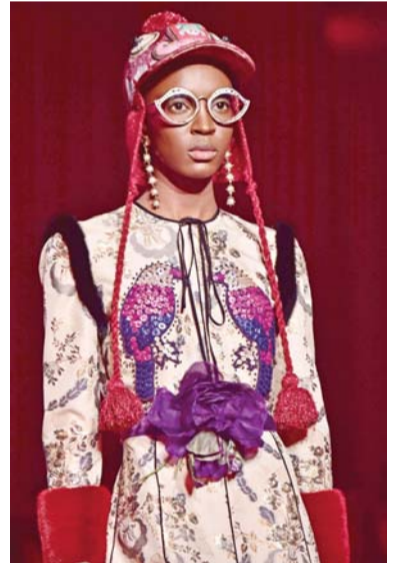
and Woodstock motifs on T-shirts, a theme that he elaborated later into a Charlie Brown sweater, and a crinkly Western cowboy shirt with boot-leg jeans. But the boyhood lens also picked up on the adult world, and there was floral tapestry that became coats and suits, crocheted capes and hats that suggested a loving hand, and cozy pajamas with floral embroidery. Each memory was also elaborated: colorful totems were applied

he intends to include in a film for the fall/winter 2016/2017 collection. Some highlights from Monday's shows, including looks from Gucci, Emporio Armani, Ermanno Scervino, Fendi and Canali.

### Fragmented beauty

Creative director Alessandro Michele created a dreamlike backdrop to unpack a chest full of 1970s memories for his latest Gucci menswear collection. The looks were presented under a reddish light in the freshly red-carpeted disused train depot that the designer, now in his second year at Gucci, has claimed as his theater. "These are my aesthetic memories that in the end are completely different from yours, but it's an idea to work after," Michele said backstage after his menswear preview for next fall and winter.

His runway-realized memories speak of a happy boyhood, with a Sherlock Holmes-style detective cape and cap, this one with crocheted ear covers; Snoopy



remembrances touching in their understated persistence. Giorgio Armani opened his Emporio Armani show with notes from the singer's "Space Oddity," while Gucci creative director Alessandro Michele created a jacket with "Bowie" printed boldly on the back that he said

to the back of floral jackets; knitted hats had whimsical ears or fantastical monster faces; detective capes came in striking red, rich fur and classic plaid.

The looks were finished with a mélange of rings, beaded necklaces,

some with pendants, and headbands with a hand motif. Michele also reinterpreted classic 1970s Gucci. A golden handbag was realized with glittery Gucci red-and-green stripes. The Gucci trench was white, worn with a dramatic red hat. Michele's show notes were intimidatingly titled "Poetic Reactivation," and cited three philosophers, one French, one German, and one Russian. Backstage, he said the starting point for the collection was the idea of "fragmented beauty" that he took from the late Walter Albi, one of the pioneers of Italian ready-to-wear. "I love the idea that there is an energy in every single thing you do, and every single piece that you put on the clothes. Everything is very precious," Michele said.



Models present creations for fashion house Giorgio Armani during the Men Fall - Winter 2016 / 2017 collection shows.

Models present creations for fashion house Gucci during the Men Fall - Winter 2016 / 2017 collection shows at the Milan's Fashion Week in Milan. — AP/AFP photos





Models present creations for fashion house Giorgio Armani during the Men Fall - Winter 2016 / 2017 collection shows.

Milan Fashion Week



**Urban acceleration**  
The Emporio Armani man is urban and sleek, able to move easily in his metropolitan environment. He has a well-defined geometry, but also fluidness. There is no excess, just the essential. Giorgio Armani used new technology to bond materials for his line aimed at more youthful dressers, creat-



ing new forms and a futuristic feel. More formal double-breasted jackets were worn with fluid pleated trousers, while bonded denim trousers were wide and stiff, paired with a matching jacket for an almost robotic effect. A shawl jacket had a casual diagonal zipper worn with athletically cut pants. The designer adorned trouser legs with laser-cut squares and shirts with clusters

of triangles, creating emblems that wouldn't be out of place on a space shuttle. The color scheme was likewise regimented, stone grays, forest green and deep blue, with fabrics sometimes taking on the speckled effect of granite, or a repeating Escher geometrical pattern in a

print. There was just one flash of color, a teal blue and magenta tie. Shoes were thick-soled, while bags were pragmatic large backpacks and shoppers. Armani announced his futuristic intent at the opening of the runway show, sending out a team of snowboarders outfitted in tin-foil silver snow parkas paired with swirling black, white and gray leggings. Perhaps the out-of-this world look was in its way another Bowie tribute.

**Sporty elegance**

Ermanno Scervino's collection for next winter takes a trajectory from sporty to elegance. That's not only the looks but the artistic method. Scervino built on his expertise with lace to create elegant, dressy coats out of embroidery, weaving strands of thread together as if macramé to create swirls of movement with an Astrakhan effect. The three-quarter length sleeves were finished in fur. What's more, the coat is equally fetching on a woman

as a man, as Scervino demonstrated by sending both down the runway together.

The designer took glam to new heights with crystal-encrusted fabric, which he fashioned into knee-length coats, trousers and a side-wrap dress. What's good for the goose is good



Models wear creations for Ermanno Scervino men's Fall-Winter 2016-2017 collection.





# Milan

## Fashion Week

**Lush and plush**  
Life is pretty plush at Fendi, with a model gliding down the carpeted spiral staircase in a soft plaid overcoat-cum-day robe with matching trousers to the soothing tones of soul music. Think of Jack Nicholson playing golf in his robe, one of the references on Silvia Venturini Fendi's mood board backstage. Fendi's looks for next winter were all about soft, cozy comfort, right down to the pleasantly lush accessories: A parka with yellow fur trim was paired with a large yellow, furry bag. Plaids and checks on jackets, pants and bags created a homey feel, and Fendi boldly paired mohair jackets with matching pants, for a definite Fozzie Bear feel. The

look got even more cozy with a bell-shaped hat. Fendi emblazoned T-shirts, jackets and accessories with a text bubble with Fendi inside, as the brand latches on to the digital conversation. And the designer also created her own emojis, otherwise known as Fendi Faces, by positioning, for example, downcast eyes over a bag's latch standing in as the mouth. One leather coat cleverly placed eyes on each elbow, giving a wink to whoever is walking behind the wearer. The attention to detail and luxury were clearly evident in a shearing coat with a check pattern created with the same inlaid leather techniques perfected by the fashion house. — AP

Models wear creations for Ermanno Scervino men's Fall-Winter 2016-2017 collection.



Models wear creations for Fendi men's Fall-Winter 2016-2017 collection.

## Indian acid-attack survivor becomes face of fashion brand

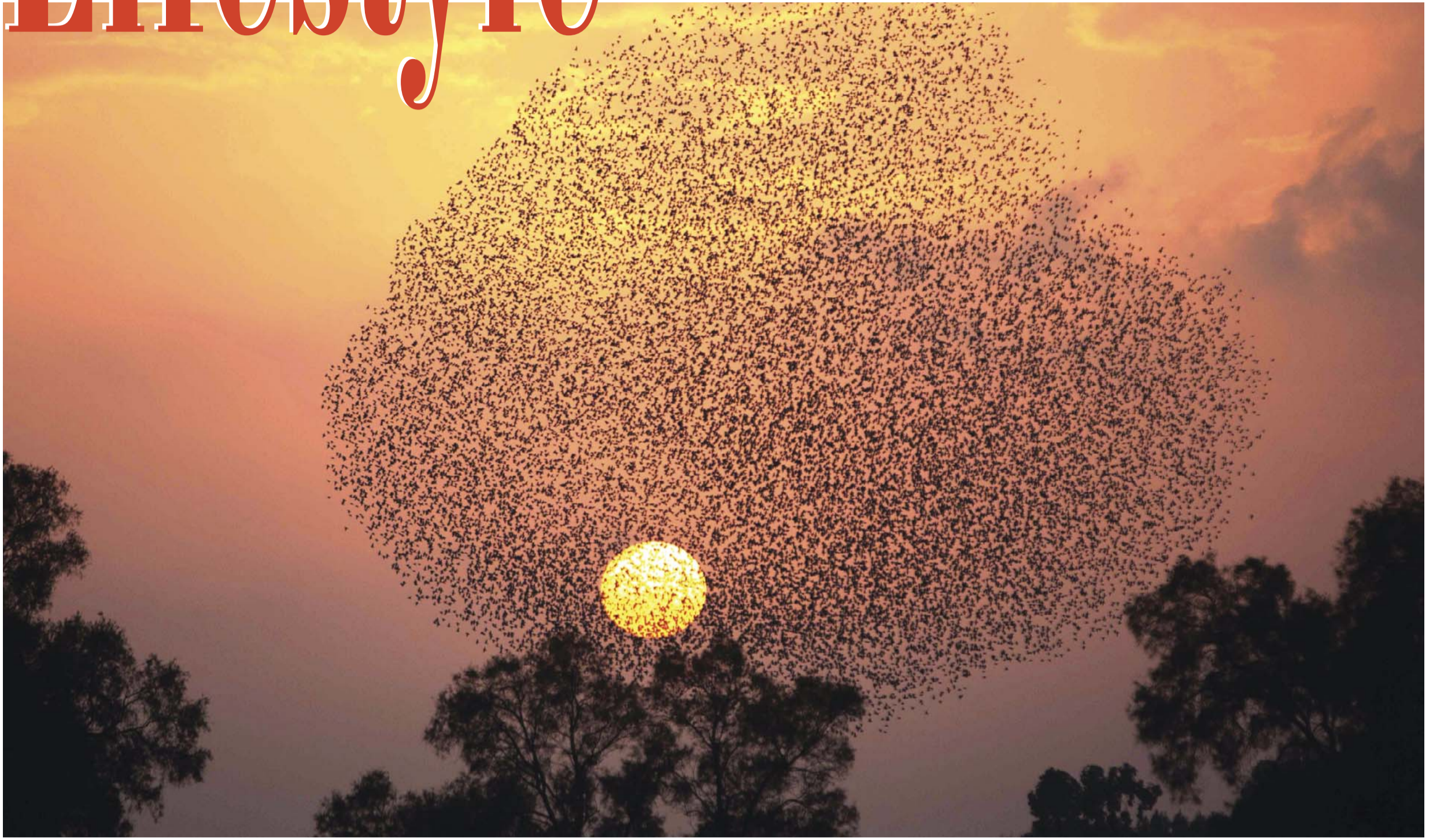
An acid-attack survivor in India has been made a model for a fashion brand, drawing attention to the crime in the country with one of the highest rates of acid violence in the world. Laxmi, who goes by one name, features in an advertising campaign for a new range of apparel from Viva N Diva in an initiative the company said is aimed at raising awareness of those who have lost their physical beauty to acid attacks. A video clip titled 'Face of Courage' shows Laxmi being made up and then striding down the catwalk while smiling at the cameras, her scarred face in focus. "We had seen some pictures of other acid-attack survivors, and we thought, if we can create an opportunity for even one of them, it would be worth-

while," said Manan Shah, managing director at Viva N Diva in Surat, in the western state of Gujarat. "We have received a very good response and we hope other companies will follow the example." Globally, there are as many as 1,500 recorded acid attacks every year, with more than 1,000 cases estimated to occur in India alone. However, many attacks go unreported because victims are too afraid of reprisals to come forward. Attackers frequently target the head and face to maim, disfigure and blind the victims. Despite the severity of the crime, acid remains easily available in India, where it is used in the manufacture and processing of cotton and rubber, even after a 2013 Supreme Court order to curb sales.



Last year, the court ruled that victims should receive free medical treatment and a minimum compensation of 300,000 rupees (\$4,500). Laxmi, who was 15 when she was attacked by a 32-year-old man whose advances she had spurned, has petitioned the court for a complete ban on the sale of acid. She received an International Women of Courage Award from US First Lady Michelle Obama in 2014. "We want to bring acid-attack survivors into the mainstream world, and this campaign shows it is possible," said Alok Dixit with the Chhanv Foundation in New Delhi, which has led a campaign to stop acid attacks. "It shows even survivors can be seen as normal." — Reuters





A picture shows a murmuration of starlings performing their traditional dance before landing to sleep near the village of Tidhar, in the northern Negev desert. — AFP

## Breed-your-own insect 'revolution' for the kitchen



Katharina Unger (left) and Julia Kaisinger (right) are pictured with their "Hive", a machine to produce edible mealworms. — AFP photos

A seething mass of larvae in the kitchen is not everyone's cup of tea, particularly for squeamish Westerners. But for two young Austrian entrepreneurs, it's a food revolution that can help save the planet. Katharina Unger and Julia Kaisinger, 25 and 28, have developed a device to breed in the comfort of your own home the protein-rich grubs of the meal beetle, to then eat. "With this current design you can make 200-500 grams (seven to 18 ounces) of mealworms every week," Unger told AFP at a recent tasting and fundraising event in Vienna. "You freeze them and then you make them like any other type of meat. You can cook them, roast them, make them into burger patties and mix them into sauce for pasta," she said. Into the top of the sleek, white "desktop hive" go pupae which then hatch into adults.

In the next section, the "loveshack", the insects mate and their eggs fall into the next layer. Helped by a controlled microclimate, the eggs hatch into larvae which gradually grow and descend to a drawer at the bottom where, around three centimeters (an inch) long and plump, they are "harvested". "Our team eats them almost every day," Unger said, showing off some of her creations—Greek salads topped by toasted grubs, quinoa-and-mealworm meatballs and even chocolate (and worm) cake.

### Scorpion lollipops

Eating insects—entomophagy—is not new. Humans have been doing so for thousands of years and today they are a common food in many developing countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania. The UN Food and



Katharina Unger (left) and Julia Kaisinger (right) are pictured with salads with mealworms from their "Hive".

Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that insects form part of the traditional diets of at least two billion people, with more than 1,900 species reportedly enjoyed worldwide. In Europe, Romans and ancient Greeks ate them—Aristotle was partial to cicada larvae—and some European cheeses, like mimolette in France or the Sardinian casu marzu, contain or use insects.

A few insect restaurants have sprung up in Europe and North America in recent years, and some products, ranging from salt-and-vinegar crickets to lollipops with scorpions (actually arachnids), are available. But for the most part, Westerners generally see bugs as a nuisance, not as nutrition. This is a shame, Unger said, since insects are not only tasty but a more sustainable source of protein than traditional farmed livestock—and are vital to

feeding the world's growing population.

"Compared to beef you need only 10 percent of the land to grow mealworms and you need only around a quarter of the feed that it typically takes to grow the equivalent amount of beef," she said. Indeed a 2013 by the FAO noted the "huge potential" of insects, not only for feeding people but also livestock, although it cautioned more research was needed.

### The yuck factor

The mealworms are also nutritious, containing the same amount of protein as beef, more vitamin B12 than eggs and more fibre than broccoli, according to Unger and Kaisinger's firm, Livin Farms.

Alexandra Palla, a well-known Austrian food blogger present at the recent tasting

event, plans to post a recipe of risotto with mealworm, calling the taste "nutty, or mushroomy", but "not spectacular". But she said that it will take some time for people in Europe to get over the "yuck" factor and really embrace creepy-crawlies as food. "The first step is mentally to get over the fact that you are eating an insect. Once you eat them you realize they're not so bad," she told AFP. "It's about getting rid of the fear."

"I think in the future everyone will eat insects, or at least almost everybody," predicted Kaisinger, the co-founder of Livin Farms, which already has 200 pre-orders for its \$499 (459 euros) hives. "People actually consume around half a kilo (about a pound) of insects every year without knowing it, from tiny traces in chocolate to orange juice and the like." — AFP



Chocolate cakes with mealworms from the "Hive".



Salted mealworms as snack from the "Hive".



Roasted and salted mealworms as snack from the "Hive".



A mealworms salad from the "Hive".