

Govt mulling alternatives to cutting budget spending



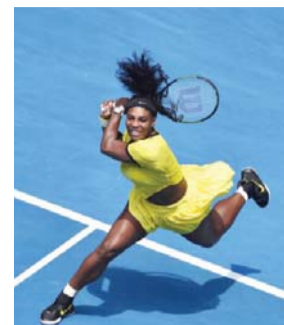
Pope urges Iran to act for peace in Middle East



Malaysia clears PM in scandal, says Saudis gave 'donation'



Djokovic, Federer to meet in semis, Serena thumps Sharapova



## ASSEMBLY TO HOLD DEBATE ON SUBSIDY CUTS ON FEB 9

DEFICIT VS RESERVES DISCUSSED • NOD TO MONOPOLY, AGENCIES LAW



Min 03°  
Max 13°  
High Tide 01:05 & 14:48  
Low Tide 08:27 & 20:23



150 FILS  
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40 PAGES



KUWAIT: Security forces hold a military exercise on Failaka Island yesterday, dubbed "Decisive Deterrence 5", part of interior ministry's efforts to enhance the performance and preparedness of security forces. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 4)

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly yesterday agreed to hold a special debate on Feb 9 to discuss government plans to lift or reduce subsidies on public services and fuel. The government is expected to brief the Assembly with the recommendation of a study by an international consultant agency proposing raising the prices of petrol, electricity and water as part of a comprehensive reform program.

Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh told reporters the government program deals with rationalization of subsidies and economic reforms to stimulate the private sector and national economy as a whole. The minister refused to say if the issue has been settled and the raising of charges is only a matter of time and is awaiting the debate in the Assembly, saying that the issue will be decided along with the Assembly. Saleh said that the difference between Kuwait and other Gulf states, which have taken decisions to raise prices to face the budget deficits, is that the Kuwaiti government has constitutional obligations.

HH the Amir last week told editors of local dailies that the government will increase the price of petrol, electricity and water. Saleh also said that the government has calculated revenues in next fiscal year's budget at an oil price of just \$25 a barrel, sharply lower than the \$45 price adopted in the current fiscal year 2015/2016 which ends on March 31.

During an earlier closed door session in parliament, the Assembly also discussed the performance of the Kuwait Investment Authority and the conditions of financial reserves.



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomes Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi at the airport yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 3)

Continued on Page 13

## GOV CALLS FOR NEW BUS STOPS WITH AC, WI-FI

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Hawally Governor Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf has made a proposal to Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Communications Essa Al-Kandari, to build special bus stops jointly with KPTC that suit Kuwait's climate in all the governorate's areas. In his proposal, Sheikh Ahmad sug-

gested that the new bus stops should provide wi-fi access and be air-conditioned so that passengers could enjoy their waiting time and be protected from weather conditions including extreme heat in summer and cold and rain in winter. The governor also suggested using modern international designs to replace the current open-air and outdated bus stops.

## OPEC WON'T CUT OUTPUT ALONE

KPC TO INVEST \$100BN OVER 5 YEARS

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil ministers said yesterday that OPEC will not cut production unless producers outside the cartel do the same, despite the plunge in crude prices. "OPEC cannot cut its production unless there is a similar reduction by producers outside OPEC," Kuwait's acting oil minister Anas Al-Saleh, told reporters on the sidelines of an oil conference. "I don't see any logic in OPEC cutting production while non-OPEC (countries) don't cut," Saleh said.

Iraqi Oil Minister Adel Abdulmahdi said Baghdad was "ready to cooperate" on cutting production to raise oil prices, but only if non-OPEC producers did so as well. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has refused to cut production despite a drop in oil prices to 13-year lows. Led by Gulf producers, the cartel is refusing to reduce crude output as it seeks to

drive less competitive players, including US shale producers, out of the market. Oil prices rose above \$30 a barrel yesterday after a brief dip as the market was beset with worries about the global supply glut.

Abdulmahdi and Saleh said they were willing to back an emergency meeting of OPEC, but only if an agenda were agreed in advance. "It is useless to go to a meeting without deciding up front. We said yes if others are willing to go but we have to decide before, otherwise this will backfire on us. We have to go forward - I think the market needs that but we also look at our partners outside OPEC to do the same," Mahdi said. The Iraqi minister told the Energy Strategy Forum that at the current crude price, the majority of producers are selling oil at lower than the cost price.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: Iraqi Oil Minister Adel Abdulmahdi (center), Kuwaiti Finance Minister and acting oil minister Anas Al-Saleh (left) and deputy chairman and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Nizar Al-Adasani are seen at the Energy Strategy Forum yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Layali Al Khayyam

Iranian Restaurant

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KUWAIT: Cabinet Affairs Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah (center), Commerce Minister Yousuf Al-Ali (fourth from left), and other officials attend the 2nd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (GET-2016).— Photos by Joseph Shagra



(From left) Commerce Minister Yousuf Al-Ali, Cabinet Affairs Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union Houlin Zhao and Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority Chairman Salim Al-Othaina open an exhibition held on the sidelines of the forum.

## GOVERNMENT MULLING ALTERNATIVES FOR CUTTING BUDGET SPENDING: MINISTER 'GET-2016 SEEKS TO GIVE ICT CRUCIAL ROLE IN DISASTERS'

**KUWAIT:** The government is currently immersed in studying alternative economic approaches to dealing with reining in national budgetary expenditure, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said yesterday.

The government is looking at re-pricing such commodities as electricity, water, and gasoline in such a way that it would curb their flagrant misuse by some, he said in a statement to reporters, on the sideline of a 2nd international forum on dealing with life-endangering emergencies and how to deal with them promptly.

He said the government was very serious about balancing the budget in view of looming economic realities all over the world, noting that the government has already taken steps to trim down the economic perks that ministers and top administrators in the government enjoyed, including junkets.

He emphasized that in the event of decid-

ing to raise prices of electricity or water, the government would first consult with the lawmakers on that and that the best way to deal with belt-tightening measures would be one in which both executive and legislative branches saw eye-to-eye.

On the forum, he said it was being held to determine the proper use of technology, including information technology, to deal with natural disasters and national emergencies of any kind. The 2nd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (GET-2016): 'Saving Lives' started yesterday with the participation of 193 countries, ending on January 28, 2016.

### Tangible policies

The event discusses drawing up tangible policies and practical arrangements to give the sector a pivotal role in all phases of a disaster; early warning, preparedness and relief, response and finally rehabilitation, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Communications Hameed Habib Al-Qattan said at the opening. Participants will also

address a "sustainable smart development model" and the relevant role of partnerships and financing, in addition to latest developments in the ICT field, he added.

Qattan stressed the necessity of reactivating contacts and joint action among local, regional and international, as well as non-government organizations, on disasters and emergencies, especially intensifying efforts to enhance awareness on the role of ICT for bolstering social security, and pre-emptive plans to face disasters.

In 1998, Kuwait signed the Tampere Convention out of a belief on the necessity of promoting ICT, Al-Qattan said, referring to a host of projects being carried out here such as the Optical fiber being carried out.

### CITRA's start

Meanwhile, Chairman and CEO of the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) Salim Al-Othaina announced that the authority's actual take-off

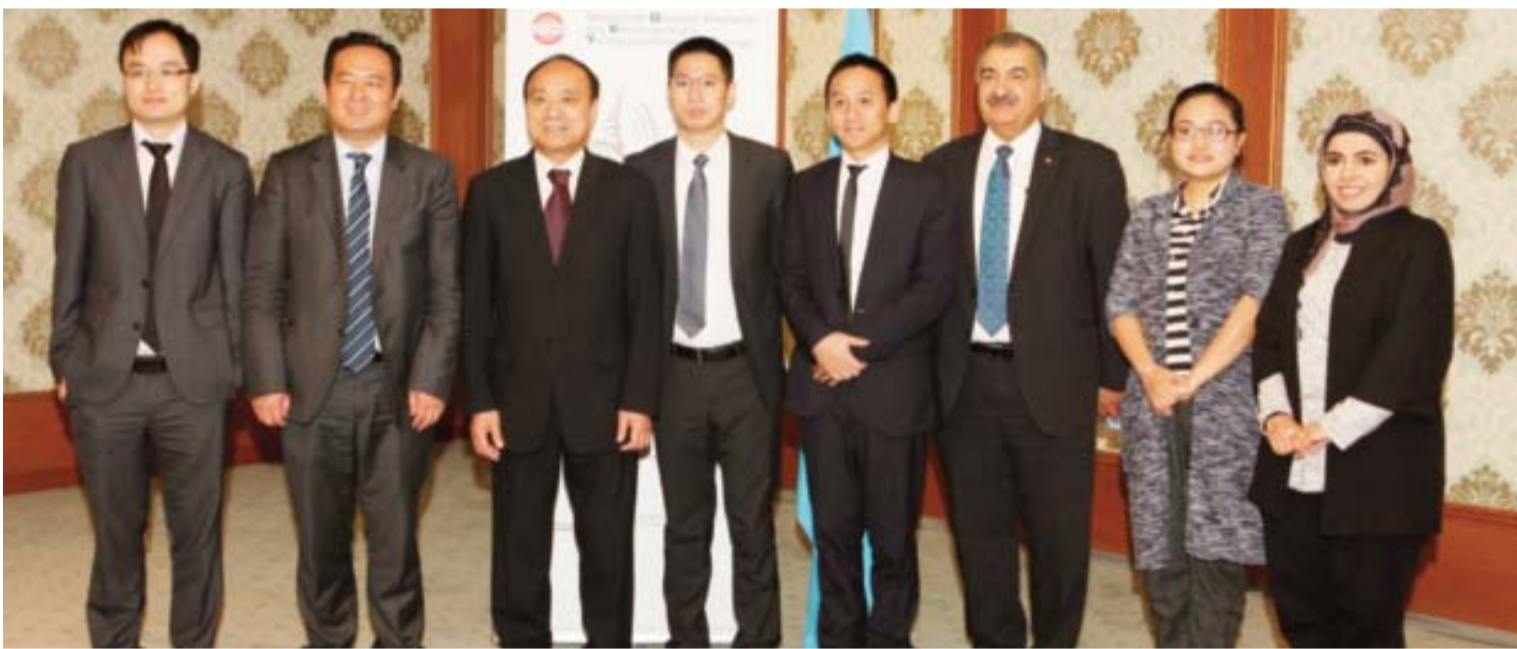
will be on February 2, marking a new stage in this field in Kuwait.

In his address at the forum, Othaina added that Kuwait has recently issued a decision establishing CITRA's keenness on promoting the information and communications technology (ICT) sector. Othaina noted that the event acquires special significance as it is the first to be held after the New Sustainable Development Agenda adopted by 193 UN Members last September. According to the CITRA chief, GET goals cannot be achieved without joint efforts of the world countries and specialized organizations, especially humanitarian and relief ones. He referred in this respect to Kuwait's eagerness for embracing humanitarian activities, and providing assistance to the needy around the globe.

Othaina pointed to the UN honoring of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a 'Humanitarian Leader' and Kuwait as a 'Humanitarian Center'. In addition, Kuwait has been offered an appreciation award

from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) after taking part in the recent 13th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) that took place in Hiroshima, Japan.

The three-day GET-2016 organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by the Government of Kuwait, sponsored by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. It serves as an international platform to discuss international Emergency Telecommunication policy and disaster risk reduction topics. It will feature discussions on pertinent topics such as disaster preparedness, the Smart Sustainable Development Model initiative, the role of partnerships and financing, alongside country case studies and new developments in technology and innovation. According to Othaina, more than 190 countries are taking part in the major ICT event. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (third from left) is pictured with officials on the sidelines of the 'GET-2016' forum. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

## GET-2016 GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR KUWAIT TO DEVELOP TECHNOLOGY: ITU SECRETARY-GENERAL

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Huawei is participating in the 2nd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (GET-2016) taking place from January 26-28 at Regency Hotel. On the sidelines of the forum, Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), told Kuwait Times that the forum is a great opportunity for Kuwait to develop its technology. "The Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications is a very special event. We are very pleased to be part of it and the second workshop that has more than 500 experts participating," he said.

"We were participating in many tech events in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries such as Oman, Qatar and the UAE. We are here to provide the world with the latest technology that will help manage and control emergency services, water supplies, power networks and food distribution chains, supporting healthcare, education, government services, financial mar-

kets, transportation systems, and avoiding medical disasters such as Ebola," he said, highlighting the importance of ITU's technology.

Zhao said that ITU is preparing to provide 5G radio access, teleconferencing and new security technology. "We were very pleased to see the biggest stand in the exhibition is by Huawei. We saw the latest technology already deployed and ones which are ready to deploy in the region. Also we were impressed to see Huawei's new video surveillance system based on the latest H.265 coding technology. With this new technology, you can enjoy videos on your mobile phone comfortably and easily," he said.

### Three sectors

Zhao said that ITU has three sectors covering specific areas of ICT activity, which is radio communication, telecommunication standards and telecommunication development. He added that ITU is unique among UN agencies in having both public and private sector membership.

ITU is the United Nations specialized agency

for information and communication technologies - ICTs. ITU was founded in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union. In addition to 193 member states, ITU membership includes ICT regulators, many leading academic institutions and some 700 tech companies including Huawei. It allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develop the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.

Zhao started as Secretary-General of the ITU in 2015. He born in 1950 in Jiangsu, China. He graduated from Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications, and holds an MSc in Telemetric from the University of Essex in the UK. From 2007 to 2014, he served as ITU Deputy Secretary-General, supporting the work of the Secretary-General, principally in terms of day-to-day management, including human resources, financial administration, improving efficiency, and working to help broaden ITU's membership, particularly in terms of academic institutions.

## HUAWEI ADDRESSES TECHNOLOGY'S ROLE IN PUBLIC SAFETY AT GET

### INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS POWER SAFER CITIES

**KUWAIT:** Huawei - a leading global information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider - is set to address how public and private sectors can leverage the latest technology to provide more effective public safety services for citizens. These discussions are taking center stage at the Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (GET) from 26-28 January 2016.

Cities across the Middle East, including Kuwait, are placing greater emphasis on intelligent public safety solutions for incident prevention, emergency response and video-analysis, all of which are powered by more reliable communication systems and devices.

The three day GET 2016 event, which is organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by the Government of Kuwait, serves as an international platform to discuss international Emergency Telecommunication policy and disaster risk reduction topics.

Discussions will be held on pertinent topics such as disaster preparedness, the Smart Sustainable Development Model initiative, the role of partnerships and financing, alongside country case studies and new developments in technology and innovation.

As part of the GET 2016 event agenda, a delegation of Huawei experts will be in Kuwait to highlight its understanding and expertise in utilizing innovative ICT to make Safe Cities smarter. Huawei will also be demonstrating how the government and local organizations in Kuwait can mitigate public safety challenges and enable a smarter Kingdom with the use of its Public Safety ICT solutions.

Huawei emerging technologies such as VideoCloud, big data analytics and Software-Defined-Networking (SDN) can help to provide more secure and flexible solution that accommodates future requirements, support more agile business and improve operation capabilities for public safety.

that is open, agile, provides mission critical communication support and are highly secured form key components of ensuring Public Safety."

Huawei are partners with prominent global entities, who together work on providing end-to-end public safety solutions for government and private sector organizations. Under the umbrella of Huawei's Public Safety technology portfolio, the ICT provider will showcase its Safe City solution comprising solutions that include its Emergency Command Control Systems, Intelligent Surveillance Systems (IVS), Vehicle Management System encompassing infrastructural solutions, 4G/eLTE Broadband Trunking Solution and Big Data Analysis System.

To date, Huawei has successfully implemented solutions worldwide to help build greater levels of Public Safety for more than 60 cities in more than 30 countries serving more than four million citizens.

### ICT solutions portfolio highlights:

Huawei's innovative Safe City solution ensures better situational awareness and improves agencies capabilities. Before an incident happens for instance, the solution is installed with smart sensors and 360-degree omnidirectional capabilities. When the incident takes place, the solution also has smart decision-making capabilities that help to increase response rates. After an incident happens, the solution provides smart clue analyzing capabilities that result in improving levels of efficiency when it comes to solving each case.

Intelligent Surveillance systems (IVS) form a critical component of Safe City solutions and require secure, searchable, and efficient storage. Huawei's Video Cloud Surveillance (VCN) Huawei Video Content Management (VCM) Solutions supports video sharing across departments and regions, enabling remote access, online query and browsing, and fast clue and smart evidence collection.

Huawei's advanced and cutting edge 4G LTE-based Broadband Trunking solution supports Mobile Emergency and Critical Communications that helps governments improve incident prevention, management, multi-media dispatching and rescue operations - maintaining greater levels of public safety.

Emergency Command Control Systems form the core of the entire safe city solution. Converging multi-source information into a common operating picture in a centralized single location, the solution maximizes operational efficiency ensuring that everything is sensible and accessible everywhere and anytime. This will help to overcome the big challenge of emergency handling by delivering the right information to the right people at the right time in the right way.

### More intelligent

"Cities across the region are already becoming more intelligent, interconnected and changing the ways that citizens, governments and businesses interact. Guaranteeing public safety through more integrated and innovative communication technology is essential for agencies that are responsible for the lives of its citizens and workforce," said Mohammad Allataifeh Director of Public Safety and Safe City, Huawei, Enterprise, Middle East. "To meet these shared ambitions for the future, we look forward to being able to exchange and share our insight on what we believe is our vision for safer cities. With our commitment to helping governments across the region, we believe that technology innovation

## ZAIN OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF WINTERLAND CARNIVAL

### IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PAYS

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its official sponsorship of Winterland Carnival. The outdoor event, which comes in partnership with the Public Authority for Youth and Sport (PAYS), offers an opportunity to enjoy the winter season from 24 January to 1 March 2016 in Mubarak Al Abdullah Area (West Mishref - next to ACK) from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm daily.

Just like every year, Zain offers customers and the people of Kuwait a wide variety of entertainment activities and programs during the national celebrations period in February. The company is committed to draw smiles on people's faces by sharing the joys of various occasions through supporting unique initiatives and projects that cater to the whole family.

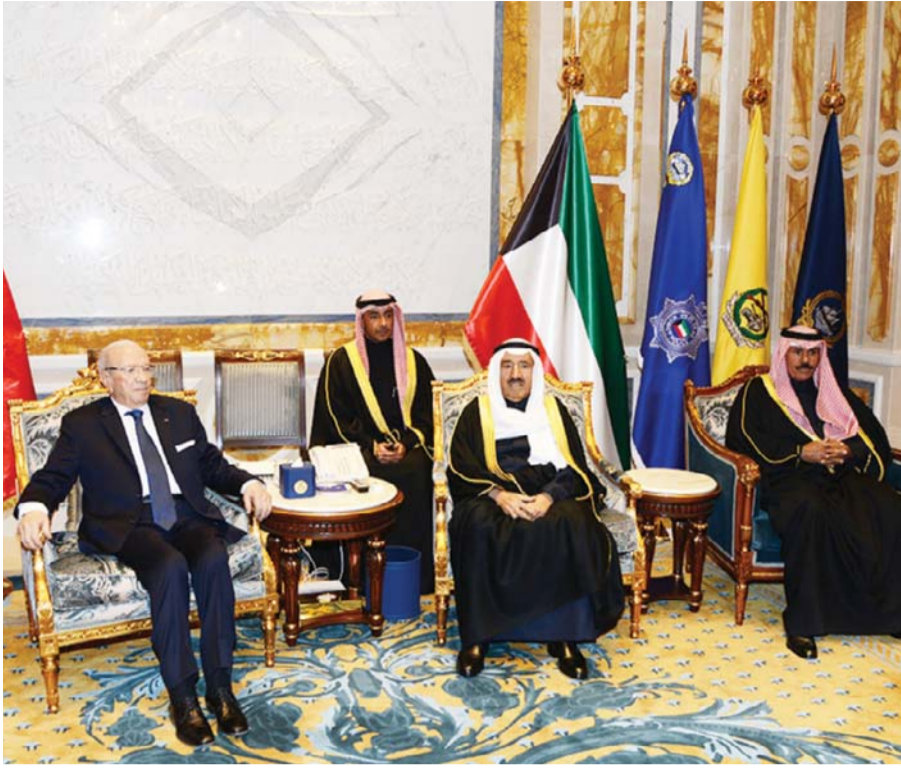
Winterland Carnival comes during Kuwait's most active outdoor season, and offers visitors a wide range of fun and exciting activities,

including Kuwait's first outdoor ice skating rink across 392m2, horse carriage rides, air balloons challenge, paintball competitions, archery, life-size foosball, football matches, and much more.

Zain will be present at the carnival through its dedicated booth, where the company will showcase its latest offers and services to customers and visitors. Winterland Carnival will also witness the hosting of many street performers, as well as feature a food and restaurants lounge area. Moreover, many local and home businesses will showcase their products and services through the booths area.

Zain has long considered itself as a key partner of the Kuwaiti society, especially during national celebrations. The company has engraved national celebrations as part of its firm corporate social responsibility strategy, continuing to draw smiles on people's faces during important occasions.





**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi shortly after Essebsi's arrival to Kuwait. —Amiri Diwan photo



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Rahma Hussain Al-Zaabi.**

## AMIR, TUNISIAN PRESIDENT HOLD OFFICIAL TALKS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, accompanied by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, held summit talks with Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi at Bayan Palace yesterday.

The talks were also attended by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, while the official delegation accompanied Essebsi represented the Tunisian side.

Deputy Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah said in a statement the two sides discussed ways of cementing bilateral relations and cooperation, as well as issues of mutual interest. The talks, he added, were held in a cordial atmosphere.

Earlier, an agreement was signed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Tunisian Ministry of Finance, in presence of Essebsi. The agreement was inked by KFAED Director General Abdulwahab Al-Bader and Tunisian Minister of

Finance Salim Shaker.

Essebsi and his accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait yesterday on a two-day official visit. On arrival, Essebsi was received by His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and His Highness the Prime Minister.

The delegation was also received by Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, in addition to senior state officials, and senior police, army and National Guard commanders. The mission of honor to accompany the Tunisian President during his visit is headed by Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Abulhasan. The Tunisian delegation includes Foreign Minister Khamis Al-Joheinawi, Minister of Finance Salim Shaker and Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries Saad Seddik, as well as a host of senior state officials. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives a golden sukuk celebrating the 10th anniversary of his assumption to power from Central Bank Governor Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel.



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Central Bank Governor Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel.** —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

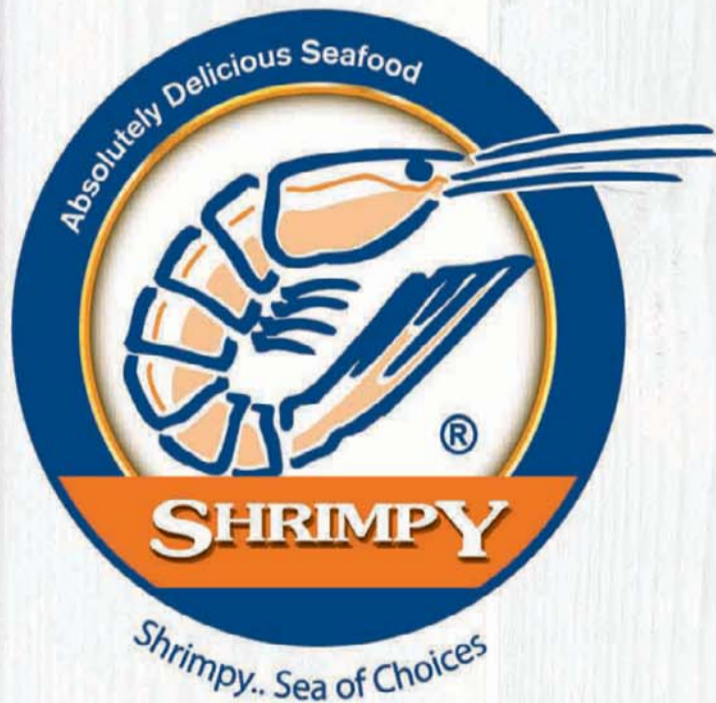
## AMIR, CROWN PRINCE RECEIVE CBK GOVERNOR

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah separately received Governor of Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Dr Mohammad Yusef Al-Hashel, at Bayan Palace yesterday. Hashel presented them with a commemorative golden sukuk,

celebrating the 10th anniversary of His Highness the Amir's assumption to power.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received an invitation from President of UAE Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan to participate in 'World Government Summit' in Dubai in February. UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Rahma Hussain Al-Zaabi handed over the

invitation to His Highness the Amir. In the meantime, His Highness the Crown Prince received Deputy National Assembly Speaker Mubarak Al-Khuraiej. Also yesterday, His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince separately received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. —KUNA



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**KUWAIT:** Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Sabah (center), his undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad (left), and Deputy Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah attend a joint police and military drill at Failkah Island. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Sabah greets the participants at the drill.



Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Sabah addresses the participants.

# MILITARY DRILL SENDS MESSAGE TO SECURITY THREATS: MINISTER

**KUWAIT:** A military exercise conducted by security forces yesterday serves as a poignant message to all those who pose a threat to peace and security in the country, Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said. In a press statement, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said that Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled, who is also a Deputy Prime Minister, was amongst the spectators during the

drill, christened, 'Decisive Deterrence 5'. The drill took place at Failkah Island with participation of the Kuwaiti Army, Kuwait National Guard and Kuwait Fire Services Directorate. It is part of MoI's efforts of enhancing the performance and preparedness of security forces. Describing them as the eyes that never slumber, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled called security forces the pillars of

security and defense in the country. As a result of the spread of terrorism, the Interior Minister underscored the need of holding drills that would enable security personnel to hone their combative skills, which would in turn make them better prepared to deal with security threats, the statement said. Moreover, Sheikh Mohammad raved about the perform-

ance of security forces during the drill, saying that he is fully confident in their abilities to safeguard the nation, the statement added. The Interior Minister had also initiated a similar naval exercise designed to bolster the coastguard's capabilities of securing the country's maritime borders, the statement noted. A number of senior Interior Ministry and military personnel also attended the drill. —KUNA



Interior Ministry's spokesman Brigadier General Adel Al-Hashash speaks.



Scenes from the drill.



Kuwait's flag is raised at the conclusion of the drill.



Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Sabah receives a memento after the drill.



Some of the participants pose for a group photo following the drill's conclusion.

## UNION SLAMS OIL MINISTER OVER WORKERS' RIGHTS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The labor union at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) criticized Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh's approval of a charter that they say 'lessens many of employees' rights.' The union is referring to the oil sector employees' administrative charter which the minister submitted to the Supreme Petroleum Commission for final approval, despite objections by oil syndicates and unions. A statement issued by the union described the new charter as 'suspicious,' and stressed that it had been suggested in 2013 and halted by former oil minister Ali Al-Omair upon unions' disapproval.

"The government appointed this 'temporary' minister to destroy the oil sector with such disastrous decisions," the union proclaimed in a press statement yesterday. It further pointed out that the government had passed a recent Amiri decree granting KPC's CEO all the powers of the oil minister, and accordingly, the latter has no administrative powers over the sector.

### Labor program

Secretary general of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr Khaled Mahdi yesterday presided the first meeting of the department of the joint program to support the Public Authority for Manpower

that is executed by UNDP in collaboration with the IOM and ILO. Mahdi stressed that the program aims at ensuring accountability, transparency and enhancing national planning potentials. He added that the program also aims at granting the manpower authority access to various international labor treaties so that it could improve laborers' health and vocational safety conditions in a way that matches international related standards.

### Case adjourned

The court of cassation yesterday adjourned passing its verdict in a case filed by the National Real Estate Company, demanding the resumption of its contract to run the Free Trade Zone until March 22.

### Staff promotion

Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs at the Ministry of Education (MoE) Fahd Al-Ghais stressed that promotions to higher positions will be done as usual through the Civil Services Commission (CSC). Speaking at a seminar held on the conditions of promotion, Ghais pointed out that in collaboration with CSC, MoE has been holding special seminars and meetings to boost MoE employees' awareness in this regard and explain the conditions followed by CSC for promotion, that could be accessed by each employee through CSC's automated system, such as the number of years in service, sick leaves and absence.



**KUWAIT:** Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain, accompanied by embassy officials, hoists India's national flag on the occasion of the country's 67th Republic Day at the Indian embassy yesterday. — Photos by Sajeev K Peter

## INDIAN EMBASSY IN KUWAIT CELEBRATES REPUBLIC DAY

By Sajeev K Peter

**KUWAIT:** A large number of Indians from different walks of life including children and women joined the Indian embassy officials yesterday to celebrate India's 67th Republic Day, one of the most significant days on India's national calendar.

The Indian embassy put on a festive look with its premises adorning tri-color balloons and displaying models of India Gate and other national monuments. At a spectacular open-air ceremony held on the embassy premises, Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain hoisted the national flag at 9 am commemorating the date and moment when the constitution of India came into effect in 1950.

Shubashis Goldar, Deputy Chief of Mission and Chief Public Information Officer, K K Pahal, First Secretary (HOC/CE), A K Srivastava, Second Secretary, Press and Information, other embassy officials, Indian community members and media persons attended the flag-hoisting ceremony that was held in an atmosphere of joy and patriotic passion.

This was followed by the singing of national anthem. Following the flag-hoisting ceremony, Ambassador Jain read out Indian President Pranab Mukerjee's address to the nation. The ambassador also conveyed his best wishes to His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His

Highness the Premier as well as the friendly people of Kuwait on the occasion.

Briefly speaking about the embassy's consular services, Jain said the embassy is open to all suggestions from the community members. He also mentioned about the landmark agreement the embassy has reached with the Kuwait's Ministry of Health regarding the recruitment of Indian nurses to Kuwait effectively banning the involvement of private agents in recruitments.

The Muhammadee Scout of Bohra Community

band gave a dazzling performance. Patriotic songs sung by children from Salmiya Indian Model School, D'lites Music band and the dance performance by Indian Cultural Society, Suresh Saliyan and team lent a festive air to the occasion and demonstrated the diversity and richness of the culture of India.

An open house reception was arranged by the embassy by serving people with breakfast, tea, juice and mineral water. Many newspapers in Kuwait, including the Kuwait Times, published special supplements to mark India's 67th Republic Day.



## FORMER LAWMAKER CHARGED OVER QUESTIONING COURT

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The public prosecution yesterday referred former MP Khaled Al-Sultan to court, over charges pertaining with statements in which he reportedly questioned the way a court handled the 'Abdaly cell' case hearing. Meanwhile, a court yesterday annulled the Kuwait Transparency Society's elections held on April 13, 2014. The court also adjourned hearing a state security case against blogger 'Chabreet Seyassi2' (Political Matches) until Feb 16 and refused cancelling a summons warrant issued against lawyer Falah Al-Hajraf. Separately, the appeals court yesterday seconded a previous sentence acquitting Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Sabah in a state security

case filed against him.

### Policeman acquitted

Lawyer Dr Khaled Al-Kaffa stressed that the court of appeal seconded a previous sentence acquitting a police officer from charges of joining and fighting with the 'Mohammed Army' and 'Levant Troops' groups.

### Slaughter areas

Municipal Council members Ali Al-Moussa and Hassan Kamal inquired about slaughter areas at various slaughterhouses and whether they matched hygienic conditions and included special barns to receive and examine livestock and isolate sick heads.



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Chairman of the National Security Apparatus (NSA) Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Fawaz Khaled Al-Marzouq, who briefed him on the fourth stage of the Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City.

## MOTORIST HURT IN ACCIDENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

reported.

**KUWAIT:** A man was injured when his vehicle turned over at Qurain-Mubarak Al-Kabeer road yesterday. Qurain firemen freed the man and others who were trapped in the vehicle. The man was handed to paramedics who transported him to the nearest medical facility.

### Malfunctioned elevator

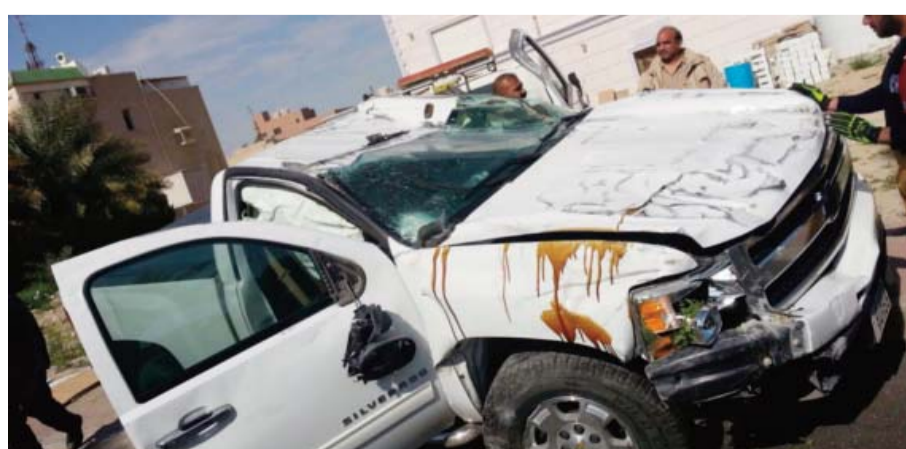
Firemen responded to a call about an elevator that malfunctioned in a commercial building. The elevator was lowered, and firefighters helped free a number of people who were trapped inside. No injuries were

### Municipality campaigns

Kuwait Municipality's Mubarak Al-Kabeer branch carried out a campaign that resulted in removing 15 abandoned vehicles. Owners of the vehicles failed to respond to warnings that the municipality had distributed before the campaign.

### UN office

Director General of Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) Lieutenant General Yousuf Al-Ansari received Director of UN office on limiting risks Dr Adam Bollocks on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait.



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## Crime

Report

MAN CATCHES WIFE  
IN BED WITH LOVER

**KUWAIT:** A 31-year-old woman and her lover were taken to Salmiya police station and brought before the prosecutor, who charged them with adultery. A security source said an Indian man went home early to find his wife, also Indian, in bed with another man, so he called his neighbor to be a witness, then called police. He did not allow the woman and her lover, who is Bangladeshi, to wear clothes until police arrived. Both were allowed to wrap themselves with bed sheets and were taken to the police station.

## Property damage

A pharmacist accused her Saudi ex-husband of damaging her car deliberately. A security source said the pharmacist, a citizen, told Qurain police that her ex-husband caused the damage and lodged a complaint, prompting police to launch an investigation.

## Trio rob phone store

An Egyptian man told Maidan Hawally police that his brother who works in a mobile phone store was beaten up and robbed by three unidentified persons. A security source said the three asked for recharge cards, then when they got what they wanted, they attempted to escape, but the salesman resisted inside the store and outside when they were able to exit. A violent fight took place causing several fractures to his body, and he was rushed to Mubarak Hospital. Investigations are underway.

## Officer injured

A non-commissioned officer at the weapons detectives department sustained several injuries, most notably a fracture in his back, after his car flipped over while on duty. A security source said the officer was about to arrest two suspects when the accident occurred. The two were arrested, and two unlicensed pistols, ammunition, knives and swords were found with them. —Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

BRITISH, AMERICAN  
SCHOOLS CAN HIKE  
FEES BY 5% YEARLY

**KUWAIT:** A committee formed by the Ministry of Education (MoE) to determine tuition fees at American and British schools suggested authorizing school owners to set their own fees according to demand and supply principles, and told parents complaining about inflated fees to send their children to public schools. Speaking after a meeting with the school owners' union, MoE undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari announced increasing tuition fees at American and British private schools by five percent for students already registered with them starting from the beginning of the next school year (2016-2017). Athari added that new students would be subjected to new contracts in which tuition fees would be negotiable between schools and parents.

"Parents of new students will be committed to contract conditions during their years of study from grades one to twelve, provided all conditions are clearly defined, legible, binding and fully comprehended by parents," Athari explained noting that there would be no limit to maximum fees and that the services provided by private schools were subject to demand and supply principles. He added that the ministry would supervise private school-parent relations and that new contract forms would highlight the fees in red. Athari added that the contracts would be binding throughout the schooling years during which fees would not be increased. "All disputes related to those contracts will be resolved by the ministry or a court of law", he added. Speaking about students already registered in those schools, Athari said that they would be subject to a five percent annual fee increase.

## Scholarships unaffected

In other news, and at a time when the government is after putting His Highness the Amir's instructions to rationalize and cut expenses and stop waste, Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa reassured students applying for scholarships abroad that scholarships would not be reduced. "Reducing the number of scholarships will only happen once the new Sabah Al-Salem University joins service, that is four years from now," Essa underlined, noting that scholarships would be reduced by 50 percent or more according to local universities' capacities then. —Al-Rai, Al-Jarida

GULF BANK PARTICIPATES IN  
JAHZEEN'S HONORARY CEREMONY  
SUPPORTING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank recently participated in the honorary ceremony for the Jahzeen 2 Program, a training program sponsored by the Bank, the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) and Ooredoo to promote the development of Kuwaiti youth.

The ceremony recently took place at MGRP's theater, where Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah stated that the Ministry supported 350 youth initiatives in different areas. Al-Sabah stressed on the importance of maintaining a young creative generation, and to develop their abilities and hone their talents to better prepare them for work in the private sector in Kuwait.

Highlighting the Bank's efforts towards Kuwait's young generation, Salma Al-Hajjaj - General Manager Human Resources at Gulf Bank addressed the youth and stressed on the importance of surpassing obstacles and moving forward. Hajjaj highlighted that youth are the future and the power of Kuwait, and that supporting them is a collaborative responsibility.

Hajjaj said: "We are proud to take part

in this important initiative which aimed at promoting the development of Kuwaiti youth. It is our responsibility to support and build a qualified generation that will improve the overall national labor market in Kuwait, both in the private and public sectors. The Bank spares no effort in investing in youth as they are the nation's wealth, and we encourage all initiatives concerned with the banking sector."

"At Gulf Bank, we have a long-term commitment to invest in our employees and encourage them to take up training opportunities to develop their skills. One of the bank's successful programs is Ajyal which includes a selection of outstanding employees and aims at creating strong calibers of Kuwaiti youth ready to take on any challenges they may face."

## Work environment

Chief Manager of the Jahzeen program Abdullah Al-Hajri stated that the program aims at developing youths' skills and preparing them for the work environment. While Tareq Al-Debas, Founder of Taqat Youth Investment Company stated that the Jahzeen program will soon be introduced in Oman in

cooperation with Oman's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Al-Debas added that graduates from the Jahzeen program will become members of Taqat Club which will maintain communication lines between the club's members, as well as develop their experience and training.

Jahzeen Program targets senior university students, fresh graduates as well as employed youth with one year of experience. The program featured soft skill training courses such as writing skills and time management, personality assessments, and seminars by professionals sharing their experience specifically within the private sector as well as to guide them to choose the most suitable job to be able to excel and be creative in their future work.

As part of its social responsibility strategy, Gulf Bank is committed to being involved in activities that support youth development. Human capital has always been at the forefront of the bank's priorities and this commitment includes Kuwait-based activities such as mentoring programs or training to help students achieve their full career potential.

Al-Anbaa

INTEGRATING STUDENTS  
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN  
EDUCATION - PART III

By Dr Zainab Al-Hasawi

**O**n assessing the success of the strategy of vocational development for school directors in terms of integration in mainstream schools, we should observe some points that were already mentioned in the previous article more elaborately. Those points include leaders' self-motivation towards excellence, rooting the values of democracy, liberty, accepting others, human rights and taking care of students with special needs, allowing them to excel through competing with normal students. It is also noteworthy to highlight the significance of giving students with special needs their due rights as per the 'education for all' constitutional principle.

In continuation of what has been mentioned in previous articles, the study has shown some points of strength and other points of weakness that ought to be avoided and solved to the best form.

- The presence of too many non-Kuwaiti educationalists without working on training more Kuwaitis to be capable of dealing with students with special needs.
- Constant change of senior officials has been negatively affecting priorities and does not provide enough chances to assess the integration project's success.
- Some specialists are not convinced with the integration project's feasibility and this has had its negative impacts on the project.
- A very limited number of school directors has been trained and none of the new ones or those newly transferred resumed their training sessions.
- Inequality in trainers' financial dues as per nationality (Kuwaiti, Arab, Western)
- Instability of target trainees (supervisors and directors) due to transfers, retirement or going on long vacations.
- The short period allocated to benefit from the training program.
- Limiting directors' vocational development efforts to theory through some lectures.

Accordingly, the researcher found solutions for these points of weakness within the school directors' vocational development strategy. (To be continued)

—Translated by Kuwait Times



A group photo taken during the honorary ceremony for the Jahzeen 2 Program.

## FORMER GITMO BAY PRISONER SAYS SOLD TO US FOR \$5,000

**KUWAIT:** Events and secrets of 14 years were summarized by former Guantanamo Bay inmate Fawzi Al-Odah, who said that his fate led him to Afghan borders following the Sept 11, 2001 events, snaring him in a deal during which the US asked that any Arab be handed to it in exchange of \$5,000.

He said the Americans treated him as an enemy, and he was beaten and verbally abused. He added that he left Kuwait in Aug 2001 in order to distribute aid on the Pakistan-Afghanistan borders, and did not enter Afghanistan. He said he worked as an employee of Zakat House for six months, and a teacher at the Dar Quran before traveling to Pakistan.

He said he gave himself up to Pakistani police to be returned to Kuwait, but they handed him to the Americans. About his requests at Guantanamo Bay, he said: "I was asking for vegetarian pizza and sodas from my lawyer, while my mother used to send me some sweets."

## QUESTION: When did you leave Kuwait?

I left Kuwait in Aug 2001, and before that I worked as a teacher at the Dar Al-Quran (Quran house) run by the Awqaf Ministry, and before that I worked at Zakat House for six months, so I had experience in Quranic activities. Many Afghans were suffering at that time, and my destination when I left

was the Pakistani border with Afghanistan where many refugees live in miserable conditions with shortage of medicine, food, education, homes and the most simple of living requirements. I did not enter Afghanistan. I went there with a little money to give to the Afghan refugees. Afghans view Arabs as the children of the companions of the Prophet (PBUH), and consider their arrival to teach them Quran as something great, raising their morale and brightening life for them.

## QUESTION: What happened to you after the Sept 11 attacks?

**Odah:** The Americans forced the Pakistani government and other neighboring governments to arrest any Arab citizen in Pakistan regardless of the reason for their presence in exchange of \$5,000. The US interrogated those arrested and the Pakistani government had nothing to do with it. This is a black page in the history of the US, and 14 years later, America was not able to convict me of anything.

## QUESTION: Did you leave Kuwait alone on a personal basis, or was it an establishment work?

**Odah:** It was personal, and a start for me, and I wanted to experience charitable activity.

## QUESTION: Did you go alone or with a group? Did you enter Afghanistan?

**Odah:** I left on my own and I never entered Afghanistan. I was on the Pakistan-Afghanistan borders.

## QUESTION: How were you arrested?

**Odah:** I was in a border area called Kouta and the people there asked me to remain in a house until things calmed down, and it could be arranged for me to return to the Pakistani capital, then Kuwait. But my stay took longer as things worsened, so I went to Pakistani security and told them I was a Kuwaiti and worked for charity, and I wanted to be taken to the Kuwaiti embassy. But I was surprised by Pakistani police taking me to a military prison, then a month later, the Americans came in and interrogated me in the Pakistani prison before taking me to an American base in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where I remained for two months before being sent to Guantanamo.

## QUESTION: How did the American authorities treat you when you were arrested?

**Odah:** Treatment was very bad, just because I was an Arab in that place at that time. I was treated like an enemy, I was beaten badly and exposed to various types of physical and psychological harm.

## QUESTION: What do you mean by psychological harm?

**Odah:** Insulting sacred and religious things. Insulting me verbally, and I was made to believe that I would be freed several times, then got punished for no reason.

## QUESTION: Did you meet other Kuwaiti detainees at Guantanamo?

**Odah:** We were in solitary confinement in the first years, and contact was almost impossible. After 2010, we were moved into group prisons, and at that time it was only Fayez and me who were left among Kuwaitis, so he was the only Kuwaiti I met the most.

## QUESTION: How did you spend your time in detention?

**Odah:** I read the book of Allah (Holy Quran) to understand its verses, and this is what sustained me there.

## QUESTION: What about the hunger strikes you carried out?

**Odah:** The first was at Camp X-Ray at Guantanamo, then in 2005 we carried out a major strike during which I was force-fed for five months, and I lost almost 50 kg. We repeated the strikes in 2010 and 2013, and it was a painful process as a pipe is inserted from the nose into the stomach.

## QUESTION: You seem to be calm. Was there a time when you lost your temper while dealing with a Guantanamo guard?

**Odah:** There were many instances, and the person who feels injustice will defend himself, and I was beaten hard and punished because of that.

## QUESTION: Was there a particular incident in this regard?

**Odah:** I entered a cell and found the Holy Quran on the floor, and the guard did that deliberately, and though I was cuffed, I attempted to pick it up, so the soldier pushed me down and sprayed me with pepper spray, and there were many similar incidents, but I do not wish to go through them.

## QUESTION: What was the difference between the Bush and Obama administrations?

**Odah:** There was no major change, other than having groups in cells.

## QUESTION: What do you want to tell your lawyer Abdelrahman Al-Haroun?

**Odah:** Lawyer Abdelrahman Al-Haroun is like my father. He was the first person to stand by my father, and dedicated his office to serve the detainees free of charge, and although the state offered him fees, he refused. —Al-Rai

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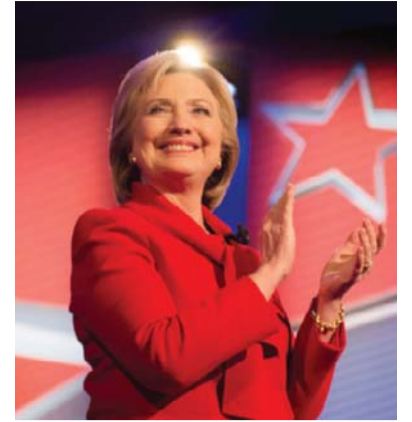
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**Who is Obama for? Clinton has reason to smile**

MALAYSIA PM CLEARED AFTER FUNDS IN ACCOUNT DECLARED A 'SAUDI GIFT'



**NEW DELHI:** The motor cycle display team 'Dare Devils' of the Corps of Signals participate in India's Republic Day parade in New Delhi yesterday. —AFP

**INDIA MARKS REPUBLIC DAY WITH CAMELS, STUNT-RIDERS**

**NEW DELHI:** Thousands gathered in New Delhi amid tight security yesterday for India's annual Republic Day parade, a pomp-filled spectacle of military might featuring camels and daredevil stunt riders, with French President Francois Hollande the chief guest. A contingent of French infantry in India for joint military exercises led the march down the capital's central Rajpath avenue, the first time foreign troops have ever taken part in the parade.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited Hollande in a show of solidarity with France after Islamist attacks in Paris last November killed 130 recalling a 2008 assault on Mumbai that killed 166. The two leaders agreed in talks Monday to deepen cooperation on counter-terrorism in the wake of the Paris attacks and a deadly siege this month on an Indian air force base near the Pakistan border. The mood yesterday was more celebratory, with Modi-sporting a gold turban that rivaled the spectacular military headgear on display and Hollande chatting as they sat side by side in a bullet-

proof glass enclosure.

An estimated 10,000 spectators braved thick smog and air quality levels classified as hazardous on the US embassy website to watch the display, the highlight of annual celebrations of the birth of modern India. Delhi is the world's most polluted capital and levels of PM2.5 — the tiny particles that can enter the bloodstream-frequently reach 10 times the World Health Organization's safe limit. But the skies remained dry, unlike last year when chief guest US President Barack Obama was forced to shelter under an umbrella throughout.

**Human pyramid**

The two-hour showcase of military might and cultural diversity included everything from tanks and state-of-the-art weaponry to camels and traditional dancers. The mounted camels of the Border Security Force—an annual highlight-put in an early showing, decorated in brightly coloured caparisons. Traditional dancers

representing some of India's diverse regional cultures performed on colourfully decorated floats showcasing selected states. A dog squad drawn from the Army's Remount Veterinary Corps returned to the parade after a gap of 26 years to perform a march past wearing striped coats in their unit's colors.

They were followed by motorbike stunt riders performing a human pyramid, another annual tradition, before the grand finale of the event, a fly-past by Indian fighter jets. India launched a nationwide security crackdown in the lead-up to the celebrations, which mark the adoption of the country's constitution on January 26, 1950 following independence from Britain in 1947. Counter-terror police arrested a group of suspected Islamist radicals and seized bomb-making material in a series of nationwide raids last week, and some 50,000 police, army and paramilitary forces were deployed across the capital yesterday.

It was the fifth time a French president has been chief guest, the greatest honor

India can bestow on a foreign leader. Hollande was due to leave Delhi later at the end of a three-day official visit that began in the northern city of Chandigarh. His visit had raised hopes of a conclusion to a long-delayed, multi-billion-dollar deal for New Delhi to buy 36 French Rafale jet fighters.

The two sides said they had not yet arrived at an agreement on the price, which experts say could reach around five billion euros (\$5.6 billion). Rafale manufacturer Dassault said after the announcement it was hopeful the price negotiations could be completed within the next four weeks. India entered exclusive negotiations on buying 126 Rafale fighters in 2012, but the number of planes was scaled back in tortuous negotiations over cost and assembly of the planes in India. On Monday the two men laid a foundation stone at the new headquarters of the International Solar Alliance, a 121-nation group launched by Modi at the Paris COP21 conference in November to expand affordable solar power.—AFP

**WASHINGTON STRUGGLES TO DIG OUT AFTER GIANT BLIZZARD**

**WASHINGTON:** The capital of the world's leading superpower remained semi-paralyzed yesterday as residents struggled to remove mountains of snow dumped in a weekend blizzard. The federal government and area schools were closed for a second day in a row, as convoys of giant snow blowers and front loaders cruised the downtown streets clearing the main avenues. The storm, which affected some 85 million people, was blamed for at least 33 deaths as it slammed much of the US east coast from Friday into early Sunday.

Many victims suffered heart attacks while shoveling snow or were killed on icy roads, and some died of carbon monoxide poisoning trying to stay warm in cars or homes. In the US capital, the subway and bus network, closed since late Friday, is expected to mostly resume full service today after servicing only underground stations on Monday. Bus service however remains strictly limited. Chris Geldart, the capital's director of homeland security and emergency services, told the Washington Post that a giant snow melter is on its way from the state of Indiana, while a convoy of trucks is heading in from Connecticut.

For many the thrill of a weekend spent building snowmen and sledding, or in warm homes endlessly watching television and playing video games, was over by today. Millions of children in greater Washington metro area were again out of school as districts struggled with de-icing busses and salting sidewalks on school property. It was hard enough getting people to work, as tens of thousands of suburbanites were unable to move their cars, trapped until a snowplow came to clear their neighborhood roads. The snow also disrupted garbage pickup and mail delivery.

**Danger of 'black ice'**

Area residents were bracing for the disruption to drag on for days. "From my estimation we got more snow than I have ever seen in Washington, DC," Mayor Muriel Bowser said. "We are working hard to dig out all of our residential streets." Limited flight operations resumed Monday from Washington's Reagan National and Dulles International airports, a day after officials battled in New York to get some aircraft off the ground. Temperatures in the next days are forecast to be above freezing, but as the snow melts and the water freezes overnight, the thin layer of "black ice" will become a problem during the morning hours.

On Monday, under a sunny sky, the normally bustling avenues around the White House were all but deserted. Heavy machinery equipped with powerful vacuums sucked at chest-high drifts of snow and spat it into 18-wheel trucks moving alongside at a snail's pace. Dump trucks laden with increasingly dirty snow rumbled through the streets and crews in bright red shirts went at it with shovels. To help ease congestion, the US House of Representatives opting to remain out of session for the coming week and no votes set until February 1.—AFP

**IRANIAN PRESIDENT ASKS POPE TO PRAY FOR HIM**  
**ROUHANI PITCHES IRAN AS SAFEST COUNTRY IN MIDDLE EAST**

**VATICAN:** Iran's president asked Pope Francis to pray for him yesterday after the two men held private talks at the Vatican, part of an Iranian effort to take a more prominent place on the world stage after a nuclear deal with Western powers. Hassan Rouhani's visit to the Holy See saw the first meeting between a pope and an Iranian president since 1999. Iran, which agreed to limit its nuclear activities in exchange for an end to economic sanctions, is eager to carve out a bigger role in mediating Middle East conflicts. Francis' papacy has been marked by mediation and conflict resolution.

The Iranian leader is on a four-day European swing to boost Iran's image abroad as well as to rehabilitate economic ties with a continent that had been a big trade partner before sanctions. "I ask you to pray for me," Rouhani told Francis after their 40-minute meeting. He called the visit by the leader of a Muslim country to the head of the Roman Catholic Church "a real pleasure." Francis thanked Rouhani for the visit and added: "I hope for peace." He gave the Iranian a medal depicting St Martin helping a poor man, an act Francis called "a sign of unsolicited brotherhood."

Rouhani brought a gift of a hand-made rug. He told the pope the red-toned carpet was made in the Iranian holy city of Qom. Rouhani arrived for the late-morning, closed-door meeting in a motorcade of some two dozen limousines. Security, already tight around the Vatican following the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris, was even more

rigid than usual. Police kept tourists and Romans from walking too close to the colonnade ringing the square before and during the visit. In his nearly three years as pope, Francis has stressed mediation as the best way to solve conflicts. He played a key role in helping Cuba and the United States to normalize their relations after decades of strict embargo.

**Safest country**

Rouhani yesterday described Iran as the safest and most stable country in the Middle East as he urged international investors to help modernize the country's sanctions-hit economy. On the second day of a landmark visit to Europe, the Iranian leader also pitched the Islamic Republic's potential for companies seeking a base in a region of 300 million people and vowed the government would never interfere in private business deals.

"Iran is the safest, the most stable country in the entire region," Rouhani told an audience of Italian and Iranian business executives on his first overseas trip since the lifting of sanctions linked to Tehran's nuclear program. "Everyone understood that the nuclear negotiations represented a win-win situation for both sides," Rouhani said. "Now we have created the conditions for investment and for the transfer of know-how. There has to be an advantage for both sides: we invite you to invest and we will provide stability and ensure that you can make adequate returns."

Rouhani emphasized that all sections of Iran's often-divided political class were firmly behind the post-sanctions drive to secure the trade and investment needed to create new roads, rail links, airports and other infrastructure. The vision was to transform Iran into a hub for intra-regional economic development, linking the Middle East to South Asia and even the Western fringes of China. "Do not regard us as just one country but as a country at the centre of a much larger market," Rouhani said, citing the example of the

port of Chabahar on Iran's southern coast. Iran is seeking international investment to help complete a port which will provide a gateway for Indian companies seeking to do business in Afghanistan and Central Asia, as well as in Iran.

**Queue forming in Iran**

He vowed Tehran would do nothing to jeopardise its stability and said economic growth could help beat terrorism in the region. "We have no intention of attacking or invading any other country.—Agencies



**VATICAN CITY:** Pope Francis (right) smiles with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani at the end of their private audience yesterday, at the Vatican. —AFP



# OBAMA BANS SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR JUVENILES

**WASHINGTON:** President Barack Obama on Monday announced a ban on solitary confinement for juveniles in federal prisons, citing the "heartbreaking" case of a teenager who spent two years in solitary after stealing a backpack and later killed himself. Obama, who is pushing to reform America's overcrowded and expensive correctional system before the end of his presidency, wants to cut the number of people incarcerated, curb the use of solitary confinement, and end mandatory minimum sentences.

In an op-ed in the Tuesday issue of The Washington Post, posted online late Monday,

the president said placing juvenile prisoners in solitary confinement is used too frequently and can have terrible psychological effects. He announced executive actions that also ban corrections officials from dumping prisoners responsible for "low-level infractions" in solitary. Obama's reforms are expected to affect about 10,000 inmates. He said he hoped they serve as a model for US states to rethink their rules. "How can we subject prisoners to unnecessary solitary confinement, knowing its effects, and then expect them to return to our communities as whole people?" the president wrote.

"It doesn't make us safer. It's an affront to our common humanity." In his opinion piece Obama details the case of Kalief Browder, who in 2010, aged 16, was accused of stealing a backpack and was sent off to the notorious Rikers Island prison complex in New York to await trial. "He reportedly endured unspeakable violence at the hands of inmates and guards and spent nearly two years in solitary confinement," Obama wrote. Browder was released in 2013 having never stood trial but struggled to cope with the trauma of being locked up all alone for 23 hours each day. He killed himself at the age of 22.

**'Sweeping changes'**  
"Solitary confinement gained popularity in the United States in the early 1800s and the rationale for its use has varied over time," Obama wrote. "Today, it's increasingly overused on people such as Kalief, with heartbreaking results." According to Obama, as many as 100,000 people are held in solitary confinement in US prisons, including juveniles and the mentally ill. Obama made his announcement after the Justice Department completed a review of the use of solitary confinement in federal prisons. Nearly a quarter of the world's prison population is concentrated

in American jails. However, the United States accounts for less than five percent of the world's population. Black and Latino Americans represent 60 percent of the US prison population while around 30 percent of prisoners are white. With these "sweeping changes," Obama "has added the full weight" of the US government "to the movement to end our jails and prisons' addiction to solitary and its cruelty," wrote David Fathi, an official with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the leading US civil rights group. "We have lost too many to a punishment that hurts us all," Fathi wrote in a statement. — AFP

# WHO'S OBAMA FOR?

## CLINTON HAS REASON TO SMILE

**WASHINGTON:** President Barack Obama hasn't endorsed a Democratic successor, but he's now revealed some personal pros and cons in the fight between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. Clinton has reason to smile. In an interview published Monday, Obama casts his former secretary of state as a "wicked smart," progressive pragmatist and Sanders as a "bright, shiny object" fueled by Democrats' long-standing frustrations. He defends Clinton as burdened by her perceived front-runner status while Sanders benefits from "the luxury of being a complete long shot." "Her strengths can be her weaknesses," Obama said in the interview with Politico's "Off Message" podcast.

"Her strengths, which are the fact that she's extraordinarily experienced - and, you know, wicked smart and knows every policy inside and out - sometimes could make her more cautious and her campaign more prose than poetry. But those are also her strengths. It means that she can govern and she can start here, day one, more experienced than any non-vice president has ever been who aspires to this office."

The comments, coming a week before the Iowa caucuses, were Obama's most detailed yet on the unexpectedly tight contest to replace him. After months of keeping to his promise not to interfere, Obama's analysis showed he's been watching closely and thinking deeply about which candidate is best positioned to win - and carry on his policies. In framing the debate, Obama was notably on

board with the Clinton campaign, which promotes her as battle-tested and experienced.

He was less in sync with Sanders' camp. Obama suggested he is a one-issue candidate, who will have to



**IOWA:** Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton applauds during the CNN Town Hall at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, ahead of the Iowa Caucus. — AFP

broaden his scope. "The one thing everybody understands is that with this job right here, you don't have the luxury of just focusing on one thing," he said. When asked whether he sees Sanders' campaign as comparable to his own 2008 battle against Clinton, a comparison Sanders' supporters have

embraced, Obama wasn't buying it. "No, I don't think that's true," he replied. Campaigning in Iowa, Clinton showed she was listening. "When you're in the White House, you can't pick the issues you want to work on," she told the

process; "Weaver said Clinton weeks ago decided to align herself with Obama and his legacy - a bid to win Obama loyalists. The president features prominently in her speeches, from her assertion that he doesn't get enough credit for rescuing the economy to her detailed description of being in the Situation Room alongside him during the raid that killed Osama bin Laden."

One of Clinton's biggest applause lines comes when she mentions that the economy has done better under the two Democratic presidents who have served in the past 35 years than the three Republicans. "I know both of the Democrats," Clinton says with a knowing smile. Like Sanders, Obama in 2008 ran a campaign that cast Clinton's politics as outdated and compromised, and, like Sanders, he ran to her left. But Obama's presidency has looked much like the one Clinton is promising.

The president has proven to be comfortable with a steady, incremental approach. His taste for long-shot policy proposals is limited. Friction between Obama and the progressive wing of his party what Obama's former spokesman once dubbed the "professional left" - has been constant. Meanwhile, Obama and Clinton forged a close and, at times, affectionate rapport during her time in his Cabinet. Obama has been effusive and public about his respect for her work ethic and intellect. Obama's ties to Sanders are far less personal or deep, though Obama served in the Senate with Sanders and campaigned for him in 2006 when the two were prominent anti-war voices in Congress. — AP

Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. The Sanders campaign took the president's comments in stride. Campaign manager Jeff Weaver noted that Obama has had positive things to say about both candidates. "We feel he's been very fair and evenhanded in this

# DEMOCRATIC RACE HIGHLIGHTS DIFFERING VIEWS OF GOVT ROLE

**DES MOINES:** For months, the tumultuous Republican presidential primary in the US has masked a brewing debate among Democrats about their own party's future. Now, with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders chipping away at Hillary Clinton's grip on the Democratic nomination, the differences are spilling out into the open as the candidates campaign across snow-covered Iowa, the first state to vote. At its core, the divide between Clinton and Sanders is about just how much to change current economic, health care and education systems, and what the federal government's role in those areas should be.

The candidates often share the same goals, but have different policy prescriptions and preferred tactics for achieving them. Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Democrats in Congress, has been unabashed in his calls for a "political revolution," energizing his crowds as he urges them to join him in leading the country in a "new direction." Reflecting the views of liberal Democrats, he sees the government as a vehicle that supplies Americans with the basic tools they need to achieve economic security.

If health care coverage is one of those rights, Sanders believes the government should provide it through a single-payer system, even if that means raising taxes. If higher education is now a requirement for jobs in a modern economy, Sanders says the government must guarantee free tuition at public colleges and universities. Sanders touted his education plan this week through the prism of a young person who may be seeking to become the first in their family to go to college. "If that kid studies hard and does well in school, he or she will be able to get an education regardless of the income of the family," Sanders said. "That is revolutionary."

Clinton, a former senator and secretary of state, prefers to talk about "achievable" outcomes and douses her campaign remarks

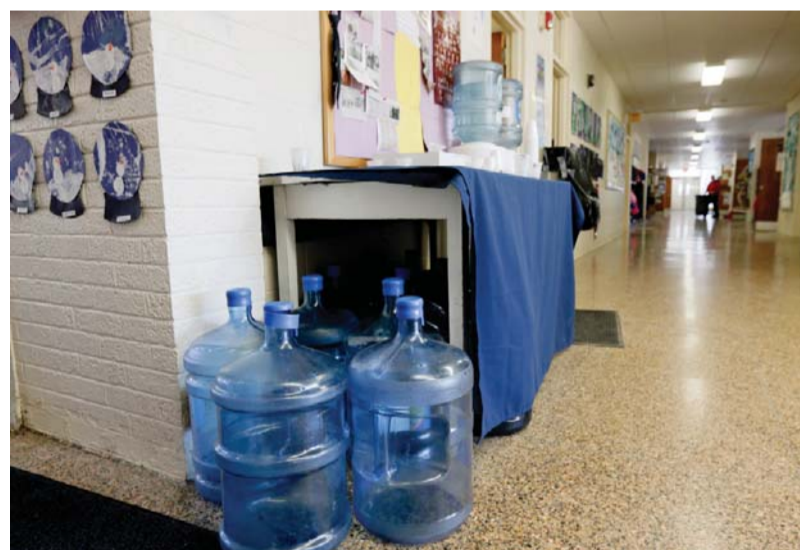
with reminders about how difficult nearly every fight a president takes on will be to achieve. With Sanders growing stronger, she's taken to outlining his proposals during her remarks, only to explain to voters why they're unfeasible. "I think my way - a hard, patient, persistent way - is the best," Clinton said Monday. Like Sanders, Clinton believes in universal health care coverage and college affordability. But he talks about health care and college education as basic rights that the federal government should provide to all, while Clinton is more focused on how to lift up people who are getting left behind.

Scarred by her own failed efforts to push through comprehensive health care reform in the 1990s, Clinton is unwilling to dive back into another sweeping legislative debate now that President Barack Obama's overhaul is in place. Instead, she's called for building on what's in place to address costs that are still too high for many Americans. And when asked about Sanders' plan to make college free, Clinton spoke of the ways that setup could be abused. "I don't think it's right to give me and my husband free college for our child. If you can afford to pay, you should pay," Clinton said Monday. "But I also think it's an open invitation for colleges and universities to keep raising their costs."

Clinton's campaign was built in part on the theory that Democratic voters who backed Obama's calls for hope and change would be more in the mood for a pragmatist after eight years of Washington gridlock. Indeed, she has broad support within the party and leads Sanders nationally. But with the Iowa campaign now in its final week, it's Sanders' message that's generating enthusiasm in the states that kick off the primary contests. His crowds frequently double or triple the size of Clinton's, and he's particularly energized voters with his call to break up the Wall Street banks. — AP

# IN A NEW YORK VILLAGE, A TRAIL OF CANCER LEADS TO TAP WATER

**HOOSICK FALLS:** After his factory worker father died a painful death from kidney cancer at age 68 in 2013, Michael Hickey made it his mission to find out why so many people in his hometown along the Hoosick River were getting sick. Two years later, the US Environmental Protection Agency has warned residents of Hoosick Falls not to drink or cook with water from municipal wells, and a plastics plant has agreed to install a \$2 million carbon filtration system at the village water treatment plant. Hickey's campaign began with suspicion about industrial pollution in the factory village near the Vermont border. His father had worked for 35 years at a plant that made high-performance plastics similar to Teflon, so Hickey searched online for "cancer" and "Teflon."



**NEW YORK:** Bottles of drinking water are seen in a hallway at St Mary's Academy in Hoosick Falls, NY. Federal regulators have warned residents of the upstate New York factory village near the Vermont border not to drink water from municipal wells. — AP

**What he found: PFOA.**  
Perfluorooctanoic acid, a water and oil repellent, had been used since the 1940s in products including non-stick cookware, stain-resistant carpeting and microwave popcorn bags. Manufacturers agreed to phase it out by the end of 2015 shortly after DuPont reached a \$16.5 million settlement with the EPA over the company's failure to report possible health risks associated with PFOA. A scientific panel that conducted health studies as part of a DuPont settlement of a West Virginia class-action lawsuit concluded there was a "probable link" between PFOA exposure and kidney cancer, testicular cancer, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, ulcerative colitis and pregnancy-induced hypertension.

In Hoosick Falls, nobody has ever scientifically documented that the village

has an unusually high cancer rate, but Hickey and a local doctor had heard enough anecdotal evidence that they felt it should be addressed. "There's always been talk around town about how there's a lot of cancer," Hickey said. "When my dad, who didn't drink or smoke, was diagnosed with kidney cancer, that made it more personal."

Dr Marcus Martinez, the family doctor for many of the village's 3,500 residents, added there certainly seemed to be a high rate of cancer there, particularly rare, aggressive forms. The 44-year-old Martinez himself is in remission from aggressive prostate cancer. When the two men suggested testing the village

water supply, part-time Mayor David Borge at first refused, citing state guidelines. New York state classifies PFOA as an "unspecified organic contaminant" and doesn't require testing for it. The EPA has a non-enforceable guidance level of 400 parts per trillion - roughly 4 teaspoons in enough water to fill a 10-mile string of rail tankers.

Hickey used his own money in summer 2014 to have water from his kitchen tap and other sources tested. The results showed PFOA at 540 ppt from Hickey's home, exceeding the EPA's guidance. Village officials subsequently tested the municipal supply and found PFOA at similar levels. Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, part of a Paris-based global conglomerate, in 1999 became the fifth owner of a plastics factory in Hoosick Falls. It conducted tests in the summer of 2015 and reported a PFOA level of 18,000 ppt in groundwater under its plant, 500 yards from the village's main water wells.

"Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics is committed to helping the village of Hoosick Falls with this situation," company spokesman Carmen Ferrigno said. While the source of the PFOA contamination hasn't been identified, Saint-Gobain has been paying for bottled water for residents since November and has agreed to pay for filtration to remove the chemical from the public water supply, he said. Hickey and Martinez, along with Albany environmental lawyer David Engel, weren't satisfied. They wanted people to be told not to drink the tap water, as well as a full investigation and remediation. — AP



**NEW YORK:** The Hoosick River runs through the village of Hoosick Falls, NY. Federal regulators have warned residents of the upstate New York factory village near the Vermont border not to drink water from municipal wells, and a plastics plant has agreed to supply bottled water and pay for a new filtration system. — AP



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## EMIRATI ON TRIAL WAS SELF-PROCLAIMED LOCAL IS 'EMIR'

**ABU DHABI:** An Emirati man accused of seeking to carry out attacks on targets including Abu Dhabi's Formula 1 circuit claimed to be the local leader of the Islamic State group, newspapers reported yesterday. The man "appointed himself as the emir" of the group, which controls swathes of Iraq and Syria, The

National daily cited a witness as telling a court during his trial. He was married to Alaa Bader Al-Hashemi, an Emirati woman executed in July for the jihadist-inspired murder of US school teacher Ibolaya Ryan, 47, in the washroom of an Abu Dhabi shopping mall in December 2014. The couple had performed a

"symbolic ceremony to pledge allegiance" to Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, the IS leader, the witness said. International media are not allowed access to the trial of the man, 34, at the Federal Supreme court in the UAE capital, which has upped security measures since the wave of Arab Spring protests that swept the

region in 2011.

He is charged with joining IS and plotting attacks on Abu Dhabi's Formula 1 circuit. He is reportedly also accused of plotting to attack the Abu Dhabi branch of furniture chain Ikea, as well as preparing to assassinate an unspecified Emirati leader. The United Arab Emirates is a mem-

ber of the US-led coalition that has been bombing IS jihadists since September 2014. UAE authorities have enacted tougher anti-terror legislation, including harsher jail terms and even introducing the death penalty for crimes linked to religious hatred and "takfiri groups". — AFP

## MALAYSIA PM CLEARED AFTER FUNDS IN ACCOUNT DECLARED A 'SAUDI GIFT'

\$681 MILLION A GIFT FROM SAUDI ARABIA TO PM

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's attorney-general cleared Prime Minister Najib Razak of any criminal offences or corruption yesterday, closing investigations into a murky multi-million-dollar funding scandal that his opponents had hoped would bring him down. Najib was buffeted last year by allegations of graft and mismanagement at the debt-laden state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) and by a revelation that about \$681 million was deposited into his personal bank account. But Attorney-General Mohamed Apandi Ali said the transfer was a gift from Saudi Arabia's royal family, adding that no further action needed to be taken on the matter.

Najib, who denied any wrongdoing and said he did not take any money for personal gain, welcomed the attorney general's statement. "The findings followed a thorough investigation by the relevant institutions, and he has confirmed what I have maintained all along: That no crime was committed," Najib said in a statement. Opposition party leaders denounced the finding, saying the appointment of the attorney-general by the prime minister in the midst of the crisis suggested a conflict of interest. But analysts said it was a victory for Najib that would allow him to focus on winning the next election in 2018.

"The AG's statement today pretty much allows the government to move on... As far as things are legally concerned, the prime minister is in the clear," said Ibrahim Suffian, director of independent opinion polling firm Merdeka Center. Although there were still a lot of



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak (center) reacts as he walks towards his car after attending a parliament session in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP

people who would still be skeptical and critical of the government, he said. Apandi told a news conference no criminal offence had been committed by Najib in relation to three investigations submitted by Malaysia's anti-graft agency. "I am satisfied with the findings that the funds were not a form of graft or bribery," he said. "There was no reason given as to why the donation was made to PM Najib, that is between him and the Saudi family," he said.

The involvement of the Saudi royal family is an unexpected twist in the saga over the funds transfer and the troubles of 1MDB, whose advisory board Najib chairs. The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) had earlier said only that the funds were a political donation from an unidentified Middle Eastern benefactor. Apandi said \$620 million was returned to the donor in August 2013, about five months after the transfer, because it had not been

utilized. He did not clarify what happened to the remaining \$61 million that was not returned or explain why it had taken so long for news of the return of the funds to be released.

### 'Unite and move on'

Najib, the son of a former prime minister, enjoys the backing of most of the powerful division chiefs in the ruling United Malays National Organization (UMNO) party. Even his fiercest internal critics, such as influential former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, accept that he cannot be unseated. Najib, who needs to build support ahead of the 2018 election, after scraping to only a narrow victory in the last polls, said the scandal had been "an unnecessary distraction." "Now that the matter has been comprehensively put to rest, it is time for us to unite and move on," Najib said.

The scandal has shaken investors in Southeast Asia's third-biggest economy and rocked confidence in the coalition led by UMNO, which has held power since independence in 1957. The ringgit slumped by more than 20 percent in 2015 and has continued its slide this year, weighed down by global oil prices and political uncertainty. "The attorney-general is satisfied with the findings, but it remains to be seen whether the public is satisfied and will put the 1MDB scandal to rest," said Hak Bin Chua, ASEAN economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

After the scandal broke in mid-2015, then attorney-general Abdul Gani Patail - who had led investigations of 1MDB - was replaced by Apandi, a former judge with strong ties to UMNO. "The attorney-general should not have been involved in the decision affecting the PM because he was appointed by the PM," said Lim Kit Siang, parliamentary leader of the opposition Democratic Action Party. Two of the anti-corruption commission papers that Apandi reviewed related to SRC International, a former 1MDB subsidiary that is being investigated for an alleged misappropriation of funds. 1MDB is under investigation by law enforcement agencies in Switzerland, Hong Kong and the United States, media and other sources have said. — Reuters

## ALASKA EARTHQUAKE RENEWS FOCUS ON STATE'S EMERGENCY READINESS

**JUNEAU:** A magnitude 7.1 earthquake in Alaska's most populous region has renewed focus on the US state's readiness to deal with a natural disaster. And it's not just earthquakes that pose a danger across the vast state but also wildfires, floods, landslides and even volcanos. Robert Forgit, Alaska area manager for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said he thinks Alaskans are resilient and perhaps more used to quakes and flooding. The state also does a good job of working with communities on emergency plans, he said.

Jeremy Zidek, a spokesman for the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, said it's hard to say how prepared residents are. Many people hunt and fish and have a freezer full of meat, and there are people who live near the road system but are remote enough that they tend to stock up more on food, he said. The state recommends having at least seven days of supplies on hand and a family plan in case of emergencies.

In the case of major damage to the Port of Anchorage, through which an estimated 90 percent of commodities for most Alaskans enter the state, there would be a cascading effect, Zidek said. It would take time to set up alternate routes, such as use of other ports, having things flown in or trucking supplies from the Alaska Highway, which runs from Canada. In 2012, then-Gov. Sean Parnell's administration proposed stockpiling food around the state's two largest cities, which also have military bases, in case the state's 735,000 residents were cut off from supply lines.

But when Gov. Bill Walker took office and asked departments to tighten belts as the state dealt with a multibillion-dollar budget deficit, the stockpiling idea was tossed, Zidek said. The state has other food

resources it can tap, including local food banks and partnerships with federal agencies and non-governmental agencies, like the Red Cross, he said. "I think Alaskans are more prepared to deal with natural disasters than other communities, say in the Lower 48, because we're a resilient people anyway. This is the Last Frontier," said Forgit. Alaskans, living along an active seismic zone, also are a bit more used to earth-shaking and flooding along rivers like the Yukon and Kuskokwim, he said.

In places like the Kenai Peninsula, where four houses were destroyed following the early Sunday morning earthquake, authorities put as much time as they can into stressing readiness, said Scott Walden, emergency management director for the Kenai Peninsula Borough. A group of about 150 residents in the region are trained as part of a Citizens Corps to help provide basic fire or first aid response as a stopgap if emergency services are not able to respond immediately. Members of the corps opened the shelter after the quake until the Red Cross arrived, he said.

It's neighbors helping neighbors, Walden said. "Not to take the place of emergency responders but to be able to provide some semblance of organization and comfort until the responders can get there," he said. In 2013, an ice jam along the Yukon River flooded the small community of Galena in Alaska's Interior. Steve Erickson said he's lived in Galena for 25 years and thought he knew what flooding was. But he had never experienced something like that before - "fast and furious." He and his wife have rebuilt their home on high pilings. They're also more vigilant around break-up in the spring. Preparations include making sure there's enough bottled water and food in the house for a week or so, he said. — AP



**ALASKA:** Items fallen from the shelves litter the aisles inside a Safeway grocery store following a magnitude 6.8 earthquake on the Kenai Peninsula in south-central Alaska. — AP

## ITALY COVERS NUDE SCULPTURES FOR IRAN'S PRESIDENT ROUHANI

**ROME:** Italy's desire to court visiting Iranian President Hassan Rouhani extended to covering up classical nude sculptures in the museum where he met Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, it emerged yesterday. The two men made speeches in Rome's Capitoline Museum after a Monday signing ceremony which saw Italian companies tie up 17 billion euros (\$18 billion) worth of deals with the Islamic Republic. A huge statue of Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius on a horse featured prominently in many of the photographs of the event.

But nude statues, including a Venus dating from the second century BC, had all been covered

up in temporary wooden cartons, removing the risk of them creeping into any of the shots-or catching Rouhani's eye. The museum cover-up was not the only step Italy took to ensure the Iranian visit passed off smoothly. As Rouhani refuses to attend official meals at which any alcohol is available, wine was strictly off the menu at both lunch with President Sergio Mattarella and dinner with Renzi. According to media reports, France has balked at making a similar placatory gesture, leaving diplomats preparing for Rouhani's visit to Paris from Wednesday with a major protocol headache. — AFP

## MALAYSIA CONFIRMS THAILAND DEBRIS 'IS NOT FROM MH370'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia confirmed yesterday that debris found on the coast of southern Thailand was not from Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, laying to rest one question but leaving the fate of the missing airliner still shrouded in mystery. The discovery of the metal panel on the shores of the Gulf of Thailand on Saturday ignited intense speculation over whether a fresh clue had been found in the MH370 enigma, whose bizarre disappearance continues to haunt the aviation world.

After taking off from Kuala Lumpur bound for Beijing on March 8, 2014 with 239 people on board, the Boeing 777 inexplicably veered off course over the South China Sea-near the Gulf of Thailand-and vanished. But Malaysia's transport ministry said a team of experts from the government and Malaysia Airlines had examined the debris in Thailand and confirmed there was no link. "Based on these identifying details, the team has confirmed the debris does not belong to... MH370," a ministry statement said.

A day earlier, Japanese firm Mitsubishi Heavy Industries said the metal panel was probably from a rocket it manufactured to launch satellites into space, but was yet to confirm that. Two years after its disappearance, the only hard evidence that the Malaysian airliner met a tragic end is a two-metre-long MH370 wing part found last July on a beach on the French-held Indian Ocean island of Reunion.

Investigators have long believed that the plane went down in a remote part of the Indian Ocean far off Australia's western coast.

Australia is leading a high-tech search using state-of-the-art sonar detection equipment, searching for any sign of wreckage on the seabed at crushing depths approaching 5,000 meters (16,400 feet). But they have been unable to locate an exact crash site, which could help solve the mystery, and the cause of the disappearance remains one of aviation's greatest riddles. The challenges of the difficult search were underlined on Monday, when Australian officials said an underwater sonar vehicle used in the hunt had been lost to the deep ocean floor after hitting an under-sea volcano.

Relatives of those aboard MH370 have bitterly criticized the airline and Malaysian government for failing to provide answers, and the case has sparked a range of conspiracy theories, including that the plane was commandeered and landed safely somewhere. Experts say the most plausible scenarios remain a hijack, rogue pilot action or catastrophic mechanical failure, but no evidence has emerged to support any theory. The Malaysian transport ministry statement said: "Our thoughts continue to be with the families and loved ones of the passengers and crew of MH370." "We remain committed to continue the ongoing search in the Southern Indian Ocean." — AFP

## BREAKING THE BRIBE CULTURE IS STILL A CHALLENGE FOR UKRAINE

51% OF UKRAINIANS SAY CORRUPTION HAS GOT WORSE

**KIEV:** The manager of Danone Nutricia in Ukraine cannot for legal reasons say whether the Ukrainian tax authorities demanded bribes to drop an audit into his business. But he has one word to describe their aims and methods: "Mafia." Though it has been in Ukraine since 2001, the company, a subsidiary of French food group Danone, was handed a 15-20 percent higher tax bill after auditors spent five weeks looking for minor clerical errors in its accounts.

Manager Tahsin Yasin said the audit, which the company is contesting, made him realize the government's much-vaunted reforms were off-track, a gloomy prospect for a country battling an economic crash and a separatist war. Since coming to power in 2014, the pro-Western government has pledged to stamp out the systemic graft that flourished under former president Viktor Yanukovich and kept Ukraine hooked on Russian money and cheap gas.

But for many, corruption has stayed the same or even got worse, eroding public support for the authorities, deterring foreign investment and causing Ukraine's Western backers to question Kiev's ability to deliver real change. Failure to stamp out graft threatens to derail a \$40 billion aid-for-reforms deal championed by the IMF, the European Union and Washington, which keeps the economy afloat as Ukraine battles pro-Russian separatists in the east.

"Illegal tax collection did happen under Yanukovich. Luckily it didn't affect us then, but they are targeting us now despite supposed reforms," Yasin told

Reuters in an interview. "We are dealing with a completely unprofessional mafia who are there simply to extort as much as they can while in office," he said. The state fiscal service did not respond to a request for comment. The story echoes the experience of several companies spoken to by Reuters, who say organized graft has gone way to a free-for-all where bureaucrats grab what they can, while they can.

### All-out extortion

In Ukraine, companies can slash their tax bills in exchange for smaller sums of cash under the counter. A chief executive of a large agricultural company told Reuters his firm had lost a court case because he had refused to pay the judge

\$30,000. "The system of corruption has become more chaotic, more haphazard. Before, some issues could be resolved without money, but now these options don't exist - everyone is on the take," the director of a large industrial company told Reuters. A November business survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine found 73 percent of respondents did not think corruption had decreased under the current leaders. What's more, public perception of graft has worsened, a worrying sign for a government that swept to power after violent street protests against sleaze under Yanukovich. Last September 40 percent of people said they had experienced corruption in the previous 12 months, com-

pared with 37 percent in April 2014, according to an IFES poll. A separate survey said 51 percent of Ukrainians felt corruption had risen.

### Small potatoes

President Petro Poroshenko acknowledges more needs to change. "At the middle level, the situation has not changed and I am not going to put up with that," he said at a news conference in response to a Reuters question. Asking for patience, he said: "if you sow potatoes and dig them up again immediately, you won't see a result." The government has made a visible effort to cleanse the stables, bringing in respected foreigners to run key ministries, cleaning up the administration of the loss-making energy giant Naftogaz and curtailing corrupt bank lending. Another new feature is the introduction of thousands of US-trained traffic police to cleanse a body once notorious for being on-the-take. They now don't take bribes, and citizens who try to pay them face punishment.

However, these changes are not enough as long as thousands of lower-ranking officials in Soviet-style state institutions feel safe from scrutiny. "There is a big gap between the top level, where the situation is improving and the lower and lowest administrative levels, where the situation hasn't changed or even worsened," the business ombudsman for Ukraine's anti-corruption initiative, Algarda Semeta said. "There have been complaints from businesses that even when they pay bribes, they don't get the services they expected." — Reuters



**CRIMEA:** Birds gather on a partially frozen bay by the Black Sea on the outskirts of Yevpatoria, Crimea. — AP

# NEPAL'S PROTESTERS FACE TOUGH CHOICE

## GIVE UP OR MARCH ON KATHMANDU

**BIRGUNJ:** Nepal's constitutional crisis has entered a new and potentially dangerous stage as protesters, exhausted by a five-month blockade that has paralyzed most of the border with India, weigh whether to change tactics and march on the capital. Talks to accommodate the demands of southern lowlanders in the Himalayan nation broke down last week. In renewed clashes, police shot dead three demonstrators, stoking fears of an escalation of violence in which more than 50 people have died.

Protesters from the minority Madhesi community, many with close ties to Indians across the border, now face a tough choice: either accept that provincial borders may be drawn that would divide them, or raise the stakes, by gathering in force in Kathmandu to wrest a

unified homeland from the government. "Look at the youths who have been protesting, at how many have been killed by bullets to the head or chest," said Uday Kant Mishra, a member of the Federal Socialist Forum, one of the groups in the Madhesi Front that is spearheading the agitation.

"The rulers are showing us that this is a state that has no concern for the Madhesi community," he told Reuters, adding that some Madhesis "may decide to pick up a gun and fight back". The protests have exposed flaws in Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "neighborhood first" policy. Indian misreadings of Nepali sensibilities have eroded goodwill gained when Modi visited Kathmandu after winning power in 2014, and from India's swift response to

last year's devastating earthquakes. Many in Nepal accuse their giant neighbor of imposing a blockade to pressure Kathmandu into giving in to the demands of the Madhesis, whose largest protests in border towns have drawn crowds of up to 10,000, media have reported. India denies those claims and has stepped up coordination with Nepali customs to divert imports away from the fulcrum of the protests, the border town of Birgunj. This has relieved pressure on Kathmandu, but failed to keep Madhesi leaders at the negotiating table.

and cooking oil. Such journeys have become routine as supplies remain scarce and expensive. "People are tired," Ram Chandra Sharma, a physics teacher in the city of Biratnagar, just over the border from India's eastern state of Bihar, told Reuters. "People have got to think about how they are going to eat."

Protesters are still camped out on the Friendship Bridge that runs through Nepal's land from Birgunj to India, stopping goods from entering Nepal and sporadically battling police in and around the city. Laxman Lal Karna, a sen-

ior leader of the Sadbhavana Party, another member of the Madhesi Front, told Reuters the groups were discussing how best to ramp up the agitation. Leaders were considering reoccupying major border crossings, Karna said, besides mobilizing up to 100,000 supporters in Kathmandu, where anger at Prime Minister KP Oli's government is growing over shortages of food and fuel.

A decision was likely within a week or two, he added. But it was unclear if such large numbers of people could surmount Nepal's severe transport disrupt-

tions to reach the capital. The number of protesters sleeping at the Friendship Bridge has meanwhile dropped to around 30, because of sharpening winter cold. In the bustling city centre of Birgunj, most shops were open, as jeeps and buses once again trickle north to Kathmandu. "We know the blockade is affecting people's lives," said Jagat Narayan Prasad Yadav, a Madhesi Front leader. "But unless we can put pressure on the leaders in Kathmandu, we will never achieve full rights for our community." — Reuters



NEW DELHI: Indian army's dog squad march down Rajpath during the Republic Day parade in New Delhi yesterday. — AP

## 5 FACTS ABOUT INDIA'S REPUBLIC DAY PARADE

**NEW DELHI:** French President Francois Hollande is the chief guest at India's Republic Day parade yesterday, a spectacular showcase of the nation's military power and cultural diversity to celebrate the adoption of the constitution in 1950. Here are five facts about India's 67th Republic Day:

### Dog squad

After a gap of 26 years the Indian army's unsung-or unbarked-heroes are returning to the parade. A dog squad drawn from the Army's Remount Veterinary Corps will perform a march past wearing striped coats in their unit's colors of maroon and gold. The Labrador and German Shepherds usually work in the restive northern region of Kashmir detecting explosives and landmines or tracking in avalanches. Reportedly just 36 dogs out of 1,200 were chosen for the big day and underwent weeks of training.

### French march

For the first time in Republic Day history foreign troops will join the celebrations as soldiers from France's 35th Infantry Regiment, one of the country's oldest active regiments, march alongside

their Indian counterparts. It is a reciprocal gesture after Indian troops marched down Paris's Champs d'Élysees on Bastille Day in 2009. But rehearsals haven't gone entirely smoothly. "Indian troopers march a little faster than us. After rigorous practice for over a week, we have tried our best to synchronise," Lieutenant Colonel Paul Bury, who is leading the contingent, told India's Firstpost.

### Stuntwomen

Instead of the usual stunt men on two-wheelers-picked out as a highlight by President Obama during last year's parade-daring female motorcyclists from the Women Daredevils Central Reserve Police Force and Rapid Action Force will for the first time show off their skills on Royal Enfields in front of the crowds at Rajpath. The white-and-red helmeted daredevils were seen practicing their stunts-which include the human pyramid and lotus formation near Rashtrapati Bhavan, the presidential residence.

### Camels return

There was a small outcry after various newspapers suggested the camel contin-

gent, usually a mainstay of the parade, may be dropped this year-but officials later reassured the public that the dromedaries would perform as normal. The camels, used to patrol the Thar Desert near the border with Pakistan, make the journey from Rajasthan every year to participate in the parade, accompanied by mustachioed border guards. They will also be seen by millions online in India in the form of a special Google Doodle showing brightly decked-out camels carrying bandsmen to mark the day.

### Drizzle precaution

It rained on the Republic Day parade last year, forcing President Obama to take shelter under a large umbrella, in what was said to be an embarrassment for organizers. This year the VVIP enclosure-Indian shorthand for very, very important people, including Hollande and other dignitaries-will have a motorized sliding glass roof to keep them dry, according to the Indian Express. But the roof will be rolled back for the Air Force fly past-which unfurls a vapor trail in the saffron, white and green colors of the national flag-to give them a clear view of the spectacle. — AFP

## TALEBAN KILLS 10 AFGHAN POLICE IN INSIDER ATTACK

**KANDAHAR:** A rogue Afghan policeman drugged and then shot dead 10 of his colleagues in the country's volatile south yesterday, officials said, the second insider attack on police in just over a week. The Taliban infiltrator then stole their weapons and fled the police outpost in the Chinarto district of Uruzgan province, authorities said, triggering a manhunt. The attack just after midnight is part of the Taliban's unprecedented winter campaign of nationwide violence despite a renewed international push to restart formal peace talks.

"Our investigation shows that this policeman collaborated with the Taliban, drugged his colleagues and killed them when they were unconscious," Dost Mohammad Nayab, the spokesman for Uruzgan's governor said. Deputy provincial police chief Rahimullah Khan confirmed the account and said an operation had been launched to track down the killer. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, giving a different account, said nine policemen were killed after the militants captured the police outpost in Chinarto. "Our mujahideen seized several weapons including AK-47s, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades," Mujahid said.

So-called insider attacks-when Afghan soldiers or police turn their guns on their colleagues or on international troops-have been a major problem during NATO's long years fighting alongside Afghan forces. On January 17 nine Afghan policemen were shot dead in Uruzgan by four rogue colleagues said to be Taliban infiltrators. The Afghan military, which has been built from scratch since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, has struggled with insider attack killings, high casualty rates and mass desertions. Stretched on multiple fronts as the insurgency expands, Afghan forces have largely fought the ascendant Taliban on their own since NATO's combat mission formally ended in December 2014.

In recent months the Taliban briefly captured the northern city of Kunduz, the first urban centre to fall to them in 14 years of war, and have seized territory in the opium-growing southern province of Helmand. The uptick in violence comes amid renewed international efforts to revive peace talks with the Taliban, which are locked in a tussle for supporters with the Islamic State group. Delegates from Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the United States convened in the Afghan capital last week for a one-day meeting seeking a negotiated end to the 14-year Taliban insurgency. The first round of the so-called "roadmap" talks was held in Islamabad earlier this month as the four nations try to lay the groundwork for direct dialogue between Kabul and the Islamist group. — AFP

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Omani-based British explorer Mark Evans, 54, greets a camel yesterday in the desert south of the Qatari capital Doha, before the start of the last leg of a 50-day trek across the world's largest sand desert. (Right) Sheikh Mubarak bin Salah, 30, part of the team, poses yesterday in the desert. —AFP

## EMPTY QUARTER EXPLORERS NEAR END OF 50-DAY TREK

**DOHA:** A team of intrepid walkers and their camels wearily marched towards the Qatari capital Doha yesterday, the last leg of a 50-day trek across the world's largest sand desert. They are on the verge of successfully retracing the historic 1,300-km route taken in 1930 by British civil servant and Arabist Bertram Thomas. The three-man team walked from Salalah in southern Oman, through Saudi Arabia, to Doha, across a vast stretch of uninhabited land in the southern Arabian peninsula known as the Empty Quarter.

Yesterday, they set off at around 0400 GMT from a moonscape-like desert south of Doha to complete the final 30 km or so of their epic journey. Despite the threat of warring tribes and a constant struggle to find enough water, Thomas completed the journey in 57 days. The modern-day trekkers led by Omani-based British explorer Mark Evans are hoping to complete the journey in fewer days.

Evans, 54, said he was in awe of the achievement made by Thomas and his team 85 years ago. "I would say how humble we are about what those people achieved," he said. "They were completely on their own," said Evans. His team includes the great, great grandson of Sheikh Salih bin Kalut Al Rashidi Al-Kathiri who completed the original journey with Thomas. "Because it is my great, great grandfather, I wanted to recreate it," said Sheikh Mubarak Saleh

Muhammad Salah bin Kalut. "I am proud that he was part of the original team."

Unlike Thomas, Evans and his fellow walkers have been able to use GPS and smartphones to communicate with the outside world, while two vehicles carrying water and provisions accompanied them during their voyage. But like Thomas, they have also endured walking across enormous sand dunes in Saudi Arabia, searing day temperatures and cold nights and sleeping without a tent under the stars each evening. "We look like an Egyptian sarcophagus each morning when we wake up, covered in sand," said Evans, a fellow of the Explorers Club of New York, and The Royal Geographical Society in London.

As well as recreating the steps of explorers from the 1930, there is also a scientific element to the journey. The team has found tools and discovered ancient Arabian script in Oman up to 3,000-years-old. They have also completed a psychological questionnaire each evening for a study in "exercise environment psychology" being carried out at a British university, said Evans. The team received help from all three countries they have trekked across from assistance at border crossings, to camels being supplied by the Qatari royal family. These have proved the hardest as Evans admits that modern-day camels, like humans, "have got a bit soft". The journey is set to end close to the Al Rayyan fort on the western fringes of Doha. — AFP



## OPEC WON'T CUT OUTPUT ALONE

Continued from Page 1

He warned that if the energy crisis continues for a long time, prices could rebound strongly. "If the energy crisis continues for a long period and investments drop, the price rebound will be sudden and strong," Abdulmahdi said. "The problem will become that of demand rather than oversupply." The minister said that the price of oil is expected to rise gradually to around \$50 a barrel in the second half of this year.

Nizar Al-Adsani, CEO of national oil firm Kuwait Petroleum Corp, said investment in global exploration and production dropped 20 percent in 2015 from \$850 billion the previous year. It is projected to drop 18 percent more this year, Adsani said. He said KPC is expected to invest up to \$100 billion over the coming five years to achieve the strategic directions of the oil sector until 2030.

"We anticipate an expenditure of 100 billion dollars over the next five years to achieve this target, half of which is already committed to specific identified projects," Adsani told the conference. He noted that "low oil prices have been a prominent feature of the market since the second half of 2014, and could stay lower for longer; posing challenge to our industry, but providing an opportunity to structural reforms, to achieve long-term benefits for countries."

He pointed to forecasts that global exploration and production (upstream) spending would fall from about \$850 billion in 2014, by more than 20 percent, in 2015, while the level in 2014 over 2013 had increased by 3 percent. It will take time, probably two years for these changes to have an effect on future supplies. Global upstream spending is expected to decline by 18 percent in 2016. This would be the first time since 1986 that consecutive declines in spending were recorded, Adsani said.

It is a common sense that mature producing fields globally have an average decline rate of around 5 percent, while world oil demand will continue to expand at a range of 1-1.5 million barrels per day annually, which means that the world markets would need some 5-6 million barrels per day of new crude annually, the CEO noted. This shows the importance of continuity of investments in the upstream globally for the sake of stable markets, and to avoid volatility as well as spikes in oil prices.

Producers of crude oil have financial surpluses and tend to redistribute income via investment. The scale of the global effect is significant, Adsani said. That boost is then amplified if it generates a subsequent lift in confidence, encouraging companies to invest and spend. "We, at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation recognize that it is also a great risk if we do not make investments," he stated. — Agencies

## ASSEMBLY TO HOLD DEBATE ON SUBSIDY CUTS...

Continued from Page 1

The annual surplus of Kuwait's budget is transferred to the general reserve, while ten percent is deducted for the Reserve Fund for Future Generations, said Saleh said. The minister's statement came in response to parliamentary questions on Kuwait's financial surplus in the past few years.

He said that deficit in the budget is an annual issue that depends on oil prices and expenditure, as there are people wondering how Kuwait could face deficit while it has financial reserves. "Having a deficit this year doesn't necessarily mean we will face the same problem next year," he noted during the Assembly's ordinary session, reported state news agency KUNA.

In other parliamentary news, MPs Jamal Al-Omar and Mohammad Tana traded insults during the Assembly session yesterday after the latter accused Omar of covering up corruption charges. The two lawmakers insulted each other's origin, with each claiming to be a true Kuwaiti.

The Assembly also rejected a new draft law that requires men and women to undergo counseling before they tie the knot. Several MPs criticized the proposal as against the traditions of the country. Head of the women's committee MP Saleh Ashour said they included the provision to follow the experiment of Malaysia, which introduced such a requirement to bring down a rising divorce rate that hit 70 percent. Ashour said that the average annual divorce rate in Kuwait is hovering around 30 percent, while in some years it exceeded 50 percent.

The lawmakers however approved in the first reading a draft law for commercial agencies in Kuwait which a number of MPs blasted as pro-merchant. Commerce and Industry Minister Yousef Al-Ali said the law breaks a monopoly by agents which has been in place for decades, but a number of MPs disputed the claim. MPs particularly criticized the financial and economic affairs committee for removing an article in the law that allowed the same commodity to be imported by more than one agent.

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## DAESH PLANNING 'SPECIAL FORCES-STYLE' ATTACK IN EUROPE...



## LONDON RENTS TOO HIGH EVEN FOR YOUNG BANKERS

By Anjuli Davies and Sinead Cruise

Rents in London have risen so sharply that the one group of young workers usually immune to worries about keeping a roof over their heads are starting to feel the pinch. The average financial sector salary is about 30 percent higher than the average wage in Britain but it is still failing to keep pace with rent rises in the overcrowded capital, government wage statistics, salary research and rental data shows. The trend casts a cloud over the capital's role as a global financial centre as young bankers join their fellow Londoners in weighing whether to pay ever-larger sums to live in the dynamic city centre or commute from outside, and may even push them into leaving for other industries or banking hubs overseas.

According to government data tracking England's private rental market in 2014-15, the median monthly rent in London is now £1,400 (\$2,000), almost three times higher than in northeast England. London residential rents have risen by an average 5.3 percent each year since 2011, data accurate to Dec 2015 from lettings agency Your Move & Reeds Rains shows. The median salary including bonuses for entry-level bankers, typically the most lucrative first role in financial services, went in the other direction during the same period, down 4.2 percent since 2011, according to research from Emolument, a website that benchmarks salaries across the industry.

"It's undoubtedly a problem for all young professionals in London," said James Ferguson, a partner at financial consulting firm Deloitte. "Having affordable housing and bringing in a new breed of professionals to London is important. If we want London to thrive for professional and financial services we have to create housing."

The challenge comes as Britain's membership in the European Union is under threat from a referendum due by the end of 2017 to opt out of the union, another uncertainty for young financial professionals looking for a well-coming place to live and work. It also has real conse-

quences for the government. The financial services industry contributed £66 billion in tax in 2013/2014, more than any other UK industry, data published by trade body CityUK showed.

"The lesson learned is: Find a better job or move out of London," said one 22-year-old financial services professional based in London's Whitechapel neighborhood, who declined to be named in line with his firm's policy on talking to the media. "If you're a nurse trying to live in London, God knows what you'd do."

### Brain Drain

The starting salary for a post with London's Metropolitan Police is £29,331, for a newly qualified teacher is £27,819 and for a foundation year trainee doctor is £36,063, websites ran by the Met Police, Department of Education and National Health Service show. Banking, by contrast, is relatively well-paid: Emolument research shows an entry-level banker earned around £50,000, before taxes, in 2015.

But London rents are challenging to all pocketbooks. Research by lettings agency Stirling Ackroyd showed London tenants need to live at least 10 km from London's Charles I statue in Charing Cross, traditionally considered the 'centre' of the capital, in order to pay less than £1,000 in monthly rent. Just 24 out of 179 postcode districts with in 10 miles of central London record average monthly rents of less than £1,000, with average monthly rents of £1,567 in E14, the code close to the financial heartland of Canary Wharf.

Research conducted by KPMG alongside housing charity Shelter showed that more than half of all 20- to 34-year-olds could be living with their parents by 2040 and housing prices could quadruple in the next 20 years. Some firms are doing something about it. Deloitte's Ferguson has started a scheme to reserve East London flats for the company's entry-level employees. Financial services and accounting firm KPMG, which employs over

7,000 people in London, has teamed up with Clydesdale and Yorkshire banks to help junior staff get access to preferential mortgage rates. "We know from our staff engagement that getting a foot on the property ladder is one of the biggest personal finance challenges they face," Simon Collins, UK Chairman of KPMG, told Reuters in an emailed statement.

### Moving Out

While KPMG and Deloitte are thinking up ways of giving their London employees a helping hand, some large banks have come up with another solution: Moving jobs out of the city or even out of the country. Investment banks have started moving back office and IT jobs to Poland and Ireland to cut wage bills bloated by what they consider to be expensive UK-based workers. Credit Suisse Chief Executive Tidjane Thiam last year estimated the Swiss-based bank could save 230 million Swiss francs a year if it moved almost 2,000 back-office positions out of London.

Earlier this month Morgan Stanley announced an initiative to cut up to \$1 billion by 2017 by using technology and outsourcing jobs now in its New York headquarters and other higher cost cities like London to places like Mumbai and Budapest. For financial sector workers with client-facing roles that must be based in London, moving to more affordable property in Bournemouth - where JPMorgan has based 4,000 tech staffers - or Birmingham, the site of HSBC's retail bank, is not an option, however.

Five banks contacted by Reuters said they had no plans to help young London-based staff bear the burden of housing costs. "We are in the top percentage of earners in the country and we can't afford a comfortable home in London," said a 31-year-old mother of one, who works at one of Britain's biggest banks. Although she has no plans to leave her job, she will be moving her family out of the city. "If we can't afford it, who realistically can?" —Reuters

## LAWYERS WARY OF TAKING ON FLINT SCANDAL

By Brendan Pierson

The water scandal in Flint, Michigan has many of the ingredients for a mass, class-action lawsuit: Danger signs that may have been ignored, many thousands of potential victims, the possibility of lifelong health problems, and the alleged systemic failure of people in charge. Even consumer activist Erin Brockovich, the main subject of a 2000 movie named after her, has drawn attention to Flint's plight on her Facebook page and in public appearances.

But big-name, national plaintiffs' firms have yet to jump into the fray in Flint, which has a population of about 100,000. What's holding them back, several lawyers said, is not the facts or the victims, but the prospective targets: The State of Michigan, the city of Flint, and officials at various levels of government. Special legal protections make it difficult to hold governments liable for damages, they said.

Federal and state governments and employees engaged in their official duties are shielded from most private lawsuits by a legal doctrine known as sovereign immunity. The doctrine, enshrined in the laws of many countries, stems from the centuries-old principle that the government itself cannot commit a legal wrong, though exceptions have evolved. While cities in the US are not technically considered to have sovereign status, they are similarly protected by state and federal laws.

As of Friday, only a few lawsuits had been filed in the wake of the crisis that began when the city began in April 2014 to use river water, which was more corrosive than its previous supply source and caused lead to leach from aging pipes into the water that people drank and washed in. Those suits were filed against the state,

city, and various state employees by a group of Michigan lawyers who are pushing relatively novel theories designed to circumvent immunity. The financially troubled city was governed by a state-appointed emergency manager at the time of the change to the river water.

A spokeswoman for Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette declined to comment on the lawsuits. The Flint City Attorney's Office did not return calls seeking comment. The legal scene couldn't be more different in Southern California, where several big, national law firms are behind some of more than 25 suits filed over a disastrous natural gas leak near Los Angeles that has forced thousands of residents from their homes since October.

The targets of those suits are the utility Southern California Gas Co and its parent company Sempra Energy, the non-government operators of the leaking gas storage facility. A state court in Los Angeles is currently considering a motion to coordinate the cases.

### 'They Poisoned Kids'

Frank Petosa, head of complex environmental litigation at Florida's Morgan & Morgan, which is representing residents in the California case in multiple lawsuits, said the firm decided against litigating in Flint for now. "The concern is the sovereign immunity," Petosa said. Robin Greenwald of New York plaintiffs' firm Weitz & Luxenberg, which is also representing plaintiffs in California, agreed that immunity was an obstacle in Flint. But she did not rule out getting involved in some way. "I really believe there must be something to do here," she said. "There must be an opportunity for that community to be compensated. They poisoned kids."

Tests have shown an alarming rise in

the levels of lead in the blood of children from the city. The crisis has led to the resignations of several officials, federal and state investigations, and widespread concerns that a potential health crisis in a largely poor, majority African-American city had been ignored. Officials had insisted the water was safe for many months despite concerns expressed by residents and activists after the change in the source of the supply.

Sovereign immunity does not apply if the government or an employee infringes on the U.S. constitution, as in, for example, cases where police have allegedly violated someone's civil rights. It also may not apply if the plaintiff can show there was gross negligence. Michigan law, however, shields the state's topmost officials - including the governor, agency heads and Flint's emergency manager - even in cases of gross negligence.

There are other exceptions to immunity, such as injuries involving government-owned vehicles or buildings, but they are typically spelled out in state and federal laws and not applicable to the water crisis, lawyers said. Undaunted by the high bar, a coalition of Michigan lawyers is pursuing creative arguments on behalf of what one of them, William Goodman of Detroit's Goodman & Hurwitz, said could be as many as 30,000 to 90,000 residents. "We're zigging and zagging around government immunity," said another of the lawyers, Michael Pitt, of Royal Oak, Michigan's Pitt McGehee Palmer & Rivers.

### State-Created Danger

One of the Flint lawsuits, filed in November against the state and local governments and various officials in US district court in Ann Arbor, makes a federal constitutional argument. It contends that the

decision to switch the water source denied residents their civil rights to bodily integrity and to be free from state-created danger. The state's response is due next month. Pitt said he was aware of no federal appeals court that had addressed such claims in a comparable situation, but a similar suit over asbestos in public housing is currently pending in a Philadelphia trial court.

The Flint lawyers announced two other lawsuits this month. One, filed in the Michigan Court of Claims against the governor and state agencies, alleges state constitutional violations. The other, filed in Genesee County Circuit Court, targets lower-level officials who are not protected by Michigan's immunity laws if they are shown to have acted with gross negligence. In all three cases, the plaintiffs are seeking damages for alleged health problems from the water. In the federal case, they also are seeking punitive damages, which are barred in Michigan state courts.

"We're going to continue to fight until we get what we need," said former Flint City Attorney Trachelle Young, one of the lawyers in the group. Jean Eggen, a professor at Delaware Law School specializing in environmental law, said all the Flint lawyers' legal arguments would be challenging but maybe not impossible. In her view a "forward-thinking" judge might be open to the constitutional arguments.

But Peter Hsiao, the Los Angeles-based head of the environment practice at global law firm Morrison & Foerster, who has represented California agencies and municipalities against environmental lawsuits seeking to circumvent sovereign immunity, said those cases were all dismissed by judges before trial. "I think in Flint they'll have the same difficulties," Hsiao said. —Reuters

### Focus

## GOP NEEDS BUDGET CUTS TO FULFILL POLITICAL PROMISE

By Andrew Taylor

Thanks to Congress' recent tax-and-spending spree, Republicans intent on fulfilling a political promise will have to propose far deeper cuts to domestic programs to bring the government's deteriorating balance sheet back into the black. And if the GOP should win the White House, those promises are likely to come back and haunt them. A weakening economy means Republicans will have to dig even further into the budget to find sufficient spending cuts to balance the budget, according to the latest projections from the Congressional Budget Office. The budget - a non-binding wish list of cuts and policies - was already unrealistic, promising cuts that lawmakers have never shown they'd be willing to make. Last year, for instance, Republicans promised more than \$5 trillion in spending cuts over a decade. Instead, they worked with President Barack Obama to add about \$750 billion to the deficit over the decade through a mix of spending increases and permanent tax cuts. Even a token effort to curb the federal crop insurance program was immediately reversed after a revolt by farm state lawmakers.

Now, the dismal fiscal picture, budget experts say, would mean Republicans would have to slash more than \$2 trillion over 10 years, with the most draconian cuts required in the final years. That's assuming they will still try to balance the budget. "Realistically speaking, that's just not going to happen," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a Washington group that advocates for lower deficits. With Social Security, the Pentagon and most of Medicare insulated politically from cuts, Republicans are likely to call for even further reductions to programs like Medicaid, domestic agency budgets, student loan subsidies and food stamps. The GOP chairmen of the House and Senate Budget panels insist they will find a way. "It's not only realistic but essential," Senate Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi said of balancing the budget. "This country is going to be bankrupt if we don't do something."

### Arcane Process

Under Congress' arcane budget process, lawmakers vote first on a broad, non-binding outline called a budget resolution - which is akin to the blueprints for a house - and then use follow-up legislation to fill in the details. The second-step of votes to implement the budget are invariably more difficult than the first. Congress does a lot more bragging about budget blueprints than actually trying to enact them. House Republicans boast but they've never drafted legislation detailing how they would turn Medicare into a voucher-like program for most future retirees or cut Medicaid funding by about one-fifth - and force many millions of people from health coverage or nursing home care.

Even architects of the budget acknowledge that there's no stomach to actually try to impose its cuts. "The critical mass does not yet exist in the country or the Congress that recognizes that we need to save and strengthen and secure these mandatory programs," said House Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price. Price was referring to programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, whose mandatory budgets grow automatically unless Congress cuts them.

So in some ways the budget process is perfect for politicians: It gives them a chance to tell voters they're cutting spending even as they avoid the politically dangerous votes required to actually do it. The budget process also fits into Speaker Paul Ryan's vision for using the House agenda to tell voters what they'll get if Republicans win the White House. The annual budget debate will come before efforts to replace the healthcare law or reveal the party's plans to update the loophole-clogged tax code after five years of controlling the House.

### Spending Cuts?

Conspicuously left off the agenda? Emphasizing spending cuts, even as the deficit has begun growing again and the latest estimates reveal trillion-dollar deficits returning in just a few years. "Clearly that's going to take a Republican president because this president has continued to kick the can down the road and I see no change in his behavior," Ryan told reporters last week.

But it's by no means clear that balancing the budget will be a top priority for presidential candidates who have promised big tax cuts and aren't really talking about the issue on the campaign trail. If there is a GOP president next year, he will have to answer questions about living up to the balanced-budget promises of Republicans in Congress. If a GOP president embraces a balanced budget, they'll have to offer an enormously difficult set of cuts to Republican lawmakers unshooled in what balancing the budget really means.

"The magnitude of the policy changes that you would have to implement to achieve the savings that are promised in the budget - I don't think there's an appreciation for the magnitude of those changes," said Neil Bradley, a former top House GOP aide who now works for the Conservative Reform Network, which offers policy advice to GOP candidates and lawmakers. —AP

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## NEWCASTLE AGREE 12M POUND FEE FOR SPURS' TOWNSEND

**LONDON:** Newcastle United have agreed to sign out-of-favour Tottenham Hotspur winger Andros Townsend for 12 million pounds (\$17 million), British media reported yesterday. Townsend, 24, a regular in the England squad last season, has made just seven appearances for Spurs in all competitions this campaign and has not started a Premier League game so far. His future at the club was thrown into doubt in November when he was suspended for two weeks after clashing with fitness coach Nathan Gardiner. The winger has been in exile with Tottenham's under-21s ever since and emerged as a target for Steve McClaren a few weeks ago as the Newcastle manager bids to strengthen his squad to avoid relegation. Newcastle had an offer to take the player on loan rebuffed earlier this month as Spurs' chairman Daniel Levy was only willing to countenance an outright sale, the Daily Mail reported. Levy also rejected a 10 million pound bid for the winger. Yesterday's deal means Townsend becomes McClaren's third signing of the transfer window, which closes within a week, after midfielders Henri Saivet and Jonjo Shelvey. — Reuters



## EUROPEAN MEDALIST AMONG RUSSIANS BANNED FOR DOPING

**MOSCOW:** The Russian Olympic Committee has banned four track and field athletes for doping, including a silver medalist from the 2012 European championships. Irina Maracheva, who won silver in the 800 meters at the European competition in Helsinki, received a two-year ban. Several other Russian 800-meter runners have either been given doping bans in recent years or are under investigation, including Olympic champion Mariya Savinova.

Maracheva originally finished third in the 800 final in 2012 but was upgraded to silver when Russian teammate Yelena Arzhakova was disqualified from the gold-medal position for doping. Race walker Anna Luyanova, a former silver medalist at the world junior championships, was banned for two years and joins a list of more than 30 doping cases in recent years linked to the Russian national training center in the city of Saransk. There were also four-year bans for runners Maria Nikolaeva, an 800-meter specialist, and Elena Nikulina, who races in the 400. The sanctions were the first handed down by the ROC, which has gained some authority over the Russian track and field federation since it was banned from global competition in November over allegations of systematic doping. In a statement late Sunday, the ROC did not specify which violations the four athletes had committed, when the bans were dated from, or which results would be canceled out as a result. ROC spokesman Konstantin Vybormov told The Associated Press on Monday that "practically all" of the cases involved the biological passport system, which analyses athletes' blood for evidence of doping. — AP

## ROMA'S GERVINHO HEADS TO CHINA

**BEIJING:** Roma's Ivorian striker Gervinho has signed with China's Hebei Fortune, the team said yesterday, the latest European-based star to be lured east by the increasingly wealthy Chinese Super League. "Gervinho has joined Hebei Fortune," the club said in a one-line statement on its verified Sina Weibo account, a Chinese version of Twitter. The announcement did not say how much the deal was worth. Gervinho has scored only six league goals for Roma this season and doubts over his future mounted when coach Rudi Garcia was sacked two weeks ago. Ahead of Roma's defeat on Sunday, club officials confirmed he had asked for a transfer. The player won a French league and cup double with Lille in 2011 before moving to Arsenal, where he scored just 11 goals in two years. Roma reportedly paid around eight million euros in 2013 to secure his services. Gervinho's move is the latest in a string of high-profile transfers involving foreign players and coaches in China, where the top league is increasingly flooded with cash. Last week Asian football champions Guangzhou Evergrande sold their Brazilian top scorer Elkeson to rivals Shanghai SIPG for as much as 20 million euros (\$22 million), the official Xinhua news agency reported. — AFP



## LOS ANGELES SWITCHES PLAN FOR ATHLETE VILLAGE FOR 2024 GAMES

**LOS ANGELES:** Organizers behind Los Angeles' bid for the 2024 Olympic Games moved Monday to erase a major uncertainty: where to house thousands of athletes, and how to pay for it.

A proposal released last year when Los Angeles stepped in as a contender for the Games envisioned a \$1 billion athletes' village rising on the site of a rail yard near downtown, bankrolled by mostly private dollars from an unknown source. That concept was officially scrapped, and officials announced that athletes would live about 15 miles west, on the UCLA campus.

The change represents an overhaul of a core element of the Olympic proposal — finding a place for athletes to make their temporary home. LA is competing for the 2024 Games against Rome, Paris and Budapest, Hungary.

Speaking at UCLA, Mayor Eric Garcetti called the plan the "most cost-conscious" of alternatives to the rail yard but added that its strongest asset was its advantages for athletes, who would live in campus hous-

ing and be able to train at the university's athletic fields, gyms and pools. UCLA will receive rent for use of the campus, at a cost not yet known.

Meanwhile, the Olympic committee is not facing the prospect of finding a developer to build a village for 17,000 athletes. The blueprint for the rail yard was in doubt from the start.

City analysts warned that costs to acquire the land and build the structures could significantly exceed the projected cost. The railroad had told the city that it has no plans to close or relocate the yard, but it would be open to the possibility of a sale or exchange agreement involving a "suitable replacement facility with all the necessary permits and approvals."

There were questions about possible pollution at the yard, and the cost of a cleanup. Garcetti also announced that the University of Southern California campus would be the site of the media village. The International Olympic Committee will select a site for the 2024 Games next year. — AP

## GARCIA STARTS 'VERY BIG' 2016 IN QATAR

**DOHA:** Sergio Garcia makes his first appearance of a potentially momentous 2016 this week as one of the big names at this year's Qatar Masters, which tees off today.

As well as his perennial hunt for an elusive Major, the Spaniard is almost certainly likely to feature in Europe's Ryder Cup team at Hazletine in September. A win in Minnesota would mark Garcia's sixth victorious Ryder Cup performance and cement his position as one of the greatest European players over the match-play format.

There is also the small matter of golf at the Olympics in Brazil later this year, for the first time since 1904. "On my way to @CBQatarMasters to start my golfing year. Excited to get going on a very big year for golf #Majors @rydercup @Olympics," he tweeted earlier this week.

But for now, the most immediate thing on the 36-year-old's mind will be trying to rediscover the form he showed in Doha two years ago to win the 2014 Qatar Masters.

The \$2.5 million Masters is part of the European Tour and is one leg of three tournaments played in the Middle East at the beginning of each year, the other two being the Abu Dhabi Golf championship, won on Sunday by Rickie Fowler, and the Dubai Desert Classic.

The tournament has attracted a strong field this year. As well as Garcia, last year's winner, Branden Grace is in Doha to defend his title. If he does so, he will be the first player to achieve that since the tournament started in 1998, but he admitted it would be hard.

"The reality is that the chances are slim, especially when you look at the field," he said on Monday. "So many top players like Sergio have won here and return year after year.

Then we have Louis [Oosthuizen] coming back here and a lot of other players in really good form, so we'll just do our best and see what happens."

The South African had a splendid 2015, winning in Doha by just one stroke from Scotland's Marc Warren, after carding a 19 under par score of 269 over the four days. He also won on the South African Sunshine Tour last year and was in contention to win the US Open at Chambers Bay, eventually finishing fourth. The 27-year-old also showed signs of his considerable promise with another top five finish at the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits in August.

Fellow South African and 2010 British Open winner-Oosthuizen will make his first appearance in Doha since 2013.

Frenchman Victor Dubuisson, another Ryder Cup prospect, will look to build on his two European Tour victories, though neither have come in Qatar. However, another former winner, 2206 champion Henrik Stenson, pulled out earlier this week because of injury. There is also a strong representation from Asia.

Wu Ashun, China's number one player, is making his debut in Qatar. Last year the 30-year-old won his first European Tour title, the China Open. "I'm becoming more used to playing against European Tour players, although I don't have a lot of experience of playing in the Middle East," Wu said earlier this week. Wu's compatriot Jin Cheng will also take part. The teenager is China's top amateur and will be in the field at this year's Masters in April. And Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee and Kiradech Aphibarnrat will also provide part of the challenge from Asia. Previous winners of the Qatar Masters also include Adam Scott, Retief Goosen and Ernie Els. — AFP



**SINGAPORE:** This handout photo taken and released by Lagardere Sports yesterday shows (L-R) Jamie Donaldson of Wales, Y E Yang of South Korea, Shingo Katayama of Japan, Jordan Spieth of the US, Darren Clarke of Northern Ireland, An Byeong-hun of South Korea holding the trophy ahead of the SMBC Singapore Open at the Sentosa Golf Club, Serapong Course, in Singapore. The one million USD event will take place from January 28-31. — AFP

## SPIETH READY TO TAKE ON SINGAPORE OPEN

**SINGAPORE:** World number one Jordan Spieth is gunning for nothing less than winning the SMBC Singapore Open when the tournament tees off tomorrow, but could face tough a challenge from some of Asia's best.

The American put aside earlier complaints of exhaustion after a T-5 finish at the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship on Sunday and said he will be fit and ready for the event at the Sentosa Golf Club's Serapong Course.

Spieth is in the city-state for his seventh overseas tournament in nearly four months, but barely 24 hours after his arrival the 22-year-old said he has not reached the point of slowing down. "There was certainly fatigue at the end of Sunday at Abu Dhabi, and all it takes is a couple days of rest and I am back," said the 2015 US Open and Masters champion. "I was very pleased with my form there last week, but I just didn't make anything out of it and that happens," he told reporters.

Spieth said he was let down by his usually reliable short game that left him five strokes

behind compatriot and eventual winner Rickie Fowler. All he needs is to refresh and work on his putters before taking on the Singapore Open, which returns after a three-year hiatus under a new sponsor, Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation.

"I am easy, I just need a couple days of rest because I am always excited for a tournament round and never once teed up where I felt I wanted the round to end. I have always been extremely excited about the next hole, the next opportunity to make birdie," he said.

"I love to play golf. It is just what I love to do. My body has been tired before, so there is no problem picking myself up for this week." Singapore's heat and humidity are unlikely to bother Spieth as the climate is similar to that of his home state of Texas in the summer, but he said the windy conditions might affect his play.

### ASIAN CHALLENGE

The course is also tricky, Spieth said, and he

has very little time to soak in all the information. "Looking at the yardage book," he said, "there is a lot of trouble, a lot of water hazards and really, really long par fours. The greens are massive, so I am going to go out there and work on my speed control to make sure I won't be three putting. But the goal is to win this week."

But victory is not a foregone conclusion for Spieth. India's Jeev Milkha Singh, the 2008 Singapore Open winner and now ranked 876th, said more Asian players are winning on golf's biggest stage and believes a few of them are capable of putting up a challenge.

An Asian has not won the tournament since Singh's feat eight years ago. The tournament is offering a minimum prize purse of \$1.0 million.

It was formerly one of Asia's richest with a \$6.0 million purse when last held in November 2012. The tournament was cancelled in 2013 after British bank Barclays chose not to renew its sponsorship. — AFP



Sergio Garcia

## IAAF BODY LOOKING AT '17, '19 WORLDS

**LONDON:** Qatar's bids for the 2017 and 2019 world athletics championships have been referred to the IAAF ethics commission, the head of Britain's track and field federation said yesterday. The ethics body did not immediately respond to questions about the revelation by UK Athletics chairman Ed Warner while appearing at a British parliamentary committee hearing into the athletics doping scandal.

The 2017 championships were awarded to London, which defeated a rival bid from Doha, Qatar. Doha subsequently beat Barcelona and Eugene, Oregon in the vote for the 2019 worlds. Warner was asked by the committee about a claim in a recent radio interview that he had been told "brown envelopes" were handed to members of the IAAF council ahead of the vote in 2011 for the 2017 worlds. Warner said he was "not prepared to say" who told him.

"I have had a number of discussions with the IAAF since that program and they have told me that the 2017 and 2019 bids by Qatar, Doha have

now been referred to their ethics commission," Warner told legislators. "I'm delighted at that and so my next conversation is going to be with that ethics commission to lay out all that I heard at the time."

Warner said he put the rumors about brown envelopes "to the back of my mind" until the scale of corruption in the IAAF under Lamine Diack's presidency was revealed. "It seemed incredible to think brown envelopes were being handed out in a hotel suite," Warner said. "You'd have thought you would have been much more subtle than that if you were corrupted."

In November, the IAAF ethics commission suspended the Kenyan track and field leader, who was accused of receiving two cars from the Qatar Athletics Federation as "an apparent gift" between 2014 and 2015. That revelation prompted Warner to question "if it was a fair race," which saw London respond to concerns about alleged Qatar inducements by legitimate-

ly offering to raise the prize money on offer at the 2017 worlds.

Qatar later won the right to stage the athletics showcase for the first time in a November 2014 vote. IAAF President Sebastian Coe subsequently told a parliamentary hearing he is unsure whether Qatar's successful bid to host the 2019 world athletics championships was clean. Qatar's successful bid to stage the 2022 World Cup has been dogged by allegations of wrongdoing. FIFA has not found evidence that warrants stripping Qatar of football's main event.

Qatar has denied any wrongdoing in any of its sporting bids. "There is nothing to hide these days, but to go through accusations it's really painful for us," Qatar Athletics Federation President Dahlan Al Hamad said last week at a news conference in Doha, alongside Coe. "We know that there is an ethics commission and in fact once we have received this information I have requested... the ethics commission to investigate." — AP

## BRONCOS HEAP PRAISE ON PANTHERS LEADING UP TO SUPER BOWL 50

**ENGLEWOOD:** Nothing but compliments for Cam Newton after completely bashing Tom Brady. And no, this nasty Denver Broncos defense hasn't suddenly turned soft. They're simply playing nice with the Super Bowl still two weeks away.

The pleasantries seem tame after all the trash talking Denver did before the New England game. The Broncos called Brady a crybaby for complaining to the officials over calls. They also accused tight end Rob Gronkowski of constantly pushing off to get open. On Sunday, they backed up their words by constantly harassing Brady in a 20-18 win over the Patriots to earn a spot in Super Bowl

50 against Carolina (17-1). Now, the Broncos (14-4) are pulling out the respect card, especially when it comes to Newton. "He's probably the most dangerous quarterback in the NFL right now," Pro Bowl cornerback Aqib Talib said. Outside linebacker DeMarcus Ware heaped plenty of praise on Newton, too. "You can't rush timid because if you do that, he's one of those pocket quarterbacks that can get the ball deep down the field," said Ware, whose team will wear their white road uniforms on Feb 7 in their record-tying eighth Super Bowl appearance. "You have to be able to get pressure on him, but you have to be decisive on how you're rushing. You can't be

a wild rusher." The Broncos certainly went wild against Brady, hitting him 23 times, all the more amazing given how quickly Brady usually gets rid of the ball. And no one was in his face more often than Von Miller, who had 2 1/2 sacks and an interception on a pass intended for Gronkowski.

"We go out there and the scoreboard talks for itself," Miller said. So good was defensive coordinator Wade Phillips' scheme that after the game, coach Gary Kubiak felt he had to give out several game balls.

"We've got to come up with a great game plan against them like we did against New England," Talib said. "We may switch it up

here and there a little bit, but for the most part, we're going to get pressure on the quarterback and cover."

### 'SUPER UNIQUE'

The Broncos are facing a different kind of QB in Newton. He's not like Brady, who will find seam after seam for big play after big play. Instead, Newton will take off if the pressure is too intense. In a 49-15 win over Arizona during the NFC title game, Newton rushed for two TDs and threw for two more.

"Super unique," Talib said. "I've never seen anybody who is that size. He can sit in the pocket and throw it, and then he can run, run

wide out. He probably could play any position in the NFL that you wanted to. He's definitely a unique player." Kubiak saw Newton last season when he was offensive coordinator in Baltimore. Newton completed 14 of 25 passes for 197 yards that day but was under duress for much of the game. Newton was sacked twice as the Ravens won 38-10.

The Broncos first-year head coach wouldn't mind a repeat performance. "Having to tackle him out in the open field, having to defend the quarterback runs and those types of things will be something different for us," Kubiak said. "It's nice to have a couple of weeks." — AP

## FRANCE'S MERMOZ GETS SIX NATIONS CALL

**PARIS:** Toulon centre Maxime Mermoz was yesterday called up to replace injured Alexandre Dumoulin in France's training squad for the Six Nations.

Dumoulin, 26, who has eight caps, suffered a left knee knock in Racing 92's European Champions Cup loss at Glasgow on Saturday. "Medical tests this morning (Tuesday) revealed nothing serious but a period of rest is necessary," a statement issued by the France team said. "Alexandre rejoins his club to continue his treatment."

Mermoz has 30 caps with his last call-up against England during last year's Six Nations tournament.

The 29-year-old was called up to take part in the final day of a training camp ahead of the Six Nations.

The final list of players will be revealed next week with the first match against Italy in Stade de France on February 6.

Also sidelined injured for the three-day training camp this week were wing Benjamin Fall, scrum-half Morgan Parra and lock Sebastien Vahaamahina.

### Squad

Forwards (16): Eddy Ben Arous (Racing 92), Jefferson Poirot (Bordeaux-Begles), Uini Atonio (La Rochelle), Rabah Slimani (Stade Francais), Guilhem Guirado (Toulon, cap.), Camille Chat (Racing 92), Yoann Maestri (Toulon), Alexandre Flanquart (Stade Francais), Bernard Le Roux (Racing 92), Paul Jedrasiak (Clermont), Yacouba Camara (Toulouse), Damien Chouly (Clermont), Wenceslas Lauret (Racing 92), Louis Picamoles (Toulouse), Antoine Burban (Stade Francais), Kevin Gourdon (La Rochelle).

Backs (15): Sebastien Bezy (Toulouse), Baptiste Serin (Bordeaux-Begles), Maxime Machenaud (Racing 92), Jules Plisson (Stade Francais), Jean-Marc Doussain (Toulouse), Jonathan Danty (Stade Francais), Maxime Mermoz (Toulon), Wesley Fofana (Clermont), Ga'1 Fickou (Toulouse), Remi Lamerat (Castres).

Marvin O'Connor (Montpellier), Virimi Vakatawa (FFR), Maxime Medard (Toulouse), Hugo Bonneval (Stade Francais), Scott Spedding (Clermont). — AFP



**NEW YORK:** Zemgus Girgensons #28 of the Buffalo Sabres gets the puck past Henrik Lundqvist #30 of the New York Rangers to score in the third period at Madison Square Garden on Monday in New York City. — AFP

## GOALS BY MILLER, ZUCCARELLO HELP RANGERS BEAT SABRES

**NEW YORK:** Red-hot J.T. Miller scored from in close after the Rangers squandered a two-goal third-period lead and New York came back to beat Buffalo 6-3 Monday night for its eighth straight win over the Sabres. Derick Brassard scored twice and Mats Zuccarello added a power-play goal after Miller snapped a 3-all tie for the Rangers, who headed into the NHL All-Star break with three wins in four games. Rookie defenseman Dylan McIlrath and Viktor Stalberg also scored for the Rangers. Zemgus Girgensons scored twice in a 1:13 span early in the third period to rally Buffalo from a 3-1 deficit. It was his first game after missing four with an upper-body injury. Brian Gionta also scored for Buffalo, which lost its third straight game overall. Rookie Jack Eichel assisted on both Girgensons' goals.

### STARS 2, FLAMES 1

Jamie Benn and Jason Spezza scored 80 seconds apart early in the second period and Dallas beat Calgary. It was only the third win in 11 games this month for the Stars, who closed out a 3-6-2 stretch heading into the All-Star break after leading the Western Conference for much of the season. The Stars have 67 points, three behind conference and Central Division-leading Chicago. Benn's 28th goal of the season came 2:43 in the second, with a little backhanded flip just off the right post. Then Spezza had an open shot off the left post behind Karri Ramo after the goalie had skated up for another shot that was wide. Ramo stopped 28 shots. Antti Niemi, making his third straight start for Dallas, had 23 saves.

### BLUE JACKETS 5, CANADIENS 2

Cam Atkinson had his third-career hat trick and Brandon Saad scored twice to help Columbus beat struggling Montreal to end a three-game losing streak. Atkinson's linemates Brandon Dubinsky and Boone Jenner each had three assists and rookie Joonas Korhonen turned aside 32 shots. Montreal's P.K. Subban tied it 2-2 midway through the second, but Columbus scored three goals in the third, including a go-ahead score from Saad 9:06 into the period. Subban and Brendan Gallagher each had a goal and an assist and Mike Condon made 20 saves for

Montreal, which hasn't won consecutive games since late November. Columbus played a second straight game without coach John Tortorella after he broke two ribs falling after a collision with a player at practice Friday.

### BRUINS 3, FLYERS 2

Brett Connolly redirected Zdeno Chara's shot from the point with 1:54 left, lifting Boston over Philadelphia. Connolly tipped the wobbly shot and one-hopped the puck past Michel Neuvirth for his seventh goal of the season. Brad Marchand scored a goal for the fifth straight game and Patrice Bergeron also scored for the Bruins. Boston's Tuukka Rask stopped 34 shots in his return from a late scratch Saturday night with an undisclosed injury.

### RED WINGS 4, ISLANDERS 2

Justin Abdelkader and Danny DeKeyser scored 1:11 apart in the second period to lead Detroit over New York. Brad Richards scored in the first period and Petr Mrazek stopped 27 shots to give the Red Wings their second win

in five games (2-2-1). Luke Glendonning added an empty-netter in the final minute to seal Detroit's third win in the last 11 meetings (3-6-2) against the Islanders. Brock Nelson and Mikhail Grabovski scored for New York, and Jaroslav Halak had 22 saves while the Islanders lost in regulation for the first time in five games (3-1-1). Both teams were playing for the last time before the All-Star Game this weekend in Nashville, Tennessee.

### COYOTES 2, WILD 1, SO

Anthony Duclair had the only goal in the shootout, rookie Louis Domingue made 34 saves and Arizona came back to beat Minnesota. Domingue stopped all three shooters he faced in the shootout to help Arizona win its second straight. Antoine Vermette tied it with 1:13 left in regulation on a short-handed goal. Devan Dubnyk made 23 saves in his final start before heading to his first All-Star Game. Charlie Coyle got his third goal in three games with 9:40 left but was stopped to end the game in the shootout. — AP

## FERNANDEZ BIDS FOR FOURTH STRAIGHT MEN'S EUROPEAN TITLE

**BRATISLAVA:** Spain's Javier Fernandez will open his bid for a fourth straight men's title at the European figure skating championships starting today, as a trio of Russian teenagers target the women's crown.

Reigning world champion Fernandez took silver at the ISU Grand Prix final last month behind Olympic gold medalist Yuzuru Hanyu and comes to Bratislava with a personal best total of 292.95 points this season, having become just the second man to break the 200-mark in the free skating. The 24-year-old will bid to become the first man to win four straight men's titles since Slovak skater Ondrej Nepela who won five for Czechoslovakia between 1969 and 1973, in an arena named after Bratislava-born Nepela. Among his challengers will be Russians Maxim Kovtun and Mikhail Kolyada. Kovtun, 20, won silver last year, and has a personal season's best of 236.38 points, as promising newcomer Kolyada, 20, makes his European debut in Bratislava.

"Fernandez is a red-hot favourite but this only spurs me on and makes me work even harder," said reigning Russian national champion Kovtun. Czech Michal Brezina, 25, looks to return to the podium after his bronze in 2013, with France's 2011 champion Florent Amodio targeting a fourth medal before retiring.

### RUSSIAN SWEEP

Russia's women have been starring in recent international competitions, and will be looking to repeat last year's podium sweep. Defending champion Elizaveta Tuktamysheva did not qualify for the Russian team, but three of her countrywomen are among the challengers. Evgenia Medvedeva, 16, looks to succeed Tuktamysheva, after winning her first major title in stunning style at the ISU Grand Prix Final in Barcelona last

month. Two 17-year-olds-Elena Radionova and Anna Pogorilaya-the silver and bronze medalists respectively last year, are also among the challengers. "At the beginning of this season I could only dream about the kind of success that I've achieved," said Medvedeva.

"After winning the GP final and the national championship I was absolutely happy. Those victories were extremely important for me. Now I will represent my country at the European championships. It's terrific!" In pairs, Olympic champions Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov bid to reclaim the European title they won three straight times before sitting out last season because of injuries.

Grand Prix final champions Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov will not compete because of injury along with fellow Russians Yuko Kavaguti and Alexander Smirnov, the European titleholders.

"The victory at the Olympics in Sochi is already in the past, it's history," said Trankov, after winning the Russian national title for a third time.

"This season was a bit muddled for us because the GP stage in France was cancelled. After that we missed the GP stage in Japan because of the injury. "But I believe we still have time to prepare for the European championships in an appropriate manner." Five-time world champion Aliona Savchenko of Germany is back with a new partner, Bruno Massot, and the German champions look ready to challenge for a medal in Bratislava. The ice dance competition promises to be a close battle between France's European and world champions Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron, who did not compete in the Grand Prix season after Papadakis suffered concussion in training, and Grand Prix Final silver medalists Anna Cappellini and Luca Lanotte of Italy. — AFP



**SEOUL:** The emblem of the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics, with a capital "C", is seen on an advertisement board outside the city hall in Seoul yesterday. With a one letter shift from lower to upper case, the South Korean venue for the 2018 Winter Olympics, Pyeongchang, hopes to ensure visitors don't end up flying to the capital of North Korea by mistake. — AFP

### NHL results/standings

Dallas 2, Calgary 1; Minnesota 1, Arizona 2 (SO); NY Rangers 6, Buffalo 3; NY Islanders 2, Detroit 4; Philadelphia 2, Boston 3; Columbus 5, Montreal 2.

| Eastern Conference    |    |    |    |     |     | Western Conference |             |    |    |    |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|--------------------|-------------|----|----|----|
| Atlantic Division     |    |    |    |     |     | Pacific Division   |             |    |    |    |
|                       | W  | L  | OT | GF  | GA  | PTS                |             |    |    |    |
| Florida               | 28 | 15 | 5  | 130 | 107 | 61                 | Chicago     | 33 | 15 | 4  |
| Detroit               | 25 | 16 | 8  | 122 | 124 | 58                 | Dallas      | 31 | 14 | 5  |
| Boston                | 26 | 17 | 5  | 145 | 125 | 57                 | St. Louis   | 28 | 16 | 8  |
| Tampa Bay             | 26 | 18 | 4  | 129 | 117 | 56                 | Minnesota   | 23 | 17 | 9  |
| Montréal              | 24 | 21 | 4  | 134 | 129 | 52                 | Colorado    | 26 | 21 | 3  |
| Ottawa                | 23 | 20 | 6  | 137 | 152 | 52                 | Nashville   | 22 | 18 | 8  |
| Toronto               | 17 | 20 | 9  | 113 | 128 | 43                 | Winnipeg    | 21 | 24 | 3  |
| Buffalo               | 19 | 26 | 4  | 111 | 134 | 42                 |             |    |    |    |
| Metropolitan Division |    |    |    |     |     | Central Division   |             |    |    |    |
| Washington            | 35 | 8  | 3  | 155 | 100 | 73                 | Los Angeles | 30 | 15 | 3  |
| NY Rangers            | 27 | 17 | 5  | 142 | 129 | 59                 | San Jose    | 25 | 18 | 4  |
| NY Islanders          | 25 | 16 | 6  | 130 | 118 | 56                 | Arizona     | 24 | 19 | 5  |
| New Jersey            | 25 | 19 | 5  | 114 | 116 | 55                 | Vancouver   | 20 | 18 | 11 |
| Pittsburgh            | 23 | 17 | 7  | 119 | 120 | 53                 | Anaheim     | 21 | 18 | 7  |
| Carolina              | 22 | 20 | 8  | 118 | 135 | 52                 | Calgary     | 21 | 23 | 3  |
| Philadelphia          | 20 | 18 | 8  | 105 | 124 | 48                 | Edmonton    | 19 | 26 | 5  |
| Columbus              | 18 | 27 | 5  | 128 | 161 | 41                 |             |    |    |    |

Note: Overtime losses (OT) worth 1 pt and not included in loss column (L).



## COACH LIU NEVER LOST FAITH IN ZHANG'S FIGHTING SPIRIT

**MELBOURNE:** Zhang Shuai's transformation from an emotional wreck to a grand slam quarter-finalist has been the feel-good story of the Australian Open but also counts as a triumph of player management by her faithful coach Liu Shuo.

Finding the right words to comfort a player after a loss is one of the tougher parts of a coach's job, so 37-year-old Liu had to get creative last year as Zhang suffered a crisis of confidence that pushed her to the brink of quitting. Zhang slumped to her 14th successive first-round exit at the grand slams at the French Open last year, a record among active players in the women's top 300, and her ranking, which peaked at 30 in mid-2014, plummeted towards the 200s.

As loss piled on loss, Liu used boxing metaphors, the wisdom of Michael Jordan and the lessons from his own low points as a Tour battler who never broke the top 1,000 to gar-

nish his motivational speeches.

Zhang wondered if her coach was "cheating" her into persevering but Liu never had any doubt she would turn it around.

"I told Shuai that she was totally different from other Chinese girls," Liu told Reuters at Melbourne Park yesterday. "I said 'one day you will have huge success at the grand slams.' I just felt that for some people who have easy wins in the first or second round, they might not go much farther.

"But if you are always having to battle through the tough times and you never give up, you'll be a big, big success. 'If you give up there will be no chance to see the bright days. This is what I told her every time that we lost.

"It's like boxing, if someone hits you, don't fall down. Just try standing. Maybe there will be a second where you have an opening and 'bang!' Just hit." That opening came in the most unlikely of circumstances, when Zhang

was drawn to play the world number two Simona Halep in the first round, having grafted through qualifying as the world's 133rd-ranked player. "Everyone (in China) said: '15 first-round exits coming soon.' Nobody believed in her. Maybe only her parents, me and her fitness coach," Liu said.

Zhang, from the northern Chinese port of Tianjin, had virtually resolved that Melbourne Park would be her last grand slam, so she brought her parents with her to watch her play. In the lead-up, she and Liu bought lottery tickets with a \$15 million jackpot with friends on the Chinese social media platform WeChat.

"But I told Shuai, 'this isn't a great way to get rich. But tomorrow's match will take you 50 percent on the way to getting rich, to getting famous,'" said Liu.

"So tomorrow, show your best. It doesn't matter. Even if we lose, we have nothing to lose. If you make it, this won't just make the

national news, this will be all over the world. It's going to be big." Zhang beat Halep 6-4 6-3 to snap the first-round losing streak and promptly burst into tears.

### NO FLUKE

She proved it was no fluke by upsetting seasoned grand slam performer Alize Cornet in the following round. Her next win over American Varvara Lepchenko made her only the fourth Chinese woman to reach the last 16 at a grand slam after twice grand slam champion Li Na, Zheng Jie and Peng Shuai.

The 27-year-old put down injury-hit Madison Keys on Monday to set up a quarter-final against Sydney-born Briton Johanna Konta, a 47th-ranked opponent enjoying her own fairytale run. "Nobody could have predicted Zhang would make the quarters here," said Liu. Not the media, not the senior mandarins at the Chinese Tennis Association or the high-

profile foreign coaches who wrote her off when she trained with the national academy in Beijing. "They would point to Zhang and say this one has no chance. 'She doesn't have the talent.' But I felt Zhang had the mental side, the psychology," Liu said.

"They were talking about her physical talent, her explosiveness or her reaction times. 'There are many players in China who have these qualities but they lack the spirit.' Keeping things calm for Zhang is now Liu's priority. It is virtually impossible with the buzz her run has created in China.

"The first day when we came here for qualifying nobody talked about us. There were no interviews, nobody cared," he said. "Now, I've had to tell lots of Chinese media to keep calm, please don't give her any extra pressure.

"For sure, I don't want to limit her, I just want her to be free to play her best tennis at such a great stadium." — Reuters

## NO END IN SIGHT FOR VETERAN SERENA

**MELBOURNE:** World number one Serena Williams yesterday said she was enjoying her tennis immensely and plans to keep playing into the 2017 season, proud of her longevity as others have fallen by the wayside. The 34-year-old winner of 21 Grand Slams has already cemented her status as one of the all-time greats, if not the greatest. With Steffi Graf's Open-era record of 22 major titles within sight at the Australian Open, and Margaret Court's all-time mark of 24 on the horizon, she has no plans to hang up her racquet.

"I don't think so. Hopefully not. Unless you know something I don't know," she said when asked if this could be her last Australian Open. The dominant Williams, who beat rival Maria Sharapova for the 18th straight time to make the last four, made her professional debut in 1995 and few players from that era remain on tour, aside from sister Venus. The Melbourne Park top seed, who next faces Agnieszka Radwanska, is proud to still be playing and at the top of her game.

"I think longevity is something definitely to look at. Personally, I didn't think I'd be play-

ing at this age," she said as she guns for a seventh Australian Open crown.

"But I'm still here and I'm doing well. I think that's the reason I am still playing, because I know that I'm capable, you know, if I play well, of being on top."

Despite remaining an invincible force, the driven American said she had learned to relax and was enjoying her tennis greatly now that the clock was ticking on her career.

"I think this tournament in particular I've been trying to do different things and I've been having a lot of fun on the court," she said. "I told myself that I'm here to have fun now. I've done everything... I didn't think I would have done as well as I have. 'Everything from here on out, every match, is a bonus for me. I don't have to win this tournament or any other tournament for as long as I live. 'I really want to enjoy being a professional tennis player and playing on Grand Slam courts, moments like this.' Asked what the secret was to her longevity, she replied: "I honestly have no idea. If I do know it, I'll probably put it in a bottle and distribute it." — AFP



**MELBOURNE:** Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a forehand return during his men's singles match against Japan's Kei Nishikori on day nine of the 2016 Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

## DJOKOVIC, FEDERER TO MEET IN SEMIS AS WILLIAMS BEAT SHARAPOVA

**MELBOURNE:** Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer are 22-all in career head-to-heads, have nine Australian Open titles between them, and warmed up for a semifinal meeting with clinical quarterfinal wins.

Six-time champion Serena Williams advanced to the semifinals yet again, extending her dominance in a 12-year rivalry with an 18th straight win over Maria Sharapova. The three most decorated players in Melbourne in the Open era all won in straight sets yesterday, with Williams starting the roll with a 6-4, 6-1 win in a rematch of last year's final. Up next for her is fourth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska, who beat No. 10 Carla Suarez Navarro 6-1, 6-3 to reach her fifth Grand Slam semifinal. Williams has won every semifinal she's contested at the Australian Open, and gone on to win the title each time. Djokovic's mark is almost as good - he's 5-0 in semifinals, and in finals, in the season's first major. He advanced 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 over No. 7 Kei Nishikori in the night match on Rod Laver.

Four-time champion Federer capped the afternoon session with a 7-6 (4), 6-2, 6-4 win over No. 6 Tomas Berdych, reaching his 12th Australian Open semifinal and his 39th in a Grand Slam. He hasn't gone past the semifinals here since winning the title in 2010.

Williams' win over Sharapova was the marquee match of the day, improving her record to 192 in a rivalry that goes back to 2004. "It was super intense," Williams said. "She's an incredibly

intense, focused player who was No. 1 and has won so many Grand Slams for a reason. You have to come out with a lot of fire and intensity."

She did just that, attacking the serve of Sharapova, the 2008 champion and four-time finalist in Australia. Sharapova had a career-high 21 aces in her previous win against No. 12 Belinda Bencic. Against Williams, she had three, and seven double-faults. Williams had 13 aces, hit 31 winners to 11, and broke Sharapova's serve four times.

### EXPLOSIVE

"She played quite explosive," Sharapova said. "She was really explosive off the return. Yeah." Sharapova broke to open the match but Williams held in the third game and broke back to level at 2-2. From there, Williams protected her own serve - even as a baby wailed in the stands in the ninth game as she faced breakpoints - and took high-risk options with her service returns to unsettle Sharapova.

After winning an intense first set, Williams had medical treatment - later saying it was just for an upset stomach. She went on a five-game roll in the second to put the result beyond.

Sharapova hasn't given up hope of breaking a drought against Williams that goes back to 2004. "It's motivating because she's at a different level," Sharapova said. "She makes you go back to the drawing board, not just for me, but for many other players. She makes you work. That's inspir-

ing." Federer also has some inspiration in his next match against Djokovic. He lost to the Serbian star five of the six times they met in finals in 2015, including Wimbledon and the US Open.

The 34-year-old Federer used a full array of shots, including some vintage backhands, in his 48 winners, to avenge losses to Berdych at Wimbledon in 2010 and the 2012 US Open.

"Tomas has caused me a lot of problems over the years," said Federer, who improved to 16-6 against the Czech player. "He's one of those guys who make you a better player, he's beaten me on the biggest courts around the world."

Djokovic has caused his share of pain for Federer since overtaking him in the rankings. After his long five-setter against Gilles Simon, when he made a startling 100 unforced errors, Djokovic cut that down 27 in a faster-paced, shorter-rally encounter against 2014 U.S. Open finalist Nishikori.

He came up with the big plays while facing break points in the first two sets, and only dropped serve in two exchanges of breaks in the third. "That was a goal, to decrease the unforced errors ratio," Djokovic said, smiling. "In important moments I stayed composed - overall it was a very solid performance.

"I have to be satisfied - I reached (the) semifinals. I won against a top-10 player in straight sets. Comparing to the fourth-round match, this was much better. That makes me confident and encourages me for the next one." — AP



Serena Williams

### Sports

#### Brief

**MELBOURNE:** Brief stories from the Australian Open yesterday:

#### NEW BALLS PLEASE

A line judge felt the full force of a Tomas Berdych serve right where it hurts during the Czech's loss to Federer. The 6ft 5ins (1.96m) Berdych let loose a 195 kilometres (121 miles) per hour bullet down the line, and despite taking evasive action the line judge took the full force in his groin. Despite the nasty blow, he bravely soldiered on.

#### LIGHT ON SABR

Roger Federer's 'SABR' (Sneak Attack By Roger) has been conspicuously absent at the Australian Open, but the Swiss great pledged it will make an appearance in the semi-finals. Federer's new tactic last year was to sneakily step in and attack his opponent's serve on the half-volley, often resulting in an unplayable return. "Do you want to see it (SABR) or not?" Federer asked on-court interviewer Jim Courier, after beating Berdych in the quarter-finals. "All right, I will definitely play at least one in the next match, let's put it that way." He added: "I enjoy playing it, you've got to be in the right frame of mind. It's a funny thing, you've got to be confident up there. Not that I'm not confident but I don't know, I'm not feeling it at the moment."

#### TENNIS TAKEAWAY

Australian Open organisers regretted providing free food in the players' cafe after competitors started loading up their bags and taking it home, the Herald Sun reported. Food was free for a few days before staff realised what was happening. "The lesser-name players were stocking their bags full of food to take home for dinner and breakfast the next day. With too much food walking out the door, organisers declared that the free policy would continue, but not for takeaway food," the newspaper said. — AFP

## HINGIS-MIRZA IN DOUBLES SEMIS

**MELBOURNE:** Martina Hingis and Sania Mirza extended their winning streak to 34 matches to reach the Australian Open semi-finals with victory over German-American duo Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Coco Vandeweghe yesterday.

Swiss Hingis, 35, the former singles number one whose career has blossomed again as a doubles specialist, is also in the quarter-finals of the mixed doubles with another Indian partner, Leander Paes, and will face top seeds Mirza and Ivan Dodig.

Top seeds Hingis and Mirza, who teamed up last March and won the Wimbledon and the U.S. Open titles, came through 6-2 4-6 6-1 against Groenefeld and Vandeweghe.

They will face German Julia Goerges and her Czech partner Karolina Pliskova for a place in the final. In the men's doubles, British fortunes continued to soar with Jamie Murray reaching the semi-finals with new Brazilian partner Bruno Soares.

They edged out 13th seeds Raven Klaasen and Rajeev Ram, conquerors of six-times champions the Bryan brothers, 6-7(3) 6-4 7-(6)3 yesterday.

On Monday, Andy Murray and Johanna Konta both reached the quarter-finals of the singles-the first time in nearly 40 years Britain has had a representative in the last eight of the men's and women's singles at a grand slam.

Murray and Soares, who won the Sydney title in only their second tournament together, face French duo Adrian Panarino and Lucas Pouille in the semis after they surprised top seeds Jean-Julien Rojer and Horia Tecau in three sets.

In the other half of the draw Daniel Nestor and Radek Stepanek beat Treat Huey and Max Mirnyi, while Pablo Cuevas and Marcel Granollers beat Vasek Pospisil and Jack Sock. — Reuters



**MELBOURNE:** Martina Hingis, right, of Switzerland and Sania Mirza of India talk during their fourth round match against Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany and Coco Vandeweghe of the United States at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, yesterday. — AP



## FOOTBALL MAKES STRIDES IN BASEBALL-MAD NICARAGUA

**MANAGUA:** Despite having no famous players, no high-profile league and inadequate stadiums, football in Nicaragua is starting to awaken, grabbing more and more attention in a nation traditionally crazy about baseball.

Analysts say the growth is spurred by several factors, chiefly TV, which is more frequently showing games from the Spanish league and big events like the World Cup. There is also the improvement of the national squad, which last year surged 56 notches to 96th spot in the latest FIFA rankings. Certainly there is passion and interest building among younger sections of the public in the Central American country. "It's like someone has football in the blood," said Michael Pena, a 20-year-old playing for a local side in the San Jose Oriental district of the capital Managua. "Though work doesn't let me do it more often, every time I get a chance I play."

### FOCUS ON FOREIGN CLUBS

But thus far attention goes more towards foreign clubs than domestic ones. Nicaraguan fans follow more closely Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Barcelona and Real Madrid than they do local teams.

"I like football but only when the national team is playing other countries," said Bosco Garcia, a high-school student who is a Barcelona fan.

Former professional footballer Jose Maria Bermudez, who played for Nicaragua and used to be a member of the country's FENIFUT football federation, said more could be done to get the public behind domestic teams.

"They should organize club supporters so there is better identification with the people," he said.



**MANAGUA:** Managua's neighbourhood Villa Reconciliacion play football against another team at the Don Bosco Youth Centre in Managua, on January 17, 2016. Football is gaining enthusiasts in Nicaragua where baseball has been historically dominant but is now giving way to the new sport, analysts said. — AFP

Nicaragua adopted baseball in the early 20th century with US military intervention and occupation. American Marines built baseball fields and taught locals how to play, starting what went on to become a national sport. Now, around a century later, "I think there is a big shift

of fans from baseball to football," despite the former being more heavily promoted, said Bermudez. "Stadiums were filled for the national team's games in the last international meets-up to 18,000 people. No other sport has managed that," said the former player.

### SPONSORS LACKING

Geographically, the passion for football is strongest in two northern cities, Esteli and Somoto, and one in the southeast, Diriamba. It is also catching on in Managua neighborhoods, where children and youths play games in

streets or on empty lots.

Hundreds of youths aged 15-25 are joining local football teams in districts which have two tournaments a year. Some of the country's second- and first-division players have emerged from them, including several chosen for the national team.

One of the aims of the federation is to lift football's profile, to show private companies that "football is profitable," said Idelfonso Agurcia, secretary of FENIFUT. Attracting sponsors is crucial for clubs in the national league, which are struggling to keep going. Fields are in poor condition and there is no money to pay players' salaries.

The national team, however, is doing relatively well. It put in greatly improved performances in 2015 after taking on a Costa Rican coach, Henry Duarte, managing to get as far as the third round of regional qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

"From a tactical point of view the team has grown a lot," Duarte said. "I'd say it's one of the teams that grew the most in 2015, not only in Central America, but around the world."

Agurcia said the team's rise was "not the result of magic, not the efforts of one person," but a decade's worth of gradual improvement.

Part of it was a generational change underscored by the fact that younger players today had access to 19 training schools, 11 of them financed by FIFA, the scandal-mired world football body.

"I think football has already taken hold and now the hard part is to nurture it and keep it growing," said Bermudez. "If the support keeps flowing like it is now, we'll manage that." — AFP

## NEW HEAD FOR SCANDAL-HIT SOUTH AMERICA FEDERATION

**ASUNCION:** South American soccer confederation CONMEBOL yesterday chose Paraguayan football association chief Alejandro Dominguez as its new president, as three former heads face US indictments in the FIFA corruption scandal.

The South American Football Confederation is looking to clean its image after a scandal that saw its headquarters in Paraguay searched this month by investigators probing alleged bribes.

Football chiefs from CONMEBOL's 10 member countries, gathered at its headquarters near Asuncion, voted unanimously to choose Dominguez, 44, as its new leader until 2019. "We are turning over one of CONMEBOL's saddest pages," Dominguez said after being elected.

"This is the biggest crisis CONMEBOL has ever suffered, due to managerial irregularities. There must be no more bad practices in the handling of commercial rights." Dominguez and Luis Segura of Argentina were chosen as CONMEBOL's new representatives to FIFA, world football's governing body. CONMEBOL's last president, Miguel Angel Napout, also a Paraguayan, was one of 16 Latin American officials indicted by US authorities last month. Among the others were another Paraguayan former CONMEBOL head, Nicolas Leoz, 87, and its Uruguayan ex-president Eugenio Figueredo, 83. Leoz is under house arrest in Paraguay and Figueredo is in jail in Uruguay. Both face requests for extradition over bribery allegations by US authorities which are investigating the scandal. Napout was released on bail in New York in December. The suspects are accused of accepting millions of dollars in bribes in return for awarding broadcasting and commercial contracts for football tournaments.

From now on in commercial dealings, "we must do away with intermediaries and negotiate directly with the final buyers," Dominguez said ahead of Tuesday's vote.

"The associations and clubs must receive more money." The broader scandal in world football's governing body FIFA has led to the suspension of numerous top officials including its long-time president Joseph Blatter. CONMEBOL lead-



**LUGUE:** New Conmebol president, Paraguayan Alejandro Dominguez, speaks during a press conference after being elected until 2019 by consensus yesterday in Luque, Paraguay. — AFP

### 'TRANSPARENCY' IN FOOTBALL

CONMEBOL's outgoing interim head, Wilmar Valdez of Uruguay, said in an address that Dominguez "could take up the post of president in an atmosphere of unity." Valdez said there was a consensus to elect Dominguez as president "to work to get through this difficult situation."

"We have to restore to South American football the credibility it deserves." Valdez himself stepped out of the running at the last minute, saying a consensus was needed to launch a cleaner new era for CONMEBOL. On Monday, he called for "the implementation of transparency and oversight measures that guarantee the efficient and rigorous administration" of CON-

MEBOL. The confederation is the umbrella group for 10 South American football associations. Its headquarters had diplomatic immunity from 1992 but that privilege was withdrawn last year after the scandal erupted. Investigators took away thousands of documents when they searched the offices this month. A CONMEBOL source told AFP the body would back Infantino when FIFA chooses a new president in Zurich on February 26. The acting head of European federation UEFA, Infantino also has the support of UEFA's executive committee.

He faces competition in his run for the FIFA presidency from Sheikh Salman of Bahrain, who has the likely backing of African countries for his bid. Another FIFA candidate is Prince Ali of Jordan, who like Infantino was due to attend the CONMEBOL congress yesterday. — AFP



This combination of file photos made on November 12, 2015 shows (from top L) UEFA secretary general Gianni Infantino, AFC president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, former FIFA deputy general secretary Jerome Champagne, FIFA vice president for Asia Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan and chairman of the FIFA monitoring committee for Israel and Palestine Tokyo Sexwale. FIFA yesterday confirmed the final five candidates to take over from the banned Sepp Blatter as head of the world body one month from the vote. — AFP

## FIFA FIVE HUNT FOR VOTES AS CAMPAIGN ENTERS FINAL MONTH

**ZURICH:** The five candidates to take over the FIFA presidency from the banned Sepp Blatter stepped up the frantic hunt for votes yesterday as the campaign entered the final month. FIFA sent a formal notice to the 209 member associations yesterday confirming that Prince Ali bin al-Hussein, Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim al-Khalifa, Gianni Infantino, Tokyo Sexwale and Jerome Champagne would take part in the February 26 vote in Zurich.

"The Ad-hoc Electoral Committee has formally admitted and declared the candidates eligible for the election of the office of FIFA president at the extraordinary FIFA Congress," said the letter.

The world body has faced major pressure since US and Swiss authorities launched major investigations into FIFA and Blatter, 79, was banned for eight years for misconduct.

While Sheikh Salman, head of the Asian Football Confederation, and Infantino, the UEFA general secretary, are seen as the frontrunners, all five are lobbying hard for votes in a races in which many observers say a surprise is still possible. All have concentrated on the need to clean up football, while making rival proposals to increase the World Cup and give more of FIFA's riches to national associations.

Sheikh Salman, who should get a majority of the AFC's 46 votes as well as many of Africa's 54, said Monday that he could invite Infantino, or English Premier League chief executive Richard Scudamore to be FIFA secretary general if he wins.

"So far there's no agreement and no deal but let's see what happens in the next few days," Sheikh Salman told Sky Sport television of his contacts with Infantino.

The Bahraini official has been under pressure however over accusations of involvement in a crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in the Gulf state. The sheikh said he could guarantee "one million percent" that no foot-

baller or athlete had been abused.

### JET-SET CAMPAIGN

The Sheikh, like most of the other candidates, withdrew from a proposed FIFA debate before the European parliament today in a sign of the growing intensity of the campaign.

Infantino and Prince Ali, a former FIFA vice president from Jordan, were at a South American confederation, CONMEBOL, congress in Asuncion yesterday seeking support. CONMEBOL are expected to back Infantino, a Swiss national who has been right hand man to UEFA boss Michel Platini, who was banned with Blatter last month.

The European confederation, UEFA, says most of its 53 members will also back Infantino. But the vote is secret which has encouraged some of the outsiders to step up their bid. Prince Ali, the only challenger against Blatter in an election in May last year, has toured the world seeking support.

The Jordanian royal has made a complaint to the electoral committee about a cooperation accord made by the Asian and African confederations this month which he indicated was a bid by Sheikh Salman to secure African support. The sheikh has strongly denied the allegation.

African candidate Sexwale, a former Robben Island prisoner with Nelson Mandela turned business tycoon and politician, has faced criticism in his native South Africa over his lacklustre campaign. He has called for a ban on sponsors' names appearing on national team shirts. But Sexwale has travelled much less than his rivals. Champagne, a former FIFA official and French diplomat, said the election would be "complicated" and would "only be decided in the final moments."

Calling for greater commitment to reforms, he told French radio yesterday that "some candidates are making totally demagogic proposals, especially financial and playing a 40 team World Cup." — AFP

## BARCELONA TO FACE ATHLETIC BILBAO IN COPA DEL REY

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona coach Luis Enrique is concerned that today's Copa del Rey match against Athletic Bilbao could wear down his team ahead of its critical Spanish league game against Atletico Madrid.

Barcelona holds a 2-1 advantage when it hosts Bilbao in the second leg of the quarterfinals. On the same night in the capital, Atletico will also seek its spot in the semifinals when it plays Celta Vigo after their scoreless first leg.

Three days later, Atletico will travel to Camp Nou trailing Barcelona on goal difference at the top of the Spanish league standings. "The only game key to reaching the Copa semifinals is tomorrow, who knows what will happen with the rest," Luis Enrique said. "I am worried about the physical wear and tear taking into account that Atletico is coming on Saturday. My team is fine, but these are both very intense matches."

Neymar returned to team training on Tuesday after muscle pain forced him to miss Barcelona's last game. But fever may sideline midfielders Andres Iniesta, Sergio Busquets and Arda Turan after all sat out of training. Thursday's quarterfinals will feature Valencia needing to turn around a 1-1 draw when it visits Las Palmas in the Canary Islands, while Sevilla takes a 2-0 advantage to second-division club Mirandes.

Here are some things to know about this week's Copa del Rey matches:

### CHASING PEP

Barcelona is closing in on a club record set

by former coach Pep Guardiola, who kept the team undefeated for 28 consecutive games in the 2010-11 season.

After a stellar debut season that ended with the team matching Guardiola's rare treble of Champions League, Spanish league and Copa del Rey titles, Luis Enrique has guided his team to 24 games without a loss.

Barcelona will look to make good on first-leg goals by Neymar and Munir El Haddadi, who scored before Aritz Aduriz gave the Basque club a lifeline.

Lionel Messi missed the opening leg because of muscle pain, but returned to score the winning goal in Saturday's 2-1 victory at Malaga in the league.

### FIFTEEN YEARS

Only Barcelona, with 27 cups, can boast more success in the competition than Bilbao, which has won the tournament 23 times.

But Bilbao faces a daunting challenge at a stadium where it hasn't won since November 2001. Barcelona is unbeaten in all 17 home games this season and routed Bilbao 6-0 at Camp Nou in the league less than two weeks ago. Ernesto Valverde's team can cling to its upset of Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup to start the season, when it secured a 1-1 away draw after stunning the European champions 4-0 at San Mames.

### SQUEAKY CLEAN

A draw with goals would suffice for Celta to eliminate Atletico, but Diego Simeone's team is expert at keeping a clean sheet.

Atletico hasn't conceded a goal in five straight matches and has only allowed one in its last nine games.

While Jan Oblak has emerged as the league's top goalkeeper, Miguel Moya has been Simeone's pick for the Copa del Rey, where he has let two goals past him in five outings.

### NEVILLE'S HOPE

Gary Neville's coaching career has gotten off to a rocky start. Since the former Manchester United defender took over in December, Valencia has been eliminated from the Champions League and has yet to win in seven Spanish league matches. But the Copa del Rey has been another story, where it won three straight until last week's slip at home against Las Palmas.

In 11th place and 16 points from the Champions League positions, Valencia's only shot at salvaging the season is in the cup. "The wins will come," Neville said after a 1-1 draw at Deportivo La Coruna on Sunday. "The fans want victories and I am desperate to give them to them." — AP

# Sports

S Africa's Rabada routs England in fourth Test



New head for scandal-hit South America federation



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016

GOALS BY MILLER, ZUCCARELLO HELP RANGERS BEAT SABRES Page 16



OAKLAND: Andre Iguodala #9 of the Golden State Warriors goes up for a shot against Jonathon Simmons #17 and Patty Mills #8 of the San Antonio Spurs at ORACLE Arena on Monday in Oakland, California. — AFP

## CURRY DOES IT AGAIN AS WARRIORS DISMANTLE SPURS

**OAKLAND:** Stephen Curry scored 37 points and hit six 3-pointers in three quarters as the reigning champion Golden State Warriors showed they still rule the West by routing the San Antonio Spurs 120-90 on Monday night. Curry had 15 points in the opening quarter and shot 12 for 20 in Golden State's 39th straight home win at raucous Oracle Arena, where a star-studded sellout crowd saw a lopsided showdown in what was billed as a potential Western Conference finals preview. The Warriors (41-4) snapped a 13-game winning streak by the Spurs (38-7), off to the best start in franchise history but without ailing Tim Duncan (sore knee) this time. The teams had the highest combined winning percentage in NBA history for opponents meeting at least 40 games into the season. Chants of "M-

V-PI!" came from every corner of the arena as Curry did it all for his highest-scoring total in 17 games against San Antonio. Kawhi Leonard scored 16 for the sloppy Spurs.

### CAVALIERS 114, TIMBERWOLVES 107

LeBron James scored 25 points and Cleveland gave Tyronn Lue his first win as head coach by beating Minnesota. Cleveland lost to Chicago on Saturday, a day after Lue replaced David Blatt, who was fired on Friday. The Cavaliers struggled with the Timberwolves before going on a spurt that began late in the third quarter and carried over into the fourth. Cleveland still had to hold off a run by the Timberwolves, who cut a 15-point lead to 94-91 midway through the fourth. Tristan Thompson scored seven

straight points and Matthew Dellavedova hit a 3-pointer, giving Cleveland a 104-91 lead. Minnesota got within four, but the Cavaliers put the game away at the foul line. Thompson had 19 points with 12 rebounds, and Dellavedova scored 18 points as Cleveland had six players in double figures. Karl Anthony-Towns led Minnesota with 26 points and 11 rebounds.

### ROCKETS 112, PELICANS 111

James Harden scored 35 points and Trevor Ariza added a season-high 31 to help Houston beat short-handed New Orleans. The Pelicans played the second half without All-Star forward Anthony Davis, who left late in the second quarter with a concussion after getting elbowed in the head by teammate Tyreke Evans. Houston, which did not have center Dwight Howard for the third straight game due to a left ankle sprain, hit a season-best 19 3-pointers. Ariza connected on his first six 3s. Jrue Holiday scored a season-high 32 points for the Pelicans, adding nine assists and six rebounds. He had a chance to win the game after New Orleans got the ball with 4.7 seconds left following a Houston shot-clock violation. Out of timeouts, the Pelicans had to go the length of the court, and Holiday's contested 35-foot shot at the buzzer did not come close.

### HEAT 89, BULLS 84

Dwyane Wade had 28 points, Chris Bosh added 18 and Miami rallied from an eight-point deficit early in the fourth quarter to beat Chicago, snapping a four-game losing streak. Wade scored 10 points in the fourth period. He and Bosh combined for the last five points in the final 1:02 as the Heat snapped an 84-all tie. Pau Gasol had 19 points and 17 rebounds to lead the Bulls. Jimmy Butler scored 13 on 5-for-15 shooting. Chicago, coming off a win at Cleveland on Saturday, has dropped three straight home games. Bulls guard Derrick Rose didn't play in the second half because of lower back and right hamstring injuries.

### CELTICS 116, WIZARDS 91

Pint-sized point guard Isaiah Thomas scored 23 points in three quarters, and five other players finished in double figures as Boston defeated Washington. The 5-foot-9 Thomas was sinking shots from all over the floor and driving all over the Wizards (20-22) as the Celtics (25-21) won their third straight. He added nine assists and did it all before coach Brad Stevens held him out when the game became lopsided. Evan Turner had 18 points for the Celtics, who got 13 from Kelly Olynyk and Marcus Smart and 11 from Avery Bradley and Jae Crowder. John Wall had eight

points on 3-of-11 shooting for Washington. Otto Porter returned after missing four games with a sore right hip and scored 15.

### GRIZZLIES 108, MAGIC 102, OT

Jeff Green scored a season-high 30 points and Memphis defeated slumping Orlando in overtime. Two free throws by Mike Conley with 15.9 seconds left provided the final margin. The Grizzlies could have put the game away earlier, but converted only four of their first eight free throws in the extra session. Zach Randolph finished with 18 points and 13 rebounds. Marc Gasol had 17 points, Courtney Lee added 16 and Conley had 12 points and nine assists. Tobias Harris, Nikola Vucevic and Evan Fournier scored 16 apiece for the Magic, who lost their sixth straight and 10th in 11 games. A late 9-0 run by Orlando took the Magic lead to 100-96, but Green took over for Memphis. He scored on a dunk, stole the ball on the next Orlando possession and converted an 11-footer for a 100-all tie at the end of regulation.

### PISTONS 95, JAZZ 92

Reggie Jackson scored 29 points and Detroit never trailed against Utah. The Jazz cut their deficit to 88-87 on Rudy Gobert's floater, but the Pistons responded with Kentavious Caldwell-Pope's layup and a jumper from Jackson with 1:08 left. Rodney Hood led the Jazz with 23 points, and Gordon Hayward scored 22. Gobert finished with 17 points and 17 rebounds. Ersan Ilyasova had 16 points and eight rebounds for the Pistons.

### HAWKS 119, NUGGETS 105

Paul Millsap scored 22 points, Al Horford had 18 and Atlanta completed its Western Conference road swing with a win over Denver. Jeff Teague had 12 points and 10 assists for the Hawks, who went 2-2 on their trip. Dennis Schroder added 15 points off the bench. The Nuggets ended their eight-game homestand at .500 and fell to 9-15 at Pepsi Center this season. Denver started the stretch 2-0, including a win over Golden State, but lost four of its last six. Will Barton led the Nuggets with 21 points and rookie Nikola Jokic had 15 points and 10 rebounds.

### HORNETS 129, KINGS 128, 2OT

DeMarcus Cousins set a Sacramento record with 56 points, most by an NBA player this season, but Charlotte beat the Kings in double overtime after Troy Daniels hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 9 seconds left. Daniels made eight 3s and scored a career-high 28 points, enough to help the Hornets overcome a dominant performance down low by Cousins. The All-Star center grabbed 12 rebounds before fouling out early in the second overtime. He surpassed his career best of 48 points set in the previous game, Saturday's victory over Indiana. Cousins broke Chris Webber's mark of 51 points for a Sacramento team, also in an overtime game. Kemba Walker scored 24 points for the Hornets, who won their third straight. Marvin Williams had 21 points and fouled out in the first overtime. Jeremy Lin added 20 points and 11 assists. Spencer Hawes scored a season-high 18 and fouled out late in regulation. — AP



CALIFORNIA: Charlotte Hornets guard Kemba Walker, left, is fouled by Sacramento Kings guard Darren Collison as he scrambles for the ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, in Sacramento, Calif. The Hornets won, in double overtime, 129-128. — AP

## NBA results/standings

Golden State 120, San Antonio 90; Sacramento 128, Charlotte 129 (OT); Denver 105, Atlanta 119; Utah 92, Detroit 95; Chicago 84, Miami 89; Memphis 108, Orlando 102 (OT); New Orleans 111, Houston 112; Cleveland 114, Minnesota 107; Washington 91, Boston 116.

| Eastern Conference |    |    |      |      | Western Conference |    |    |      |      |
|--------------------|----|----|------|------|--------------------|----|----|------|------|
| Atlantic Division  |    |    |      |      | Northwest Division |    |    |      |      |
|                    | W  | L  | PCT  | GB   |                    |    |    |      |      |
| Toronto            | 29 | 15 | .659 | —    | Oklahoma City      | 33 | 13 | .717 | —    |
| Boston             | 25 | 21 | .543 | 5    | Portland           | 20 | 26 | .435 | 13   |
| New York           | 22 | 24 | .478 | 8    | Utah               | 19 | 25 | .432 | 13   |
| Brooklyn           | 12 | 33 | .267 | 17.5 | Denver             | 17 | 28 | .378 | 15.5 |
| Philadelphia       | 6  | 39 | .133 | 23.5 | Minnesota          | 14 | 32 | .304 | 19   |
| Central Division   |    |    |      |      | Pacific Division   |    |    |      |      |
| Cleveland          | 31 | 12 | .721 | —    | Golden State       | 41 | 4  | .911 | —    |
| Chicago            | 25 | 19 | .568 | 6.5  | LA Clippers        | 28 | 16 | .636 | 12.5 |
| Detroit            | 24 | 21 | .533 | 8    | Sacramento         | 20 | 24 | .455 | 20.5 |
| Indiana            | 23 | 21 | .523 | 8.5  | Phoenix            | 14 | 31 | .311 | 27   |
| Milwaukee          | 19 | 27 | .413 | 13.5 | LA Lakers          | 9  | 37 | .196 | 32.5 |
| Southeast Division |    |    |      |      | Southwest Division |    |    |      |      |
| Atlanta            | 27 | 19 | .587 | —    | San Antonio        | 38 | 7  | .844 | —    |
| Miami              | 24 | 21 | .533 | 2.5  | Memphis            | 26 | 20 | .565 | 12.5 |
| Charlotte          | 22 | 23 | .489 | 4.5  | Dallas             | 25 | 21 | .543 | 13.5 |
| Washington         | 20 | 22 | .476 | 5    | Houston            | 25 | 22 | .532 | 14   |
| Orlando            | 20 | 23 | .465 | 5.5  | New Orleans        | 16 | 28 | .364 | 21.5 |

# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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**Huawei holds Mate 8 consumer event in Kuwait**

**AUDI S3 SEDAN, TT COUPE AND ALL-NEW Q7 IMPRESS CROWD AT AUTO MOTO 16**

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**KUWAIT:** Speakers participate in a panel discussion during the Kuwait Energy Strategy Forum in Kuwait City yesterday. The one-day oil conference gathers Kuwaiti and Iraqi ministers. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat. (See also page 22)

## CHEAP OIL BLACKENS OUTLOOK FOR GLOBAL RECOVERY

### WORLD TRADE HIT HARD AS OIL COMPANIES PUMMELED

**PARIS:** Lower prices at the pump may be pleasing to American and European consumers, putting breeze in the sails of a limp economic recovery, but the plunge in crude prices has now become a threat to the global recovery.

"We are in a situation today where there can only be bad news in the short term," said Jean-Michel Six, chief economist for Europe, the Middle East and Africa at ratings agency Standard and Poor's.

That pessimism is at odds with many delighted consumers, who are suddenly left with spare money in their pockets after paying less for petrol and heating oil. This has a non-negligible impact on growth.

In Germany, for example, "of growth of around 1.5 percent in 2015, around four tenths of a percentage point is due to the price of oil," said Ludovic Subran, chief economist at Euler Hermes. "It is a real rebound in consumption."

But the past few months have been trying for countries which produce oil and other commodities, the prices of which have slumped as demand has slowed in China—the motor of global growth in recent years. And the longer prices stay low, the

more they will feel the pain as many rely on export revenue to fund social benefits.

"...financial strains in many oil exporters reduce their ability to smooth the shock, entailing a sizeable reduction in their domestic demand," the International Monetary Fund said last week in its latest update to its World Economic Outlook report.

#### Trade hit hard

The drop in prices for oil and raw materials "is hitting world trade hard," said Six. World trade declined 0.1 percent in November from October, according to estimates from the Dutch government's economic policy analysis unit. A less volatile measure found trade growth slowed to 0.8 percent in the three months to November from 1.7 percent in the three months to October.

The reason is simple: with less revenues, commodities producing countries have less money to import goods. Demand from these commodity producing nations had helped support Europe and the United States after the global financial crisis in 2008, but is now shaping up to be a drag.

"The longer the oil counter-shock lasts, the more the winners and losers will diverge, whether it be in terms of countries or sectors," said Surban. Oil price developments have been a boon for airlines, but oil companies have been pummeled.

"In the energy sector, there could be consequences," warned Olivier Garnier, chief economist at Societe Generale, who worries of debt problems in the industry. Moody's rating agency on Friday warned it was reviewing 120 energy, metals and mining companies for downgrade.

"These reviews reflect a mix of declining prices that are near multi-year lows, weakening demand and a prolonged period of oversupply that will continue to significantly stress the credit profiles of companies in these sectors," said Moody's.

Worse, falling oil prices risk "destabilizing a certain number of countries" that depend on export revenues to buy social peace, said Societe Generale's Garnier.

For Subran, countries like Algeria, Angola, Ecuador and Saudi Arabia risk very quickly "running out of political economic tools to eke out a bit of growth". To confront their falling revenues, producer coun-

tries do not have a choice: "more debt, more privatization or austerity," said the chief economist at Euler Hermes.

In other words, unpopular measures "that will quickly translate into intense social pressure." Several Gulf nations have followed Saudi Arabia's lead in taking the unprecedented measure of cutting hefty petrol subsidies. This has led to the somewhat paradoxical situation of rising pump prices as crude tumbles.

But a marked rebound in oil prices, however unlikely that may appear at the moment, would be "bad news" for the global economy as well, said Six.

Too brutal an increase in oil prices would "weaken buying power in Europe, and thus consumption, while the recovery remains fragile," he said.

The risk of a quick new "oil shock" of high crude prices appears remote. Moody's last week revised its forecast for crude prices down to an average of \$33 per barrel this year, with price to climb by \$5 per barrel in both 2017 and 2018. Crude prices dipped below \$27 per barrel last week to strike a 12-year low before climbing back up above \$30. — AFP

### SAUDI, EGYPT EDGE UP AS OIL REBOUNDS

#### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Bourses in Saudi Arabia and Egypt recovered earlier losses and edged higher yesterday as crude prices bounced back, while other major Gulf stock markets slid. Brent climbed 82 cents over \$30 a barrel at 1218 GMT on Tuesday, lifted by hopes that OPEC and non-OPEC producers may be edging closer to a deal to tackle one of the biggest supply gluts in decades.

Traders and managers in the region believe that if Brent prices break below \$30 - the new psychological barrier most investors are eyeing - then bourses will remain vulnerable to further declines. The Saudi index reversed earlier declines in the final hour of trade, as crude prices bounced back over \$30, closing at 5,637 points, or up 0.5 percent.

The petrochemical sector helped support the bourse higher, the sub-sector index traded up 0.6 percent, trimming its 2016 losses to 18.2 percent. Petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries (SABIC), the largest stock by market value on the bourse, climbed 1.2 percent.

But low oil price is hitting consumer spending in the kingdom. Households' disposable income is slowing, said Muhammad al-Agil, chairman of Jarir Marketing Co.

Jarir fell 2.4 percent. The electronics and stationery seller was the first Saudi retailer to report quarterly reports, and it posted a net profit flat to the previous year.

"We lowered our earnings estimates (for Jarir) for 2016 onwards based on decelerating growth in estimated consumer non-essential spending," said a note by Saudi's Aljazeera Capital. But they maintained a "buy" recommendation on the stock because it is trading at an attractive valuation and dividend yield.

The retail sector edged up 0.3 percent, skimming its losses this year to 25.8 percent. The broader Saudi stock market has fallen 18.4 percent in 2016.

Othaim Markets proved to be the most resilient in that area and recorded 19 percent year-on-year growth in sales in the fourth quarter, said a note by Kuwait's NBK Capital.

"We believe that Othaim's focus on basic necessities makes it best positioned to withstand economic headwinds," added the note. The stock gained 3.8 percent.

Qatar's benchmark retreated 1.0 percent to 8,749 points, 232 points away from a 33-month low hit last week. Vodafone Qatar fell 1.7 percent. The affiliate of Vodafone Group, reported a 72.2 million riyal (\$19.8 million) net loss in the third quarter according to Reuters calculations, which was five percent wider than the same year-ago period.

"During the past few quarters, Vodafone has been facing aggressive pricing competition from Ooredoo Qatar," said a note by Kuwait's NBK Capital. "Though on a quarter-on-quarter basis Vodafone's net loss contracted, which could indicate a slowing down of competition," the note added. Rival telecom operator Ooredoo traded down 1.2 percent.—Reuters

## CHINA FEARS HALT MARKET RECOVERY

**LONDON:** Shanghai's stock market slumped more than six percent yesterday, reversing a brief global rally on hopes of fresh central bank stimulus, while elsewhere shares chased oil prices. After dropping under \$30, crude futures were back above the psychological threshold and up only slightly on the day.

In afternoon deals, Europe's main equity markets climbed into positive territory in afternoon trading, while Wall Street opened with small gains. Russia's stock exchange tumbled by 3.5 percent at one point but later clawed back to stand near equilibrium. "A slump in Chinese stocks... and further weakness in crude oil has heightened concerns about global economic growth," said Manoj Ladwa, analyst at broker TJM. There had been a glimmer of hope that the worst start to a trading year on record may be easing, with a surge across all assets spurred by hints from the European Central Bank Thursday of further monetary policy easing.

A report suggesting the Bank of Japan (BoJ) was considering similar moves fanned the optimism, with crude surging at the end of the week and equities seeing blistering gains. But analysts said the euphoria subsided as the realization set in that the oil market is far too oversupplied for its weak demand, and with China's economy

continuing to struggle. A six-percent-plus collapse for Shanghai's main stocks index led Asian markets lower.

#### Fed may rethink policy

Shanghai's slump came despite the People's Bank of China pumping \$67 billion into the money market to ease tight liquidity ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday. Analysts said dealers took their cue from losses Monday in New York, which saw Wall Street's three main indices all shedding more than one percent in value. "Some investors have no desire to continue fighting before the upcoming

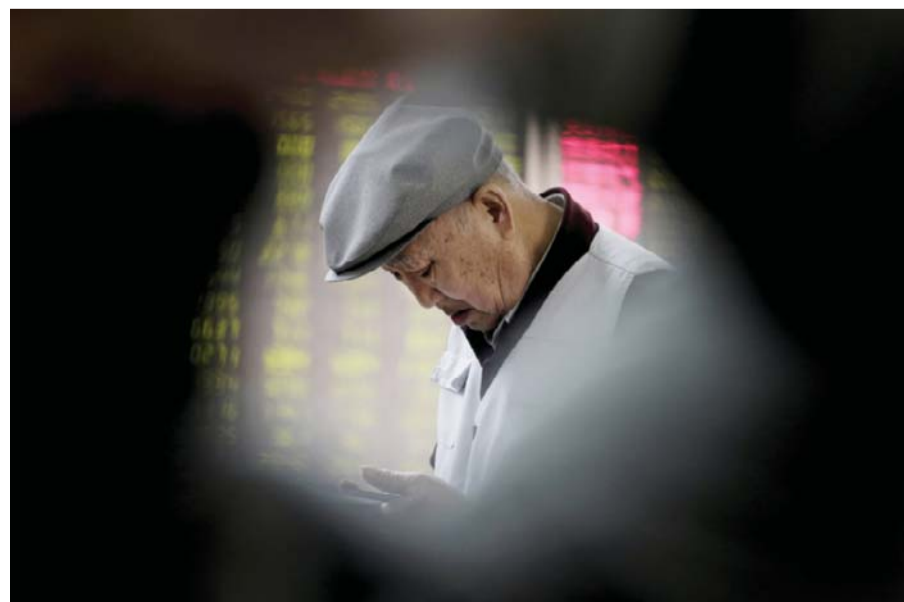
(Lunar) holiday, so the market is quite vulnerable to external factors," Zhesang Securities analyst Zhang Yanbing told AFP. Also taking a painful hit was Tokyo's Nikkei, which lost 2.4 percent, while Hong Kong slumped 2.5 percent. Dealers are awaiting rhetoric due out of the US Federal Reserve when it ends its policy meeting Wednesday, ahead of the BoJ gathering Friday. The Fed's last meeting saw it lift interest rates for the first time in almost a decade, citing confidence that the US and global economies were picking up.

"Today sees the start of the Fed's two-day meeting and... the market is expecting a more dovish tone," said James Hughes, chief market analyst at GKF trading group.

"The global sell-off, continued commodity rout and Chinese slowdown are all going to concern the Fed and could leave the door open to a rethink on the date of the next rate hike," he added.

Wall Street opened on the up side, hav-

ing some positive earnings reports to take a lead from, like a 35 percent jump in quarterly earnings by consumer products giant Procter and Gamble despite the strong dollar. The company's shares shot up 2.4 percent in early trading. — AFP



**BEIJING:** An investor looks at his mobile phone near an electronic board displaying stock prices at a brokerage house in Beijing yesterday. — AP



KUWAIT: Iraqi Oil Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi gives a speech during the Kuwaiti Energy Strategy Forum in Kuwait City yesterday. The one-day oil conference gathers Kuwaiti and Iraqi ministers. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

News

in brief

US dollar stable against Kuwait dinar at 0.303

KUWAIT: The exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at KD 0.303, the euro was at KD 0.328 compared to the exchange rates for Monday, said a statement by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. According to the CBK, the exchange rate of the Sterling pound was stable at KD 0.43 while the Swiss franc at KD 0.298. Exchange rate of the Japanese Yen remained the same at KD 0.002.

OPEC crude prices rise to \$25.58 pb

VIENNA: The OPEC daily basket price stood at \$25.58 a barrel Monday, 25 January 2016, compared with \$25.50 the previous Friday, the OPEC said yesterday. The annual average price basket of the OPEC hit \$49.64 pb, it added. The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Meroy (Venezuela). During their recent meeting in Vienna in late 2015, OPEC member countries had decided to maintain their production at 30 million barrels per day (bpd) despite a surplus in the market estimated at over a million barrels.

Aramco CEO expects to see oil prices pick up

RIYADH: National oil giant Saudi Aramco expects to see oil prices pick up by the end of this year, the company's chief executive Amin Nasser said yesterday. Speaking at a business conference, Nasser said current low prices, with Brent crude around \$30 a barrel, were not sustainable and there were signs of demand increasing, which would start to close a supply/demand gap. "It will definitely be better than what we are currently seeing," Nasser said. He did not specify which level he thought prices would reach by the end of this year, but said they would not return to \$100 for the foreseeable future.

Dubai property developer Deyaar Q4 net profit rises 14%

DUBAI: Dubai's Deyaar Development reported a 14 percent rise in fourth-quarter net profit yesterday. The company made a profit of 101.5 million dirhams (\$27.63 million) in the three months to Dec. 31, Reuters calculated based on its annual financial statement in lieu of a quarterly breakdown. This compares with a profit of 88.8 million dirhams in the corresponding period of 2014. An analyst at SICO Bahrain, polled by Reuters, forecast Deyaar would make a net loss in the quarter of 28.9 million dirhams. Deyaar's 2015 net profit was 291.4 million dirhams, up from 281.9 million dirhams in 2014, it said in an emailed statement.

Egyptian pound steady at forex sale

CAIRO: Egypt's central bank kept the pound steady against the dollar at its official foreign currency auction yesterday but the currency weakened against the dollar on the black market. Egypt, which depends on imported food and energy, is facing a dollar shortage and increasing pressure to devalue the pound. The central bank surprised markets when it strengthened the pound against the dollar on Nov. 11 by 20 piasters and has bucked expectations by holding it steady ever since. The central bank sold \$39.4 million at a cut-off price of 7.7301 pounds to the dollar yesterday, unchanged from the previous auction. The official rate is still far stronger than the black market rate, which weakened to 8.62 pounds to the dollar yesterday from 8.60 pounds on Sunday.

QNB closes \$600 million one-year bond - arranger

DUBAI: Qatar National Bank (QNB), the largest lender in the Gulf Arab region, closed a \$600 million one-year bond issue yesterday, a spokesman for its sole arranger confirmed. The transaction paid a coupon of 1.22 percent and was solely arranged by Morgan Stanley, the spokesman for the US bank said. The spokesman was responding to questions after sources aware of the matter told Reuters the lender had priced the deal.

# HURDLES REMAIN AS IRAN SEEKS AVIATION INVESTMENT

BANKS HOLD BACK AS UNCERTAINTY REMAINS OVER TRANSACTION RULES

TEHRAN: Iran courted Western aviation firms this week with a blueprint of regulatory reforms aimed at setting aside 40 years of sanctions and rebuilding its airways with new jets. But despite talk of a major plane order from Airbus, a raft of legal, financial and regulatory hurdles remain as Iran seeks foreign investor backing for plans to overhaul its dilapidated aviation sector.

"We are seeing massive opportunities in Iran," said Peter Harbison, chairman of the Centre for Aviation (CAPA), an Australian consultancy, adding that Tehran needed funding, organization and manpower to do everything its airlines intend.

"Without each of those ingredients, the growth is going to be much less than optimal," he said after chairing a major Tehran aviation conference. A shopping list for over \$20 billion of Airbus jets carried to Europe by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani this week is seen as a test case for post-sanctions trade because of the sums involved and state-of-the-art financing

used in the jet market.

Although Boeing jets are not involved, completing the Airbus deal depends on the approval of the US Treasury, which must approve sales to Iran of jets with over 10 percent US parts.

Even then, Iran must work out how to pay for the jets, delegates at the Iran Aviation Summit organized by CAPA said. Iran on Monday urged Washington to remove any lingering obstacles to implementation of the accord under which sanctions were lifted in return for curbs on its nuclear activities. "I expect a very short process. Actually we expect them to expedite all these efforts to .. open the way for legal business cooperation between Iranian and foreign entities," deputy foreign minister Abbas Araqchi told reporters at the CAPA event.

Washington has said Iran may still not use its financial system, raising potential difficulties for jet deals denominated in dollars. If Iran pays for its planes in euros, any money subsequently

converted into dollars may create problems.

A senior Iranian official said Tehran was in touch with the US Treasury to clarify the status of such transactions. US officials could not immediately be reached for comment. Iran meanwhile faces warnings that Western banks may hold off from backing aircraft and other deals until rules are clear.

"I think we need much more clarity on what (the US Treasury) is going to authorize or not," said Bertrand Grabowski, a managing director at Germany's DVB Bank. In a further twist, Iranair remains locked out of a dedicated global financial system for air tickets because it is based on laws of Canada, which has not lifted sanctions on Iran. "To have Western banks effectively financing directly aircraft to Iranian airlines is going to be a tough call. This isn't going to happen in the next 18 months," Grabowski said.

However, he said some banks may be more willing to support the activities of leasing companies working in Iran.

POSITIVE SIGNAL

Aircraft leasing companies, who control about 40 percent of the world's fleet, eagerly touted for business at the Tehran event, joined by suppliers from 35 nations offering Iran badly needed wares from avionics to airports. "We are behind, we admit that," Deputy Transport Minister Asghar Fakhrieh Kashan said.

"Therefore we have decided to ... look for the solutions and try to find proper responses to any questions" on funding. Kashan said Iran was looking at joining the 2006 Cape Town Convention, a treaty of more than 60 nations designed to boost trade by protecting aircraft owners in return for cheaper financing.

"That is a very positive signal for me," said Dick Forsberg, head of strategy at Dublin-based leasing company Avolon, while warning investors Iran would not be a "gold rush". Privately, some foreign delegates said doing business in Iran was still a complex puzzle, further obscured by upcoming elections.

President Rouhani, a pragmatist, has been trying to attract technology and investment to bolster Iran's shattered economy. But some analysts say political in-fighting, and the possibility of fresh sanctions if Iran violates the deal, worry investors. Allies of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the last say on state matters, have already begun to criticize new oil contracts that are also designed to attract investors.

While Iranian officials gave assurances that they would respect foreign investors' ownership rights, some delegates at the aviation conference saw potential sticking points over Iran's attitude to collateral on some transactions.

Britain's export credit agency said last week it was open to doing business in Iran, boosting the prospect of aircraft sales. But such agencies typically demand security on the jet even if the buyer is government controlled and can put up a state guarantee to pay money owed.

That may be a problem for Iran, which regards its sovereign-backed guarantees as word enough and is reluctant to offer collateral on the asset as well, delegates said. Grabowski said Iran had reassured investors but "they need to deliver, and this is where it is going to be difficult." —Reuters

# SAUDI INDUSTRIAL CITY TO SPEED UP, BROADEN INVESTMENT

RIYADH: The developer of one of Saudi Arabia's biggest industrial city projects says it will speed construction of infrastructure and broaden the range of industries it accommodates as part of efforts to diversify the economy beyond oil. With state finances under heavy pressure from low oil prices, Saudi Arabia is trying to develop alternative sectors to boost exports, create jobs and provide new revenues.

King Abdullah Economic City (KAEC), a state-backed business zone on the Red Sea coast near Jeddah, is part of the effort. The zone is being developed by Emaar the Economic City (EEC), a publicly listed firm.

Fahd Al-Rasheed, group chief executive of both EEC and KAEC, said construction of infrastructure in the zone, including housing, commercial space, hotels and roads, would accel-

erate. While 40 such projects have been developed since the government-backed zone was launched in 2005, 170 are planned for the next 10 years, he said in an interview. Progress in some projects will depend on the rate at which the zone can attract new corporate tenants, as well as the strength of the Saudi economy.

But the emphasis on rapid expansion is typical of the mood among Saudi economic policy makers as a powerful new committee led by the king's son, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, tries to restructure the economy.

"What used to take two years now takes two months. What took two weeks can take a day," Rasheed said. The zone, which includes a port, had 120 industrial tenants at the end of last year after adding 23 in 2015. Tenants include French pharmaceutical maker Sanofi, a venture involving U.S. battery maker Johnson

Controls, and producers of building materials.

KAEC has a population of about 5,000 people. It is roughly doubling every year and is projected to hit 50,000 by 2020, with an ultimate target of 2 million around 2035. Rasheed said KAEC is now planned to move beyond light industry into tourism. KAEC also aims to develop a medical centre that would attract patients from abroad, and an educational industry providing university and vocational training, he said. Both sectors were identified as priorities by Saudi economic policy makers this week.

Rasheed did not say where KAEC would find investors for the new sectors, but the government has said it is willing to spend billions of dollars to jump-start growth in new areas by awarding contracts and procuring services from companies. —Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

| ASIAN COUNTRIES   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Japanese Yen      | 2.573   |
| Indian Rupees     | 4.494   |
| Pakistani Rupees  | 2.896   |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 2.115   |
| Nepali Rupees     | 2.815   |
| Singapore Dollar  | 213.530 |
| Hongkong Dollar   | 38.973  |
| Bangladesh Taka   | 3.871   |
| Philippine Peso   | 6.334   |
| Thai Baht         | 8.469   |

| GCC COUNTRIES  |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Saudi Riyal    | 81.070  |
| Qatari Riyal   | 83.510  |
| Omani Riyal    | 789.631 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 807.360 |
| UAE Dirham     | 82.770  |

| ARAB COUNTRIES            |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Egyptian Pound - Cash     | 38.300  |
| Egyptian Pound - Transfer | 38.872  |
| Yemen Riyal/for 1000      | 1.419   |
| Tunisian Dinar            | 149.170 |
| Jordanian Dinar           | 428.230 |
| Lebanese Lira/for 1000    | 2.026   |
| Syrian Lira               | 2.167   |
| Morocco Dirham            | 31.005  |

| EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| US Dollar Transfer            | 303.850 |
| Euro                          | 331.500 |
| Sterling Pound                | 434.050 |
| Canadian dollar               | 213.080 |
| Turkish lira                  | 100.550 |
| Swiss Franc                   | 301.140 |
| Australian Dollar             | 213.000 |
| US Dollar Buying              | 302.650 |

| GOLD    |         |
|---------|---------|
| 20 Gram | 224.370 |
| 10 Gram | 115.110 |
| 5 Gram  | 58.400  |

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

| CURRENCIES        | TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000 |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Australian Dollar | 202.30                  |
| Canadian Dollar   | 218.22                  |
| Swiss Franc       | 304.94                  |
| Euro              | 332.67                  |
| US Dollar         | 304.45                  |
| Sterling Pound    | 437.40                  |
| Japanese Yen      | 2.61                    |
| Bangladesh Taka   | 3.881                   |
| Indian Rupee      | 4.504                   |
| Sri Lankan Rupee  | 2.118                   |
| Nepali Rupee      | 2.813                   |
| Pakistani Rupee   | 2.898                   |
| UAE Dirhams       | 0.08285                 |
| Bahraini Dinar    | 0.8091                  |
| Egyptian Pound    | 0.03878                 |
| Jordanian Dinar   | 0.4330                  |
| Omani Riyal       | 0.7906                  |
| Qatari Riyal      | 0.08394                 |
| Saudi Riyal       | 0.08115                 |

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

| Rate for Transfer | Selling Rate |
|-------------------|--------------|
| US Dollar         | 304.350      |
| Canadian Dollar   | 217.315      |
| Sterling Pound    | 436.095      |
| Euro              | 330.075      |
| Swiss Frank       | 310.175      |
| Bahrain Dinar     | 805.175      |
| UAE Dirhams       | 83.105       |
| Qatari Riyals     | 84.320       |

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Saudi Riyals          | 81.840  |
| Jordanian Dinar       | 428.735 |
| Egyptian Pound        | 38.757  |
| Sri Lankan Rupees     | 2.119   |
| Indian Rupees         | 4.495   |
| Pakistani Rupees      | 2.897   |
| Bangladesh Taka       | 3.871   |
| Philippines Peso      | 6.361   |
| Cyprus pound          | 579.695 |
| Kenyan Shilling       | 3.555   |
| Syrian Pound          | 2.380   |
| Nepalese Rupees       | 3.805   |
| Malaysian Ringgit     | 72.045  |
| Chinese Yuan Renminbi | 46.605  |
| Thai Bhat             | 9.425   |
| Turkish Lira          | 101.620 |

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

| CURRENCY           | BUY      | SELL     |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Europe             |          |          |
| British Pound      | 0.425443 | 0.434443 |
| Czech Korune       | 0.004168 | 0.016168 |
| Danish Krone       | 0.040063 | 0.045063 |
| Euro               | 0.323887 | 0.331887 |
| Norwegian Krone    | 0.030599 | 0.035799 |
| Romanian Leu       | 0.072597 | 0.072597 |
| Slovakia           | 0.009074 | 0.019074 |
| Swedish Krona      | 0.031361 | 0.036361 |
| Swiss Franc        | 0.293082 | 0.303282 |
| Turkish Lira       | 0.095588 | 0.105888 |
| Australasia        |          |          |
| Australian Dollar  | 0.202780 | 0.214280 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.189744 | 0.199244 |
| America            |          |          |
| Canadian Dollar    | 0.207171 | 0.215671 |
| US Dollars         | 0.299750 | 0.304250 |

|                    |          |          |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| US Dollars Mint    | 0.300250 | 0.304250 |
| Asia               |          |          |
| Bangladesh Taka    | 0.003517 | 0.004117 |
| Chinese Yuan       | 0.044712 | 0.048212 |
| Hong Kong Dollar   | 0.036896 | 0.039646 |
| Indian Rupee       | 0.004217 | 0.004607 |
| Indonesian Rupiah  | 0.000017 | 0.000023 |
| Japanese Yen       | 0.002487 | 0.002667 |
| Kenyan Shilling    | 0.002963 | 0.002963 |
| Korean Won         | 0.000242 | 0.000257 |
| Malaysian Ringgit  | 0.067162 | 0.073162 |
| Nepalese Rupee     | 0.002881 | 0.003051 |
| Pakistan Rupee     | 0.002589 | 0.002869 |
| Philippine Peso    | 0.006265 | 0.006545 |
| Sierra Leone       | 0.000070 | 0.000076 |
| Singapore Dollar   | 0.208993 | 0.214993 |
| South African Rand | 0.012275 | 0.020775 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee   | 0.001762 | 0.002342 |
| Taiwan             | 0.008916 | 0.009096 |
| Thai Baht          | 0.008134 | 0.008684 |

|                  |          |          |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Arab             |          |          |
| Bahraini Dinar   | 0.799079 | 0.807079 |
| Egyptian Pound   | 0.035399 | 0.039735 |
| Iranian Riyal    | 0.000084 | 0.000085 |
| Iraqi Dinar      | 0.000200 | 0.000260 |
| Jordanian Dinar  | 0.424564 | 0.432064 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar    | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound   | 0.000150 | 0.000250 |
| Moroccan Dirhams | 0.021497 | 0.045497 |
| Nigerian Naira   | 0.001255 | 0.001890 |
| Omani Riyal      | 0.782890 | 0.788480 |
| Qatar Riyal      | 0.082749 | 0.083962 |
| Saudi Riyal      | 0.080140 | 0.081090 |
| Syrian Pound     | 0.001288 | 0.001508 |
| Tunisian Dinar   | 0.146009 | 0.154009 |
| Turkish Lira     | 0.095588 | 0.105888 |
| UAE Dirhams      | 0.081746 | 0.082895 |
| Yemeni Riyal     | 0.001373 | 0.001453 |



# HUAWEI HOLDS MATE 8 CONSUMER EVENT IN KUWAIT

OVER 100 HUAWEI CUSTOMERS ATTEND IN A COMPETITION-FILLED EVENT

**KUWAIT:** In an event held in Kuwait, Huawei Consumer Business Group - Middle East launched its flagship smartphone, the Mate 8, giving over 100 Huawei customers a live presentation of the smartphone experience that is designed for today's on-the-go professionals, suiting their lifestyle and business needs thanks to its significantly enhanced efficiency and battery life.

The Mate 8 smartphone received 16 awards during the annual Consumer Electronic Show (CES) 2016 held in Las Vegas at the beginning of the month. Awards included the IDC 2015-2016 Global Top Brands award, the Engadget Best Mobile Device award, the TechRadar Best Smart Phone award, the Android Authority Best of CES 2016 award, and the Android Central Top Pick CES award.

Huawei's Kuwait Consumer Business Group, Country Manager, Mr. Jim Zhu, said during the event: "The Mate 8 delivers a device that meets the needs of a new style of business. The Mate 8 is without a doubt the ultimate high-end smartphone which outperforms existing smartphones, which is a success that was clearly recognized at the largest electronics show, the CES."

**Designed for Performance and Efficiency**

With new groundbreaking hardware, the Mate 8 is the first smartphone to run the Kirin 950 chipset, with CPU boosting power up 100 percent, GPU performance up 125 percent, and power efficiency up 70 percent compared to the Kirin 925. The device's architecture balances energy efficiency with high-end performance.

The Mate 8 delivers industry-leading pow-



**KUWAIT: Huawei Consumer Business Group - Middle East launches its flagship smartphone, the Mate 8, at a major event in Kuwait yesterday.**  
—Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

er efficiency offering over two days of normal usage thanks to its 4000mAh high-density battery. With rapid charging, the phone is also able to charge a day's worth of power in just 30 minutes.

**Built for Productivity**

Running on Huawei's EMUI 4.0, based on

Android Marshmallow 6.0, the Huawei Mate 8 offers hundreds of user experience improvements, including a built-in automatic defragmentation service that continues optimizing system performance. Additionally, the Mate 8 features a split-screen mode that enables enhanced multitasking between apps.



**Smart and Secure**

The Huawei Mate 8 introduces a new generation of fingerprint security with enhanced protection technology. The circular fingerprint sensor improves the effective identification area and provides a higher level of protection for users. The new sensor design also increases the unlock speed by 100 percent.

**Stunning Photography**

The Mate 8 adopts the revolutionary all-new Sony 16MP IMX298 which increases the sensor size by 23 percent for breathtaking images. The device also features an 8MP front camera with a new beauty algorithm for taking the perfect selfie. Additionally, the Mate 8 provides document readjustment camera mode, which automatically straightens images that are captured

at an angle for better viewing.

**Efficient Conferencing**

The Huawei Mate 8 features "Super Hands-Free 3.0" technology that enables hands-free operations in a variety of environments. Users can enjoy crisp and clear conversations from up to 3 meters away.

**Beautifully crafted**

The Mate 8 features a refined, elegant design that highlights its beautiful 6-inch high contrast display. With a leading 83 percent screen-to-body ratio, the phone is able to stay sleek and compact without sacrificing a large display. The Huawei 8 will initially be available in four elegant colors: champagne gold, moonlight silver, space gray and mocha brown.

# INFINITI CLOSES OUT 2015 WITH RECORD BREAKING PERFORMANCE

**DUBAI:** Infiniti in the Middle East has successfully concluded 2015 with yet another strong sales performance. Delivering over 8,300 vehicles at a growth rate of 18 percent, Infiniti is firing on all cylinders making it one of the fastest growing premium automotive brands in the region.

On a global level, Infiniti broke the global sales records once again in 2015 with sales of 215,250 vehicles, up 16 percent from the previous year.

"The double digit growth achieved for 2015 is testament to the excellent vehicles we continue to deliver to our customers around the region," said Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director, Infiniti Middle East.

2015 was a great year for the Infiniti brand which saw enhance in its product portfolio on a global as well as regional level. At the Frankfurt Motor Show, Infiniti made history, when it unveiled the all-new Infiniti Q30. Representing Infiniti's first entry into the fast-growing premium compact segment, the Q30 will play an important role in helping the company realise its plans for global growth.

Here in the Middle East, Infiniti launched the new Infiniti Q70. With a fresh new exterior, the latest evolution of the Infiniti Q70 takes the emotion-packed character of the performance sedan up another level. The new 2016 Infiniti Q70 continues to deliver evocative design, invigorating



performance, innovative technology and superior craftsmanship.

Schmitz added: "The Infiniti Q70 continues to be a key driver of growth for our brand in the mid-size executive sedan segment across the region. So too, when we introduce the all-new Infiniti Q30 in the Middle East later this year, we are confident that the vehicle will contribute to Infiniti's successes."

Focusing on growth, all of Infiniti's models performed well in 2015. Amongst the sedans, leading the way was the new Infiniti Q70 which accounted for an increase of 116 percent with almost 600 vehicles delivered to customers in the year. Infiniti's multi-award winning Q50 also performed strongly registering a growth of 110 percent with almost 1,900 vehicles sold.

Infiniti's core offering - its SUV line-up performed well across the board, with the QX50 accounting for an increase of 67 percent compared to the same period in 2014. The rest of the portfolio rounded off the brand's success with the QX60, QX80 and QX70 all having incremental growth; 8 percent, 7 percent and 4 percent respectively.

With the recent announcements of Infiniti's all-new 3.0-liter V6 twin-turbo from the new and exclusive 'VR' powertrain family as well as the new QX60 and QX50 and the all-new Q60, Infiniti is gearing up for an exciting 2016.

# BAHRAIN MOVES TO CLOSE IRAN'S FUTURE BANK

**DUBAI:** Bahrain's central bank said yesterday it is taking steps to close down Iranian-owned Future Bank, which is based in the Gulf state. On Monday, Ebtisam Al-Arriayed, head of regulatory policy at the central bank, told Reuters that the regulator had yet to make a decision about Future Bank after placing it under its administration last year, along with Iran Insurance Co - the Bahrain branch of an Iranian insurer. At that time the regulator said the moves were to "protect the rights of depositors and policyholders". Calls to the two companies offices in Bahrain yesterday were not answered.

Future Bank, based in Manama, is a commercial bank which was founded as a joint venture between two Iranian banks - Bank Saderat and Bank Mellii - and Bahrain's Ahli United Bank, according to its website. The bank's assets stood at 569.4 million dinars (\$1.51 billion) at the end of September 2015, according to the latest financial statement on the bank's website. Bahrain's central bank has not elaborated on its reasons for the action, which has highlighted the risks to Iran's business interests from heightened political tensions in the Gulf. Earlier this month Bahrain said it was cutting diplomatic ties with Iran, following its neighbor Saudi Arabia in severing ties with Tehran after Iranian protesters angered by the Sunni Muslim kingdom's decision to execute a leading Shi'ite cleric, attacked its mission there. —Reuters

# BRITAIN'S WHOLESALE GAS TO REMAIN CHEAP THIS YEAR

**LONDON/MILAN:** British utilities are set to benefit from low wholesale gas prices this summer and beyond even if power companies opt to do a lot more switching from coal to gas to fuel their plants. British wholesale gas prices have fallen over 40 percent in the past year, as mild winter temperatures softened demand amid a sell-off in crude oil markets to which seasonal gas contracts are indirectly linked, and pressure has been mounting on power companies to lower retail prices for households. Low crude oil prices have also triggered a surge in gas pipeline deliveries into Europe from Russia and Norway which are oil-indexed, making them cheaper than the cost of gas traded on Europe's hub markets, adding to oversupply in the market.

And US liquefied natural gas exports could add to supply, further depressing UK prices or at least keeping them low. UK gas prices are currently trading at just below 30 pence per therm and were last at these levels in 2009/2010 when a worldwide recession eroded energy demand.

Consultancy Energy Aspects sees average UK gas prices for 2016 at 29.4 pence/therm, down from its previous forecast of 35.8 pence. Average 2017 prices are seen lower at 26.4 pence.

**SWITCHING**

"For European gas spot prices (Dutch and UK), we saw very low prices during Q3 and early Q4 2009. That would indicate that there is much more downside possible," said Hans van Cleef, senior energy economist at ABN Amro. Barring sustained very cold weather in the next two months, he said "inventories will remain well filled for the time of the year, and this will be translated in continued price pressure." Last week, E.ON became the first big British energy supplier this year to cut household gas prices. Utilities often say that although wholesale prices have fallen, there are costs to manage from other parts of a household energy bill, such as distribution and green levies. Analysts say gas demand may get a boost from power producers switching away from coal, depending on relative

price levels. "It's only coal-to-gas switching which can support prices this summer should oil prices continue to fall," said Massimo Di Odoardo, research director for global gas at Wood Mackenzie.

Switching occurs when gas prices nudge below rival fuel coal to become the cheapest fuel for generating electricity. In Britain the shift has already taken place with cleaner-burning gas grabbing a larger slice of the power generation mix. Newer, more efficient UK gas plants are set to displace older coal plants this summer, helped by the UK government's carbon price floor which has made coal more costly to burn. While gas should oust coal this summer, the dwindling number of coal plants left in operation suggest UK gas prices may not find a floor at the coal-price switching level if gas oversupply continues to grow, an analyst at a major European utility said. Instead, the UK gas price floor may be set at the lower coal-to-gas switching level found in Europe, where the cost of burning polluting fuels is less, the analyst added. —Reuters

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# OIL ABOVE \$30 ON HOPES OF DEAL TO TACKLE GLUT

LONDON: Oil rose further above \$30 a barrel yesterday, lifted by hopes that OPEC and non-OPEC producers may be edging closer to a deal to tackle one of the biggest supply gluts in decades.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is making renewed calls for rival producers to cut supply alongside its members, but Russia, seen as key to any deal, has so far refused to cooperate. Iraqi Oil Minister Adel Mahdi said yesterday he saw "some flexibility" for a deal.

Such an idea has been repeatedly mooted and dismissed for over a year. Brent crude was up 37 cents to \$30.87 a barrel by 1214 GMT,

rebounding from an earlier decline. It reached \$27.10, its lowest since November 2003, on Jan 20. US crude was up 34 cents at \$30.68.

"Without a production agreement, fundamentals point to lower numbers," said David Hufton of oil brokers PVM. "With one, oil becomes a \$40-to-\$60-a-barrel market."

Demand concerns limited the rally. China's annual rail freight volume fell 11.9 percent in 2015 versus a drop of 3.9 percent in 2014, adding to worries about contracting economic activity in the second-largest oil consumer. "Fears of a sharp slowdown in economic growth, particularly in China, are dragging down global stock markets from arguably over-

heated levels," analysts at Energy Aspects said in a report. "This is weighing on other risky assets, including oil."

Despite a price collapse and spending cut-backs across much of the industry, major OPEC producers are sticking to investment plans and some intend to boost supply.

The risk of prices staying low for a longer time is not deterring Kuwait from investing in energy projects, the head of Kuwait Petroleum Corp said on Tuesday, echoing similar comments from the chairman of Saudi Arabia's state oil company.

Iraq may further boost output this year, a senior Iraqi oil official, who asked not to be

identified, said on Monday. Production hit a record in December.

Investors are now watching the US Federal Reserve policy meeting starting later in the day, the first since the central bank raised interest rates in December, for clues on the movement of the dollar.

Underlining the glut, analysts expect the latest weekly reports on US supplies to show crude inventories, already close to a record high, rose further. The American Petroleum Institute, an industry group, releases its supply report at 2130 GMT and the government's data is due today.

Spot gold was up 0.4 percent at \$1,111.70 an ounce at 1245 GMT, while US gold futures for February delivery were up 0.6 percent at \$1,112.10. Gold has risen 5 percent in January as concerns over China and global growth hurt equities and industrial commodities, while a supply glut knocked oil prices 18 percent lower.

"As long as the Chinese stock market continues its downward push, gold will continue benefiting," Natixis analyst Bernard Dahdah said. "It is creating a climate of global uncertainty."

The US Federal Reserve is expected to take notice of the macroeconomic headwinds from China at a two-day policy meeting starting later in the day, boosting hopes that it may go easy on increasing interest rates further. The Federal Open Market Committee is widely expected to leave its federal funds rate unchanged at 0.25-0.50 percent. That bodes well for gold. Current ultra-low rates cut the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion, while keeping a lid on the dollar, in which it is priced.

The probability of another rate increase at the next Fed meeting in March has eased, with some analysts expecting a rise to be postponed to later in the year. "We detect investor uncertainty that global financial turbulence may impact the real economy," HSBC said in a note. — Reuters

### Gold jumps

Gold rallied to its highest in nearly 12 weeks yesterday as a rout in Chinese equities overnight hurt appetite for risk, sending investors fleeing to alternative assets. European stocks fell 1 percent in early trade after a 6 percent slump in Chinese shares and a slide in oil prices to less than \$30 a barrel triggered a fresh bout of selling, sending gold to a peak of \$1,117.60 an ounce. The metal later pared those gains as stocks steadied in Europe and oil swung back into positive territory, but prices remained underpinned, taking support from technical signals after closing on Monday above their 100-day moving average, a firm line of resistance earlier this year.

| Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report |                  |                |              |               |                 |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|------|--------|
| Tuesday 26 January 2016            |                  |                |              |               |                 |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
| Index                              | Change           | Closing        | Last Closing | High          | Low             |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
| Price Index                        | -1.71            | 4,936.51       | 4,938.22     | 4,938.23      | 4,916.17        |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
| Weighted Index                     | 0.48             | 333.11         | 332.63       | 333.45        | 331.80          |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
| KSX 15                             | 0.99             | 777.89         | 776.90       | 781.40        | 773.28          |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
| Volume                             |                  |                |              |               |                 |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
|                                    |                  |                |              |               | 87,314,699      |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
| Value (KWD)                        |                  |                |              |               |                 |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
|                                    |                  |                |              |               | 6,761,311       |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
| Number of Trades                   |                  |                |              |               |                 |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
|                                    |                  |                |              |               | 2,497           |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
| Global                             |                  |                |              |               |                 |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
| Security                           | High             | Low            | Volume       | Value (KD)    | Trades          | Last  | Change  | Security           | High              | Low              | Volume     | Value (KD)    | Trades        | Last | Change |
| MARIN                              | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 114   | -0.0    | SOKOUK             | 34.5              | 32.5             | 2839568    | 96,346        | 64            | 34.5 | ▲ 2.5  |
| IKARUS                             | 69               | 69             | 10,000       | 690           | 1               | 69    | ▼ -1.0  | KRE                | 42.5              | 41.5             | 1,191,541  | 49,842        | 24            | 42.5 | ▲ 0.0  |
| IPG                                | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 315   | ▲ 0.0   | URC                | 93                | 93               | 2,000      | 186           | 1             | 93   | ▲ 5.0  |
| NAPESCO                            | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 600   | ▲ 0.0   | NRE                | 88                | 85               | 4,389,142  | 381,221       | 107           | 87   | ▲ 3.0  |
| ENERGYH                            | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 34.5  | ▲ 0.0   | SRE                | 330               | 320              | 72,000     | 23,410        | 12            | 330  | ▲ 0.0  |
| GPI                                | 38.0             | 36.5           | 1,327,784    | 50,172        | 33              | 37.5  | ▼ -0.5  | TAM                | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 620  | ▲ 0.0  |
| ABAR                               | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 120   | ▲ 0.0   | AREEC              | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 136  | ▲ 0.0  |
| <b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>               | <b>1,337,784</b> | <b>50,862</b>  | <b>34</b>    | <b>742.84</b> | <b>▼ -3.07</b>  |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
| KFOUC                              | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 212   | ▲ 0.0   | MASALEH            | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 61   | ▲ 0.0  |
| BPPC                               | 445              | 430            | 1,050,750    | 462,334       | 17              | 430   | ▼ -10.0 | ARABREC            | 23.0              | 22.0             | 330,400    | 7,338         | 11            | 23.0 | ▲ 0.5  |
| ALKOUT                             | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 610   | ▲ 0.0   | ERESCO             | 56                | 56               | 100        | 6             | 1             | 56   | ▼ -1.0 |
| ALQURAIN                           | 144              | 140            | 373,903      | 52,772        | 51              | 144   | ▼ -6.0  | MABANEE            | 860               | 820              | 76,418     | 64,909        | 10            | 860  | ▲ 4.0  |
| <b>Basic Materials</b>             | <b>1,424,653</b> | <b>515,106</b> | <b>68</b>    | <b>823.31</b> | <b>▼ -18.12</b> |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
| KCEM                               | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 360   | ▲ 0.0   | INJAZZAT           | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 79   | ▲ 0.0  |
| REFRI                              | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 305   | ▲ 0.0   | INVESTORS          | 18.5              | 18.0             | 1,287,973  | 23,736        | 18            | 18.5 | ▼ -0.5 |
| CABLE                              | 315              | 315            | 29,534       | 9,303         | 6               | 315   | ▼ -10.0 | IRC                | 23.0              | 20.0             | 390,250    | 8,186         | 12            | 22.0 | ▲ 0.0  |
| SHIP                               | 138              | 136            | 50,000       | 6,808         | 2               | 136   | ▼ -6.0  | ALTIJARIA          | 74                | 73               | 136,626    | 9,979         | 9             | 73   | ▲ 0.0  |
| PCEM                               | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 990   | ▲ 0.0   | SANAM              | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 41.0 | ▲ 0.0  |
| PAPER                              | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 380   | ▲ 0.0   | AYANIRE            | 66                | 65               | 71,100     | 4,693         | 5             | 65   | ▼ -3.0 |
| MRC                                | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 57    | ▲ 0.0   | AQAR               | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 80   | ▲ 0.0  |
| ACICO                              | 265              | 265            | 100          | 27            | 1               | 265   | ▲ 0.0   | ALAGARIA           | 18.5              | 18.5             | 1,500      | 28            | 1             | 18.5 | ▼ -0.5 |
| GMCM                               | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 490   | ▲ 0.0   | MZAYA              | 100               | 99               | 1,579,200  | 157,370       | 28            | 100  | ▲ 1.0  |
| HCC                                | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 132   | ▲ 0.0   | ADNC               | 22.0              | 21.0             | 14,464,562 | 310,590       | 164           | 22.0 | ▲ 0.5  |
| KPAK                               | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 350   | ▲ 0.0   | THEMAR             | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 75   | ▲ 0.0  |
| KBMMC                              | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 250   | ▲ 0.0   | TJARA              | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 39.5 | ▲ 0.0  |
| NICBM                              | 220              | 220            | 52           | 11            | 1               | 220   | ▼ -10.0 | TAAMEER            | 18.5              | 18.5             | 1,500      | 28            | 1             | 18.5 | ▼ -0.5 |
| EQUIPMENT                          | 51               | 49.0           | 173,220      | 8,567         | 13              | 51    | ▲ 2.0   | ARKAN              | 110               | 110              | 1,250      | 138           | 2             | 110  | ▲ 0.0  |
| NCCI                               | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 99    | ▲ 0.0   | ARGAN              | 158               | 150              | 12,600     | 1,990         | 2             | 150  | ▼ -8.0 |
| GYPNUM                             | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 102   | ▲ 0.0   | ABYAAR             | 22.5              | 22.0             | 150,000    | 3,350         | 3             | 22.0 | ▼ -0.5 |
| SALBOOH                            | 67               | 66             | 97,000       | 6,442         | 6               | 66    | ▼ -2.0  | MUNSHAAT           | 49.0              | 46.0             | 1,824,003  | 87,554        | 66            | 49.0 | ▲ 2.0  |
| AGLTY                              | 420              | 410            | 774,324      | 319,534       | 45              | 410   | ▼ -5.0  | FIRSTDUBAI         | 35.0              | 33.5             | 44,160     | 1,490         | 3             | 35.0 | ▲ 0.0  |
| EDU                                | 198              | 198            | 91           | 18            | 1               | 198   | ▲ 10.0  | KBT                | 34.0              | 33.0             | 489,000    | 16,336        | 32            | 34.0 | ▼ -0.5 |
| CLEANING                           | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 35.5  | ▲ 0.0   | REAM               | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 140  | ▲ 0.0  |
| CITYGROUP                          | 380              | 380            | 7            | 3             | 1               | 380   | ▲ 0.0   | MENA               | 17.5              | 17.0             | 20,010     | 340           | 6             | 17.5 | ▲ 0.0  |
| KGL                                | 38.0             | 37.0           | 34,000       | 1,288         | 3               | 37.0  | ▼ -1.5  | ALMUDON            | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 28.0 | ▲ 0.0  |
| KPC                                | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 210   | ▲ 0.0   | MARAKEZ            | 22.5              | 18.5             | 52,300     | 1,115         | 11            | 22.5 | ▲ 2.0  |
| HUMANSOFT                          | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 770   | ▲ 0.0   | REMAL              | 30.5              | 28.5             | 39,000     | 1,118         | 3             | 30.5 | ▲ 0.0  |
| NAFAIS                             | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 130   | ▲ 0.0   | MASHAER            | 100               | 99               | 1,000      | 100           | 2             | 100  | ▲ 4.0  |
| SAFWAN                             | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 305   | ▲ 0.0   | <b>Real Estate</b> | <b>29,467,201</b> | <b>1,251,387</b> | <b>598</b> | <b>803.29</b> | <b>▲ 4.41</b> |      |        |
| GFC                                | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 26.0  | ▲ 0.0   | KINV               | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 87   | ▲ 0.0  |
| MAYADEEN                           | 17.5             | 16.5           | 828,431      | 14,017        | 20              | 17.0  | ▼ -0.5  | FACIL              | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 150  | ▲ 0.0  |
| CGC                                | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 780   | ▲ 0.0   | IFA                | 22.0              | 21.5             | 343,896    | 7,441         | 16            | 22.0 | ▼ -0.5 |
| MTCC                               | 58               | 52             | 3,438,469    | 193,629       | 94              | 58    | ▲ 5.0   | NINV               | 66                | 64               | 244,000    | 15,916        | 9             | 66   | ▲ 1.0  |
| UPAC                               | 590              | 590            | 100          | 59            | 1               | 590   | ▼ -10.0 | KPROJ              | 510               | 500              | 98,000     | 49,850        | 5             | 500  | ▲ 0.0  |
| ALAFCO                             | 190              | 190            | 112,582      | 21,391        | 13              | 190   | ▲ 0.0   | COAST              | 22.0              | 21.0             | 831,489    | 17,719        | 24            | 22.0 | ▲ 0.5  |
| MUBARRAD                           | 62               | 61             | 155,000      | 9,460         | 12              | 62    | ▲ 0.0   | SECH               | 27.5              | 26.5             | 712,100    | 19,095        | 15            | 27.5 | ▲ 0.5  |
| LOGISTICS                          | 48.0             | 44.5           | 390,200      | 17,680        | 13              | 48.0  | ▲ 1.5   | SGC                | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 97   | ▲ 0.0  |
| SCEM                               | 80               | 80             | 398,450      | 31,876        | 5               | 80    | ▲ 1.0   | ARZAN              | 34.0              | 33.0             | 51,722     | 1,711         | 7             | 33.0 | ▼ -1.0 |
| GCEM                               | 71               | 70             | 30,400       | 2,128         | 4               | 71    | ▲ 3.0   | MARKAZ             | 85                | 85               | 37,432     | 3,182         | 3             | 85   | ▼ 4.0  |
| QCEM                               | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 68    | ▲ 0.0   | KMEFIC             | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 26.0 | ▲ 0.0  |
| KCEM                               | 71               | 67             | 144,020      | 9,714         | 15              | 68    | ▼ -3.0  | ALAMAN             | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 48.0 | ▲ 0.0  |
| RKWC                               | 96               | 96             | 3,100        | 298           | 3               | 96    | ▲ 5.0   | ALOLA              | 41.5              | 40.5             | 612,816    | 26,162        | 28            | 41.5 | ▼ -1.5 |
| SPEC                               | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 88    | ▲ 0.0   | ALMAL              | 22.0              | 21.5             | 649,585    | 13,969        | 14            | 21.5 | ▲ 0.0  |
| <b>Industrials</b>                 | <b>6,659,080</b> | <b>652,249</b> | <b>259</b>   | <b>932.42</b> | <b>▲ 1.03</b>   |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
| KSH                                | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 220   | ▲ 0.0   | GIH                | 18.5              | 18.0             | 2,085,605  | 37,902        | 60            | 18.5 | ▲ 0.0  |
| NSH                                | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 62    | ▲ 0.0   | AAYAN              | 41.5              | 40.0             | 10,370     | 421           | 5             | 41.5 | ▼ -1.0 |
| PAPCO                              | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 106   | ▲ 0.0   | BAYANINV           | 32.0              | 30.0             | 2,141,359  | 67,004        | 74            | 31.5 | ▲ 0.5  |
| CATTL                              | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 118   | ▲ 0.0   | OSOUL              | 31.5              | 31.5             | 64,500     | 2,032         | 5             | 31.5 | ▼ -2.5 |
| DANAH                              | 69               | 66             | 1,000        | 68            | 2               | 69    | ▼ -1.0  | KFIC               | 31.0              | 29.0             | 76,000     | 2,217         | 12            | 30.5 | ▼ -1.0 |
| POULT                              | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 196   | ▲ 0.0   | KAMCO              | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 102  | ▲ 0.0  |
| FOOD                               | 1,800            | 1,740          | 84,140       | 148,891       | 12              | 1,760 | ▼ -60.0 | NIH                | 40.0              | 37.0             | 97,500     | 3,780         | 12            | 37.0 | ▼ -2.5 |
| <b>Consumer Goods</b>              | <b>85,140</b>    | <b>14,000</b>  | <b>4</b>     | <b>997.95</b> | <b>▼ -8.83</b>  |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |
| MHC                                | 190              | 190            | 10,000       | 1,900         | 1               | 190   | ▲ 10    | ISKAN              | 23.0              | 22.5             | 563,219    | 12,721        | 24            | 23.0 | ▼ -0.5 |
| ATC                                | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0            | 0             | 0               | 920   | ▲ 0.0   | MADAR              | 0.0               | 0.0              | 0          | 0             | 0             | 20.5 | ▲ 0.0  |
| YIACO                              | 134              | 118            | 30,250       | 3,574         | 3               | 134   | ▲ 8     | ALDEERA            | 23.0              | 23.0             | 869        | 20            | 1             | 23.0 | ▲ 0.0  |
|                                    |                  |                |              |               |                 |       |         |                    |                   |                  |            |               |               |      |        |



## Al Sayer Toyota Launches

# NEW RAV4 2016



**World's Original Crossover Sport Utility Vehicle Arrives Refreshed**  
*A global model with presence in 150 countries, new RAV4 reinforces its universal appeal*



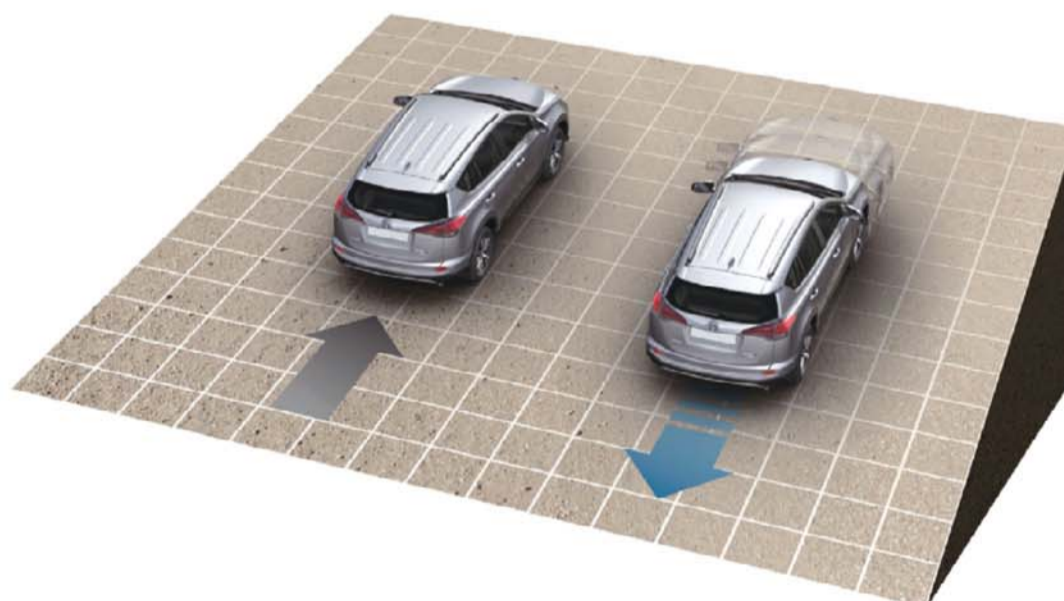
- New powerful engine promises a passionate driving experience
- 6 Speed (Super-Intelligent) ECT transmission.
- Advanced technology and extensive safety features
- Aggressive and contemporary exterior styling
- High quality interior offering a distinct space

Whatever your passion in-life, the new RAV4 is suited to our needs. For the young and adventurous the RAV4 has aggressive styling, is fully loaded with features and has a powerful new engine. If you are looking for a family drive, the new RAV4 is even more spacious, has the latest TOYOTA safety features and has the same quality and reliability you would expect from Toyota.

KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al Sayer announced the launch of new and refreshed 2016 RAV4 in Kuwait. The new RAV4 offers enhanced performance and capability, while being more engaging and fun to drive. It also offers great fuel efficiency, spacious rear space, striking design, and a compelling array of standard features.

According to Mr. Mubarak Naser Al Sayer CEO Al Sayer Group Holding "Toyota World's number 1 automotive brand continues to reinforce the market leading position with the introduction of a range of new and exciting models to enhance the market leadership with steady sales and sustained performance. Toyota vehicles are best known for the finest combination of best quality, technology, durability, highest resale value and line up suiting all customer tastes, needs and requirements."

Mr. Johan Heislitz Senior Business Director Al Sayer Group Holding said "The new RAV4 2016 is all set to offer our customers a perfect drive. The finer refinements reflect the same quality and reliability you would expect from Toyota with the spirit to give



our distinguished customers best compact SUV in the market."

### Refreshed Exterior Styling and Updated Interior for a Distinct Space:

The new RAV4 2016 projects a bright, intelligent, and dynamic expression that define RAV4's athletic presence and sophisticated strength. Featuring refreshed exterior styling that lends the vehicle a sleeker, more dynamic stance. A bolder looking front fascia seems to come alive when equipped with the available LED combo of headlights, daytime running lights and Hi-Lo Headlights. The new rocker panels sharpen the sides and tie in restyled front and rear bumpers for a more flowing profile. New front and rear silver skid plate gamishes on most models, new wheel designs and a standard shark fin antenna on all grades further accent the freshened look of the 2016 RAV4.

### Performance, Handling, and Efficiency

Successive generations of RAV4 have established a reputation for their ride comfort, ease of driving, maneuverability and reassuring capabilities on even tough road surfaces. The new RAV4 builds on these key SUV attributes.

2016 RAV4 is equipped with a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine with Dual VVT-i technology which enhances power delivery efficiency by controlling both intake and exhaust timings to produce 180 horsepower at 6,000 rpm and 23.8 kg-m of torque at 4,100 rpm. A body structure that makes extensive use of high-strength steel provides a robust and stiff, yet light platform and is the foundation for the RAV4's smooth ride, handling agility and cabin quietness. The rear suspension member has increased spots welds and support mounts to help enhance rigidity and reduce vibration transfer to the vehicle occupants.

### Safety

The all new RAV4 builds on the very highest standards of occupant safety and pedestrian impact protection evolved over three generations of the compact Toyota SUV, with even higher levels of active and passive safety.

Standard safety equipment on the 2016 RAV4 includes antilock brakes, vehicle stability control, traction control and daytime running lights. A blind-spot monitoring system with rear cross-traffic alert is standard on RAV4 SE and Limited models.

The RAV4 is equipped with eight airbags, including a drivers knee airbag and a front-passenger seat cushion airbag designed to prevent occupants from sliding under the seatbelt.

### RAV4 2016 Key Specifications:

2.5L Dual VVT-i engine – 180hp, 6 Speed (Super-Intelligent) ECT transmission, Standard safety features: ABS / EBD / VSC / HAC / Rear Camera, Remote Engine Starter, Power Back Door, LED Head Lights + DRL, Leather Seats (Natural) – Power for driver seat, Alloy Wheels 18 inches, Sun Roof – Front and Rear Sensors – Rear Spoiler – Fog Lamps, Dual Automatic Air-condition System, Smart key with push start system, Bluetooth + AUX + USB.

### Top Honors for RAV4

With over 2 decades of successful run, RAV4 is a leader in the compact crossover SUV segment.

Awards won by RAV4:

- The 2016 Toyota RAV4 compact SUV earned the highest five-star overall safety rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, USA.
- 2015 Toyota RAV4, (Built After November 2014), is an Insurance Institute for Highway safety (IIHS) Top Safety Pick and is also one of the Top 10 Most Affordable SUVs according to Kelley Blue Books KBB.com.
- HIS automotive evaluates over 90% of RAV4s sold in the last ten years are still on the road today.





## AUDI S3 SEDAN, TT COUP' AND ALL-NEW Q7 IMPRESS CROWD AT AUTO MOTO 16

MASTERFULLY ENGINEERED VERSATILITY

**KUWAIT:** Audi's trio of powerful yet fuel efficient cars in their respective class - the all-new Q7, the S3 Sedan and the TT CoupÉ - fueled excitement into Auto Moto 16 as a huge crowd of car lovers gathered at the 360 Mall for Kuwait's highly anticipated annual motor show held on 17 - 23 of January.

The all-new Q7 45 TFSI quattro, which boasts a new 3.0-liter V6 engine, the largest interior in its segment and innovative assistance features, also sets new standards in operating concept, infotainment and connectivity with the second-generation modular infotainment platform and optional Audi virtual cockpit. The new MMI all-in-touch control unit with large touchpad makes operation intuitive and simple, with an Audi tablet for rear passengers and two sound systems with 3D sound are further innovations that have been introduced in the new model.

Another highlight is the extremely comprehensive and progressive range of new driver assistance systems - including adaptive cruise control with traffic jam assist and the cross-traffic assist in the rear.

Thanks to the precise lightweight concept from Audi, and use of multi-materials for body and all-new chassis, this big car consumes less fuel than its predecessor by up to 27 percent. The new Q7 also provides excellent comfort and the performance of a sporty Audi, while having



top-notch CO2 values that strictly comply with Euro Emission 6 standards.

Uncompromising in performance, the 45 TFSI quattro engine with 333 hp effortlessly powers the new Audi Q7 from 0 to 100 km/h in 6.3 seconds and a top speed of 250 km/h, with fuel efficiency of only 7.9 liters per 100 kilometers and CO2 per kilometer emission of just 183 grams.

### Audi S3

The Audi S3 Sedan Quattro also captured the attention of Auto Moto 16's audience with its stronger, sportier, fasci-

inating and unique look. As a sedan with an S-factor, its rear diffuser and dual-branch exhaust system with oval twin tailpipes presents an appearance that definitely arouses expectations and inspires speed. This is further complemented by 19" inch, 5-twin-spoke star design wheels that provide reliable road handling and grip.

On the inside, the S sport seat with outstanding lateral support, the S-specific start-stop button and flat-bottomed multifunction sport leather steering wheel perfectly combine dynamism with the precision of the MMI navigation plus

with MMI touch.

Powered by a 2.0-liter TFSI 221 kW engine with 286 bhp, the Audi S3 Sedan delivers outstanding efficiency combined with optimum performance. By substituting supercharging for cubic capacity, its engine size and weight has been considerably reduced. Its performance though has remained as impressively dynamic as ever, thanks to its electronically controlled sport differential that efficiently distributes variable amounts of drive force to each wheel. This ensures outstanding acceleration performance in corners and stabilises the vehicle's response to load change. It also improves direct steering characteristics and provides more agile handling due to the lower steering effort required.

Another important feature of the Audi S3 Sedan that enables it to deliver top-notch fuel efficiency is the S tronic transmission. By combining the low fuel consumption of a manual transmission with the benefits of an automatic, it ensures fast and consumption-reducing gear shifting in automatic mode. Also, a very large transmission-ratio spread of the S tronic allows the last gears to be used even at very low engine speeds.

### Audi TT Coupé

The Audi TT CoupÉ completed the model line-up at Auto Moto 16. With its flowing design and precise edges, this design icon impressed car lovers in

Kuwait. Striking features of the new exterior include the three-dimensional design of the Single-frame grill that is stylishly integrated into the horizontal front end with striking air inlets.

Powered by a 45 TFSI 2.0-liter engine with 230 bhp, the Audi TT sports car genes set your pulse racing immediately as it accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in 5.3 seconds and can reach a top speed of 250 km/h. The combination of state-of-the-art transmission technology guarantees fast gear changing, whilst the complex lightweight engineering concept reduces consumption, increases efficiency and even lowers the centre of gravity, thus improving handling.

Inside the new Audi TT are S sport seats, which are available for the first time, together with innovative and intuitive air-conditioning controls in the dashboard. Also premiered in the new Audi TT is the Audi virtual cockpit which incorporates a high-resolution LCD screen that presents information: either as classic round dials or through futuristic full-screen views - which can be switched quickly using the multifunction plus steering wheel.

Auto Moto 16 offered the public a taste of the new models available from Audi with this display of the Audi S3 sedan, Q7 and TT coupe. The full range of Audi models are on display at the Fouad Alghanim & Sons showroom, the exclusive dealers of Audi in Kuwait.

## AL ANDALUS TRADING COMPANY GETS ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFICATE

**KUWAIT:** Ismail Al-Hourani, CEO of Al-Andalus Trading Company, announced that the Company has recently received the ISO 9001:2008 Certificate, which emphasizes the Company's leading position in the area of selling consumer electronics products.

Hisham Sorour, Managing Partner of Global Consultants for Business Advisory Services & Training Company, gave the Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2008) Certificate to Ismail Al-Hourani during an event held at Al-Andalus Trading Company premises.

ISO 9001:2008 standard specifies the requirements of the quality management system in terms of the ability of entities to improve the quality of their products and services. To get the quality certificate, an entity needs to build an integrated framework that concentrates basically on customer satisfaction and continuous improvement through the unification of work methods and the documentation of such methods in each phase of service delivery; starting from selecting human resources, equipping the infrastructure; passing by the operations as well as control and measurement activities; and reaching finally to the customer service. Al-Andalus Trading Company managed to successfully apply the standards and procedures required to provide customers

with high quality products and services.

In this regard, Ismail Al-Hourani commended the great efforts exerted by the Global Consultants' advisory team. The advisory team has established the required system, managed the implementation process on regular basis, and trained the employees of all levels to fully perform the tasks assigned to them as per the requirements of the standard specification and the established system. He added that the Global Consultants stands as a strategic ally, and that it was a great pleasure for him to cooperate with them.

In addition, Ismail Al-Hourani confirmed that obtaining the certificate of quality management system is the beginning of an endless path of development and continuous improvement in all activities of the company, and is a key base for moving towards getting further global recognition.

It is worth mentioning that Al-Andalus Trading Company (ATC) was established in 1963 with the objective of becoming a market leader in the field of consumer electronics. Since its inception it has been the chief distributor of Samsung products in Kuwait. Al-Andalus Trading Company is also a trusted distribution and retail partner for ARISTON, and several other international brands.



## GULF EXPRESS, TOTAL LAUNCH 2 NEW PRODUCTS AT ANNUAL RETAILER MEET

**KUWAIT:** Total Marketing Middle East along with Gulf Express Co (Al-Babtain Group) organized its Annual Retailer meet at Hotel Regency. This event was coupled with the 7th anniversary of a successful partnership between the two companies. More than 400 Retail Customers attended this event. Their attendance was a testimony of the trust shown by them on TOTAL & Gulf Express over the last seven years. By jointly serving the Consumer in Kuwait, TOTAL is among the top two established lubricant brands in the Kuwaiti market.

This meet presented an open forum, reviewing the performance in 2015 as well as the business prospects for the coming year. To put on record, strong appreciation for the efforts made by the partners, "loyal partners" who played a pivotal role in promoting the TOTAL range of products were recognized. Special awards were given to the "Top Ten Customers" for 2015 & to our PITSTOP dealers by the Senior Management of the two companies.

The key highlight was the launch of two new products, 'Quartz 9000 Future FGC 5W30' which meets the specifications of General Motors, Ford & Chrysler and 'Rubia Fleet HD 500 20W50' meeting the API CH4 level & addressing the Diesel Segment. Also introduced were the TOTAL Fuel additives which offer engine cleaners, Octane boosters & Injector cleaners for the Kuwait market.

A plan for 2016 was discussed and the meeting concluded with many prizes for all attendees.

## US ENCOURAGES BUSINESSES TO EXPLORE AFRICA'S OPPORTUNITIES

**LAGOS:** US Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker and a slew of American business executives are meeting in Nigeria to encourage trade they say will create jobs on both continents. The visit to Nigeria, expected to be among the top 10 economies in the world by 2050, and one of Africa's smallest but most innovative nations, Rwanda, is designed to transform the perception of Africa from an aid-dependent continent to a region brimming with business opportunities, Pritzker told The Associated Press in an interview.

She said Africa has seven of the fastest 10 growing economies in the world; a burgeoning young population and a rising middle class (50 million in Nigeria alone). "So the message to Americans is now is the time to come and explore the opportunity in Africa," Pritzker said. The figures for Nigeria tell the story: In 2014, US exports to Nigeria topped \$5.9 billion and imports from Nigeria totaled \$3.8 billion, compared to US aid of \$694 million last year.

The latest US push comes as Nigeria is hurting from the downturn in the economy of China, which last year overtook the US to become Nigeria's biggest trading partner.

China accounted for 22.5 percent of Nigeria's imports in the third quarter of 2015, compared to 9.6 percent from the US, according to Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics.

Nigeria's current economic woes, including lower prices for oil that produces 80 percent of government revenue and a related slump in the naira currency, are positives for investors, said General Electric's Jay Ireland, who runs the US multinational's Africa operations.

"This is the time to come in," he said, adding American companies should be looking at long-term investments that ride out the cycles of oil prices and currency exchanges. "We're going to be here for a long time and feel very comfortable investing in Nigeria. ... (It) provides a tremendous platform for growth." GE is investing \$200 million in Nigeria to build two facilities to assemble oil and gas and power generation equipment that the company hopes to export to other West African nations. The company employs nearly 500 people in Nigeria. US businesswoman Rahama Wright's firm partners with some 1,200 women from two cooperatives in Ghana to produce shea butter beauty products sold in the United States.—AP





## TAKE NOTHING BUT PICTURES, LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS!

**KUWAIT:** At street level, architecture, shops, street art and people often catch your eye. It is these aspects that make a city so vibrant, but beneath our feet, off the beaten track and not visible on maps is a secret world you never knew existed, waiting to be explored. An urban jungle, packed full of derelict, abandoned and disused hidden gems that have been forgotten yet full of life and fascinating stories.

Inspiring you to embrace urban exploration in your local city, Canon spoke with Wouter Kingma, renowned photographer and nine urbex photographers across the UAE to bring you a guide on how to urban explore.

"Urban Exploration embraces the art and adventure of seeking out and capturing cast-off locations that lay hidden behind the scenes of cities. In recent

1. Exploring is all about spending time on the street, either on your feet or on a bike. Strap on the backpack and hit the road. I'm a big fan of f-stop gear bags for three reasons: It is very comfortable and practical to store your photography kit. It doesn't instantly get recognised as a photogear allowing you to blend in with the crowd. It provides easy access to kit.

2. Do your homework to see what the area has to offer. A simple Google search will have tons of images, think coffee table books or better do a search on a good image bank like Getty Images or Arabian Eye. Get a detailed map to plan a rough route. I find the 'sun scout' app super helpful to see how the sun travels at precise times of the day.

3. Stay unnoticed and blend in with the crowd. Look like a tourist or local (that depends where you are in the

tion whether it is permitted to enter somewhere to take a photograph, you'll spend ages waiting for someone to make a decision, which eventually also turns out to be "Problem, not allowed". So just find a way and walk in confidently like you know where you're going.

5. Going somewhere (truly) off limit. My point of view is that there are certainly things that would be futile to try entering into such as a military camp or an area reserved only for ladies. And there are other ones where I guess you're not suppose to go but with a sweet talk might let you get away with it if caught. I would call it just unharmed naughtiness for example a container complex at the harbour, old archaeological site, rooftop of buildings, abandoned warehouses. Both lists can go on and are different to every person. All depends on your own comfort level. I find it important to mention that make sure you're not doing anyone harm, damaging anything, or do something illegal things. The key here is to just use common sense!

6. Have wishlist but don't get too hung up on it. Be open to change. Take a left turn whilst you planned a right, just because the light looks better or you feel there's a good story on the other end of the street. Follow your gut feeling. If found the best places on a random wonder. Remember 'Not all the wonderers are lost', they're just exploring. Don't feel disappointed if the wishlist is not met instead celebrate the lucky and unexpected encounters.

7. Beat sunrise and shoot well beyond midnight. Remember, the most unexpected stories come from the out-of-the-ordinary. Every city bustles with energy 24 hrs a day. The bakeries, the fish markets, bus stations, entertainment areas, ports all run around the clock. There's a story in each of them at every time of the day. If travel or time availability is an issue just book/find/share a room in the neighbourhood. I booked a heritage hotel along the Dubai Creek once to fully immerse in 3 days of exploring on foot, walking around the different corners of

the Deira and Bur Dubai.

8. Switch your phone off and leave it at home or in the car. Enjoy the moment on the street. "Go the simple life!". Being glued to your screen will firstly make you miss moments, second won't allow you to connect where you are when disconnecting is the whole purpose. A buzzing pocket just messes up the experience. Urban Exploration is a opportunity to disconnect from the digital rat race we've created.

9. Managing low light photography. Just crank up the ISO, get to understand what the maximum number you can still shoot at without getting too much noise in the image is. Train yourself to shoot with a steady hand, you can always find a ledge/lamppost/table to lean on or place your camera on. Or just go with the flow and allow a bit of movement in your images, this can look really nice. Or if worst comes to worst, just take a mini emergency tripod out of your pack...

10. Try to add more value to your exploration. It's about meeting interesting people with unexpected conversations. It's about having roadside food, yes a simple as a shawerma when hungry, drink local tea in a crowded local joint. It's about the mindset of choice and freedom and not chasing someone else's wishlist. It's about the adventurer and explorer that lives in all of us. It's quality ME time and that's so valuable.

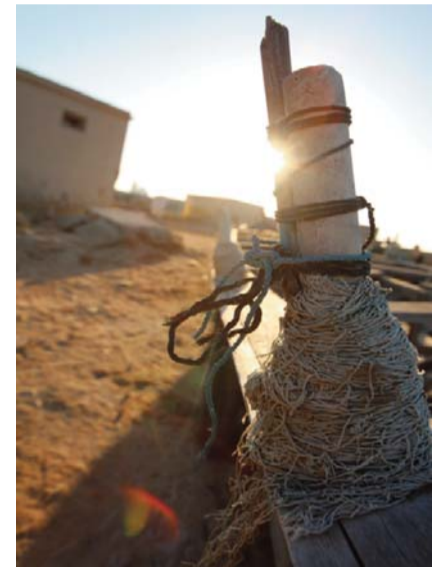
11. Finally, it's about doing it. So get out and enjoy it!

### What to pack?

Camera - Document your urbex adventures from start to finish, capturing every detail as you explore to share and keep

Gorilla pod - Many urbex locations will often be abandoned and poorly lit. A flexible tripod is therefore essential for setting up shots in small spaces and achieving sharp photography

Bottle of water - Whilst exploring it's easy to get caught up in the moment but it's important to remember to keep yourself hydrated



Comfortable shoes - Wear light footwear to allow you to explore freely and feel the many textures beneath your feet

Flashlight - A small but powerful light can be used to brighten up your shots and pave the way if the locations you're exploring are dark.



years, the urbex trend has exploded at a fast pace and has become a growing trend amongst adventure enthusiasts. Photography sits at the heart of urbex and is used to document, celebrate and share these hidden worlds before they crumble away unnoticed," says Wouter.

He shares some top tips for discovering off limits locations, helpful pointers to capture urbex scenes from a unique perspective as well as advice on essential explorer kit.

world). Ditch the tripod and keep your camera in your pack until it is really needed, but keep it ready with the lens mounted. Don't walk around with a camera around your neck as it just attracts more attention than needed. This specially counts when you are keen to shoot a location where photography might be an issue.

4. Be bold. I'm a fan of 'Ask for forgiveness rather than permission'. From experience I know that if you raise the ques-



**HONG KONG:** Elon Musk, the co-founder of luxury all-electric US carmaker Tesla, speaks at the StartmeupHK Venture Forum yesterday. —AFP

## BUMPY ROAD AHEAD FOR ELECTRIC CARS: TESLA BOSS

**HONG KONG:** Electric car manufacturers will have to design futuristic vehicles to entice buyers in order to ride out the challenge of plunging oil prices, Tesla co-founder Elon Musk said yesterday. The luxury all-electric US car maker, founded in 2003, rose to prominence as oil prices soared and made alternative energy vehicles more tempting. Now the fledgling industry is under pressure, said Musk. Tesla itself saw shares dive earlier this month after it reported deliveries at the bottom end of its forecast for the 2015 fourth quarter.

"It definitely makes the transition to sustainable energy more difficult," Musk, 44, said when asked at a business conference in Hong Kong about the impact of free-falling oil prices. "No doubt that is going to dampen interest in electric vehicles in general," Musk told the "StartmeupHK" event. Tesla is looking to recruit 1,600 software engineers to help develop "Autopilot", its autonomous car IT system and aims to have a fully self-driving car by 2018. The system has capabilities like the "Summon" function so drivers can call the car from the garage to their side at will, like a pet.

The company is taking orders for its

new Model X, released this year, which boasts some self-driving facilities and Back To the Future-style "falcon-wing" doors. "What we're aspiring to do is to make the cars so compelling that even with lower gas prices, it's still the car you want to buy," said Musk. He predicted all cars would be autonomous within the next 15 years - with steering wheels eventually just a distant memory as autopilot takes over. "If you go long, long term my guess is there isn't (going to be) a steering wheel in most cars, it would be something that you're going to have to special order," Musk said new Tesla cars would have more affordable price tags - the Model Three sedan planned for 2017 will cost an estimated \$35,000, half the cost of other Teslas. Financiers are watching as the company aims to increase production tenfold to 500,000 cars a year by 2020, supported by Tesla's own battery plant under construction in Nevada which is crucial to cutting car prices. Such promises have kept investors firmly behind the California company, even though it has continued to lose money while the big carmakers in Detroit rack up profits in the booming US auto market. — AFP

## HIGH-TECH 'INCUBATOR' NURTURES GAZA STARTUPS

MICROSOFT, GOOGLE, FACEBOOK AMONG ADVISORS

**GAZA:** Gaza may be physically cut off from the world under a blockade imposed by Egypt and Israel, but that hasn't quashed the enthusiasm of young entrepreneurs who are getting guidance on their startups from the likes of Microsoft and Google. Since 2011, a program called Gaza Sky Geeks has helped identify and nurture high-tech startups in Gaza, with the "incubator" launching 16 businesses, including an Airbnb-style office space app and an online publishing platform.

In a strip of land where the economy is in turmoil, with 43 percent unemployment, Gaza Sky Geeks receives a steady stream of ideas from the large number of young, tech-savvy people among the territory's 1.95 million population. Initially set up with the help of Mercy Corps, a US-based charity, the program is supported by Google.org and pulls in experts from other companies to offer guidance and advice, such as Facebook and YouTube.

"We provide mentorship and connections to investors for their companies to grow," said Ryan Sturgill, the program director who spends the week working in Gaza and weekends in Jerusalem with his family. "It's coaching day to day to help develop ideas into companies that can scale across the region and world," he said. Last year, the incubator took 22 projects under its wing, five of which were successful enough to attract wider Arab investment and one of which is now a registered company.

TebCare is a "doctors on demand" service for the Arab world, while Walk and Charge has developed a wearable insole that lets someone charge their mobile phone as they stroll along. Tim Park, a principal software engineer at Microsoft who was recently in Gaza to provide guidance at the incubator, said many of the ideas he encountered were aimed to resolve specific shortages or challenges faced in Gaza.

Israel has restricted the passage of goods into the Gaza Strip since 2007 when it was taken over by Islamist group Hamas. The two sides have fought four wars in Gaza in the past 10 years. Egypt also keeps its single crossing with Gaza largely closed. Lack of fuel causes blackouts for up to eight hours a day and hospitals complain of shortages in medicine and medical equipment. Park said most of the apps developed by Gaza Sky Geeks addressed



**TEL AVIV:** Visitors attend the International Cybertech conference yesterday. — AFP

problems found in other parts of the Arab world.

"The startups are all focused on solutions that could help not just Gaza but also the pan-Arabic speaking region," Park told Reuters. "This is great - it really helps them get to a commercially viable scale." So popular has Gaza Sky Geeks become among young graduates - around 60 percent of whom are estimated to be unemployed - that it has more than 2,000 people registered on its database.

### World Reach

One of the success stories is Baskalet (Arabic for bicycle), a studio that develops games for the Arabic-speaking world. Its first game secured more than 100,000 downloads in the first three weeks and it aims to release six new games a year. "We want to preserve the Arab nature, the Arab culture shared by 300 million people in the Arab world," said Basil Al-Madhoun, who is in charge of public relations. As part of that effort, Baskalet has developed a game that is akin to an Arabic version of Spider Man. But rather than Peter Parker catching the crooks, the hero is called

Hanafi. When Park and his team at Microsoft gave a talk at Gaza Sky Geeks' offices a few days ago, dozens of would-be entrepreneurs, including many women, crammed into the space to listen. He told them that Internet-based businesses can reach anywhere in the world and that the Arab-world is a rich source of business. "All of the companies I talked with showed the potential to become a larger enterprise given their focus on the larger Arabic speaking markets," Park said later via email.

Required was a good education system, access to capital and a culture that accepts that many ideas will fail. Gaza has plenty of the first and third, he said, but lacks access to capital. Israel, which borders Gaza on two sides, has earned the nickname "startup nation" for the number of high-tech businesses it has brought to market. "The key thing that has made Israel successful is access to capital and government policies that make it very attractive to invest," Park said. "This is the main thing that differentiates the Gaza environment from the Israeli environment." — Reuters

## ZIKA PREGNANCY PANIC A LOADED ISSUE FOR LATIN AMERICA

### ZIKA VIRUS LINK TO SMALL-HEAD CONDITION



**Aedes Aegypti mosquito larvae are photographed in a lab of the International Training and Medical Research Center (CIDEIM) in Cali, Colombia. CIDEIM scientists are studying the genetics and biology of Aedes Aegypti mosquito which transmits the Zika, Chikungunya, Dengue and Yellow Fever viruses, to control their reproduction and resistance to insecticides. — AFP**

**SAN SALVADOR:** Don't get pregnant for the next two years. That is the warning El Salvador's government has issued women as Zika, a tropical virus blamed for causing severe birth defects, sweeps Latin America and the Caribbean. But a spate of such recommendations from health officials in several countries has drawn derision in a region where activists say women have little control over their bodies in the first place. Since Zika, a mosquito-borne, flu-like disease that originated in Africa, arrived in Latin America last year, there has been a rampant increase in babies born with microcephaly, or abnormally small heads, a birth defect that can cause brain damage and death.

Brazil has been hit hardest: microcephaly cases in the country surged from 163 per year on average to 3,893 after the Zika outbreak began. Forty-nine of those babies have died. "If I hadn't already been pregnant when the information spread, I would have definitely postponed it so I wouldn't have to go through all this stress," said Manuela Mehl, who is 16 weeks pregnant, in Rio de Janeiro. "Obviously, you'll take care of your baby as best you can, but raising a child with neuro-

logical problems requires a lot of attention and dedication on the parents' part... It's a very difficult situation. It's difficult to even think about."

#### 'Naive' pregnancy advice

Fearing a generation marred by high rates of severe disability, several health ministries in the region have called on women to postpone pregnancy. Colombia, where 11,613 people have been confirmed as infected with Zika and some 100 babies born with microcephaly, issued the same recommendation as El Salvador, but for a period of six months. El Salvador has 5,397 cases of Zika. Ecuador warned women in "at-risk" areas against getting pregnant indefinitely. Jamaica, which has not detected any cases of the virus but warns it could be next, advised putting off pregnancy for six to 12 months.

The advice has been mocked in some quarters and in others criticized as out-of-touch for a region plagued by high rates of violence against women, where many countries outlaw abortion and access to family planning is limited, especially for the poor. "In

a continent where unwanted pregnancies abound, it's completely naive to recommend women delay pregnancy," said Monica Roa, an abortion-rights advocate in Colombia and vice president of Women's Link International. "There needs to be an information campaign for women who are currently pregnant about the risks and the options," she told AFP, calling the public health epidemic a "tragedy" but also an opportunity to improve sex education in the region.

"You can't just make mythical announcements that make people laugh. You need to attack the disease in people's homes, at workplaces, in schools," said Salvadoran labor leader Francisco Zelada, head of the national teachers' union. After controversy erupted over the pregnancy warnings, Salvadoran Health Minister Violeta Menjivar toned down her ministry's message, saying the "government doesn't regulate births." Salvadoran authorities have since limited their recommendations to telling schoolgirls to wear pants instead of skirts to avoid mosquito bites. Criticism has also erupted in Colombia, which offered no concrete advice on how to avoid pregnancy. — AFP

## BIG PHARMA'S BET ON BIG DATA CREATES OPPORTUNITIES, RISKS

### NOVARTIS PLANS TO SELL CLOUD-CONNECTED INHALER BY 2019

**ZURICH:** Novartis wants every puff of its emphysema drug Onbrez to go into the cloud. The Swiss drug-maker has teamed up with US technology firm Qualcomm to develop an internet-connected inhaler that can send information about how often it is used to remote computer servers known as the cloud. This kind of new medical technology is designed to allow patients to keep track of their drug usage on their smartphones or tablets and for their doctors to instantly access the data over the web to monitor their condition. It also creates a host of "Big Data" opportunities for the companies involved - with huge amounts of information about a medical condition and the efficacy of a drug or device being wirelessly transmitted to a database from potentially thousands, even millions, of patients.

The potential scale of the so-called "Medical Internet of Things" has not been lost on pharmaceutical and tech firms around the world, both big companies hunting growth and smaller ones looking to provide bespoke products and services. It has created unlikely alliances. Novartis' domestic rival Roche has also teamed up with Qualcomm and Danish diabetes drugmaker Novo Nordisk has partnered with IBM on cloud-linked device projects, for example, while healthcare device maker Medtronic is working with a US data-analytics firm Glooko.

GlaxoSmithKline, meanwhile, is in talks with Qualcomm about a medical technology joint venture potentially worth up to \$1 billion, according to people familiar with the matter. However, with the opportunity comes risk. Security experts warn that hacked medical information can be worth more than credit card

details on the black market as fraudsters can use it to fake IDs to buy medical equipment or drugs that can be resold, or file bogus insurance claims. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates there are 35 million U.S. hospital discharges a year, a billion doctor and hospital visits and even more prescriptions, much of which is stored in cloud databases.

#### Cloud concern

Now the "Medical Internet of Things" is introducing more and more web-connected devices into the equation and pushing even more confidential patient data on to the cloud. This is creating potential new opportunities for thieves seeking to penetrate medical companies' security where they may target names, birth dates, policy numbers, billing data and the diagnosis codes needed to obtain drugs, say experts. "The weakest link tends to be the medical device itself," said Rick Valencia, senior vice president of Qualcomm Life, Qualcomm's four-year-old healthcare unit. "They weren't designed with the idea in mind that they would be going over the network and the information would be residing in cloud infrastructure."

Medtronic, the world's largest standalone medical device maker, said in 2014 it lost patient records in separate cyberattacks at its diabetes business. "The more information, the easier identity theft is and the more valuable the profiles that the hacker can sell to third parties," said Erik Vollebregt, a lawyer in Amsterdam who specializes in medical device cybersecurity and privacy. He said it could also be possible for criminals to hack into web-connected medical

devices, and threaten the lives of patients, to blackmail the manufacturer. Despite no documented patient-endangering hacks, the US Food and Drug Administration warned last year an infusion pump could be vulnerable to attack and asked healthcare providers to stop using it.

#### Smart lens

Novartis aims to have its inhaler for chronic lung disease, to be on the market by 2019. Other pharmaceutical alliances include Aerocrine and Microsoft, which are working together on a cloud project to analyse data from allergy and asthma patients. Google is, meanwhile, working with French drugmaker Sanofi to collect and analyse information from diabetes sufferers. The US tech giant also has a partnership with Novartis to develop a smart contact lens that can monitor diabetics' glucose levels. All the companies involved in such projects say they are going to extreme lengths to protect patients' data from hackers.

Philips has turned to San Francisco-based identity-management software maker ForgeRock to keep data from the Dutch company's medical devices from falling into the wrong hands. Software security expert Marie Moe, of Norway's SINTEF scientific research foundation, said the wireless ports in the pacemaker that keeps her heart beating left it vulnerable to intrusion - but that she could not survive without the device. "Wireless interfaces are a great benefit to certain patient groups," she told Reuters. "But as a security researcher, I know connectivity also means vulnerability." — Reuters



**CUCUTA:** Maria Camila Davila (left) and Angelica Prato (2nd left), infected by the Zika virus, wait to be attended at the Erasmo Meoz University Hospital in Cucuta, Colombia. — AFP

## WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE ZIKA VIRUS IN LATIN AMERICA

**NEW YORK:** A rare tropical disease is spreading in parts of Latin America and the Caribbean. The mosquito-borne Zika virus usually causes a mild illness but is now suspected in an unusual birth defect and possibly other health issues. Some things to know:

#### What is Zika?

The Zika (ZEE'-ka) virus was first discovered in monkey in Uganda in 1947; its name comes from the Zika forest where it was first discovered. It is native mainly to tropical Africa, with outbreaks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. It showed up in Brazil last year and has since been seen in many Latin American countries and Caribbean islands.

#### How is it spread?

It is transmitted through bites from the same kind of mosquitoes that can spread other tropical diseases, like dengue fever, chikungunya and yellow fever. It is not known to spread from person to person. Investigators, though, are exploring the possibility that the virus can be passed on through sex - it was found in one man's semen in Tahiti and there's been another report of possible spread of the virus through sex. The World Health Organization says Zika is rapidly spreading in the Americas because it is new to the region, people aren't immune to it, and the Aedes aegypti mosquito that carries it is just about everywhere - including along the southern United States. Canada and Chile are the only places without this mosquito.

#### Are there symptoms?

Experts think most people infected with Zika virus don't get sick. And those that do usually develop mild symptoms - fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes - which usually last no more than a week. There is no specific medicine and there hasn't been a vaccine developed for it, which is the case for some other tropical illnesses that cause periodic outbreaks.

#### Why is it a concern now?

In Brazil, there's been mounting evidence linking Zika infection in pregnant women to a rare birth defect called microcephaly, in which a newborn's head is smaller than normal and the brain may not have developed properly. Brazilian health officials last October noticed a spike in cases of microcephaly in tandem with the Zika outbreak. The connection to Zika is still

being investigated, and officials note there are many causes of the condition. Nearly 4,000 cases have been tallied. Meanwhile, doctors have noted increased reports of a nerve condition called Guillain-Barre (gee-YAHN'-buh-RAY) that can cause paralysis. But the link to the Zika virus is not clear; other infections can spark the problem, including dengue fever.

#### Can the spread be stopped?

Individuals can protect themselves from mosquito bites by using insect repellents, and wearing long sleeves and long pants - especially during daylight, when the mosquitoes tend to be most active, health officials say. Eliminating breeding spots and controlling mosquito populations can help prevent the spread of the virus.

#### Have there been cases in US?

Yes, but in travelers. There've been more than two dozen cases diagnosed in the U.S. since 2007, all travelers who are believed to have caught it overseas. (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have each had a recent case that didn't involve a traveler.) The kind of mosquito that spreads Zika is found along the southern United States, so experts think it's likely the pests may end up spreading the virus there. But officials also have said Zika infections probably won't be a big problem in the US for a number of reasons, including the more common use of air conditioning and door and window screens. Recent US outbreaks of dengue and chikungunya - carried by the same mosquito - suggest any Zika outbreaks may be relatively small, said Dr Lyle Petersen of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

#### Any travel advisories?

US health officials recommend that pregnant women should consider postponing trips to 22 destinations. Latin America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Suriname and Venezuela. In the Caribbean: Barbados, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Martinique, St Martin and Puerto Rico. Also, Cape Verde, off the coast of western Africa; and Samoa in the South Pacific. In Brazil, most of the mothers who had babies with microcephaly were apparently infected during the first trimester, but there is some evidence the birth defect can occur later in the pregnancy, CDC officials say. The travel alert applies to women in any stage of pregnancy. — AP

## BLUE SKIES OVER BEIJING?

### DECAYING SUBURBS BEAR THE COST; CHINA CUTS POLLUTION

**CHAOMIDIAN:** On the outskirts of Beijing, the disused factories of Chaomidian show the impact of China's drive to shut down thousands of small firms causing big pollution. Amid scrapheaps and idle machinery, the community has clean air these days - and no jobs. After a three-year campaign, China's push to cut smog appears to be paying off, whatever the localized cost, just as economic growth weakens to its slowest pace in 25 years.

Chinese cities saw an average 10 percent drop in key pollutants last year, according to Greenpeace. While a World Health Organization report in 2014 found 13 of the world's 20 dirtiest cities were in India, a still smog-bound Beijing issued its first pollution "red alerts" last month. Soon after, the capital said it would shut down 2,500 more small firms this year, leaving communities like Chaomidian, in the southwest suburb of Fangshan, in the firing line.

Beijing doesn't issue comprehensive lists of the firms it has shut down to combat pollution, but Reuters research shows those already closed include Ding Kai Yuan Co among others in Chaomidian, home to about 2,000 people. The coal-burning brick works was shut in late 2014, 170 workers were laid off, and the manager left behind to watch over the ghost factory says she is still waiting for nearly half a million dollars in compensation. "I'm 53 years old, I grew up in this village," said Han Fengge. "Right now, I don't have the ability to re-start such a big investment from scratch, so all I can do is wait," said Han.

The city has promised compensation to firms closed on pollution grounds. Nationwide, China has earmarked 17 trillion yuan (\$2.6 trillion) for investment in overall environmental protection between 2016 and 2020, Xinhua, the state news agency, reported in December. Asked why Han might not have received compensation yet, an official at the Beijing Municipal Commission of Economy and Information Technology, who wasn't aware of Ding Kai Yuan's case, said, "There could have been a prob-



**TUNTOU:** Red lanterns are hung outside a factory in the village of Tuntou, in Hebei province southwest of Beijing, for the upcoming Lunar New Year celebrations on February 8. — AFP

lem at a certain link in the process. It's possible the firm didn't meet requirements in a certain area," said the official, who gave only her surname, Gao.

#### Better air, worse economy

Around Beijing, company closures are just one of many tactics adopted to make the city's air less noxious. Others include closing or relocating coal-fired power plants, many of which are operated by large state-owned businesses, forcing old cars off roads and limiting outdoor construction. Critics say Beijing will have to move beyond small factory shutdowns and rely more on coordination with its neighbours, along with fair enforcement of the environmental

law, to truly tackle the pollution problem.

"No matter what measures Beijing takes inside its own city, it cannot effectively eliminate its own pollution, as a huge source of it comes from coal-fuel and industrial emissions outside of Beijing," said Ma Jun, director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs. Most of the companies that have been, and will be, closed, are comparatively small, and metropolitan Beijing's economy as a whole won't be seriously squeezed. Yet small and medium-sized enterprises account for about 60 percent of China's GDP, leaving questions over how closures will affect future growth potential. — Reuters

## REDEMPTION: LIBERIA HOSPITAL'S PAINFUL RECOVERY FROM EBOLA

**MONROVIA:** The cries of young children ring around the hospital as hundreds of patients, packed tightly together on wooden benches and surrounded by boxes of syringes piled high, wait to be seen. Nurses shout to be heard as they rush through the dimly-lit corridors, past peeling, faded posters proclaiming 'Ebola is real!' and prompting people to 'Smile!' and 'Say Thanks!'

But the patients at Redemption Hospital in Liberia's capital Monrovia have had little to be happy about or thankful for in the wake of the world's worst Ebola outbreak, which has killed

11,300 people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone since 2013. The epidemic, which was declared over in Liberia for a third time earlier this month, hit the West African nation the hardest with 4,800 deaths, and ravaged its under-resourced, fragile health system. Redemption was at the centre of Liberia's outbreak, treating the capital's first case of the deadly virus in June 2014, which surged through the hospital, killing 12 doctors and nurses and a string of patients, before forcing the facility to shut down.

"When Ebola struck, we lacked protective equipment, running water was sporadic and

there was waste everywhere, said Dominic Rennie, administrator of Monrovia's only free general hospital. "We had two or three patients in each bed as we wouldn't turn people away... conditions were ripe for Ebola to spread." The hospital reopened in January last year with a host of reforms - from fewer beds and an Ebola isolation unit to infection prevention measures for staff, such as handwashing and always using and disposing properly of protective gear.

While Redemption and other facilities were revamped as the epidemic ebbed and came under control, the changes may be difficult to

sustain in the capital and across the country as vigilance fades and emergency funds dry up, health experts warn. These improvements could even come at a cost to patients, said Jude Senkungu, a doctor for the International Rescue Committee (IRC). "The time-consuming triage process (checking patients for Ebola symptoms before admitting them to hospital) could prove fatal for those arriving with critical injuries," he said.

#### Reforming redemption

The Ebola epidemic in Liberia overwhelmed

the West African nation's weakened health system, which was slowly recovering after a 14-year civil war that ended in 2003. Liberia had one of the world's lowest doctor-to-patient ratios - 50 doctors for 4.3 million inhabitants, one for every 90,000 people - before Ebola hit, and spent just \$44 per citizen on health in 2013 - half of the average for sub-Saharan Africa. "Most health facilities were destroyed by the war - Liberia had to start over from scratch," said IRC country director Aitor Sanchez-Lacomba, adding that reconstruction of infrastructure and implementation of basic health services only began in 2010. — Reuters

# AUSTRALIA HEALTH CARE EXPERTISE THE FOCUS OF MENA ROADSHOW

## PROJECTED SHORTAGE IN GCC

**KUWAIT:** Australia's dynamic health care firms and education providers are the focus of a roadshow this week to promote trade and investment in the health care sectors of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) launched its fourth annual campaign in the MENA region yesterday and its focus this year is "Investing in a Healthy Future".



a significant 24% year-on-year growth. The predominant export products are cars, wheat, live animals and dairy products.

Australia Unlimited MENA 2016 (AU MENA) will extend its forums and roundtables to the Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt and also promote broader bilateral trade, investment and cultural ties between Australia and the nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Australia enjoys a close relationship with Kuwait, and Kuwait established an embassy in Canberra in 2002, and Australia opened an embassy in Kuwait in 2004. Australia already boasts almost 600 million Australian dollars of exports to Kuwait, which is

Senator Richard Colbeck, Australia's Minister for Tourism and International Education, and the Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment, will

attend many of the forums and roundtables as part of AU MENA 2016. "A key focus this year will be the ways in which Australian health care services firms can help MENA countries cope with growing demand for health services due to larger populations, the introduction of compulsory medical insurance, the spread of lifestyle illnesses such as diabetes and medical tourism," Senator Colbeck said.

The AU MENA 2016 roadshow includes a delegation of 82 Australian companies, with 30 firms that are also exhibiting at the Arab Health Exhibition & Congress, which is taking place from 25-28 January at the Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Centre. Ensuring access to a skilled medical workforce is critical for the MENA region. It is estimated that by 2020 there will be a shortage of 15,000 physicians and 1.8 million nurses and midwives. By 2020 as well, spending in the GCC alone on

health care will reach USD69 billion. "The need to enhance skill levels in the health care sector also offers opportunities for Australian education and training providers," he said.

Australian expertise has a lot to offer the MENA health care market because of the nation's successful history in pioneering medical technologies. Australian scientists invented the bionic ear, the ultrasound, the pacemaker and anti-flu vaccines. Australian firms are in the vanguard of 3D bio-printing, a new science that develops implantable devices to replace damaged body parts and regenerate biological processes. The official event partner for the AU MENA 2016 campaign is Match Australia; platinum sponsors are Advanced Hair Studio, Box Hill Institute, Qantas Airlines, and the State Government of Victoria; gold sponsors include Al Tamimi and Company, Ego Pharmaceuticals, and Monash University.

# OVER 50 DEADLY SWINE FLU CASES REPORTED IN RUSSIA

**MOSCOW:** At least 50 people have died of swine flu in Russia since last month, according to AFP calculations based on data from regional health authorities, as the virus seems to gain ground in the country. Health authorities in the southern region of Rostov told RIA Novosti state news agency on Monday that an additional two people had succumbed to the virus, bringing the region's swine flu death toll to eight. Officials in the nearby Volgograd region meanwhile have said that at least 11 people have died of swine flu.

These latest cases follow the deaths of four adults and one child from the virus in the North Caucasus region of Dagestan, and the deaths of two infected patients in Yekaterinburg in the Urals and one in the southern region of Adygea. A first deadly case of swine flu was also reported this week in Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula Russia annexed from Ukraine in March

2014. Swine flu deaths have also been reported in the Bryansk, Belgorod and Vladimir regions, among others. Russian health minister Veronika Skvortsova said Monday that the swine flu situation in the country was "completely under control."

As of Friday, 18 deadly swine flu cases had been reported in the former Soviet republic of Armenia since the start of the year. Authorities in neighboring Georgia meanwhile said they had recorded three deadly cases of the virus. In nearby Iran, swine flu has left 112 dead and put more than 1,000 people in hospital since mid-November, authorities said late last month. A major outbreak of the H1N1 virus sparked a World Health Organization pandemic alert in June 2009, after it emerged from Mexico and the United States. The outbreak killed around 18,500 people in 214 countries. The alert was lifted in August 2010. — AFP

# GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL LAUNCHES UNIQUE GENETIC TESTS

**KUWAIT:** Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), one of the top five children's hospitals in the world, has developed Non-Invasive Prenatal Diagnosis (NIPD) for pregnant women - a safe alternative to the traditional invasive prenatal test. The new test available at GOSH requires only a blood sample from the mother. GOSH is the only centre worldwide offering this unique, accredited service.

### How does NIPD work?

When a woman is pregnant, there is a small amount of her baby's DNA circulating in her bloodstream. This is called cell free fetal DNA (cffDNA) and by testing a maternal blood sample, GOSH can analyse the baby's DNA. This provides a safe alternative to traditional invasive tests. Testing may be offered for the following reasons: There is a clinical indication in the baby, for example an abnormality

seen on an ultrasound scan. There is a high risk of a genetic condition in the baby, usually because the couple already have an affected child and there is a high risk to any future pregnancy.

Commenting on this unprecedented step, Lucy Jenkins the Interim Director of the North East Thames Regional Genetics Laboratory based at Great Ormond Street Hospital and Consultant Clinical Scientist for Molecular Genetics said: "The real focus of the non-invasive prenatal diagnostic test is about giving people the option to safely find out if their baby has a genetic disease, which is what our test offers. GOSHHome allows patients to avoid the diagnostic odyssey, where patients with rare conditions affecting multi-organ systems may have to wait years before their condition is finally diagnosed. GOSHHome allows us to tailor the test to a panel of genes allowing for a timely result that will

not reveal information that is not expected or consented."

Conditions GOSH can test for: Fetal sexing (this is only available where the pregnancy is at risk of a sex-linked disorder); Cystic Fibrosis Paternal Mutation Exclusion; FGFR3-related skeletal dysplasias; FGFR2-related Craniosynostosis including Apert syndrome.

### The GOSHHome test

The GOSHHome is a post-natal diagnostic test available at GOSH for children and adults who have an unknown condition, and is designed to help confirm a genetic diagnosis. The test targets around 5000 known disease-causing genes. The test covers rare conditions that are known to be caused by multiple genes, for which it is difficult to make a definitive diagnosis. GOSH is the only institute worldwide



to offer this test with a paediatric focus designed for specific clinical areas.

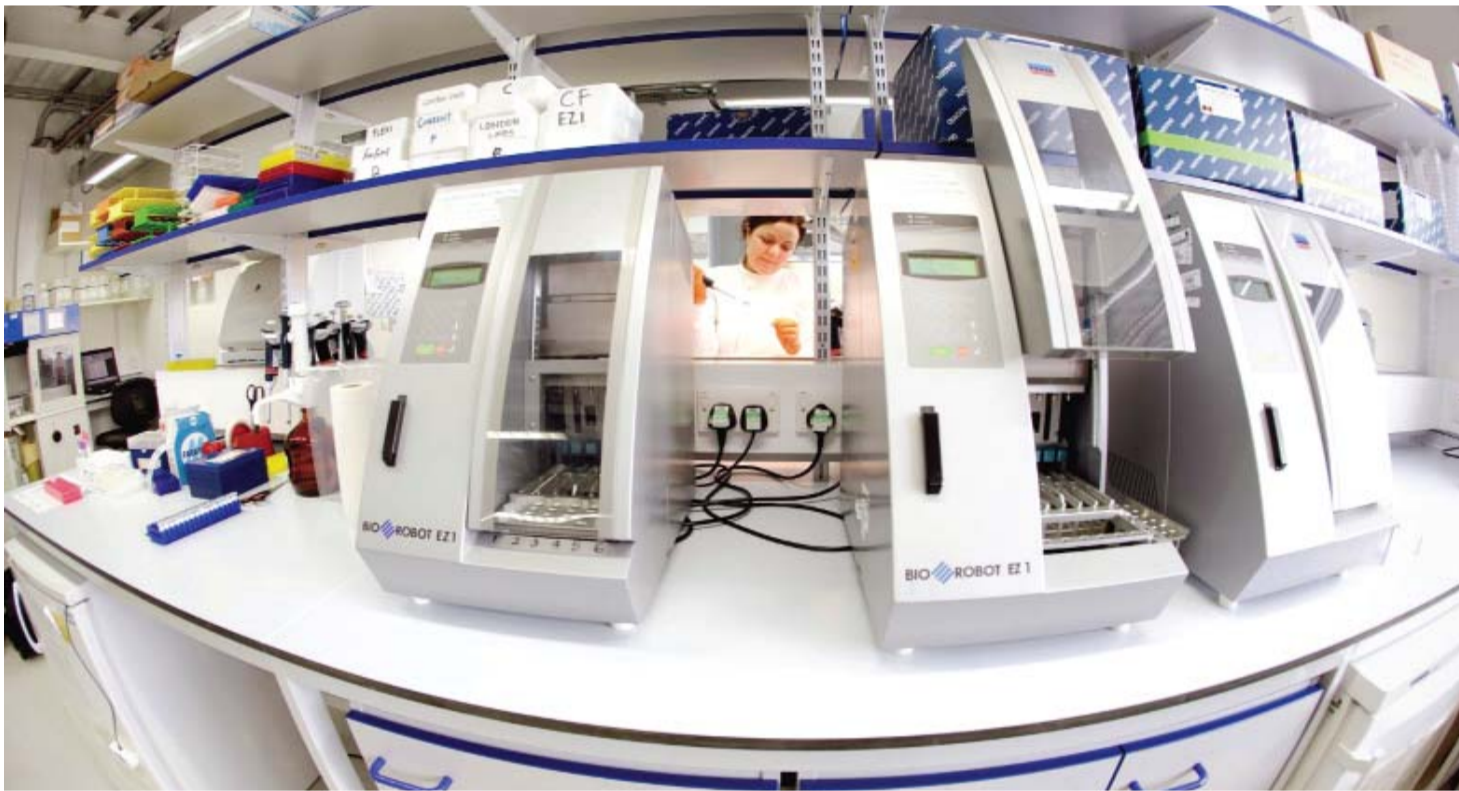
genes; A flexible design approach means GOSH experts can add or remove genes from panels as new scientific discoveries are made.

### How does the GOSHHome work?

Experts at GOSH analyse a subset of the 5000 genes that are relevant to a patient's clinical presentation in a 'virtual' panel. The GOSHHome test: Ensures a timely and meaningful clinical report; Provides data to analyse further genes if indicated; Avoids incidental findings such as late onset predisposition

### Fast results

Once the sample is received at GOSH in London, test results are available in the following times: NIPD testing: five working days; Bespoke NIPD testing: eight weeks; GOSHHome testing: approximately four months.



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## MARKAZ SPONSORS KACCH CHILD LIFE PROGRAM

As part of its Corporate Social and Economic Responsibility (CSER), Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" sponsored the Child Life Program of Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH). By supporting the Child Life program, it enables the association's staff and volunteers to provide the highest standards of care to the children by reducing the stressful impact of hospitalization on sick children and their families.

Alrazi Al-Budaiwi, Assistant Vice President - Media and Communications at Markaz, stated: "Markaz has renewed its sponsorship to the Child Life program this year to participate in the sustainabil-

ity of this effective initiative that supported over 48,000 interventions given by the team that is dedicated to offer the best they can for these hospitalized children."

Budaiwi added: "We are committed at Markaz to continue cooperating with Kuwaiti non-profit and humanitarian organizations such as Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH) as part of our corporate social responsibility strategy, which is built on three pillars: a) Human capacity building, b) Adapting our broader business environment to the best practices of investment and corporate governance, c) and introducing principles of good governance in the business

environment."

Banafsheh Azizi, Deputy Director at KACCH, thanked Markaz for supporting their activities and programs over many years and for contributing in positively impacting the lives of the children and their families at the hospital.

She added: "KACCH is committed to minimizing the stressful impact of hospitalization and illness on the child and family. Contributions from the generous people of Kuwait and banks and businesses enable the continuation of this service for children in hospital, and it reflects their commitment and their sense of responsibility towards the society at large."



## MAZOLA SUPPORTS REFUGEES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

### HELPING HAND REACHED 5,000 SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILIES

The refugee and displacement problem is one of the most complex humanitarian issues facing the Middle East today. With more than four million Syrians fleeing their home country and seeking refuge in neighboring Middle Eastern countries it is obvious that this is one of the largest refugee evacuations in recent history.

In response to the growing refugee humanitarian crisis, Mazola has stepped up their response to support the Syrian refugees. Joining efforts with the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) which operates under Royal guidance and George and Sami Khoury and Co (GSK) their distributors in Jordan, Mazola has donated Mazola food

products and blankets amongst the needy, throughout sites in Jordan. The food and blanket supply has successfully reached more than 5,000 families. Mazola staff, their brand ambassador Hatun Madani, members of GSK distribution company and refugee organizations in Jordan have been giving first hand assistance to the refugees. Their efforts have

comprised of personally handing out the donated food and blanket supplies as well as assisting them with other difficulties they may be facing during their less than ideal situation.

Simon Gottfried, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Middle East and North Africa said, "I'm sure we would all agree that we are facing a word crisis. It is everybody's responsibility to

help and restore the faith we once had in humanity. We are all one people and it is time we all came together to provide urgent assistance in whatever way we can to those in need". The kind and compassionate nature displayed by Mazola definitely explains why they have become one of the leading household names in the Middle East.

## EDUCATION MINISTRY STARTS NATIONAL FESTIVALS



The Ministry of Education announced Monday a number of celebrations and events that are to take place at various schools in Kuwait coinciding with the forthcoming national festivals in the country.

This year's festivity is different from previous ones due to the ministry's cooperation with the educational areas and schools in presenting national shows and segments for the occasion, Faisal Maqseed, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities, told reporters on the sidelines of the ministry's celebration of the flag-hoisting day.

These events will involve social, cultural, educational, and sports activities and contests with participation of public and private schools in all their educational years and levels,

Maqseed said, adding that the ministry will continue sponsoring these events until mid-March.

A special operetta for the occasion will also be held on March 1st to mark the 10th anniversary of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's assumption of office, the 55th anniversary of National Day, and the 25th anniversary of Liberation Day, he noted.

Meanwhile, Dr Saoud Al-Harbi, Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Research and Curriculum, stressed the importance of celebrating the country's national festivals in achieving several educational goals, particularly citizenship values, adding that marking such occasions also boosts loyalty and belonging values within the citizens. —KUNA



### IPC SPRING COURSES

Islam Presentation Committee (LADIES) will commence the Spring Course on February 7, 2016. Offers Arabic Language Course (Basic and Advanced), Arabic Conversation and Arabic in Medical Field designed for Non-Arab Ladies. Classes are available on Fridays and Saturdays. Islamic Subjects and Quran Classes are also presented in different languages. Classes are offered only once a week. For more information: Rawdah 22512257; Salmiya-25733263; Al-Sadiq-99285459; Mangaf-23720931; Jahra-24567714

### CHILD ASSOCIATION THANKFUL FOR SHIFTING NURSERIES' SUBORDINATION

The Child Association for Private Nurseries in Kuwait extends its thanks and appreciation to the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Barrak Al-Subaih, Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Hamad Al-Essa and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

Dr Matar Al-Muteiri and to everyone participated in this groundbreaking achievement in transferring private nursery license from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to the Ministry of Higher Education. It is a first step in the right direction flowing into the interest of the child as well as the parents in particular, and the Private Nurseries Sector in general. Hopefully, it will be followed by subsequent steps aiming at the progress and development of this dynamic and important sector of society in a joint cooperation. It came in harmony and in conformity with the approach of the Association who demanded such approach through various meetings, seminars and official channels and in particular through the law presented by the Association to the National Assembly on 2010. The Association appealed to the National Assembly's members on the need to take concrete and legislative steps in this regard to the possibility of eliminating many flaws and drawbacks that surround this sector as a result of its subordination to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. It recommended it to be subordinated to the competent Ministry of Education provided to be limited to learning and education phase.



Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub (center) and his wife attend a Palestinian exhibition held at Sadu House. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



# SADU HOUSE HOSTS PALESTINIAN EXHIBITION

By Faten Omar

Sadu House hosted a Palestinian exhibition titled 'The Art of Palestinian Embroidery: Past, present and Future' on Monday as part of the activities of the 22nd Qurain Cultural Festival, which is Kuwait's leading arts festival sponsored by

the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. During the exhibition, deputy president of the 'Reviving the Palestinian Camp' association Mia Shaheed said that the association aims to revive Palestinian heritage and preserve it from loss.

She expressed her happiness to visit Kuwait for the first time and dealing with

the Kuwaiti society during the exhibition. Shaheed was impressed by the active role of Kuwaiti women and their open minded approach to other cultures. "Kuwait has always been helpful by supporting the Palestinian cause through supporting our art and culture exhibitions," she explained. She added that the association is seeking

through these exhibitions to save Palestinian art for the next generations by showing traditional heritage in a modern way to fit the spirit of young people and their lifestyle.

"All products here are high fashion with a touch of our traditional spirit of Palestine," Shaheed said. The exhibition has traditional

Palestinian handmade dresses, notebooks, accessories, pillows, curtains and bags. At the event, the 'Kmanjati' band played beautiful melodies and entertained the audience. The proceeds of this exhibition will go to support the association that supports hundreds of Palestinian women in providing their income.



**Discovery Channel**

- 00:20 Misfit Garage
- 01:10 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
- 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 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
- 11:25 Dual Survival
- 12:15 River Monsters
- 13:05 Storage Hunters UK
- 13:30 The Liquidator
- 13:55 Storage Wars Canada
- 14:20 Siberian Cut
- 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
- 18:55 The Carbonaro Effect
- 19:20 Troy
- 20:10 The Liquidator
- 20:35 Storage Wars Canada
- 21:00 Mythbusters
- 21:50 You Have Been Warned
- 23:30 Wheeler Dealers

**Discovery Science**

- 00:35 Mythbusters
- 01:20 How It's Made
- 02:08 Food Factory
- 02:55 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 03:42 How The Universe Works
- 04:29 Mythbusters
- 05:16 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
- 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
- 14:46 How It's Made
- 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
- 22:15 How The Universe Works
- 23:00 Invent It Rich

**ID.**

- 00:40 Who On Earth...
- 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...
- 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?
- 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
- 01:40 Wolfblood
- 02:30 Violetta
- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Wolfblood
- 04:35 Wolfblood
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Loirock
- 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
- 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 H2O
- 19:30 Violetta
- 20:20 The Next Step

**OSN FIRST HD**

- 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
- 23:10 Wolfblood

**EHD**

- 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 Beyond Candid With Giuliana
- 05:05 E! Entertainment Special
- 06:00 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 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 17:00 Hollywood Cycle
- 18:00 E! News
- 19:00 Dash Dolls
- 20:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 21:00 House Of DVF
- 22:00 E! News
- 23:00 WAGs

**Food Network**

- 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 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Grandma's Secret Cookbook Special
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 12:00 Chopped
- 13:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 13:30 Guy's Big Bite
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 15:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 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**

- 02:30 The Big C
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 19:30 Benched
- 19:30 Baby Daddy
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 22:30 Girls
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

**OSN FIRST HD**

- 00:00 Defiance
- 02:00 Supergirl
- 03:00 Scream Queens
- 04:00 Complications
- 05:00 The Night Shift
- 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 Supergirl
- 21:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
- 22:00 The Flash
- 23:00 American Horror Story: Hotel

**OSN FIRST HD MORE**

- 00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 01:00 Good Morning America
- 03:00 Satisfaction
- 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
- 17:00 Resurrection
- 18:00 Shark Tank
- 19:00 Supernatural
- 20:00 Resurrection
- 21:00 Shark Tank
- 22:00 Satisfaction
- 23:00 Blood & Oil

**OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**

- 00:00 Dragon Blade
- 02:15 Tombstone
- 04:30 Assassin's Bullet
- 06:15 Dying Of The Light
- 08:00 Transit
- 10:00 Special ID
- 12:00 Born To Race: Fast Track
- 14:00 Jack: The Giant Killer
- 15:45 King Arthur
- 18:00 Transit
- 20:00 Born To Race: Fast Track
- 21:45 Gone In Sixty Seconds

**OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**

- 00:15 Tombstone-PG15
- 02:30 Assassin's Bullet-PG15
- 04:15 Dying Of The Light-PG15
- 06:00 Transit-PG15
- 08:00 Special ID-PG15
- 10:00 Born To Race: Fast Track
- 12:00 Jack The Giant Killer-PG15
- 13:20 Big Screen
- 13:45 King Arthur-PG15
- 15:20 Transit-PG15
- 18:00 Born To Race: Fast Track
- 19:10 Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
- 21:00 Desperately Seeking Susan
- 22:45 Big Screen
- 23:00 Fargo
- 00:35 Lords Of Dogtown
- 02:15 Fargo

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

- 00:00 Duets
- 02:00 Textuality
- 03:45 Renaissance Man
- 06:00 The Nutty Professor (1996)
- 08:00 The Love Guide
- 09:45 Renaissance Man
- 12:00 The Lego Movie
- 14:00 Big Fat Liar
- 16:00 The Love Guide
- 18:00 High Road
- 20:00 Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues
- 22:00 Dumb And Dumber To

**OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**

- 01:00 Hair Of A Yellow Sun-PG15
- 03:00 A Thousand Times Good Night-PG15
- 05:00 Won't Back Down-PG15
- 07:15 Breathless-PG15
- 09:00 Belle-PG15
- 11:00 Won't Back Down-PG15
- 13:00 Testament Of Youth-PG15
- 15:15 InSight-PG15
- 17:00 Belle-PG15
- 19:00 Goodbye World-PG15
- 21:00 Jayne Mansfield's Car-PG15

**OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL**

- 01:00 Solo Para Dos
- 03:00 At Any Price
- 05:00 The Darjeeling Limited
- 07:00 Serial (Bad) Weddings
- 09:00 Black Nativity
- 11:00 The Darjeeling Limited
- 12:45 Julie And Julia
- 15:00 October Sky
- 17:00 Black Nativity
- 19:00 Rent
- 21:15 Gattaca
- 23:00 Jack Strong

**OSN MOVIES HD**

- 01:00 Sugar Daddies-PG15
- 03:00 About Alex-PG15
- 05:00 Christmas In Conway-PG15
- 07:00 The Book Of Life-PG
- 09:00 Dracula Untold-PG15
- 11:00 St. Vincent-PG15
- 13:00 Parkland-PG15
- 15:00 Kon-Tiki-PG15
- 17:00 Dracula Untold-PG15
- 19:00 Godzilla-PG15
- 21:00 Area 51-18
- 23:00 The Interview-18

**OSN MOVIES HD KIDS**

- 01:15 Blue Elephant 2
- 03:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 04:30 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 06:00 Delhi Safari
- 08:00 Memory Loss
- 10:00 Cher Ami
- 11:30 Echo Planet
- 13:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 14:30 The Heart Of The Oak
- 16:00 Scooby-Do! WrestleMania Mystery
- 18:00 Cher Ami
- 20:00 Egon And Donci
- 22:00 The Heart Of The Oak
- 23:30 Marvel's Ultimate Avengers I

**OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE**

- 00:00 13 Eerie-PG15
- 02:00 Welcome To The Punch
- 04:30 Trigger Point-PG15
- 06:00 Bully-PG15
- 08:00 Vamps-PG15
- 10:00 Christmas With Holly
- 12:00 Welcome To The Punch
- 14:00 Lizzie Borden Took An Ax
- 16:00 Vamps-PG15
- 18:00 Life Of A King-PG15
- 20:00 The Expendables 3-PG15
- 22:15 About Last Night-18

**AMC**

- 04:20 Movers And Shakers
- 05:40 Alexander The Great
- 07:55 Hercules
- 09:35 Adventures Of Hercules
- 11:05 Seven Years In Tibet
- 13:20 Big Screen
- 13:35 Impromptu
- 15:20 The Apartment
- 17:25 Cannon For Cordoba
- 19:10 Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
- 21:00 Desperately Seeking Susan
- 22:45 Big Screen
- 23:00 Fargo
- 00:35 Lords Of Dogtown
- 02:15 Fargo

**ci**

- 03:00 They Took Our Child, We Got Her Back
- 04:00 When Life Means Life
- 05:00 Sex, Fame And Murder
- 06:00 My Ghost Story
- 07:00 When Life Means Life
- 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 After The First 48
- 15:00 I Killed My BFF
- 16:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 17:00 Crime Stories
- 18:00 The First 48
- 19:00 After The First 48
- 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



**Disney Junior**

- 03:05 Calimero
- 03:20 Zou
- 03:30 Loopidoo
- 03:45 Art Attack
- 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:20 Calimero
- 04:35 Zou
- 04:45 Loopidoo
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:35 Calimero
- 05:50 Zou
- 06:00 Loopidoo
- 06:15 Art Attack
- 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:50 Calimero
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:20 Loopidoo
- 07:35 Art Attack
- 08:00 Calimero
- 08:10 Zou
- 08:25 Loopidoo
- 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

**OSN MOVIES HD**

- 14:50 Henry Hugglemonster
- 15:15 Zou
- 15:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:55 Loopidoo
- 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
- 22:25 Aladdin
- 22:50 Gummi Bears
- 23:20 Lilo And Stitch
- 23:45 Cars Toons
- 23:50 Zou
- 00:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:20 Calimero
- 00:35 Zou
- 00:50 Loopidoo
- 01:05 Art Attack
- 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:45 Calimero
- 02:00 Zou
- 02:15 Loopidoo

**Disney XD**

- 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 07:25 K. C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas

**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
- 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 07:00 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
- 13:48 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
- 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:24 Breadwinners
- 22:12 Sanjay And Craig
- 22:36 Sanjay And Craig
- 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 23:48 Henry Danger

**sundance channel**

- 04:15 Iconoclasts
- 05:15 California Solo
- 06:35 The Strongest Man
- 08:35 Welcome To Pine Hill
- 10:00 Mary Is Happy, Mary Is Happy
- 12:05 Adopt A Sailor
- 13:35 Movie Talk
- 14:00 Battle For Britain
- 14:15 Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter
- 16:00 All On The Line
- 17:00 China Power Chinese Art From Mao To 2012
- 18:00 Print The Legend
- 19:40 Manito
- 20:55 In Conversation With
- 21:25 Adopt A Sailor
- 22:55 Mary Is Happy, Mary Is Happy
- 01:00 Cloro
- 02:40 Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter

**TLC HD**

- 03:40 World's Worst Mum
- 04:30 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 05:00 Little People, Big World
- 05:30 Cake Boss
- 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Äi Bridesmaids
- 06:25 Randy To The Rescue
- 07:15 Hoarding: Buried Alive
- 08:05 Belief
- 08:55 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
- 09:45 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 10:10 Little People, Big World
- 10:35 My Five Wives
- 11:25 Cake Boss
- 11:50 My Giant Life
- 12:40 Randy To The Rescue
- 13:30 Dare To Wear
- 14:20 The Autistic Gardener
- 15:10 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 15:35 Little People, Big World
- 16:00 Hoarding: Buried Alive
- 16:50 My Five Wives
- 17:40 Cake Boss
- 18:05 Say Yes To The Dress: Äi



KING ARTHUR ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



# CLASSIFIEDS

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## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (21/01/2016 TO 27/01/2016)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>SHARQIA-1</b><br>LOST IN THE SUN<br>LOST IN THE SUN<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>LOST IN THE SUN<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>LOST IN THE SUN                            | 12:15 PM<br>2:30 PM<br>4:30 PM<br>6:30 PM<br>8:30 PM<br>10:30 PM<br>12:30 AM                       |
| <b>SHARQIA-2</b><br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>THE 5TH WAVE<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic                       | 12:15 PM<br>2:00 PM<br>3:45 PM<br>6:45 PM<br>9:15 PM<br>12:15 AM                                   |
| <b>SHARQIA-3</b><br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>THE BOY<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>THE BOY<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>THE BOY  | 1:00 PM<br>2:45 PM<br>4:45 PM<br>6:45 PM<br>8:45 PM<br>10:45 PM<br>12:45 AM                        |
| <b>MUHALAB-1</b><br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>KUNG FU STYLE<br>DILWALE - Hindi<br>DICTATOR - Telugu<br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS | 11:30 AM<br>1:30 PM<br>3:30 PM<br>3:30 PM<br>3:30 PM<br>6:30 PM<br>8:45 PM<br>10:45 PM<br>12:45 AM |
| <b>MUHALAB-2</b><br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>THE REVENANT<br>SOGGADE CHINNI NAYANA -Telugu<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2                      | 12:00 PM<br>2:00 PM<br>4:00 PM<br>4:00 PM<br>7:00 PM<br>9:00 PM<br>11:00 PM<br>1:00 AM             |
| <b>MUHALAB-3</b><br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic                           | 11:45 AM<br>2:45 PM<br>5:45 PM<br>8:45 PM<br>11:45 PM  |
| <b>FANAR-1</b><br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS<br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS<br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS<br>THE REVENANT<br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS<br>THE REVENANT   | 11:45 AM<br>2:00 PM<br>4:15 PM<br>6:30 PM<br>9:30 PM<br>11:45 PM                                   |
| <b>FANAR-2</b><br>DARKNESS DESCENDS  | 1:00 PM  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>DILWALE - Hindi<br>DICTATOR - Telugu<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS   | 3:00 PM<br>5:00 PM<br>5:00 PM<br>8:00 PM<br>10:00 PM<br>12:05 AM             |
| <b>FANAR-3</b><br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>KUNG FU STYLE<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2  | 12:30 PM<br>2:30 PM<br>4:30 PM<br>6:30 PM<br>8:30 PM<br>10:30 PM<br>12:30 AM |
| <b>FANAR-4</b><br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic | 12:15 PM<br>1:30 PM<br>3:15 PM<br>6:15 PM<br>9:15 PM<br>12:15 AM             |
| <b>FANAR-5</b><br>THE BOY<br>THE BOY<br>THE BOY<br>THE 5TH WAVE<br>THE BOY<br>THE 5TH WAVE<br>THE BOY  | 11:45 AM<br>1:45 PM<br>3:45 PM<br>5:45 PM<br>8:15 PM<br>10:15 PM<br>12:45 AM |
| <b>MARINA-1</b><br>LOST IN THE SUN<br>THE 5TH WAVE<br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS<br>LOST IN THE SUN<br>THE 5TH WAVE<br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS<br>LOST IN THE SUN                     | 11:30 AM<br>1:30 PM<br>3:45 PM<br>6:00 PM<br>8:00 PM<br>10:15 PM<br>12:30 AM |
| <b>MARINA-2</b><br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>THE REVENANT<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>THE REVENANT<br>RIDE ALONG 2  | 12:00 PM<br>2:00 PM<br>4:00 PM<br>7:00 PM<br>9:00 PM<br>12:05 AM             |
| <b>MARINA-3</b><br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>KUNG FU STYLE<br>KUNG FU STYLE<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic          | 12:30 PM<br>1:30 PM<br>3:30 PM<br>5:45 PM<br>8:45 PM<br>11:45 PM             |
| <b>AVENUES-1</b><br>KUNG FU STYLE<br>THE 5TH WAVE<br>THE 5TH WAVE<br>TWO COUNTRIES - Malayalam   | 11:30 AM<br>1:30 PM<br>4:00 PM<br>6:30 PM                                    |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| THE 5TH WAVE<br>THE 5TH WAVE   | 9:30 PM<br>12:15 AM  |
| <b>AVENUES-2</b><br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS  | 12:00 PM<br>2:15 PM<br>4:30 PM<br>6:45 PM<br>9:00 PM<br>11:30 PM             |
| <b>AVENUES-3</b><br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS<br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS<br>FRI<br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS<br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS<br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS<br>OUR BRAND IS CRISIS            | 1:00 PM<br>1:30 PM<br><br>3:45 PM<br>6:15 PM<br>8:45 PM<br>11:15 PM          |
| <b>360-1</b><br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>RIDE ALONG 2   | 11:45 AM<br>1:45 PM<br>3:45 PM<br>5:45 PM<br>7:45 PM<br>9:45 PM<br>11:45 PM  |
| <b>360-2</b><br>KUNG FU STYLE<br>KUNG FU STYLE<br>KUNG FU STYLE<br>DILWALE - Hindi<br>DILWALE - Hindi<br>THE BOY   | 12:15 PM<br>2:15 PM<br>4:15 PM<br>6:15 PM<br>9:30 PM<br>12:30 AM             |
| <b>360-3</b><br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS<br>DARKNESS DESCENDS  | 1:00 PM<br>3:15 PM<br>5:30 PM<br>7:45 PM<br>10:00 PM<br>12:15 AM             |
| <b>AL-KOUT-1</b><br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic<br>MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic | 12:15 PM<br>1:30 PM<br>3:15 PM<br>6:15 PM<br>9:15 PM<br>12:15 AM             |
| <b>AL-KOUT-2</b><br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>THE 5TH WAVE<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>THE 5TH WAVE<br>RIDE ALONG 2<br>THE 5TH WAVE<br>RIDE ALONG 2   | 11:30 AM<br>1:30 PM<br>3:45 PM<br>5:45 PM<br>8:15 PM<br>10:15 PM<br>12:45 AM |

## Urgent Job Vacancy

- 1- sales Representative
- 2- Sales Rep  
(Out door for Ladies Saloons)
- 3- Secretary
- 4- Merchandisers

- Minimum 3 years Sales experience in Kuwait.
- Own a car & driving license. (for vacancy # 1&2)
- Salary + attractive commission.
- Transferable Residence .

Send your C.V & Personal photo, with job vacancy #  
Email: [careers@ntsq8.com](mailto:careers@ntsq8.com) / Fax: 24761122

### FOR SALE

**Mitsubishi Lancer 2015**  
GLS, 2000 kilometer only,  
free accidents, dark silver, 5  
years warranty. Price KD  
3600. Tel: 55305433.  
**(C 5115)**  
**26-1-2016**

working in India, Indian  
Airline. Contact: 65853374.  
**(C 5117)**  
**26-1-2016**

### CHANGE OF NAME

**Shaik Abbas Ali** (old sur-  
name), S/o Shaik  
Nazeeruddin, holder of  
Indian Passport No.  
G2275319. D.No. 7/111,  
Maruthi Street, Akkayapalli,  
R.V.Nagar (Po) Kadapa, Y.S.R  
(Dist) hence have been  
change my surname, my  
father surname Syed Abbas  
Ali (new surname) S/o Syed  
Nazeeruddin.  
**27-1-2016**

### SITUATION WANTED

Looking job in Kuwait, sit-  
ter in India, ground han-  
dling, airport + air ticket,

### Prayer timings

**Fajr: 05:18**  
**Shorook 06:41**  
**Duhr: 12:01**  
**Asr: 15:00**  
**Maghrib: 17:21**  
**Isha: 18:41**

**I Hozefa**, holder of Indian  
Passport No. J5394193,  
Mohammediya colony, VPO  
Galiyakot, Dist Dunderpur,  
Rajasthan - 314026, hereby  
change my name from  
Hozefa to Hozefa Fauji.  
**(C 5116)**  
**25-1-2016**

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

**In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation  
of bookings will help other passengers to use seats**

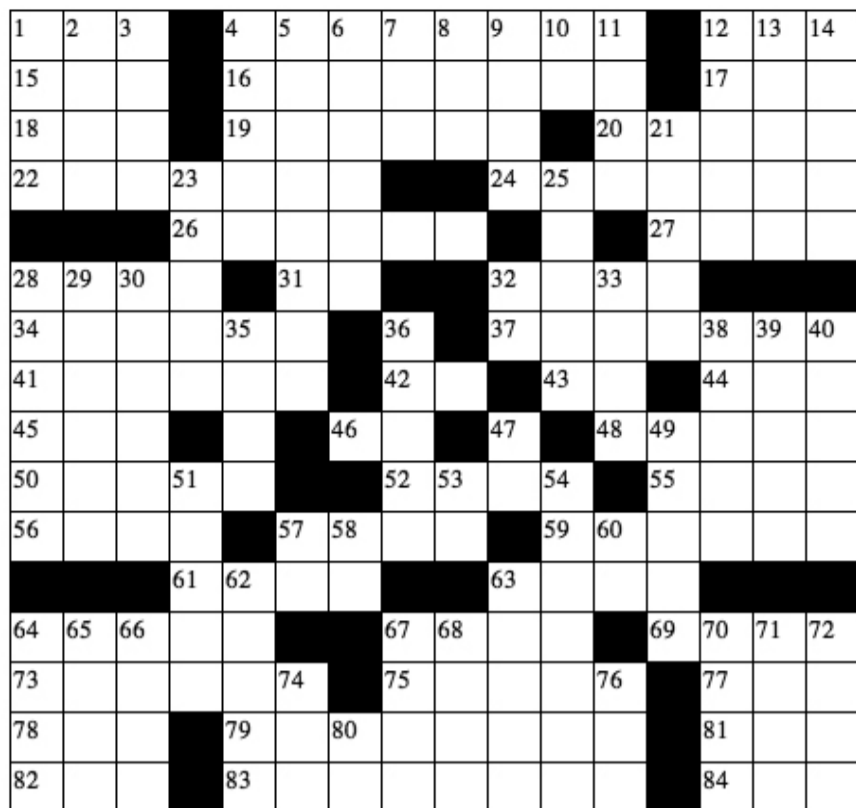


| Arrival Flights on Wednesday 27/1/2016 |      |                   |       | Departure Flights on Wednesday 27/1/2016 |      |                 |       |
|--|------|-------------------|-------|--|------|-----------------|-------|
| Airlines                               | Fit  | Route             | Time  | Airlines                                 | Fit  | Route           | Time  |
| MSC                                    | 415  | Sohag             | 00:05 | KAC                                      | 284  | Dhaka           | 14:45 |
| SYR                                    | 343  | Damascus/KAC      | 00:10 | KAC                                      | 512  | Mashhad         | 14:50 |
| JZR                                    | 267  | Beirut            | 00:30 | KAC                                      | 788  | Jeddah          | 14:50 |
| JZR                                    | 539  | Cairo             | 00:40 | JZR                                      | 1359 | Mashhad         | 14:55 |
| FDB                                    | 069  | Dubai             | 00:55 | KNE                                      | 462  | Madinah         | 14:55 |
| THY                                    | 772  | Istanbul          | 01:05 | GFA                                      | 221  | Bahrain         | 15:00 |
| DLH                                    | 635  | Doha              | 01:35 | KNE                                      | 472  | Jeddah          | 15:05 |
| ETH                                    | 620  | Addis Ababa       | 01:45 | MRJ                                      | 4815 | Mashhad         | 15:15 |
| CLX                                    | 784  | Luxembourg        | 01:45 | OMA                                      | 645  | Muscat          | 15:30 |
| PGT                                    | 858  | Istanbul          | 02:00 | KAC                                      | 562  | Amman           | 15:40 |
| UAE                                    | 853  | Dubai             | 02:30 | ABY                                      | 127  | Sharjah         | 15:45 |
| GFA                                    | 211  | Bahrain           | 02:30 | UAE                                      | 857  | Dubai           | 15:45 |
| KKK                                    | 6507 | Istanbul          | 02:50 | QTR                                      | 1072 | Doha            | 16:10 |
| OMA                                    | 643  | Muscat            | 02:55 | JZR                                      | 535  | Cairo           | 16:10 |
| FDB                                    | 067  | Dubai             | 03:05 | JZR                                      | 787  | Riyadh          | 16:25 |
| RJA                                    | 644  | Amman             | 03:05 | FDB                                      | 051  | Dubai           | 16:30 |
| MSR                                    | 612  | Cairo             | 03:10 | JZR                                      | 357  | Mashhad         | 16:30 |
| QTR                                    | 1076 | Doha              | 03:15 | ETD                                      | 303  | Abu Dhabi       | 16:40 |
| CEB                                    | 7694 | Manila            | 03:15 | RJA                                      | 640  | Amman           | 16:55 |
| ETD                                    | 305  | Abu Dhabi         | 03:25 | KAC                                      | 542  | Cairo           | 16:55 |
| AGY                                    | 680  | Alexandria        | 04:30 | SYR                                      | 341  | Damascus        | 17:00 |
| PGT                                    | 5620 | Istanbul          | 04:35 | SVI                                      | 510  | Riyadh          | 17:15 |
| DHX                                    | 170  | Bahrain           | 05:40 | IRC                                      | 6521 | Lamerd          | 17:20 |
| THY                                    | 770  | Istanbul          | 05:55 | GFA                                      | 215  | Bahrain         | 17:30 |
| FDB                                    | 5061 | Dubai             | 06:30 | MSR                                      | 614  | Cairo           | 17:50 |
| BAW                                    | 157  | London            | 06:40 | JZR                                      | 777  | Jeddah          | 17:55 |
| KAC                                    | 412  | Manila/Bangkok    | 07:20 | UAE                                      | 875  | Dubai           | 18:00 |
| QTR                                    | 1086 | Doha              | 07:40 | KAC                                      | 502  | Beirut          | 18:00 |
| FDB                                    | 053  | Dubai             | 07:45 | FDB                                      | 063  | Dubai           | 18:05 |
| KAC                                    | 302  | Mumbai            | 07:50 | JZR                                      | 177  | Dubai           | 18:20 |
| OMA                                    | 641  | Muscat            | 07:55 | KAC                                      | 786  | Jeddah          | 18:30 |
| KAC                                    | 206  | Islamabad         | 08:25 | JZR                                      | 483  | Istanbul        | 18:40 |
| KAC                                    | 346  | Ahmedabad         | 08:30 | ABY                                      | 123  | Sharjah         | 18:45 |
| KAC                                    | 352  | Kochi             | 08:30 | QTR                                      | 1080 | Doha            | 18:55 |
| KAC                                    | 344  | Chennai           | 08:30 | KAC                                      | 774  | Riyadh          | 19:20 |
| UAE                                    | 855  | Dubai             | 08:40 | KAC                                      | 166  | Paris/Rome      | 19:25 |
| KAC                                    | 332  | Trivandrum        | 08:50 | GFA                                      | 217  | Bahrain         | 19:30 |
| KAC                                    | 362  | Colombo           | 08:50 | KAC                                      | 618  | Doha            | 19:35 |
| ABY                                    | 125  | Sharjah           | 09:00 | KAC                                      | 154  | Istanbul        | 19:45 |
| ETD                                    | 301  | Abu Dhabi         | 09:20 | KAC                                      | 674  | Dubai           | 19:45 |
| QTR                                    | 1070 | Doha              | 09:25 | ETD                                      | 919  | Abu Dhabi       | 19:55 |
| FDB                                    | 055  | Dubai             | 09:40 | KAC                                      | 792  | Madinah         | 19:55 |
| GFA                                    | 213  | Bahrain           | 10:40 | KAC                                      | 102  | New York/London | 19:55 |
| IRA                                    | 665  | Shiraz            | 10:40 | KNE                                      | 480  | Taif            | 20:10 |
| IAW                                    | 157  | Al Najaf          | 10:50 | FDB                                      | 061  | Dubai           | 20:20 |
| UAE                                    | 873  | Dubai             | 11:05 | OMA                                      | 647  | Muscat          | 20:20 |
| AXB                                    | 889  | Mangalore/Bahrain | 11:15 | KAC                                      | 546  | Alexandria      | 20:35 |
| FDB                                    | 8055 | Dubai             | 11:20 | MSR                                      | 606  | Luxor           | 20:45 |
| JZR                                    | 165  | Dubai             | 11:30 | FDB                                      | 5053 | Dubai           | 20:50 |
| AGY                                    | 684  | Sohag             | 11:35 | JAI                                      | 572  | Mumbai          | 20:55 |
| MEA                                    | 404  | Beirut            | 11:55 | DLH                                      | 634  | Frankfurt       | 20:55 |
| KAC                                    | 204  | Lahore            | 12:20 | QTR                                      | 1088 | Doha            | 21:00 |
| SAW                                    | 701  | Damascus          | 12:20 | MEA                                      | 402  | Beirut          | 21:20 |
| FDB                                    | 075  | Dubai             | 12:25 | ETD                                      | 307  | Abu Dhabi       | 21:20 |
| IRM                                    | 1188 | Mashhad           | 12:25 | ALK                                      | 229  | Colombo         | 21:25 |
| MSC                                    | 401  | Alexandria        | 12:30 | UAE                                      | 859  | Dubai           | 21:40 |
| JZR                                    | 561  | Sohag             | 12:45 | GFA                                      | 219  | Bahrain         | 21:45 |
| UAE                                    | 871  | Dubai             | 12:50 | JZR                                      | 125  | Bahrain         | 22:00 |
| IRC                                    | 6511 | ABD               | 13:00 | QTR                                      | 1082 | Doha            | 22:00 |
| MSR                                    | 610  | Cairo             | 13:00 | KAC                                      | 540  | Sharm el-Sheikh | 22:20 |
| CLX                                    | 792  | Luxembourg        | 13:15 | AIC                                      | 975  | Abu Dhabi       | 22:25 |
| IZG                                    | 4167 | Mashhad           | 13:30 | KAC                                      | 564  | Amman           | 22:25 |
| KAC                                    | 382  | Delhi             | 13:50 | FDB                                      | 059  | Dubai           | 22:30 |
| KNE                                    | 460  | Riyadh            | 13:50 | BBC                                      | 044  | Dhaka/Dammam    | 22:40 |
| IRC                                    | 526  | Mashhad           | 13:55 | JZR                                      | 239  | Amman           | 23:05 |
| QTR                                    | 1078 | Doha              | 14:10 | JZR                                      | 185  | Dubai           | 23:15 |
| FDB                                    | 057  | Dubai             | 14:10 | JZR                                      | 555  | Alexandria      | 23:25 |
| IRM                                    | 1186 | Tehran            | 14:15 | PIA                                      | 215  | KHL             | 23:40 |
| SVI                                    | 500  | Jeddah            | 14:30 | FDB                                      | 071  | Dubai           | 23:45 |
| KAC                                    | 672  | Dubai             | 14:45 | THY                                      | 764  | Istanbul        | 23:50 |
|  |      |                   |       | JAI                                      | 574  | Mumbai          | 23:55 |
|  |      |                   |       | MSC                                      | 403  | Asyut           | 23:55 |

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

|     |      |                 |       |
|-----|------|-----------------|-------|
| JZR | 176  | Dubai           | 13:45 |
| IRC | 6522 | Lamerd          | 13:55 |
| MSR | 611  | Cairo           | 14:00 |
| UAE | 872  | Dubai           | 14:15 |
| CLX | 792  | Hanoi           | 14:30 |
| IZG | 4168 | Mashhad         | 14:30 |
| KNE | 481  | Taif            | 14:50 |
| IRC | 527  | Mashhad         | 14:55 |
| KAC | 673  | Dubai           | 15:00 |
| FDB | 058  | Dubai           | 15:10 |
| QTR | 1079 | Doha            | 15:10 |
| KAC | 791  | Madinah         | 15:10 |
| IRM | 1187 | Tehran          | 15:30 |
| SVI | 503  | Madinah/Jeddah  | 15:45 |
| GFA | 222  | Bahrain         | 15:45 |
| KAC | 617  | Doha            | 15:45 |
| KAC | 773  | Riyadh          | 15:50 |
| KNE | 463  | Madinah         | 16:00 |
| KAC | 539  | Sharm el-Sheikh | 16:00 |
| KNE | 473  | Jeddah          | 16:05 |
| JZR | 554  | Alexandria      | 16:10 |
| MRJ | 4814 | Mashhad         | 16:15 |
| ABY | 128  | Sharjah         | 16:25 |
| OMA | 646  | Muscat          | 16:30 |
| KAC | 563  | Amman           | 16:45 |
| JZR | 266  | Beirut          | 17:05 |
| JZR | 238  | Amman           | 17:30 |
| ETD | 304  | Abu Dhabi       | 17:30 |
| FDB | 052  | Dubai           | 17:35 |
| QTR | 1073 | Doha            | 17:40 |
| JZR | 538  | Cairo           | 17:45 |
| UAE | 858  | Dubai           | 17:45 |
| RJA | 641  | Amman           | 17:55 |
| SYR | 342  | Damascus        | 18:00 |
| SVI | 511  | Riyadh          | 18:15 |
| IRC | 6512 | ABD             | 18:20 |
| GFA | 216  | Bahrain         | 18:20 |
| JZR | 184  | Dubai           | 18:40 |
| MSR | 615  | Cairo           | 18:50 |
| JZR | 124  | Bahrain         | 19:10 |
| FDB | 064  | Dubai           | 19:20 |
| ABY | 124  | Sharjah         | 19:25 |
| UAE | 876  | Dubai           | 19:30 |
| GFA | 218  | Bahrain         | 20:15 |
| KAC | 361  | Colombo         | 20:45 |
| KAC | 351  | Kochi           | 20:50 |
| QTR | 1081 | Doha            | 20:50 |
| KAC | 343  | Chennai         | 21:00 |
| KNE | 461  | Riyadh          | 21:10 |
| KAC | 331  | Trivandrum      | 21:10 |
| OMA | 648  | Muscat          | 21:20 |
| FDB | 062  | Dubai           | 21:20 |
| MSR | 619  | Alexandria      | 21:45 |
| DLH | 634  | Doha            | 21:45 |
| DHX | 171  | Bahrain         | 21:50 |
| FDB | 5054 | Dubai           | 21:50 |
| JAI | 571  | Mumbai          | 21:55 |
| JZR | 502  | Luxor           | 22:00 |
| QTR | 1089 | Doha            | 22:00 |
| KAC | 301  | Mumbai          | 22:10 |
| ETD | 308  | Abu Dhabi       | 22:10 |
| MEA | 403  | Beirut          | 22:20 |
| ALK | 230  | Colombo         | 22:25 |
| GFA | 220  | Bahrain         | 22:30 |
| ETD | 920  | Dubai           | 22:35 |
| UAE | 860  | Dubai           | 22:55 |
| KAC | 345  | Ahmedabad       | 23:00 |
| QTR | 1083 | Doha            | 23:05 |
| KAC | 205  | Islamabad       | 23:10 |
| ETD | 310  | Abu Dhabi       | 23:15 |

CROSSWORD 1150



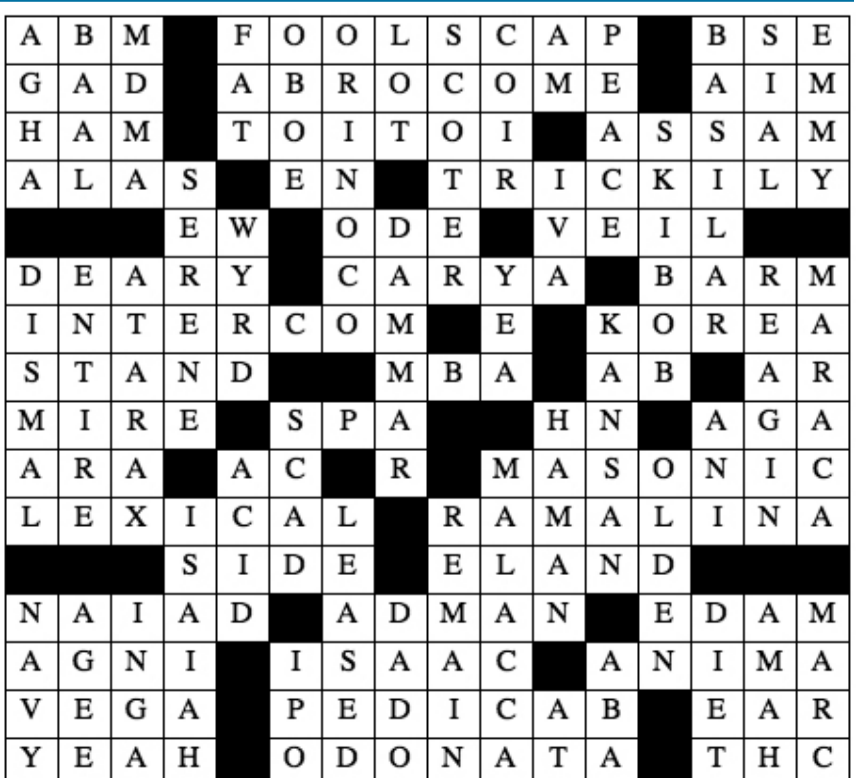
ACROSS

- An ugly evil-looking old woman.
- City in central Iran.
- Standard time in the 8th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 120th meridian west.
- An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
- A short moral story (often with animal characters).
- The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- (informal) Of the highest quality.
- A rapid series of short loud sounds (as might be heard with a stethoscope in some types of respiratory disorders).
- Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
- (Greek mythology) The first woman.
- A constitutional monarchy in northern Europe.
- Romanian violinist and composer (1881-1955).
- A former copper coin of Pakistan.
- Group of people related by blood or marriage.
- A blood group antigen possessed by Rh-positive people.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of Yemen or its inhabitants.
- A lack of vitality.
- African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
- A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
- Before noon.
- A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
- A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
- A unit of magnetomotive force equal to 0.7958 ampere-turns.
- Cruel or inhumane treatment.
- Used by northerners of Confederate soldiers.
- The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- Kitchen appliance used for baking or roasting.
- Any of various small biting flies.
- A father or mother.
- The (prehensile) extremity of the superior limb.
- Formerly a term of respect for important white Europeans in colonial India.
- A city of central China.
- A medicinal drug used to evoke vomiting (especially in cases of drug overdose or poisoning).
- The Mongol people living the the central and eastern parts of Outer Mongolia.
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
- A light touch or stroke.
- A mountain peak in south central Sri Lanka (7,360 feet high).
- The ball-shaped capsule containing the vertebrate eye.
- A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
- Trees or shrubs of the families Ebenaceae or Sapotaceae or Styracaceae or Symplocaceae.
- Inflammation of the urethra of unknown cause.

DOWN

- A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
- Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- (Scottish) A narrow secluded valley (in the mountains).
- American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
- A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- A potassium compound often used in agriculture and industry.
- Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
- A unit of pain intensity.
- Advanced in years.
- The 13th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- (in Gnosticism) A divine power or nature emanating from the Supreme Being and playing various roles in the operation of the universe.
- Large dark brown North American arboreal carnivorous mammal.
- Of a stern or strict bearing or demeanor.
- A form of Japanese poetry.
- Affect with wonder.
- The brightest star in Cygnus.
- A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- Darkened with overcast.
- Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- The battle in 202 BC in which Scipio decisively defeated Hannibal at the end of the second Punic War.
- Horny plate covering and protecting part of the dorsal surface of the digits.
- Remove a bar from (a door, for example).
- Of a pale to moderate grayish violet color n.
- Realistic Norwegian author who wrote plays on social and political themes (1828-1906).
- A cylindrical spike-like inflorescence.
- Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
- An ore of boron consisting of hydrated sodium borate.
- The principles of right and wrong that are accepted by an individual or a social group.
- A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
- Brightness and animation of countenance.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- Lower in esteem.
- Small evergreen shrub of Pacific coast of North America having edible dark purple grape-size berries.
- South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
- (Greek mythology) The goddess of youth and spring.
- A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
- (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
- (computer science) A graphic symbol (usually a simple picture) that denotes a program or a command or a data file or a concept in a graphical user interface.
- Affected manners intended to impress others.
- (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
- A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
- An associate degree in applied science.
- A state in New England.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may be emotionally conflicted today because it's not all that easy to restrain your impulses. You are worried about misplacing your efforts, yet you also enjoy the feeling of inner power. Your concern is sufficient to stop you from wasting your talents by succumbing to your need for immediate gratification. You understand that waiting for the right moment is necessary now to insure you great success. Philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau reminds us, "Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet."



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are all about momentum today, making it tricky to change direction on a moment's notice. If you are taking it easy, you want to continue doing nothing until you feel enough pressure to make you uncomfortable. But if you've been on the move since you jumped out of bed, it will be tough to stop. Once you make your mind up, you are reluctant to switch teams mid-stream. Don't let your fixed ways get the best of you since change is necessary whether you are ready for it or not.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You might experience a minor meltdown today as you temporarily perform like a perfectionist. It's not that you're necessarily sloppy by nature; it's just you usually are happy to let go of something once you are done with it. Nevertheless, you're currently motivated to obsess over every little detail, and you don't want to leave any loose ends untied. Your uncharacteristic tenacity may trigger a power struggle with someone who isn't supportive of your idea of precise execution. If necessary, don't be afraid of digging in your heels to honor your truth.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your feelings are larger than life today, but you still prefer to keep them to yourself. Although people might attempt to manipulate you by pulling on your heartstrings, you possess the strength to hold onto your point of view without budging. However, you could cling to your perspective so adamantly now that others think you're the one trying to control them. Avoid the temptation to engage in an unnecessary battle of wills. Ironically, the situation will take care of itself without any outward fuss on your part if you simply smile and walk away.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You're encountering a strange bout of self-doubt today, but you will find a more positive place to land before you know it. Your feelings and actions seem to be out of kilter with each other now, yet your coworkers might not even notice the difference. Nevertheless, being overly cautious one moment and more exuberant the next can feed unrealistic expectations in those around you. Maintaining a code of transparency prevents unnecessary complications later on.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Lingering problems that re-stimulate past memories have been festering quietly beneath the surface. These could be your feelings or someone else's, but in either case it's a perfect time to face the music and talk it out. An unpleasant encounter or awkward moment might act as the catalyst, but once the emotions are out in the open, there is great potential for resolving the conflict. Take a deep breath and speak from your heart. Visualize a positive outcome and it will be yours.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You feel close to making a breakthrough concerning your spiritual beliefs, but you might have to wait a little bit longer before shouting it from the rooftop. Perhaps you have been dreaming about a new direction in life, but kept your wishes quiet. Now it's time to finalize your plans before putting them into motion. But don't let your best ideas leak out prematurely; the greatest obstacle to your potential success comes from glossing over details and spreading yourself too thin. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You could be so enthusiastic about your future that you lose proper perspective. Unfortunately, it is your inflated confidence that can lead to trouble today. Be willing to question your own assumptions and listen to what people are telling you without putting up protective defenses. It's only when you think you already know the truth and shut people out that you have cause for worry. You have nothing to fear if you keep an open mind and act with a humble heart.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Archers are cosmically blessed with the gift of seeing the world through a wide-angle lens. After all you are known to be the great philosophers and travelers of the zodiac. However, you're more cautious in your thinking today. Paradoxically, narrowing your scope of vision allows you to open your mind wider than before. It's as if carefully fine-tuning your ideas makes them more popular. It seems like everyone wants to jump on your bandwagon, so make sure your motives are clear and honorable. Success is more easily achieved if you are looking out for the good of all.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

There are days for action and days for planning. You may be less productive today, but your analytical abilities are operating at their optimum. What you currently lack in physical stamina is compensated by your practical organizational skills, which are working on overdrive. For now, forget about your shortcomings and focus on what you do best. Establishing an ambitious but sustainable strategy to achieve future success is a highly efficient use of your time.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You are quite philosophical about life now, making this a perfect time to reconsider lingering emotional issues that are weighing on your mind. Your current advantage is your ability to see where your personal needs are not being satisfied without losing objectivity. If a relationship is the source of struggle today, be rational about the reality of the situation so you can make intelligent decisions about what to do next. Don't look too far off into the future. Handle the most immediate issues first before solving the problems of the world.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your current interactions with people are the source of both good news and bad news now. The good news is amazing opportunities are knocking loudly at your door. However, the bad news is you might be so enchanted with what you are already doing that you can't stop to let them in. A chance of a lifetime won't just stand there waiting forever, so jump up and joyfully embrace the future while the planets are smiling in your direction.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

80's Radio Hitmakers

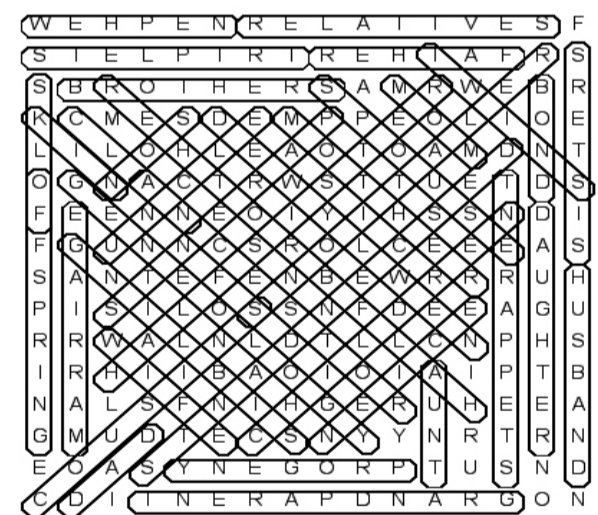
Find and circle all of the 1980's music artists that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a hit song by the Bangles.



- |             |             |                 |            |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| ASIA        | ERASURE     | NENA            | THE FIXX   |
| BANGLES     | EURHYTHMICS | NEW ORDER       | THE MOTELS |
| BERLIN      | FALCO       | PRINCE          | THE POLICE |
| BILLY JOEL  | FOREIGNER   | QUEEN           | TIFFANY    |
| BILLY OCEAN | GENESIS     | QUIET RIOT      | TOM PETTY  |
| BLONDIE     | HEART       | ROXETTE         | TONI BASIL |
| BON JOVI    | INXS        | SCANDAL         | TOTO       |
| CHICAGO     | JOURNEY     | SOFT CELL       | VAN HALEN  |
| DAVID BOWIE | KAJAGOOGOO  | TALK TALK       | WANG CHUNG |
| DEBARGE     | MADNESS     | TEARS FOR FEARS | WHAM!      |
| DURAN DURAN | MADONNA     | THE CARS        |            |

Yesterday's Solution

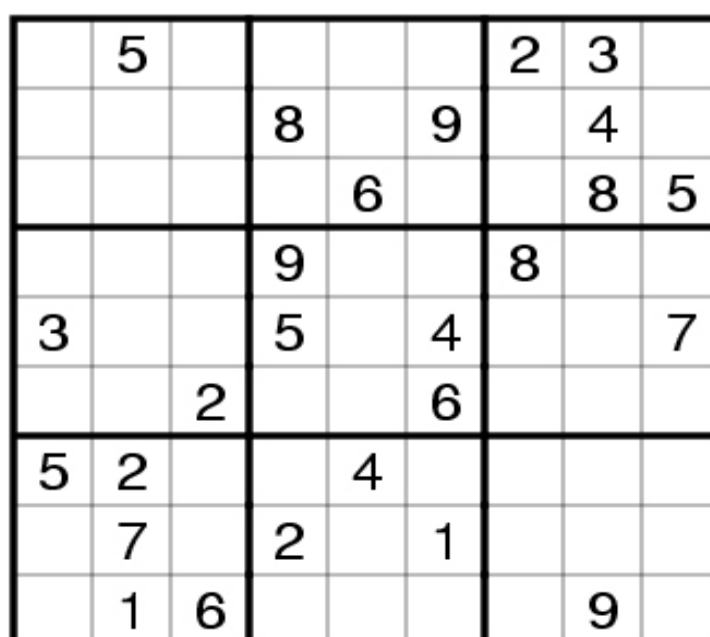
Family Ties



- |             |              |           |            |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| ANCESTOR    | FATHER       | MOTHER    | SISTERS    |
| AUNT        | FOLKS        | NEICE     | SON        |
| BOND        | GENEALOGY    | NEPHEW    | SPOUSE     |
| BROTHERS    | GRANDPARENT  | NEWLYWED  | STEPPARENT |
| CHILDREN    | HALF BROTHER | OFFSPRING | TRIPLETS   |
| CLAN        | HALF SISTER  | PARENTS   | TWINS      |
| COUSINS     | HUSBAND      | PROGENY   | UNCLE      |
| DAD         | KIN          | RELATIONS | WIFE       |
| DAUGHTER    | MARRIAGE     | RELATIVES |            |
| DESCENDANTS | MOM          | SIBLING   |            |

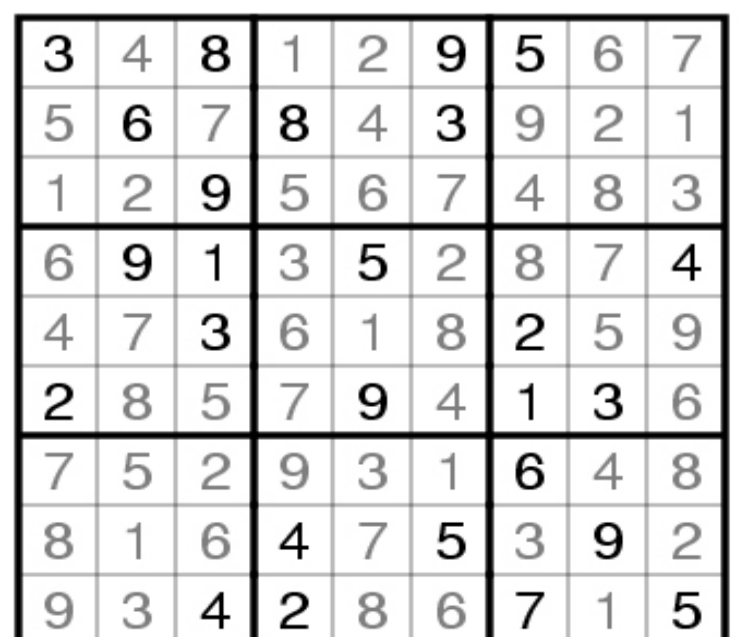
The hidden message is: FAMILY REUNION

Daily SuDoku



medium

Yesterday's Solution



hard

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

### Hospitals

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

### Clinics

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Kaizen center       | 25716707 |
| Rawda               | 22517733 |
| Adaliya             | 22517144 |
| Khalidiya           | 24848075 |
| Kaifan              | 24849807 |
| Shamiya             | 24848913 |
| Shuwaikh            | 24814507 |
| Abdullah Salem      | 22549134 |
| Nuzha               | 22526804 |
| Industrial Shuwaikh | 24814764 |
| Qadisiya            | 22515088 |
| Dasmah              | 22532265 |
| Bneid Al-Gar        | 22531908 |
| Shaab               | 22518752 |
| Qibla               | 22459381 |
| Ayoun Al-Qibla      | 22451082 |
| Mirqab              | 22456536 |
| Sharq               | 22465401 |
| Salmiya             | 25746401 |
| Jabriya             | 25316254 |
| Maidan Hawally      | 25623444 |
| Bayan               | 25388462 |
| Mishref             | 25381200 |
| W Hawally           | 22630786 |
| Sabah               | 24810221 |
| Jahra               | 24770319 |
| New Jahra           | 24575755 |
| West Jahra          | 24772608 |
| South Jahra         | 24775066 |
| North Jahra         | 24775992 |
| North Jleeb         | 24311795 |
| Ardhiya             | 24884079 |
| Firdous             | 24892674 |
| Omariya             | 24719048 |
| N Khaitan           | 24710044 |
| Fintas              | 23900322 |



### PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

| GOVERNORATE | PHARMACY  | ADDRESS  | PHONE  |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| Ahmadi      | Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan   | Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd  | 23915883<br>23715414<br>23726558   |
| Jahra       | Modern Jahra Madina Munawara  | Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92   | 24575518<br>24566622   |
| Capital     | Ahlam Khaldiya Coop   | Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop  | 22436184<br>24833967   |
| Farwaniya   | New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan  | Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11   | 24734000<br>24881201<br>24726638   |
| Hawally     | Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop | Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop | 25726265<br>25647075<br>22625999<br>22564549<br>25340559<br>25326554<br>25721264<br>25380581<br>25628241 |

### INTERNATIONAL CALLS



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

### STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

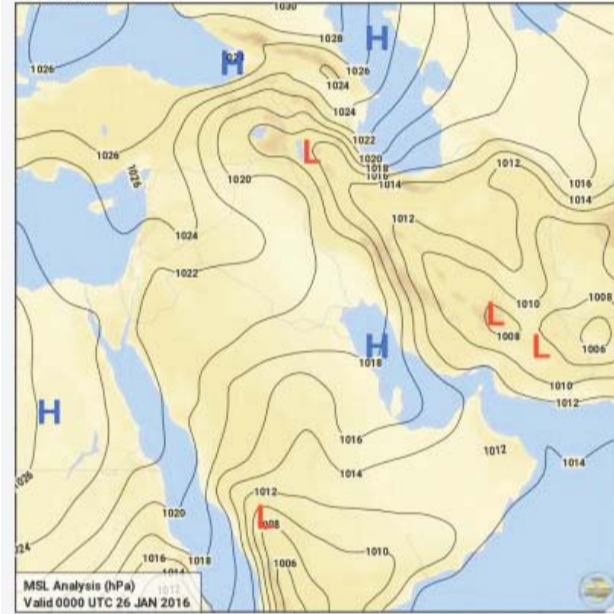
### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued: 26/01/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 18 °C

**By Day** : Sunny with light to moderate north easterly to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear  
**By Night** : Cold and Clouds will increase gradually with variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 35 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain later on

#### SFC. CHART



#### Four-Day Forecast

|                  | Wednesday                           | Thursday                               | Friday                  | Saturday       |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| Expected Weather | Cool+partly cloudy + scattered rain | Cold+clouds to decrease + blowing dust | cold + scattered clouds | cool           |
| Min Temp °C      | 07                                  | 04                                     | 02                      | 02             |
| Max Temp °C      | 16                                  | 12                                     | 12                      | 14             |
| Wind Direction   | north westerly to northerly         | north westerly                         | north westerly          | north westerly |
| Wind Speed km/h  | 15 - 40                             | 20 - 50                                | 15 - 40                 | 15 - 40        |

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

#### Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

#### Kuwait Forecast

| Station        | MIN °C REC | Max °C EXP |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| KUWAIT CITY    | 12         | 18         |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 07         | 18         |
| ABDALY         | 05         | 20         |
| BUBYAN         | 09         | 19         |
| JAHRA          | 09         | 20         |
| FAILAKA ISLAND | 12         | 18         |
| SALMIYAH       | 13         | 18         |
| AHMADI         | 14         | 19         |
| JAL ALIYAH     | 07         | 20         |
| QAROH ISLAND   | 16         | 18         |
| UMM AL-MARADEM | 15         | 18         |
| NUWAISIB       | 10         | 19         |
| WAFRA          | 08         | 20         |
| MANAGISH       | 07         | 20         |
| SALMY          | 06         | 20         |
| MUTRIBA        | 05         | 19         |

#### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Max Temp (°C)                       | 20   |
| Min Temp (°C)                       | 09   |
| Max Rel Hum (%)                     | 68   |
| Min Rel Hum (%)                     | 27   |
| Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction | 39 N |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR             | 0 mm |

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Sunrise | 06:41 |
| Sunset  | 17:21 |

#### Prayer Times

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Fajr    | 05:18 |
| Sunrise | 06:41 |
| Zuhr    | 12:01 |
| Asr     | 15:00 |
| Sunset  | 17:21 |
| Isha    | 18:41 |



### PRIVATE CLINICS

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Ophthalmologists</b>             |                  |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor             | 25622444         |
| Dr. Samy Al-Rabea                   | 25752222         |
| Dr. Masoma Habeeb                   | 25321171         |
| Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy                 | 25739999         |
| Dr. Mohsen Abel                     | 25757700         |
| Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl              | 25732223         |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly              | 25732223         |
| <b>Ear, Nose &amp; Throat (ENT)</b> |                  |
| Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner              | 24555050 Ext 510 |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali                 | 25644660         |
| Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel         | 25646478         |
| Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah               | 25311996         |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory               | 25731988         |
| Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary                | 22620166         |
| Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz                 | 25651426         |
| <b>General Practitioners</b>        |                  |
| Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi               | 24555050 Ext 123 |
| Dr. Yousef Al-Omar                  | 24719312         |
| Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem             | 22636920         |
| Dr. Kathem Maarafi                  | 25730465         |
| Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah           | 25655528         |
| Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi                | 24577781         |
| Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea          | 25333501         |
| <b>Urologists</b>                   |                  |
| Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy              | 22641534         |
| Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul                | 22639955         |
| Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi      | 22616660         |
| Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)        | 25313120         |
| Dr. Leons Joseph                    | 66703427         |

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Plastic Surgeons</b>                   |                    |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf                    | 22547272           |
| Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari                      | 22617700           |
| Dr. Abdel Quttainah                       | 25625030/60        |
| <b>Family Doctor</b>                      |                    |
| Dr Divya Damodar                          | 23729596/23729581  |
| <b>Psychiatrists</b>                      |                    |
| Dr. Esam Al-Ansari                        | 22635047           |
| Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan                     | 22613623/0         |
| <b>Gynaecologists &amp; Obstetricians</b> |                    |
| Dr Adrian arbe                            | 23729596/23729581  |
| Dr. Verginia s.Marin                      | 2572-6666 ext 8321 |
| Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan                   | 22655539           |
| Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami                | 25343406           |
| Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly                       | 25739272           |
| Dr. Salem soso                            | 22618787           |
| <b>General Surgeons</b>                   |                    |
| Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer                    | 22610044           |
| Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher                | 25327148           |
| <b>Internists, Chest &amp; Heart</b>      |                    |
| Dr. Adnan Ebil                            | 22639939           |
| Dr. Mousa Khadada                         | 22666300           |
| Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan                    | 25728004           |
| Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra                       | 25355515           |
| Dr. Mobarak Aldoub                        | 24726446           |
| Dr Nasser Behbehani                       | 25654300/3         |

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Paediatricians</b>              |                 |
| Dr. Khaled Hamadi                  | 25665898        |
| Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed          | 25340300        |
| Dr. Zahra Qabazard                 | 25710444        |
| Dr. Sohail Qamar                   | 22621099        |
| Dr. Snaa Maarouf                   | 25713514        |
| Dr. Pradip Gupare                  | 23713100        |
| Dr. Zacharias Mathew               | 24334282        |
| <b>Dermatology</b>                 |                 |
| Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University | 23845955        |
| <b>Dentists</b>                    |                 |
| Dr Anil Thomas                     | 3729596/3729581 |
| Dr. Shamah Al-Matar                | 22641071/2      |
| Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed              | 22562226        |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer               | 22561444        |
| Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan                | 22619557        |
| Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash         | 22525888        |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan           | 25653755        |
| Dr. Bader Al-Ansari                | 25620111        |
| <b>Neurologists</b>                |                 |
| Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri         | 25633324        |
| Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan              | 25345875        |
| <b>Gastrologists</b>               |                 |
| Dr. Sami Aman                      | 22636464        |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly            | 25322030        |
| Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali           | 22633135        |

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|---|------------------|
| <b>Endocrinologist</b>  |                  |
| Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman  | 25339330         |
| Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari   | 25658888         |
| Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr  | 25329924         |
| <b>Physiotherapists &amp; VD</b>  |                  |
| Dr. Deyaa Shehab  | 25722291         |
| Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees   | 22666288         |
| <b>Rheumatologists:</b>   |                  |
| Dr. Adel Al-Awadi   | 25330060         |
| Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah  | 25722290         |
| <b>Internist, Chest &amp; Heart</b>   |                  |
| DR.Mohammes Akkad   | 24555050 Ext 210 |
| <b>Consultant Cardiologist</b>  |                  |
| Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC   |                  |
| Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital | 25339667         |
| <b>Consultant Cardiologist</b>  |                  |
| Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC  | 2611555-2622555  |
| Inaya German Medical Center   |                  |
| Te: 2575077   |                  |
| Fax: 25723123   |                  |

## Miley Cyrus to star in Woody Allen series for Amazon

Pop star Miley Cyrus will be the latest muse of Woody Allen as the legendary comedian directs his first television series for Amazon. Cyrus, the 23-year-old Disney actress turned singer and master of provocation, said that she will



Miley Cyrus

appear in the yet untitled project that the online retail giant plans to stream later this year. Cyrus posted on Instagram a blue-hued painting of the famously bespectacled Allen, saying that she had kept his picture "next to my bed for a few years."

"I was looking into his eyes when I got the call to be a part of the cast," she wrote, expressing her joy with a string of profani-

ties. She will appear across from 83-year-old Elaine May who starred in Allen's 2000 film "Small Time Crooks," a comedy about theft in the art dealing world. A spokeswoman for Cyrus also confirmed that she would appear in the series. Hollywood publication Deadline first reported that the 80-year-old Allen had decided to cast Cyrus in the initial six-episode run of the series that will be set in the 1960s.

Amazon announced a year ago that it had signed up Allen, the New Yorker who has directed classic films such as "Manhattan" and "Annie Hall," to create his very first television series. Amazon has been seeking to catch up with Netflix, which has won loyal followings through series such as the dark Washington thriller "House of Cards" and the prison comedy "Orange Is the New Black." Amazon has already won awards with "Transparent," a comedy-drama about a family dealing with a transgender father, and "Mozart in the Jungle," about the wild off-stage lives of New York classical musicians.

Cyrus, the daughter of country star Billy Ray Cyrus, rose to fame on the show "Hannah Montana" but has since taken a marked turn toward racier fare. Known for her pan-sexual identity and comfort with nudity, Cyrus returned to the public eye in August by hosting the MTV Video Music Awards and releasing an album with alternative rock band The Flaming Lips. Allen, known for his sharp-tongued wit and fascination with sexual taboos, has throughout his career worked closely with a number of actresses including former partners Diane Keaton and Mia Farrow. —AFP



Spanish opera singer and conductor Placido Domingo (right) poses beside his life-size wax replica at the Wax Museum in Madrid. —AFP

## Placido Domingo to play Macbeth in LA

Placido Domingo will open the Los Angeles Opera's season in the title character of "Macbeth" as the legendary tenor keeps his streak of baritone roles. LA Opera, of which Domingo is the general director, announced yesterday it would open its 2016-17 season on September 17 with Verdi's "Macbeth." Domingo, arguably the world's best known opera singer, last year at the Berlin State Opera played Macbeth for the first time. The 75-year-old Spaniard has in recent years increasingly starred as a baritone and not in the tenor roles for which he became famous, a transition that has reinforced his reputation for versatility even as some critics have been less charitable.

In the upcoming LA Opera season, Domingo will also conduct "The Tales of Hoffmann," starring

German soprano Diana Damrau in her company debut. Season highlights include "Akhmaten" by leading living US composer Philip Glass in a production conducted by Matthew Aucoin, a rising young musician who was recently named to new position of artist-in-residence at LA Opera. The fourth largest US company, LA Opera has emphasized avant-garde works and tie-ins with Hollywood, the hometown industry.

LA Opera maintains a smaller "Off Grand" stage for contemporary and experimental fare. The latest season will feature "The Source," the multimedia opera about former US Army analyst turned intelligence leaker Chelsea Manning that premiered in 2014 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and screenings of the classic 1922 silent horror film "Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror" set to orig-

inal music by Aucoin. The season will also include "Thumbprint," an opera with Western and South Asian musical touches about a Pakistani woman gang-raped to punish her brother. The work premiered in 2014 at New York's Prototype festival of experimental opera.

Christopher Koelsch, president and CEO of LA Opera, said that half of the people who attended "Off Grand" productions never went to the main stage, a significant feat in the quest to reach a broader audience. LA Opera is seeking to break out of "this reflexive, prejudicial sense that opera is only for rich white people," Koelsch told reporters in New York. James Conlon will conduct "Salome," his first Richard Strauss work since becoming LA Opera's music director a decade ago after previously focusing on Wagner's "Ring" cycle. —AFP

## No charges in battery complaint against Chris Brown in Vegas

Authorities in Las Vegas say R&B singer Chris Brown won't be charged with a crime based on a woman's complaint about a New Year's weekend altercation in a casino resort hotel room. Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson said Monday that he met Wednesday with detectives who investigated the Jan 2 complaint, and they decided there wasn't enough evidence to seek misdemeanor battery and theft charges.

Police Officer Laura Meltzer characterized the case as suspended. Police had said the woman



In this file photo, rapper Chris Brown performs at the 2015 Hot 97 Summer Jam at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. —AP

complained that Brown hit her and took her cellphone when she tried to snap his photo during a private party in a room at the Palms Casino Resort. Brown's publicist, Nicole Perna, didn't immediately respond to messages. She had called the woman's account "unequivocally untrue" and a fabrication. Brown, 26, was in town after performing New Year's Eve at Draï's nightclub at The Cromwell Las Vegas. He completed five years of felony probation last year after pleading guilty to felony assault in a February 2009 attack on his then-girlfriend Rihanna in Los Angeles. —AP

## Nate Parker's 'The Birth of a Nation' a powerful achievement

Nate Parker left a successful Hollywood acting career behind to make the movie that mattered most to him. It took seven years for Parker to bring the story of slave rebellion leader Nat Turner to the screen. "The Birth of a Nation" premiered Monday at the Sundance Film Festival. "I've poured everything that I am into making it," the writer/director/actor/producer said following an uproarious standing ovation. "I made this film for one reason, with hope of creating change agents, that people could watch this film and be affected." Turner was a slave who taught himself to read and became a preacher, bringing profits to his owner as he delivered God's word to slaves throughout the state. But those travels showed him such injustice and cruelty that he had to act, and he led a violent rebellion that wiped out 60 slave owners.

"The Birth of a Nation" is a beautiful, painful and powerful film that juxtaposes pastoral settings with inhumane violence. Elliot Davis' cinematography captures the ethereal natural settings of the American south and the heartbreaking brutality of slavery. It introduces Nat Turner as a precocious boy who was deemed a leader by his African elders but who grew up a prisoner of slave owners in Virginia. A kindly white woman recognized his intelligence and introduced him to the Bible, and Turner was a believer. He preached and believed, ultimately deciding that God's word jus-

tified bondage as much as it did freedom, and he preferred the latter.

Parker embodies Turner's compassion and heart, on both sides of the camera. As Turner, his eyes communicate a deep understanding of human nature. As the writer, director and producer of the film, he channels that understanding into a moving work of art. He said he wanted to create "a healing mechanism for America." "We have to look at slavery and the layered system that it was, because then it will be a lot easier to accept the fact that the remnants or legacy of it could be affecting us now," he said. "Without honest confrontation, there is no healing. Slavery was an injury that was inflicted upon people of color in our country, and the more we ignore it, the more those wounds will seep and our children will be dealing with it, and their children will be dealing with it."

The film was difficult to make, Parker said, and not just because of the painful roles for both black and white actors. "Anytime we're dealing with our history, specifically with slavery, I've found it's been desperately sanitized, so there's a resistance to dealing with this material," Parker said. "The original DW Griffiths, the original 'Birth of a Nation,' was the foundation of our industry. We're built on sand in this industry. We just are. And if we don't give it attention, we're going to have these issues, this racist infrastructure that we're going to have to deal with from generation to generation." —AP



Clockwise from top left, actors Jackie Earle Haley, actor, director and producer, Nate Parker, actor Armie Hammer, Gabrielle Union, Aja Naomi King and Penelope Ann Miller pose for a portrait to promote the film, "The Birth of a Nation," at the Toyota Mirai Music Lodge during the Sundance Film Festival. —AP



David Del Rio, from top left, Andrew Call, Jordan Fisher, Kether Donahue, Keke Palmer and Carly Rae Jepsen and Carlos Penavega, from bottom left, Vanessa Hudgens, Aaron Tveit, Julianne Hough, executive producer Marc Platt, and director Thomas Kail participate in a panel for "Grease: Live" at the Fox Winter TCA. —AP

## Broadway and Hollywood mix for hybrid musical 'Grease: Live'

Fox is gearing up to give Broadway a serious dose of the Hollywood treatment. "Grease: Live," goes beyond other made-for-TV live musicals such as "The Sound of Music" and "The Wiz," both of which were huge hits for NBC. This hybrid of the stage and movie musical blends theater with film, with dynamic camera movements capturing the dance and drama on multiple sets housed in two massive soundstages.

"The scale is insane," said TV director Alex Rudzinski. "It's almost half a kilometer from one end of the site to the other." Cast and crew members will rely on golf carts - or fast feet - to get between the stages during commercial breaks. "Grease: Live," which stars Julianne Hough as Sandy and Broadway veteran Aaron Tveit as Danny, has taken over Warner Bros. studios with its many sets and stages.

Here's a look at this ambitious television production by the numbers:

**A- 412:** The number of times "Grease: Live" director Thomas Kail can listen to consecutive replays of the song "Hand Jive." Fresh off the success of his Broadway production "Hamilton" and his

Tony Award for "In the Heights," Kail is bringing his theater talents to the production of "Grease: Live," and he's not daunted by its scope and scale. "The spirit of theater that's captured so many of us for so long is you do what you do to make the show," he said. "Our job is to capture that and see if we can put it through some tubes and send it into people's homes."

**B- 208:** And that's just the number of costumes for the show's 52 extras. Hundreds more outfits were needed for the dozen main cast members, most of whom change outfits at least four times each, said Tony Award-winning costume designer William Ivey Long, who commandeered an entire empty soundstage on the Warner Bros. lot just to house the show's collection of clothing.

Creating costumes for this live TV production is different than working onstage, he said, where outfits have to be built "super-duper, eight-shows-a-week for a year." Because of this show's more cinematic approach to photography, costume details near the face take on new significance.

Long has also been excited to incorporate real vintage pieces into the stars'

wardrobes - items that would be too delicate to hold up to the rigors of theater. Because stars have to do quick changes during commercial breaks, many of the costumes are held together with magnets. Some stars will also be wearing layers of outfits on top of each other for what Long calls "magical transformations that were not in the Broadway musical and were not in the film either."

**C- 45:** The number of camera positions needed to shoot scenes in disparate locations from multiple angles. Using 20 cameras, Rudzinski is doing something almost unprecedented in live TV: taking cameras offline so they can be moved and reset for the various scenes. "We move them over the three-hour broadcast about 30 times," said Rudzinski, who shoots live shows weekly as a director of ABC's "Dancing With the Stars." "That's a huge challenge and obviously kind of nerve-racking on a live show to be losing feed and then coming back up." He has storyboarded the entire show, like film productions generally do, to time camera movements to the beat - or even half-beat - of the music.

**D- 45:** The number of seconds it takes to travel between stages on a golf

cart. But it isn't idle time: Makeup artists, hairstylists and dressers will ride with the stars between scenes to help facilitate quick changes while the carts are in motion. "I have one commercial break to go from good Sandy to bad Sandy," said Hough, confessing that she needs to abandon her tendency to try to do her hair and makeup herself.

**E- Three:** The age musical director Tom Kitt was when he first saw "Grease" in theaters. "I probably saw it between 50 and 100 times when I was a kid," tagging along with his older sisters to the movies, he said. The Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning composer ("Next to Normal") also choreographed a dance routine to "The One That I Want" when he was 5 years old, then produced "Grease" as a senior musical at his New York high school.

"I haven't music-directed it again until now," he said, adding, "obviously, this is a very different production." Cast members, including Carly Rae Jepsen and Vanessa Hudgens, have recorded a soundtrack album for "Grease: Live" set for release after the show airs. Other featured musical performers include pop star Jessie J and Boys II Men. —AP



Models present creations for Christian Dior during the 2016-2017 spring/summer Haute Couture collection fashion presentation in Paris. —AP/AFP photos



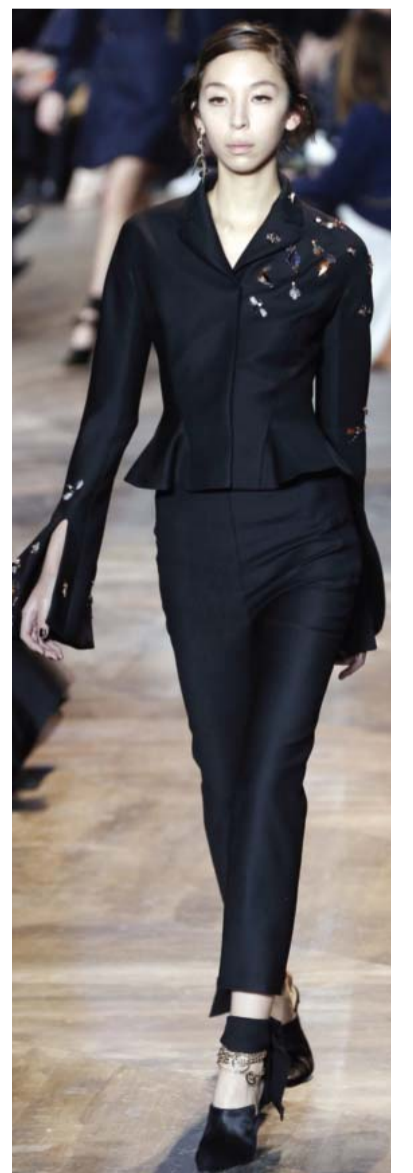
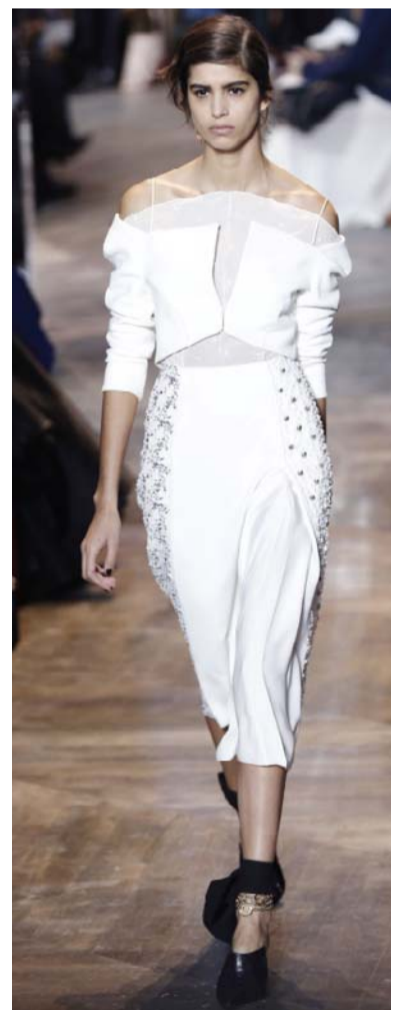
# Thurman, Ora at Paris couture as Dior shows without designer



Spring-summer couture shows blossomed into focus Monday - parading their silken, and often sexy, savoir faire to front rows spilling with celebrities from Uma Thurman, Kate Bosworth to Rita Ora. Here are the highlights of the 2016 collections.

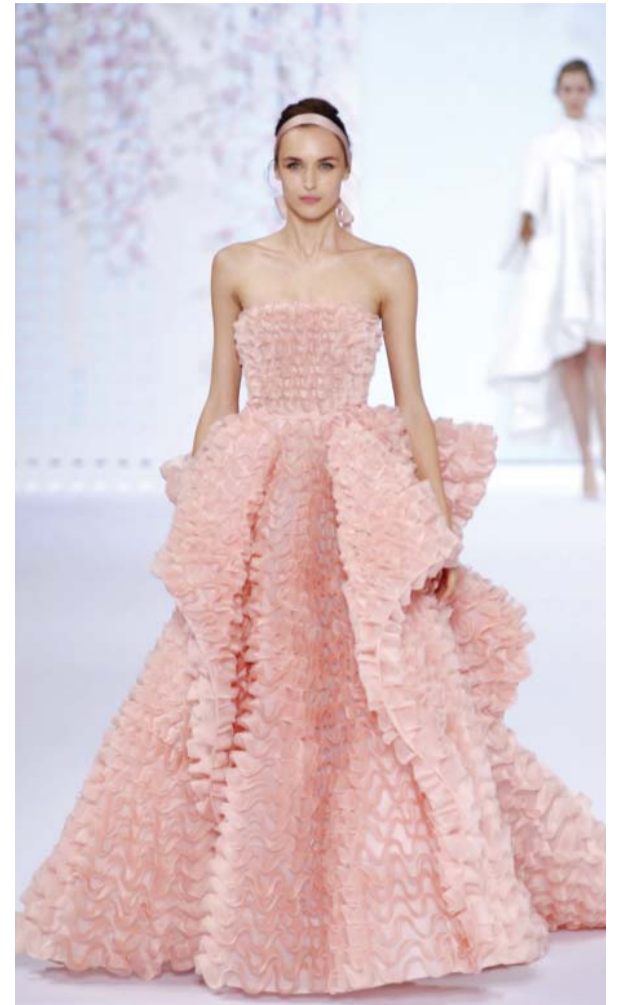
### Dior's studio show

It shocked the fashion world in October when Dior's latest star designer Raf Simons resigned. Many were baffled, since it came just a few months after the release of the highly-publicized documentary, "Dior and I," which explored the Belgian-born designer's beginnings at the iconic Parisian house. Christian Dior's first couture show since Simons left took place on Monday - designed, the house said, by "the studio." A group of unnamed atelier designers came out at the end of the valiant job-well-done to take a deserved bow. It was against the rather symbolic decor of 360-degree, identity-less mirrors. Dior is currently searching for a new designer - their third in 5 years. Simons had replaced John Galliano after he was sacked amid controversy in 2011.





US actress Uma Thurman arrives at Ralph&Russo and Chopar's hosted VIP dinner after Ralph and Russo's Spring-Summer 2016 Haute Couture fashion collection.



# Paris Fashion Week

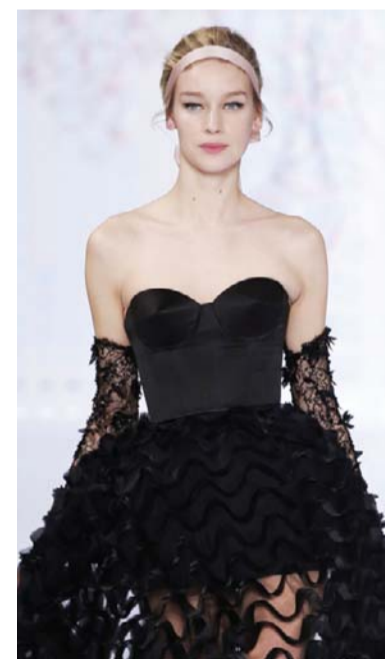
### Dior's Parisienne

US Vogue fashion doyenne Anna Wintour, former French first lady Bernadette Chirac and Chinese actress Liu Yifei were among celebrities on the pared-down front row of the show held in an annex inside the picturesque Rodin Museum gardens. In the clothes, the "spontaneous, relaxed Parisienne of today" mixed with the iconic styles of the 1940s and 1950s. High-cut post-War shoes with occasional retro ankle bows accessorized embroidered silk gowns in freestyle volumes - often with "sensual, bare" accentuated shoulders. A couple of flapper-style lace, chiffon and tulle look also evoked the joyful feeling of the 1920s - the period between the two World Wars.

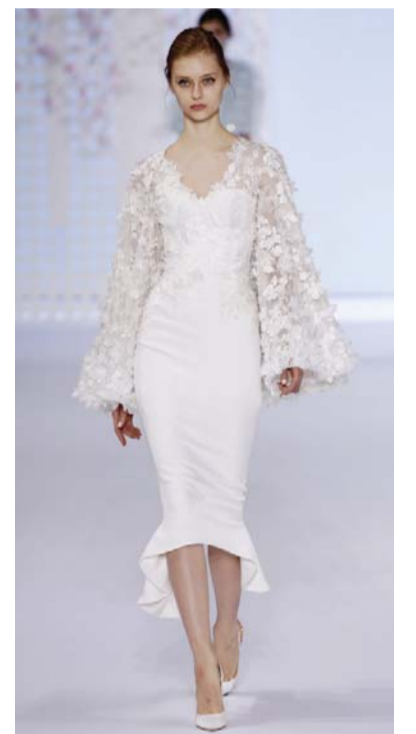
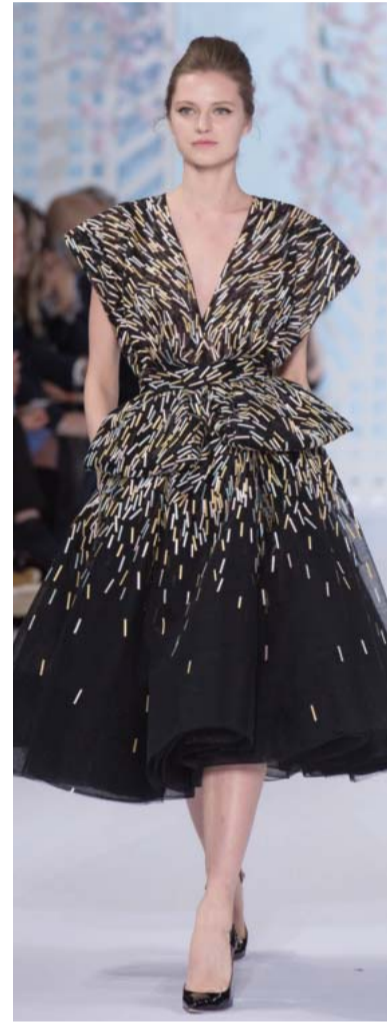
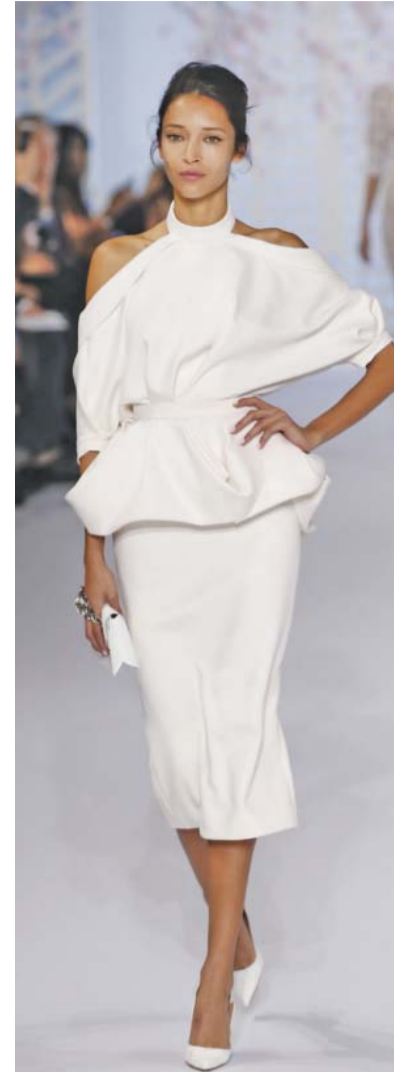
The studio team also set about experimenting with the famed "bar jacket" - it "changes appearance depending on whether it is worn closed or loose," said the program notes. It thus came in myriad forms: in tight, embroidered black wool, loose and white, open to expose the breast sensually, oversized and masculine, or as a beautiful dark navy wool coat. There were also traces of the historical musings of past creative directors - such as Galliano and Simons - set off nicely in one look off-white wool "bar" jacket interpretation with flappy 18th-century cuffs.



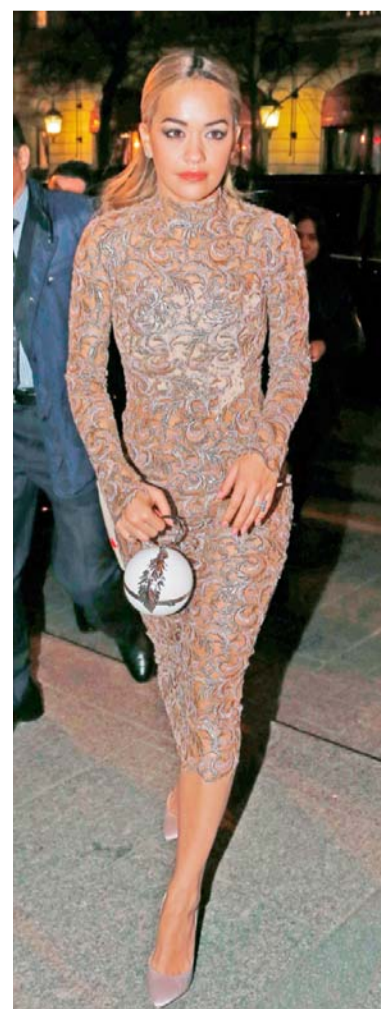
Designers Tamara Ralph, center left, and Michael Russo, center right, acknowledge applause from the audience after their Spring-Summer 2016 Haute Couture fashion collection, presented in Paris.



Models present creations for Ralph & Russo during the 2016 spring/summer Haute Couture collection.



Models present creations for Ralph & Russo during the 2016 spring/summer Haute Couture collection.



British singer Rita Ora arrives at Ralph&Russo and Chopar's hosted VIP dinner after Ralph and Russo's Spring-Summer 2016 Haute Couture fashion collection.



Models present creations for Giambattista Valli during the 2016 spring/summer Haute Couture.



Paris Fashion Week

**Ralph & Russo's star power**  
Proving there are serious contenders in the couture calendar, relative newcomers Tamara Ralph and Michael Russo are drawing the big names to their collections. Pulp Fiction star Thurman set off the cameras naps arriving in a LBD and silk shawl at the Monday afternoon show. The youthful-looking 45-year-old is in the City of Light to attend a private dinner hosted by the couture house and by French jewelry brand Chopard. The house say the event will be "celebrating the finest savoir-faire" of couture - and will include a musical performance by Ora.

**Valli channels 60s and empire lines**  
A strong '60s influence infused Giambattista Valli's vision for spring - as ever, served up in a long line of cocktail dresses and floor length gowns. A silk jacquard cocktail dress in two-tone gray sported a tight retro bodice and A-line mini. Another silk crepe dress with delicate embroidered flowers had voluminous organza ruffles at the sleeve that evoked the silhouette of a bolero jacket, also popular in that era. As the looks progressed, the dresses got more structural - riffing off the Empire Line silhouette, in one instance on a dress in printed lily of the valley with a tight, embroidered paillette bustier. The floor-sweeping draped silk mousseline dresses at the end of the collection also evoked the delicate Romanticism of this early 19th-century style. — AP



Women wearing traditional clothes from the state of Rajasthan ride a float during India's Republic Day parade in New Delhi yesterday. Thousands gathered in New Delhi amid tight security yesterday for India's annual Republic Day parade, a pomp-filled spectacle of military might featuring camels and daredevil stuntwomen, with French President Francois Hollande the chief guest. —AFP

## Scottish islanders don helmets for Viking fire festival



Participants dressed as Vikings line up in front of their longboat.



Participants dressed as Vikings stand in their long boat as they prepare to participate in the annual Up Helly Aa festival in Lerwick, Shetland Islands yesterday. —AFP photos



A Thai policeman stands behind "luuk thep" (child angels) dolls after they were seized in separate raids, at the Economic Crime Suppression Division in Bangkok yesterday. —AFP photos

## Thailand 'angel doll' vendors raided in tax bust

A craze in Thailand for pampering lifelike dolls to bring good fortune doesn't seem to have done the trick for some vendors, who yesterday were raided by police on charges of tax avoidance. Known in Thai as "luuk thep" (child angels), the pricey dolls, which can cost up to \$600, were first popularized by celebrities who claimed dressing up and feeding the dolls had brought them professional success. Doll-mania has since taken off across deeply superstitious Thailand, with adults bringing the figures to Buddhist ceremonies, restaurants and even on planes, where they have reportedly been issued seats and served mid-flight refreshments.

But after Thailand's police chief warned this week the fad was going too far, officers yesterday confiscated more than 100 dolls and arrested three vendors in Bangkok for allegedly failing to pay import taxes. "Mostly they imported [the dolls] from China," Colonel Kriangsak Kanrayawattanajaroen, deputy commander of the Economic Crime Suppression Division, told AFP. He added that the vendors had avoided paying more than 100,000 baht (\$2,750). The bust followed reports this week that Thai Smile airline was offering ticketed seats and meals to the dolls, accommodating owners who did not want to stow them as carry-on luggage.

Thai media published a leaked airline memo that defined the "child angels" as "a doll that is alive". The memo said the dolls should be placed in window seats so as not to disturb other passengers and that seatbelts should be worn during take off and landing, according to

reports. Thai Smile declined to comment when contacted by AFP. A state-owned bus operator, Transport Co., is charging half-priced tickets for the dolls, who will "receive full service, including food and drink," a PR representative told AFP.

But transportation companies aren't the only businesses seizing upon the fad to turn a profit. On Monday Thai police found a doll packed with 200 methamphetamine pills in an airport parking lot in the northern city of Chiang Mai. "It's the first case that traffickers have used a 'child angel' to traffic drugs," said Chiang Mai's deputy commander Colonel Mongkol Samphawaphol. "In the past we've only seized ordinary dolls," he added. Thai anthropologist Visisya Pinthongvijayakul told AFP that while the angel doll trend only started last year, the practice has roots in the ancient occult worship of preserved fetuses thought to contain a child's spirit. More than 90 percent of Thais identify themselves as Buddhist. But the country's Buddhism is known for its syncretism, comfortably blending many animist and Hindu traditions into daily worship.

Visisya said he has seen many shopkeepers and vendors buy the new angel dolls in hope that the talismans will boost sales during currently bleak times for Thailand's stuttering economy and ongoing political instability. "From the perspective of Thais this is a very uncertain time," said Visisya, citing the plunging price of rubber and the ruling military junta's lid on dissent. "I think this is a practice that reflects an unstable and critical moment in Thai society." —AFP

Dressed in Viking warrior outfits and brandishing swords and shields, the men of Britain's remote Shetland Islands were bristling for yesterday's spectacular festival of fire celebrating their Nordic roots. Wearing winged helmets and boasting some impressive beards, around a thousand "Guizers" were marching through the streets of Lerwick as the Up-Helly-Aa festival got under way in the Scottish islands' only town. The event culminates in torchlit parade headed by the Guizer Jarl, the Viking chief, in which an elaborately-crafted wooden longship is set on fire.

The Shetland Islands are the northernmost outpost of the British Isles and are closer to Oslo than London. Around 105 miles (165 kilometers) northeast of the Scottish mainland,

Shetland was invaded by Vikings in the late eighth and early ninth centuries. The archipelago was pledged to Scotland by the king of Norway in 1469 but the Norwegian spirit lives on in street and place names. "Up-Helly-Aa" is a variant of the Scots Uphalliday, denoting Epiphany as the end of the Christmas holiday, according to the New Oxford Dictionary.

Held on the last Tuesday in January, the torchlit parade, longship burning and dressing up in Viking costumes took off in the 1880s. Peter Malcolmson, the 1984 Guizer Jarl who portrayed a character entitled Eirik Bloodaxe Haraldson, said that before the tradition began, celebrations in Lerwick had been a much more rowdy affair. "It's now a huge spectacle and tonight you'll see about 1,000 men with torches lining up in the streets getting ready for the procession," he told BBC radio. "Shetlanders all over the world at the moment will be smelling the paraffin and that's a sense of the anticipation of the event and the pride in it.

"The adrenaline is flowing, the fun is there; it's just a great party." The merry-making goes on until after dawn on Wednesday, when Shetland has a much-needed official public holiday. Guizers have been working at least four nights a week since the end of October to build the galley and make the torches. Participants must have been a Shetland resident for at least five years. The festival is being filmed on 10 cameras and live-streamed on the [www.uphellyaa.com](http://www.uphellyaa.com) website. —AFP



Participants dressed as Vikings process in the street.