

SUBSCRIPTION

# Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2016

RAMADAN 27, 1437 AH

No: 16922

Coast Guard to be equipped with advanced system



UK, France mark 100 years since Battle of Somme



Shootout win sees Portugal into semis

### Ramadan Timings

Emsak:	03:07
Fajer:	03:17
Shrooq:	04:52
Dohr:	11:52
Asr:	15:26
Maghreb:	18:52
Eshaa:	20:23

## ISRAEL MUST STOP BUILDING SETTLEMENTS, SAYS QUARTET

PROSPECTS OF TWO-STATE SOLUTION ERODING: REPORT



Min 35°  
Max 49°

### AMIR DEPLORES BAHRAIN ATTACK

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable to Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, expressing Kuwait's emphatic condemnation and denunciation of the terrorist blast that hit East Eker village, south of Manama, on Thursday. In his cable, His Highness the Amir said this act, which targeted innocent people, contravenes all religions and human values, while reiterating Kuwait's sympathy with the Kingdom of Bahrain, and full support to all measures it is taking in order to preserve its security.

A Bahraini woman died and three children sustained minor injuries when their car was hit by a bomb blast on Thursday that police said was carried out by "terrorists" in southern Bahrain. Shrapnel hit the car the woman was in, the police said, and security forces were investigating the scene of the attack in the village of East Eker, south of Bahrain's capital, Manama, according to an Interior Ministry statement.

HH the Amir also offered heartfelt condolence to the Bahraini King, government, people and families of the blast victims, wishing those injured in the bombing quick recovery and praying to Allah Almighty to protect Bahrain and its people from any harm whatsoever. In addition, two similar condolence cables were sent to the Bahraini King by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. —Agencies

### HAJJ PILGRIMS MUST WEAR E-BRACELETS FOR SAFETY

**RIYADH:** Muslim pilgrims joining this year's Hajj in Saudi Arabia will have to wear an electronic safety bracelet, newspapers reported yesterday, after more than 2,000 died in a stampede last year. The high-tech safety measure will help authorities provide care "and identify people", the Arab News and Saudi Gazette reported.

At least 2,297 pilgrims died during the stampede on September 24 during last year's Hajj, according to data from foreign officials, some of whom expressed concerns about difficulty in identifying the victims. Saudi Arabia issued a death toll of 769.

It was the worst disaster in Hajj history. The bracelets are water resistant, connected to a GPS location system, and store each pilgrim's personal information including address and medical records, the newspapers said. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the interior minister who also chairs the Hajj committee, ordered a probe immediately after the stampede disaster last year but there has been no word on its findings. The tragedy happened as pilgrims made their way in searing temperatures to the Jamarat, the place where they ritually stone the devil in the city of Mina in western Saudi Arabia. — AFP



**RAMALLAH:** Palestinians take cover from a water cannon being fired by Israeli security forces during clashes at the Qalandia checkpoint between Ramallah and Jerusalem yesterday as Israeli authorities banned men under 45 from accessing the Al-Aqsa mosque compound for Friday prayers. — AFP

**UNITED NATIONS:** Israel should stop building settlements, denying Palestinian development and designating land for exclusive Israeli use that Palestinians seek for a future state, the Middle East peace "Quartet" recommended yesterday in an eagerly awaited report.

The report by the Quartet entities sponsoring the stalled peace process - the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations - said the Israeli policy "is steadily eroding the viability of the two-state solution." "This raises legitimate questions about Israel's long-term intentions, which are compounded by the statements of some Israeli ministers that there should never be a Palestinian state," according to the eight-page report.

Amid a spike in violence, the Quartet criticized Palestinian leaders for "not consistently and clearly" condemning terrorist attacks and said illicit arms buildup and militant activities in Gaza - controlled by Islamist group Hamas - must stop.

Meanwhile, two Palestinians and an Israeli were killed in a series of attacks and clashes in the West Bank on Friday, in the latest uptick in the nine-month wave of violence.

Diplomatic sources said the report carries significant political weight as it has the backing of close Israeli ally the United States, which has struggled to revive the peace talks amid tensions between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Barack Obama.

Relations between the rightist Israeli leader and the Democratic president have yet to recover from their feud over last year's US-led nuclear deal with Israeli foe Iran. Netanyahu's office welcomed some aspects of the Quartet report but said Israel took issue with numerous factual and policy assertions. The

report also "perpetuates the myth that Israeli construction in the West Bank is an obstacle to peace," the statement said.

Nabil Abu Rdainah, the spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, expressed disappointment with the Quartet report. "Any report that does not include the full withdrawal to the 1967 borders, including occupied Jerusalem, and does not include a recognition of the illegality of settlement will not lead to real and lasting peace and will lead to more tension and more instability in the region," he said in a statement. UN Middle East envoy Nickolay Mladenov briefed the UN Security Council on Thursday on the report and said it would be up to the council and the international community to use the report to decide the way forward. A senior US State Department official said yesterday: "We are open to having the Security Council welcome the report but that's all at this point. We're not looking for serious, substantive, UN Security Council action on this report."

The Quartet said urgent affirmative steps needed to be taken to "prevent entrenching a one-state reality of perpetual occupation and conflict." The report said Israel had taken for its exclusive use some 70 percent of Area C, which makes up 60 percent of the occupied West Bank and includes the majority of agricultural lands, natural resources and land reserves.

Under the Oslo accords of the mid-1990s, Israel retains full control over Area C, where large tracts have been declared closed military areas. "Israel should implement positive and significant policy shifts, including transferring powers and responsibilities in Area C," the Quartet report said. It said only one permit for Palestinian housing construction in Area C was reportedly approved in 2014, while there did not appear to have been any approved in 2015. —Agencies

## MODERN SLAVERY

By Douglas Silliman, US Ambassador to Kuwait



**M**ore than 20 million people around the world are trapped in human trafficking, also called modern slavery. It is a crime that happens almost everywhere and affects virtually everyone. Yet many still think of human trafficking as an issue affecting only other people, in other countries. The truth is it affects us all. Victims of trafficking

may be living right next door to you, because while most foreign workers come to the United States or Kuwait legally, hoping to find a better life and to support their families, they too often become trafficked.

When an employer demands to retain an employee's passport, when a housekeeper is forced to work long hours without rest or prevented from leaving the residence on his or her day off, she or he can be considered a victim of human trafficking. Victims of human trafficking come from a variety of backgrounds. Their stories often begin with aspirations for a better life and a lack of options to fulfill them at home.

Traffickers exploit this reality. In particular, people seeking employment opportunities - at home or abroad - face the risk of fraudulent and abusive recruitment that can lead to human trafficking. In such cases, they find that they are unable to leave jobs in factories, construction sites, or escape the commercial sex trade, which often flourishes alongside occupations that are subjected to human trafficking. The 2016 Trafficking in Persons Report, released by US Secretary of State Kerry on June 30, highlights these risks and the actions that governments, businesses, consumers, and citizens can take to combat human trafficking. Each of us can make a difference.

I congratulate Kuwait on the progress the government and private sector are making to combat human trafficking. I would specifically like to recognize the Migrant Worker Shelter, the Ministry of Interior's Anti-Human Trafficking Department, the Domestic Worker Agency, and the Public Prosecutors Office for the progress they have made in protecting victims of human trafficking and prosecuting those who seek to profit from the exploitation of workers.

This year marks the first time in nine years that Kuwait has risen in the rankings compiled by the US Department of State using international measures to combat human trafficking. This new ranking indicates that the government is taking important actions in this regard, but that there is room for continued improvement.

All governments - like Kuwait's - must continue to combat human trafficking in all its forms through strong law enforcement efforts and effective victim protection, as well as with policies to prevent trafficking. A government can lead by example. It can set high standards and clear expectations for the private sector, and adopt policies that strengthen protection against modern slavery in supply chains. When governments improve efforts to monitor their own practices, they drive change in the global marketplace.

Likewise, the private sector also has a real opportunity to lead on this issue. Businesses can create anti-trafficking policies and address the trafficking-related risks in their operations, and balance growth with anti-trafficking efforts so that the freedom, well-being, and dignity of workers are not sacrificed for higher profits. Businesses can ensure that their workers are recruited legally and that contracts are clearly understood in the country in which they recruit their labor. In the long run, businesses that take the time to ensure that their workers are aware of their contractual obligations can realize cost savings through reduced labor force turnover and attrition.

Thousands of workers are still coming to Kuwait to make a better life for themselves and their families. Unfortunately, many come under fraudulent or deceptive contracts and are subject to human trafficking. We encourage Kuwait to build on its successes in combating this scourge and to continue to promote the basic human rights that all people deserve.

The US Embassy is prepared to assist in any way we can as the Kuwaiti government strives to legislate and implement labor reforms to uphold human rights and protect those who are most vulnerable.



KUWAIT: Photo shows Kuwait ancient and modern landmarks. — KUNA

## KUWAIT'S MINISTRY AWARDED ESRI SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT GIS AWARD

**WASHINGTON:** The Ministry of Electricity and Water has been offered the Special Achievement in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Award for 2016 by the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) - USA during the ESRI annual conference in San Diego, California. Engineers Bader Humoud Al-Enzi and Hisham Ali Kertsh represented the ministry at the conference late Thursday, and were handed the award by ESRI founder and President Jack Dangermond.

The Special Achievements in GIS Award is an annual prize offered to authorities and organizations with innovative and influential achievements in society using GIS techniques, Al-Enzi said yesterday. They are nominated from 138 countries annually for the award which is granted to about 100 entities from the US and 50 entities from outside the US.

Al-Enzi expressed pride of the award, saying it was well-deserved after the ministry implemented a GIS project inputting all its data in one system for users to see, update or obtain reports.

The ministry dedicates the award to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Previously, Esri offered awards to a host of individual projects by



Engineers Bader Humoud Al-Enzi and Hisham Ali Kertsh seen in this photo. — KUNA

Kuwaiti youth, the last of which went to Eng. Abdulhamid Al-Saffar from the Central Statistical Bureau in 2014. Two awards were

also given to the Public Authority for Civil Information Environment and Public Authority in Kuwait (EPA). — KUNA

## AMIR'S COMMEMORATIVE BOOK FEATURES ON A GCC MAGAZINE

**RIYADH:** A book dedicated to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, entitled, 'Humanitarian Leader', is to be featured prominently on the centennial issue of Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) Al-Massira magazine. The magazine, set to be on newsstands this month, features excerpts from the KUNA-published book, which chronicles the humanitarian journey of His Highness the Amir, as he was honored as a 'Humanitarian Leader' by the United Nations (UN) in September 2014.

Moreover, in the preface of the book, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah writes that, "the UN has honored the people of Kuwait through His Highness the

Amir, for the country's humanitarian values and commitment to philanthropic causes." Meanwhile, the preface of the book also notes that Kuwait was formed on the basis of humanitarian devotion, as the country's efforts have propelled it to the "forefront of the humanitarian world."

The book's chapters focus on Kuwait's aid of conflict-stricken nations such as Syria and Iraq, in addition to the life of His Highness the Amir. Al-Massira magazine is a monthly periodical that covers GCC news and contains reports and articles on issues germane to the GCC. The special book dedicated to His Highness the Amir was published in September 2014 to commemorate the UN's recognition of His Highness the Amir as a "Humanitarian Leader" and Kuwait a "Humanitarian Center." — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah seen during an inspection tour of the Coast Guard center in Umm Al Maradim Island. — KUNA photos

## COAST GUARD TO BE EQUIPPED WITH ADVANCED BOATS, SYSTEM

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said on Thursday that the Coast Guard sector is to be equipped with a highly-advanced system of marine boats and cruisers in the forthcoming months to improve the sector's performance. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled made his remarks fol-

lowing an inspection tour of the sector's center in Umm Al Maradim Island. He was accompanied by MoI's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad and a number of senior security officials, the Ministry's media department said in a statement.

The minister praised the efforts of Coast Guard's officers and personnel to preserve the

safety and security of the country's coasts, pointing out their efficiency in dealing with various security developments. Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary for Marine Borders Affairs Maj-Gen Zuhair Al-Nasrallah made a detailed presentation on the sector's most highlighted services, security system, and future plans in facing smugglers and intruders

into the country's marine borders and islands. Al-Nasrallah also mentioned that the marine borders security sector has seen a significant improvement in recent years, pointing out a number of signed agreements to build advanced boats, some of which are already active and in use.— KUNA

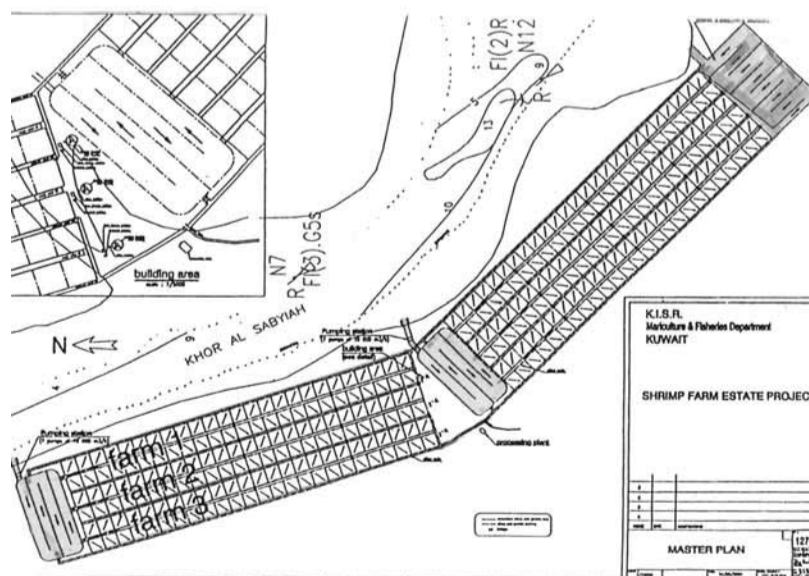
## KUWAIT DONATES \$397 MILLION TO SOCIETIES IN JERUSALEM, JORDAN

**AMMAN:** Kuwait has donated about \$150.6 million to the Amman-based Friends of the Arab Institute in Jerusalem Society and about \$246.2 million for Al-Islah Society (Society for Social Reform) in Jordan. Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij handed over the donations, provided by the popular committee for fundraising to Zaki Al-Ghoul, head of the society in Jerusalem, and Saleh Al-Faqeeh, a member of the Board of Directors of Al-Islah society.

Following handing over donations, the ambassador told KUNA in a statement that Kuwait has been providing such an offering upon the directives of the political leadership to Arabs and all affected nations across the globe. The donation for the society in Jerusalem reflects Kuwait's keenness on supporting the Palestinian people and helping them overcome challenges, he said. He noted that the hand-out provided for Al-Islah society in Jordan is part of Kuwait's support for brothers and sisters, orphans in that Arab country.

Meanwhile, Al-Ghoul expressed gratitude to the State of Kuwait, indicating that the grant helps about 500 students attend their schools. He stressed the importance of such a donation in backing steadfastness of Palestinian people in Jerusalem against the Israeli occupation. Al-Ghoul said that without such an aid, the institute will suspend study, lauding efforts of the ambassador in facilitating the handing over of Kuwait's support to residents of Jerusalem. Al-Faqeeh, meanwhile, said the sum he received will be distributed, as an in-kind assistance for the first six months of this year, to 3000 orphans living in different areas across Jordan. He commended Kuwait's efforts in aiding needy people in Jordan, thanking the ambassador for efforts in supporting the society's activities. — KUNA

## SABBIYAH SHRIMP PROJECT TO ACHIEVE PRODUCTION BOOM



**KUWAIT:** The proposed Sabbiyah shrimp farming project expected to be a leading one is designed to achieve a production boom to meet the rising consumption rates.

Through the project, that still needs to be approved by the Municipal Council, the Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources

(PAAFR) aims to produce not less than 3,000 tons of Kuwaiti shrimp annually, that is double the quantity obtained from the Kuwaiti waters.

The idea of the project envisages building up to 300 earthen ponds on the Sabbiyah coast, where environment factors are favorable for the business, to provide different types of shrimp.

According to the PAAFR feasibility study, the project will bring down shrimp prices, and more importantly, prawn will be available fresh through all through the year, even during the period of shrimp fishing. The project includes a factory to be built on an area of 1,750 square meters for handling and packing shrimp. — KUNA

## NO MAKESHIFT EID PRAYER LOCATIONS: MINISTRY

**KUWAIT:** Eid Al-Fitr prayers will be confined to mosques and no makeshift prayer places will be set up, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs said yesterday. Ahmad Al-Qarawi, the ministry official spokesman, said in a statement that the ministry is coordinating with the Ministry of Interior for organ-

izing the eid prayers, noting that no makeshift prayer locations will be established. He said that such temporary prayer locations would not be set up due to security considerations. The ministry mosques sector used to hold prayers at some public locations and squares. — KUNA

Ramadan Kareem

## THE BATTLE OF THE SOUL

By Hatem Basha

**F**asting represents a unique form of worship that is found in all religions. The Quran says that fasting has been commanded to Muslims as it was commanded to all other faith communities prior to them "O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may guard against evil." (2:183). It is not just a physical practice of endurance and self-restraint, but its real significance lies in the spiritual side.

The human makeup of two different parts that are utterly disparate in nature and needs leaves most people in an inner conflict. We usually side ourselves with one at the expense of the other. Islam teaches us how to balance the needs of the body and the soul. Fasting is an effective way to redress the balance and give the spirit a real opportunity to release itself from the fetters of the bodily desires, lusts and bad habits that draw us down to earth. Fasting is not restricted to refraining from eating and drinking, but also from every kind of selfish desire and wrong-doing.

In essence, the fast encompasses not merely the body, but basically that of the spirit as well. The physical fast is a symbol and outward manifestation of the real, inner fast. Muslims scholars assert that fasting has three levels; the fasting of appetites, the fasting of the senses, the fasting of the mind and the heart. Muslims are encouraged to ascend the ladder in a spiritual path to reach God. The highest level of the fast is the fast of the heart, which is the peak of spirituality. When the heart is fasting, one finds solitude even when in a crowd, feels closeness to Allah as never before.

Fasting is the best expression of true devotion to Allah. Allah Almighty says, "Fasting is for me and I will personally reward it." On the surface, it seems irrational to deprive oneself of bodily basic needs for an indefinite purpose. However, it is an opportunity to nourish the thirsty soul that is crumbling in the pursuit of material desires. Fasting helps us summon our spiritual powers to experience of spiritual enlightenment and communion with Allah. Muslims are asked to reverse the routine and to give supremacy for the spirit over the body. They leave and step away from the desires and demands of the flesh to sustain their spiritual independence and growth.

It is the love and pursuit of material things that often makes us forget Allah and become distanced from Him. Ramadan is an opportunity to reverse this reality. It is done out of true love to get closer to Allah. The purpose of fasting is to make the awareness of God and the relationship between the human self and the divine more acute and more conscious. When satiated by food and drink, an unsightly metal statue is seated where your spirit should be. When fasting, good habits gather like helpful friends. [Rumi, Divan: Ghazal 1739]

Fasting can effectively bring and foster a whole range of concepts and senses for the spirit and the heart. It teaches us observance based on sincere love and devotion, purity of the heart, self-restraint, patience, tolerance, thankfulness for blessings, closeness to Allah, humility and seeking refuge in God only, compassion for the poor, brotherhood, the transcendence of life and the futility of self-desires and greed.

In a nutshell, we realize that we need God more than we need all worldly pleasures and that maintaining a closer connection with Allah brings about unparalleled comfort and happiness. Ramadan is a battlefield to regain the captive spirit and liberate it to rise to higher horizons. Fasting is an act of cleansing for the body, the mind, and the heart. It is such a tremendous upheaval for our complete being, a release from all the negativity that we carry within our flawed lives, and a push towards the spiritual growth we often fail to initiate before Ramadan.

*Courtesy of the TIES Center, whose mission is to empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.*

**Ramadan Quiz 2016**

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**Answer & Win Fabulous Prizes**

Kuwait Times annual Ramadan Competition returns with one YES or NO question published every day throughout the holy month of Ramadan. All thirty coupons with the correct answers must be sent to the newspaper to be eligible for the raffle draw. All coupons must be received by Friday 8th July 2016 at Kuwait Times Office.

2016/7/6 ع-ع

<p><b>Ramadan Quiz</b> Answer &amp; Win</p>	<p><b>Ramadan Quiz</b> Answer &amp; Win</p>
<p>27. The caliph who said "I am in charge of you but I am not the best of you" was...</p> <p><b>Sayyidana Abu Bakr (Radi Allahu Anhu)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES      <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Date: _____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Civil ID.: _____</p> <p>Tel: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>



MANAMA: Kuwait's National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mubarak Al-Khurainj is pictured with other Arab lawmakers after their meeting in Bahrain. - KUNA

## ARAB PARLIAMENT SUPPORTS BAHRAIN SECURITY MEASURES

MANAMA: Kuwait's National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mubarak Al-Khurainj said that the Arab Parliament (AP) has backed Bahrain's legal measures taken to maintain its stability and security. Al-Khurainj, also a member of AP, denounced in a press statement late Thursday internal and external remarks and threats seeking to undermine security and stability in Bahrain, "mainly Iran's irresponsible statements which do not reflect good neighborliness and trust".

He and a delegation of Arab Parliament headed by Ahmad Al-Jarwan met Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, as part of a visit to the Kingdom. During the meeting, Al-Khurainj said he conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to King Hamad. He stressed that Kuwait is standing side by side with Bahrain against external threats and provocations.

Meanwhile Al-Jarwan lauded, in a press statement on behalf of the Arab people, "distinguished" efforts exerted by Bahrain aiming to confront Iranian interference in the Kingdom's internal affairs and attempts aiming to destabilize Bahrain and the Arab world. The delegation's visit aims to provide support for Bahrain's steps taken to protect its territories, he said. The delegation also met Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa who commended the Arab Parliament's role in serving Arab issues and interests at regional and international arenas. — KUNA

# CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief,  
management and staff convey their  
deepest condolences to

## B.K. Khaled

on the sad demise of his

## Mother

*May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on her*

### Crime

Report

#### KUWAITI POSES AS POLICE

**KUWAIT:** Farwaniya police put an end to the activities of a citizen who posed as a detective as he carries out several robberies, using a vest and a baton. Captagon tablets were also found in his possession. The arrest was made during a routine patrol in Jleeb and Abbasiya area. Patrol officers saw a person wearing a vest and carrying the baton, but when the policemen approached him he ran away on foot. They chased and caught him after he resisted and attempted to attack the officers. A security source said the 22-year-old Kuwaiti confessed to carrying out tens of robberies. He was sent to concerned authorities.

#### Bloody fight

Ahmadi police ended a bloody fight between four citizens in Sabahiya area. Two of those involved in the fight were rushed to Adan hospital for treatment after they sustained some injuries, while the other two were taken to the police station. Legal action is being taken against the four. In another development, a citizen and his wife beat his sister in the family house in Adan area. The victim lodged a complaint against the couple, and submitted a medical report.

#### 'Under the influence'

Jahra police have arrested a citizen and a Saudi national who were found dancing in the car under the influence of drugs. The suspects had 44 Captagon tablets with them. Both have been sent to Drugs Control General Department (DCGD). Meanwhile, a citizen fell into a deep sleep inside his car after taking drugs in a Bayan cooperative. Police woke him up and found drugs and hashish in his car. Police had earlier received a call from a citizen saying that a person is unconscious inside his car. Officers rushed to the scene along with an ambulance. When the man woke up, he felt so sleepy and dozed off again.

#### Drug suspects nabbed

A citizen and a young lady were arrested by Hawally police while under the influence. The suspects had drugs, hashish and pills with them. A security source said the arrest was made when patrolmen suspected the car and stopped it. They found out the driver and his companion were behaving abnormal, so they searched them and found hashish and 15 illicit tablets. Both were arrested and sent to DCGD. — Al Rai



## ZAIN PROVIDES PRAYER ESSENTIALS AT JABER AL ALI MOSQUE

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, shared the spiritual blessings of the Last 10 Days of the Holy Month of Ramadan by providing prayer essentials and facilitating transportation at Jaber Al Ali Mosque as part of its extensive Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility program during the Holy Month. This annual initiative is one of many charitable and humanitarian activities Zain conducts annually to foster an even more spiritual environment during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The company was keen to provide comfort to worshippers performing their Qiyam prayers at Jaber Al Ali Mosque in Shuhada Area.

Zain's initiative included the distribution of prayer essentials, mainly prayer mats, as well as facilitating transportation by providing golf carts to and from the entrance of the mosque to provide worshippers with more comfortable circum-

stances during the hot weather conditions. Ramadan presented a special occasion for Zain to communicate and interact with the Kuwaiti community through its extensive CSSR campaign.

Zain's Ramadan contributions included the distribution of essential food supplies (Machla boxes) to multiple charitable organizations based in Kuwait, the Iftar Halls initiative which provided around 40,000 Iftar meals during the holy month through two main halls, visiting children in hospitals, visiting social care centers, as well as organizing a special event for Al Amal children with cancer. Zain's social and CSSR campaign during the Holy Month of Ramadan includes an extensive array of initiatives and programs that will focus on helping less fortunate people to enjoy Ramadan happily, as well as celebrating the true spirit the Holy month brings.

## KFH'S 'FEEDING A FASTING PERSON'

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continued distributing iftar meals to fasting people as part of its 'Feeding a Fasting Person' campaign and commitment towards assuming the social responsibility. The campaign comes as part of KFH's Ramadan program that encompasses a plethora of humanitarian and social events and activities. KFH tours several crowded places to offer breakfast meals for those fasting. The distribution covers industrial areas, gathering places and Nayef Palace in addition to mosques and crowded areas. KFH's efforts in Ramadan reinforce its key role in achieving the social responsibility, especially that such campaigns contribute in the efforts of easing the suffering of low-income segments.

### Kuwait Finance House

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services,

not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service. KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.


KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world. KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.



## LEXUS Recall



RX & ES 2016

PRODUCT	MODEL NAME MODEL YEAR	FRAME NUMBERS RANGE	
		FROM	TO
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NUMBER OF UNITS: 688			
RECALL REASON	Inspection of Brake Actuator, check the serial number and to correct if affected.		
REMEDY	Distributor will contact all the owners to visit for corrections.		
CONTACT	 Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L. <b>Hotline: 1830030</b> <a href="http://www.lexus.com.kw">www.lexus.com.kw</a> Please book an appointment to serve you better		

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# International

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2016

**UK, France mark 100 years since Battle of the Somme**

9

**Austria presidential election must be re-run, court rules**

10

**Philippines' president urges communists to kill criminals**

12



**TEHRAN:** A statue depicting US' Statue of Liberty decorated with a Star of David on its head is set ablaze by Iranian protestors during a parade marking Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Day in Tehran yesterday. — AFP

## WEST ACCUSED OF EXPLOITING SUNNI-SHIITE RIFT

### IRAN ANTI-ISRAEL PROTESTS HIGHLIGHT REGIONAL CONFLICTS

**ANKARA:** Iran's President Hassan Rouhani accused Western powers of trying to exploit differences between the world's Sunni and Shiite Muslims to divert attention from the Israel-Palestinian conflict, state television reported yesterday. Rouhani's comments came as tens of thousands of Iranians joined anti-Israel rallies across the country to express support for the Palestinians. They chanted "Death to Israel" and "Death to America" and burned the Israeli flag.

"The global arrogance (the United States and its allies) wants to create discord among Muslims ... Unity is the only way to restore stability in the region," Rouhani said. "We stand with the dispossessed Palestinian nation." Opposition to Israel, which Tehran refuses to recognize, has been a cornerstone of Iranian policy since its 1979 Islamic revo-

lution. Shiite Muslim Iran backs Palestinian and Lebanese militant groups who oppose peace with Israel. "The Zionist regime (Israel) is a regional base for America and the global arrogance ... Disunity and discord among Muslim and terrorist groups in the region ... have diverted us from the important issue of Palestine," Rouhani said.

Tens of thousands joined the annual pro-Palestinian rally in Tehran yesterday, where the usual threats against Israel combined with newer concerns about a region mired in bitter disputes and war. Israel and its perceived supporters in the United States and Britain were still the main bogeymen of the Quds (Jerusalem) Day protests, which saw huge crowds rally across Iranian towns and in allied countries.

Shiite-led Iran has repeatedly called on its Sunni Muslim rival Saudi Arabia to help improve their

strained bilateral relations and work for stability in the Middle East. Arch-rivals for regional hegemony, the two oil producers are on opposite sides in proxy battles in the region, where they back competing factions in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and Bahrain. Ties have worsened since Riyadh's execution in January of prominent Shiite cleric Nimr Al-Nimr prompted attacks on the Saudi embassy in Tehran. Saudi Arabia subsequently cut all ties with Iran. Riyadh is worried that a landmark nuclear deal reached between Iran, the United States and five other major powers in 2015 will help Tehran gain the upper hand in their regional standoff.

#### Missile defense system

Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) said in March that "the occupied Palestinian territories are

within the range of most of the Islamic Republic's missiles", Iran's state television Press TV reported. A senior IRGC commander said Iran's new Russian-made S-300 missile defense system would be operational by March. "Its divisions are being delivered to Iran and the system will be operational by the end of this Iranian year," the semi-official Tasnim quoted Amir Farzad Esmaili as saying.

Russia delivered the first part of the S-300 missile defense system to Iran in April, one of the most advanced systems of its kind that can engage multiple aircraft and ballistic missiles around 150 km (90 miles) away. "Hezbollah has 100,000 missiles that are ready to hit Israel to liberate the occupied Palestinian territories if the Zionist regime repeats its past mistakes," Tasnim quoted IRGC deputy head Hossein Salami as saying. — Agencies

## POLICE RAIDS AS TENSIONS MOUNT IN ITALY'S CHINATOWN

**ROME:** Italian police said yesterday they had raided nine premises in the country's biggest Chinatown as part of an investigation into a gang suspected of organizing vigilante-style attacks on North Africans. The raids were carried out in the Tuscan town of Prato, home to one of the biggest Chinese communities in Europe and a booming textile industry notorious for sweatshop exploitation.

The individuals being investigated are all linked to a Chinese cultural association called "The City of the White Stag". Yesterday's raids were carried out under warrants issued for criminal association and commissioning racially-motivated violence.

A police statement said the head of the White Stag group had organized vigilante-style patrols in Prato which had led to attacks on Arab immigrants with no criminal connections. The raids followed clashes between police and some 300 Chinese on Wednesday evening after a health and safety inspection

of a Chinese-owned textile factory in Sesto Fiorentino, a suburb of Florence close to Prato. The mini-riot was sparked after an altercation between officers and an elderly Chinese man who was stopped leaving the factory with a baby in his arms, according to local reports. Four policemen and three workers were injured in the scuffles and police made two arrests.

Reports said protesters had shouted: "All you know how to do is to hand out fines." The clashes were raised at yesterday's Foreign Ministry press briefing in Beijing. Spokesman Hong Lei said Chinese diplomats had made representations to the Italian authorities, "asking them to enforce the law, carry out just investigations, and safeguard the security and legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens in Italy." Hong said China would "continue to follow this incident and offer necessary assistance to Chinese citizens there within our remit. "Meanwhile, we ask Chinese citizens in

Italy to safeguard their own rights and interests in a reasonable way."

### 'Very closed off'

The latest incidents underline long-standing tensions between the Italian authorities and the country's Chinese community, which has prospered economically but is regularly accused of showing no interest in integration and of sending millions in untaxed profits back to China. In the Florence area, authorities have long battled the related problems of sweatshop exploitation and clandestine immigration.

But local officials say efforts to better regulate the textiles sector have born fruit since a 2013 fire in a garment factory left seven people dead. It emerged afterwards that the workers had been living in the factory and were unable to escape because the windows were barred. There are more than 270,000 Chinese living in Italy, of whom over a fifth

own their own businesses, and the community contributes some six billion euros to the Italian economy, according to the Leone Moressa foundation. Prato is officially home to some 16,000 Chinese nationals out of a total population of 191,000. But local sources say the real figure could be closer to 50,000.

Liu Xiaodong, the acclaimed Chinese contemporary artist, spent time in the town earlier this year and included several paintings of its Chinese residents in his recent "Migrations" exhibition in Florence.

In an interview with AFP, Liu said his contact with the Prato Chinese had left him surprised by the slow pace of their adaptation to Italian life.

"They have been there mostly for at least a couple of generations and still they are very closed off," the artist said. "They have their own customs and traditions and are still very separate from the local population. This model of migration is also problematic." - AFP



**NAIROBI:** A Kenyan Muslim child watch as his brother and father bow down in prayers during the last Friday in the holy month of Ramadan, in Nairobi. — AP

## MILITANTS KILL 6 IN NORTH KENYA

**NAIROBI:** Suspected Al-Shabab gunmen killed at least six people when they shot at two buses traveling in Mandera County in northern Kenya, a Kenyan official said yesterday. The attack comes a day after the US government issued a travel warning saying that "terrorist attacks involving shootings, grenades, or other explosive devices have occurred, killing and injuring many." The statement advises US citizens to avoid going to Kenya's border with Somalia including Mandera, Wajir and Garissa counties, the coastal counties of Tana River and Lamu and Nairobi's Eastleigh neighborhood. The warning also advised US citizens to avoid visiting the coastal city of Mombasa's Old Town at night. Several people were wounded in yesterday's attack as the buses headed toward Mandera town at 10 am, North Eastern Regional Security Coordinator Mohammed Saleh said. The buses were carrying nearly 90 passengers from the capital, Nairobi. Last week five police officers were killed in the same area in an attack blamed on the Somalia-based Al-Shabab extremist group. Al-Shabab has vowed retribution on Kenya for sending troops to Somalia since 2011 to fight the militants who are waging an insurgency against Somalia's weak western-backed government.

Kenyan security forces have managed to stop most of Al-Shabab's attacks in major cities in Kenya that have killed hundreds. Kenya's police force, though, has been heavily criticized for human rights abuses including torture, extrajudicial executions and disappearances of suspects. However Mandera County, which borders Somalia, remains a volatile area. Al-Shabab militants hijacked a bus in Mandera on November 22, 2014, and killed 28 non-Muslims on board. In December 2014 they killed 36 quarry workers in Mandera town.

### Bodies found

In another development, three police officers have been arrested over the disappearance of three men, including a human rights activist with the US-based International Justice Mission, Kenya's police chief said yesterday, while bodies thought to be those of the missing men were pulled from a river. The International Justice Mission confirmed that the two bodies found were of staff lawyer Willie Kimani and taxi driver Joseph Muiruri. The body of activist Josephat Mwenda, whom Kimani was representing, is still missing, the mission said in a statement. — Agencies

## TUNISIA PRISONERS TELL OF LIFE WITH IS IN LIBYA

### FOCUS OF ACTIVITY - PLOTTING ATTACKS IN TUNISIA

**TRIPOLI:** When a US air strike hit Sabratha in western Libya on Feb 19, it reduced a building on the southern fringes of the city to rubble, killing dozens of militants and exposing a network of Islamic State cells operating just near the Tunisian border. It also upended the lives of three young Tunisian women who were married to militants killed in the strike or its aftermath, and are now being held with their children in a Tripoli prison. The women's accounts, given in a rare interview, shed light on how Islamic State was able to operate largely undisturbed in Sabratha as the cell's mainly Tunisian members plotted attacks back in their home country.

It is also an illustration of how the militant group may continue to find space amid Libya's turmoil even as it risks losing its stronghold of Sirte, another Libyan coastal city further to the east. "We lived normally in the city, the neighbors knew us. We even went to the market and to the beauty salon," said Rahma Al-Shekhawi, the 17-year-old wife of Nouredine Chouchane, a senior commander who officials say was killed in the February strike. Some militants stayed in Sabratha as they prepared to move on to Sirte or to Syria, but most were planning operations in Tunisia, she said. "They were buying weapons under the eyes of our neighbors."

Local officials in Sabratha have long denied or played down Islamic State's presence in the city and it was not possible to confirm those statements. But US and Tunisian officials say Chouchane played an important role in preparing two major attacks on tourists last year, first at a museum in Tunis and then on a beach in the resort city of Sousse, after which he became a wanted figure. But in Sabratha "the authorities never came looking for us even though everyone knew where we lived," she said. "It only changed after the strike."

### Loose structure

Islamic State began expanding into Libya in late 2014, as fighters from the Libyan-dominated Al-Battar battalion returned to the eastern city of Derna. Over the following year, the group joined a military campaign in Benghazi, took full control of Sirte and carried out attacks in Tripoli, partly by merging with or recruiting local militants from the al



**SIRTE:** Fighters from the pro-government forces loyal to Libya's Government of National Unity (GNU) run holding ammunition and a machine gun as they target the Islamic State (IS) group in Sirte. — AFP

Qaeda-linked group Ansar Al Sharia. Yet Islamic State failed to make the kind of rapid advances it achieved in the Middle East, struggling to raise revenue or win broad support in Libya's fractured society.

Membership tilted increasingly towards foreign fighters, with Tunisians the most numerous, residents and officials say. In Sirte, the group set up a proto-state that followed the model established in Iraq and Syria, taxing residents, enforcing strict rules over dress and education and carrying out regular public punishments including executions. It has since lost parts of the city to pro-government forces. But in Sabratha, where Tunisians were especially dominant, there was a looser structure, the prisoners said. "There was no leader in Sabratha, everyone did their own thing," said Rahma Al-Shekhawi, though she said the main focus was on expanding into Tunisia.

Rahma's sister Ghofran, 18, also married to an Islamic State member, said militants in Sabratha were divided into cells that were ready to defy the group's hierarchical structures. "Each group had an emir who was working on his own strategy some were making passports for Syria, some were working on Tunisia and others were working on Libya,"

she said. "They always asked for instructions from the emir in Syria, who told them to obey the emir in Sirte, but they refused and they took decisions by themselves."

### Clashes

Only after February's air strike did local Libyan brigades, known as "thumar" (revolutionaries) because of their role in the 2011 uprising that toppled veteran leader Muammar Gaddafi, take on the Islamic State militants in their midst. With planes circling over the city, residents began searching for militants partly because they feared further strikes, said Wahida Bin Mukhtar al-Rabhi, the third Tunisian prisoner.

Rabhi and her 2-year-old son, and Ghofran with her 5-month-old daughter, fled south towards the desert with their husbands. Rabhi said they went without food for a day as they tried to arrange help to get to the nearby town of Zawiya. "The clashes started, and my son Bara was hit by bullets in his stomach and back. At that point my husband started shouting, 'there are women and children with us', but the thumar didn't want to stop because they knew we were Islamic State and we might blow ourselves up." — Reuters



## RUSSIAN, TURKISH FMS HOLD 'FIRST' MEETING

**MOSCOW:** Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu yesterday for the first time since Moscow and Ankara mended ties shattered last year by the downing of a Russian jet. Lavrov said both sides wanted to "set the right tone for the normalization of relations" at the meeting on the sidelines of a regional economic cooperation conference in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. "We can talk with Russia on every issue, positive or negative, because the dialogue that had been cut has restarted and our relations have begun returning to old days," Cavusoglu said after the meeting, in comments aired on Turkish television.

The encounter comes after Moscow on Thursday ended a ban on the sale of package tours to Turkey in the first step to ending broader sanctions slapped on Ankara after it shot down a Russian fighter jet on the Turkish-Syria border in November. The diplomatic breakthrough was made on Wednesday in the first phone call since the incident between presidents Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdogan after the Turkish strongman sent a letter that Moscow said contained an apology. Cavusoglu said Erdogan could fly to Sochi in August for a face-to-face meeting with Putin.

'The most difficult issues'

The jet downing slammed the brakes on burgeoning relations between the two nations and sparked a bitter war of words between the two leaders. Turkey argued that the Russian plane strayed into its airspace and ignored repeated warnings, but Russia insisted it did not cross the border and accused Turkey of a "planned provocation".

The two sides still remain on opposing sides in the Syrian conflict, with Ankara backing rebels fighting to topple President Bashar Al-Assad who has the backing of Moscow. Lavrov said after the meeting that they had agreed to restart a "working group on fighting terrorism" and that contacts between the armed forces from the two sides could improve. "I think that contacts will develop along other channels, including between the militaries of the two countries, taking into account the activities of our air force."

He said the two sides could discuss "even the most difficult issues", including the "the task of not allowing Turkish territory to support terrorist organizations in Syria". During the diplomatic spat Putin accused Erdogan of profiting from the illegal oil trade with the Islamic State group in Syria. The meeting in Sochi came after at least 44 people were killed in a triple suicide bombing at Istanbul's international airport on Tuesday, with the government pointing the finger of blame at IS jihadists. The crisis in relations with Moscow had dealt a blow to Turkish tourism, with the number of Russian tourists drastically declining in holiday resorts along the Mediterranean coast. — AFP

## ISTANBUL AIRPORT BOMBERS 'PLANNED HOSTAGE-TAKING'

**ISTANBUL:** The suicide attackers who launched the deadly Istanbul airport assault were planning to take dozens of passengers hostage, Turkish media reported yesterday, as CCTV of the bombers' faces emerged. Turkish officials have pointed the finger of blame at the Islamic State jihadist group for Tuesday night's gun and bomb spree at Ataturk airport, which left 44 people dead including 19 foreigners. The private NTV network reported that Istanbul police had detained 11 suspected IS militants over the attack, in addition to 13 rounded up on Thursday and another nine in the western port city of Izmir.

Officials say the men behind the latest in a series of deadly attacks to hit Turkey were a Russian, an Uzbek and a Kyrgyz national. Turkish media identified the mastermind of the airport attack as Akhmet Chatayev, a Chechen, saying he had led an IS cell in Istanbul and found accommodation for the bombers. Chatayev allegedly organized two deadly bombings this year in the heart of the city's Sultanahmet tourist district and the busy Istiklal shopping street, the Hurriyet newspaper said.

The pro-government Sabah newspaper reported that the attackers scouted the scene and planned to take dozens of passengers hostage inside before carrying out a massacre. But they began the assault early after attracting suspicion, Sabah said. CCTV images released by police show the three alleged attackers arriving, wearing dark coats over their suicide vests-clothing that was much too heavy for a hot summer night. — AFP



**THIEPVAL:** France's President Francois Hollande (center left) speaks with Britain's Prince William (center right) his wife Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge (right) and Prince Harry (left) as they arrive in Thiepval, northern France yesterday to attend the Somme battle's centenary commemorations. — AFP

# UK, FRANCE MARK 100 YEARS SINCE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

## LEADERS PAY TRIBUTE TO A GENERATION LOST

**THIEPVAL:** Britain and France yesterday marked 100 years since their troops fought and died side by side in the Battle of the Somme, one of the defining offensives of World War I. Britain's royal family, Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Francois Hollande took part in the official commemoration at the Thiepval Memorial in northern France in remembrance of around one million who were left dead, injured or missing in the 141-day battle.

Drenched in military pomp and ceremony, the commemoration comes just a week after Britain voted to leave the EU. Hollande highlighted the friendship that united the countries' troops during the battle. "I want to recall that it is the European idea which allowed us to overcome divisions and rivalries between states, and which has brought us peace for the past 70 years," Hollande said in a statement before the ceremony.

Under grey skies, military bands played to some 10,000 guests at the memorial, after the screening of the 1916 film "The Battle of the Somme" with its devastating images of troops going over the top of trenches to their death. The day began with the blast of whistles on a former battlefield and in Parliament Square in London at 7:30 am sharp to mark the start of the offensive. The previous night Queen Elizabeth attended a night-long vigil in Westminster Abbey while her grandson Prince William was in France along with his wife Kate and brother Harry for a vigil at Thiepval.

### 'The saddest day'

William paid tribute to a generation lost at the Battle of the Somme-with 20,000 soldiers dying on the first day alone in the deadliest day in British military history. "We lost the flower of a generation, and in the years to come it sometimes seemed that with them a sense of vital optimism had disappeared forever from British life," said William.

"It was in many ways the saddest day in the long story of our nation." The Battle of the Somme, involving troops from across what was then the British Empire, moved the frontline only a few miles. "We acknowledge the failures of European

governments, including our own, to prevent the catastrophe of world war," said Prince William. At yesterday's ceremony narrators such as actor Charles Dance—who played Tywin Lannister in Game of Thrones—and actress Joely Richardson read out letters and memories of the war and a choir sang the patriotic song "Keep the Home Fires Burning."

### 'A place of ruin and death'

The attritional battle became a defining event in the war, symbolizing the horrors of trench warfare and the futility of the conflict. It was also the first battle in which tanks were used. The Battle of the Somme was a tragedy not only for British, French and German troops, but also Commonwealth nations whose soldiers fought for Britain. Guests from South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, India, Pakistan, Canada and Ireland also attended the event.

Hollande read out an extract of George Duhamel's "Civilisation", written in 1918, which described the fighting and its aftermath. "Morning broke. To those of you who have witnessed the dawn in wartime fields, after nights spent in combat or consumed in tireless and bloody work as ambulance personnel, you will have known one of the ugliest and saddest faces the world could ever offer," read Hollande. Cameron recounted a brief unofficial truce on the frontline when the Germans laid down their weapons while a British infantryman went to rescue a wounded comrade.

For his part Prince Charles narrated an account of the devastated battlefield from the writer John Masefield. "There is nothing white, nor alive, nor clean, in all its extent; it is a place of ruin and death, blown and blasted out of any likeness to any work of man, and so smashed that there is no shelter on it," he said. "All wars end; even this war will someday end, and the ruins will be rebuilt and the field full of death will grow food, and all this frontier of trouble will be forgotten." A century on, the eerily calm, bucolic Somme farmlands belie the slaughter wrought there, and are now the haunt of tourists visiting some 400 war cemeteries across the region, and the overgrown warrens of trenches. — AFP

## LAGOS SHUTS CHURCHES, MOSQUES OVER NOISE

**LAGOS:** Authorities in Nigeria's commercial hub of Lagos have shut down dozens of churches, mosques and hotels in a bid to cut noise pollution, officials said yesterday. The sprawling city of some 20 million people is notorious for heavy traffic jams and the deafening noise of churches and mosques that use horns and loudspeakers to spread their message. "It's

true that 70 churches, 20 mosques and 11 hotels, club houses and beer parlors have been shut down across the state," an official of Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), who did not want to be named said. She said LASEPA boss Rasheed Adebola Shabi ordered the closure after the churches and mosques refused to comply with a government

order to reduce noise pollution.

"The affected churches and mosques were directed to remove the horns and loudspeakers placed outside so as not to disturb the public with their activities but they refused," she said. The official said the government was aiming at a zero-noise level in the next four years. She added: "We want to ensure that Lagos is

noise-free by the year 2020. With our status as a megacity, by year 2020 we will be free of noise". She said the agency would no longer allow makeshift buildings to be used as places of worship in the state. The government has restricted blaring of horns and sirens by motorists to reduce noise and pollution in the highly crowded city. — AFP

## BATTLE TO LEAD 'BREXIT' BRITAIN GATHERS PACE

**LONDON:** Britain's interior minister Theresa May built up support yesterday for her campaign to be the prime minister who will lead the country out of the EU following Boris Johnson's shock withdrawal from the race on a day of high political drama. Dozens of Conservative MPs have backed her bid to take over from David Cameron, who announced his resignation after losing a referendum last week in which 52 percent of Britons voted to quit the EU.

Britain has been plunged into extraordinary political turmoil since the vote, with the ruling Conservatives and opposition Labor party in disarray and the country deeply polarized. May supported the "Remain" campaign but has assured "Leave" supporters she will proceed with Brexit although she said she would not begin formal talks with the EU before the end of the year. The Daily Mail newspaper, widely read among the Conservative grassroots supporters who will ultimately select the new leader, endorsed her with a front-page headline saying: "A party in flames and why it must be Theresa".

EU leaders have called for a swift divorce following last week's seismic vote, fearful of the impact of Britain's uncertain future on economic growth and the potential domino effect in eurosceptic member states. May is clear favorite to replace Cameron as Conservative leader and therefore prime minister—a switch that requires no new general election under the British system. The outcome of the June 23 Brexit vote unleashed the worst chaos in living memory in British politics, with opposition Labor leader Jeremy Corbyn's leadership also under threat and Scotland's government fighting for independence to keep its EU membership.

### 'See through this mandate'

Justice minister Michael Gove, a top Brexit campaigner who torpedoed former London mayor Johnson's chances by announcing his own candidacy on Thursday, is seen as May's main rival. "This country voted for change and I am going to deliver it," he said in a speech in which he repeatedly stressed May's support for "Remain". "The best person to lead Britain out of the European Union is someone who argued to get Britain out of the European Union," he said, adding that he would "end free movement" for EU citizens if he becomes leader.

Gove, the intellectual face of the "Leave" campaign to Johnson's charismatic frontman, insisted he would not be rushed into formal talks on leaving the EU, adding: "We will do it when we're good and ready." Cameron, who called the referendum in what was seen as an effort to see off a challenge from an anti-EU party, has said he will leave it to his successor to start formal exit talks. Simon Usherwood, senior fellow at the UK in a Changing Europe think tank, said the differences of a May or Gove premiership in terms of negotiations with the EU were "likely to be relatively small".

The key will be what the EU is prepared to offer, he added. Asked whether there was a possibility May could row back from the Brexit vote if she becomes leader, he said: "After the past week anything is possible but, realistically, no." The bitterly divisive campaign also exposed rifts within Labor, where Corbyn has been heavily criticized for his lukewarm advocacy of the campaign to stay in the EU. A large majority of Labor MPs have supported a vote of no confidence in Corbyn, a veteran socialist with grassroots support who only became leader last year. But he has defied his centre-left critics to insist he will hang on, challenging them to mount a full leadership contest.

The pound crept back up yesterday after the Bank of England hinted it was ready to cut interest rates in the wake of the Brexit vote. Highlighting the uncertainty the "Leave" vote has created for business, low-cost airline easyJet said yesterday it was trying to acquire a certificate to operate in a European country "to enable easyJet to fly across Europe as we do today". — AFP



**VIENNA:** In this file photo, Norbert Hofer presidential candidate for Austria's Freedom Party, FPOE, waves during an election party in Vienna, Austria. — AP

## AUSTRIA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION MUST BE RE-RUN, COURT RULES

### FAR-RIGHT GETS ELECTION DEFEAT ANNULLED

**VIENNA:** Austria's Norbert Hofer yesterday won another shot at becoming the European Union's first far-right anti-immigration president after the country's highest court dramatically annulled May's closely fought election result. The Constitutional Court found no evidence of cheating but ruled that procedural irregularities were sufficiently serious and widespread for the May 22 runoff, which saw Hofer of the Freedom Party (FPOE) lose by just 30,863 votes, to be declared null and void. "The decision I am announcing today has no winner and no loser, it has only one aim: to strengthen trust in the rule of law and democracy," the court's president Gerhart Holzinger said in an announcement carried live on national television.

"I am happy that the court has taken a difficult decision," Hofer said. "I have great trust in the rule of law". Gun enthusiast Hofer came top in a first round of voting in April and preliminary results on the evening of the May 22 runoff against independent ecologist Alexander Van der Bellen, 72, put the 45-year-old narrowly ahead. But after some 700,000 postal votes were counted, the Greens-backed Van der Bellen was declared the winner of the largely ceremonial post the next day, sparking relief among centrist parties in Austria and across Europe.

The FPOE, which is topping opinion

polls ahead of the next scheduled general election in 2018 as it stokes concerns about immigration, launched a legal challenge on June 8 alleging "terrifying" irregularities. After dozens of witnesses detailed what Interior Minister Wolfgang Sobotka called widespread "sloppiness", the court found that postal votes in 14 areas representing 78,000 votes were opened at the wrong time, and so could have been doctored. It also ruled that in the future, media and research institutions will no longer be provided with partial results—although they are not supposed to be published—since this is capable of influencing voters, Holzinger said yesterday.

### Brexit effect?

The decision stops in its tracks Van der Bellen's planned inauguration on July 8. It is unclear when a new election—which will just concern the runoff, not the first round—will take place. In the meantime, current President Heinz Fischer will still step down as planned and be replaced in the interim by parliamentary officials—including Hofer, who promised yesterday a "clear division" between this job and his campaign. The ruling, which was not a big surprise, sets in motion what is likely to be a hard-fought and nail-biting new summer election battle. Chancellor Christian Kern called yesterday for a "short campaign free of emotions".

Hofer comes across as the moderate, friendly face of the FPOE, focusing on issues like wanting more Swiss-style direct democracy and opposing a mooted EU-US trade deal rather than the record 90,000 asylum applications in Austria last year. Islam "has no place in Austria" and is a religion "that sees the whole world as a battleground, and until all of humanity is Islamic," he has said. Unlike Van der Bellen, he opposes gay marriage. It is possible that Britain's referendum decision on June 23 to leave the EU could also turn Austria's future membership into an election issue.

Echoing French National Front leader Marine Le Pen, Hofer after the Brexit bombshell came out in favor of an Austrian referendum if the EU fails to reform enough "within a year". "If (the EU) evolves in the wrong direction, then in my opinion the time has come to ask the Austrians if they still want to be part of it," Hofer said. Van der Bellen, a slightly disheveled economics professor who used to be leader of the Greens, is staunchly pro-EU, and surveys show strong popular support for continued membership. Frauke Petry, head of Alternative for Germany, one of many other populist groups on the rise in Europe, calling yesterday's ruling a "big opportunity" for Hofer. In Brussels the European Commission declined to comment. — AFP

## LONG WALK TO THE POLLS FOR MONGOLIAN NOMADS

**MANDALGOVI:** It took Mongolian nomad Pagvajaviin Shatarbaatar seven days to get to his polling station to vote in Wednesday's general election-accompanied by more than 2,000 sheep, goats and horses. His family spends the year travelling around the Gobi Desert in search of pasture for their animals, maintaining a way of life largely unchanged for centuries.

As the vote approached they were hundreds of kilometers from their polling station in Mandalgovi, the capital of Dundgovi province. So began the slow process of herding their animals north for the summer, following one of Mongolia's few paved roads. The journey is a difficult one, said Shatarbaatar's wife Otgontsetseg, but they feel a responsibility to make their voices heard.

Mongolians have grown increasingly apathetic about the democratic experiment they began when they shook off Soviet influence 26 years ago. Many claim there is little difference between the two major political parties, and no chance for third parties to make their voice heard. "We want politicians who are responsible for the people in the same way we are responsible for our animals," said Otgontsetseg, leaning on a pillow in the small mobile home they use to follow their flock.

They intended to vote for a candidate from the Xun Party, a small group of reformers mainly composed of Mongolians educated at elite universities abroad. "Our government policy is totally wrong," she said. "The greediest ones have the power." The night before the election, the family camped by a lake about 30 kilometers from town. On Wednesday they rose with the sun and tended to their herd, eating a quick breakfast of tea and homemade curds. Otgontsetseg phoned a friend to check the location of their polling station, to be told that 500 new voters had registered ahead of the election—a large number in a sparsely-populated province that sends only one delegate to the 76-member parliament, the Great Hural. The sudden change raised suspicions of political gamesmanship, but Otgontsetseg's friend was more interested in discouraging her from voting for a candidate with little chance of victory. "You're throwing your vote away," she said.

### 'No more herders'

At the polling station, Shatarbaatar and his wife embraced relatives they had not seen in months, brought together by the vote. The family say they are voting for a better future for Mongolia but the ballot is also about different visions of the country: One driven by businessmen in Ulan Bator's handful of skyscrapers, the other by men living off the land. "All of our generations were herders," said Shatarbaatar. But that is changing. The couple—who have two hired stockmen—raise cows and sheep for meat and goats for cashmere, which they say has made them wealthy. Their lifestyle has some modern touches: instead of the traditional ger, also known as a yurt, their home is on wheels, towed from pasture to pasture by an old Korean truck with their black sheepdog Bankhar running behind.

The men herd the animals with a Yamaha motorbike as well as horses, they have a cellphone for communication and satellite television to keep up to date. Shatarbaatar wonders about buying a drone to help manage the flock. Their daughter is studying business in Miami while their son is in Shanghai, training to be an electrical engineer.

As herders, they are far better off than Mongolians who depend on jobs in the struggling mining sector, they said. But the price of sheepskins has dropped to around 10 cents apiece, Otgontsetseg laments. "In the US, people pay \$30 for a manicure," she said. "We care for a goat for a year and only get \$30 for a kilo of cashmere." She worries whether they will be able to maintain their way of life. The government has debated whether to privatise the country's endless grasslands, now publicly owned and available for anyone to use, as they have been for centuries. — AFP



ULAN BATOR: A girl bows in front of the statue of Genghis Khan at the Mongolian Parliament House in Ulan Bator. — AFP

## HINDU TEMPLE WORKER HACKED TO DEATH IN WEST BANGLADESH 'THEY HACKED HIM ON HIS NECK THREE TIMES'

**NEW DELHI:** A Hindu temple worker was hacked to death in western Bangladesh yesterday, police said, the latest in a series of attacks on religious minorities by suspected Islamists. Three men on a motorcycle attacked Shyamananda Das as he walked along a road near the temple early in the morning, police said. "They hacked him on his neck three times and there was one stabbing mark in his head," deputy district police chief Gopinath Kanjilal told AFP. "He died after he was brought to hospital."

Police said the 50-year-old, also known as Babaji, was a volunteer who helped conduct prayers at temples. "He was an itinerant temple volunteer who travels from one temple to another to serve the Hindu devotees. He came to this temple only yesterday," said local police chief inspector Hasan Hafizur Rahman. "He was attacked as he walked outside the temple to collect flowers for prayer services," he told AFP.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but police said it bore the hallmarks of recent murders of religious minorities by suspected homegrown Islamist militants. Last month a Hindu priest, 70-year-old Ananda Gopal Ganguly, was hacked to death in the same district. Days later, a Hindu monastery worker was murdered in the same way in a north-western district. Deputy police chief Kanjilal said an activist with the student wing of the country's largest Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami, had been arrested over the attack. Hours before the murder, two Jamaat student activists were shot dead in a gunfight with police just a few miles (kilometers) from the Hindu temple, two police officials told AFP. "They are local leaders of Islami Chhatra Shibir and were suspects in last

month's murder of the Hindu priest," Rahman told AFP.

### Targeted killings

Bangladesh is reeling from a wave of murders of secular and liberal activists and religious minorities that have left some 50 people dead in the last three years. Victims of the attacks by suspected Islamists have included secular bloggers, gay rights activists and followers of minority religions including Hindus, Christians and Muslim Sufis and Shiites. Since April, more than a dozen people have been hacked to death amid a sharp spike in the targeted killings.

Most of the recent attacks have been claimed by the Islamic State organisation or the South Asian branch of Al-Qaeda. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government, however, has blamed homegrown Islamists for the attacks. Experts say a government crackdown on opponents, including a ban on the Jamaat-e-Islami following a protracted political crisis, has pushed many towards extremism.

Last month police arrested more than 11,000 people, including nearly 200 suspected militants, in an anti-Islamist drive criticised by the opposition and some rights groups, which said it was used as an excuse to clamp down on dissent. At least nine suspected Islamists were shot dead in what police said were gunfights. Some rights activists contradict that account and say they were extrajudicial killings. Jamaat-e-Islami is a long-standing ally of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Although Bangladesh is officially secular, around 90 percent of its 160 million-strong population is Muslim. About one in 10 are Hindu. — AFP

## LANDSLIDES KILL 18 IN NORTHERN INDIA

**LUCKNOW:** Torrential rains triggered heavy floods and landslides that poured down hills in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, killing at least 18 people by Friday and destroying dozens of homes, officials said. The worst-affected villages were in the remote mountainous districts of Pithoragarh and Chamoli. Many people were trapped under toppled houses and debris unleashed by the landslides,

according to the state's top elected official, Chief Minister Harish Rawat. "We are getting reports of 18 to 20 people killed, and this figure may go higher," Rawat said.

The Press Trust of India news agency quoting officials as saying at least 25 people were missing in seven villages in Pithoragarh, about 510 kilometers north-east of New Delhi.

Flood waters and mudslides have

blocked roads at more than a dozen places, delaying the movement of rescue teams in the area. Helicopters were unable to fly rescue teams due to poor visibility in the area, said O.P. Singh, chief of the National Disaster Response Force.

Uttarakhand state has many Hindu temples which are popular destinations for pilgrims as well as tourists seeking to escape the summer heat

further south. During the heavy rains, officials temporarily blocked pilgrimages to some temples as a safety precaution. Uttarakhand was badly hit by monsoon flooding and landslides in 2013, when at least 1,000 people died in the state as it experienced its heaviest rains in nearly 80 years. Monsoon season in India begins in June and ends in October. — AP

## JAPAN RE-EMBRACES NUCLEAR POWER, WARNINGS PERSIST

**TOKYO:** Japan's re-embrace of nuclear power, on display last week with the recertification of two ageing reactors, is prompting some critics to warn that Tokyo is neglecting the lessons of Fukushima. In the first such step since the 2011 disaster, Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) on June 20 approved Kansai Electric Power Co's application to extend the life of two reactors beyond 40 years.

As it became clear the NRA was going to allow the extensions, a former commissioner broke a silence maintained since he left the agency in 2014 and said "a sense of crisis" over safety prompted him to go

public and urge more attention to earthquake risk. Kunihiro Shimazaki, who was a commissioner from 2012 to 2014, said a powerful quake in April that killed 69 on Kyushu island showed the risk to some of Japan's 42 operable nuclear reactors was being underestimated.

"I cannot stand by without doing anything. We may have another tragedy and, if that happens, it could not be something that was 'beyond expectations'," he said, referring to a common description of the catastrophic chain of events after the earthquake and tsunami that led to the Fukushima meltdowns. The NRA has said it would take into account Shimazaki's

position in some of its assessments. Separately when asked about the operating extensions of the reactors, a spokesman for the regulator referred Reuters to remarks by agency chairman, Shunichi Tanaka, on the day of the extensions, when he said: "It does not guarantee absolute safety but it means the reactors have cleared the safety standards."

### Exceptional circumstances

According to the World Nuclear Association, an industry body, early reactors were designed for a life of about 30 years, while newer plants can operate up to 60 years. A 2012 Japanese law also

limits the life of all reactors to 40 years, allowing for license extensions only in exceptional circumstances. The meltdowns five years ago at Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima Daiichi plant after an earthquake and tsunami - the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986 - were blamed in an official report on lax oversight and collusion between operators and regulators. Kyushu Electric Power is the only utility that has been cleared to restart two reactors at its Sendai plant, while other utilities have been blocked so far by legal action from nearby residents. One more reactor may restart later this month.



**MANILA:** The dead body of a suspected drug dealer lies on the ground with a placard reading "Chinese Drug Lord". — AFP

## PHILIPPINES' PRESIDENT WANTS COMMUNISTS TO KILL CRIMINALS ANOTHER LAYER TO A CONTROVERSIAL WAR ON CRIME

**MANILA:** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday urged communist rebels to start killing drug traffickers, adding another layer to a controversial war on crime in which he has warned thousands will die. Duterte won May's election in a landslide after a campaign dominated by his pledge to end crime within six months, promising to do so by unleashing security forces with shoot-to-kill orders.

In his inauguration speech on Thursday, Duterte insisted his adherence to the rule of law was "uncompromising", apparently seeking to assuage concerns from human rights groups that he planned to orchestrate mass extrajudicial killings. But yesterday, Duterte called on communist rebels waging one of Asia's longest insurgencies to hold their own guerrilla court hearings and then carry out executions. "Drugs have reached the hinterlands... what if you use your kangaroo courts to kill them to speed up the solution to our problem," Duterte, a lawyer and

former city prosecutor, said in a speech before the military's top brass in Manila.

The communists' armed wing, the 4,000-strong New People's Army, is known for assassinating civilians deemed to have committed so-called crimes against the people. However its courts and summary executions are illegal. In a late-night speech on Thursday to a slum community in Manila attended by only a few journalists, Duterte called on ordinary Filipinos to kill drug addicts, which is also illegal. "If you know of any addicts, go ahead and kill them yourself," Duterte told a crowd of about 500 people. Duterte also vowed to kill drug traffickers, using foul language he promised in recent weeks to "tone down" as president. "These sons of whores are destroying our children. I warn you, don't go into that, even if you're a policeman, because I will really kill you," said Duterte, 71.

A former mayor of the southern city of Davao, Duterte had alternately denied and

confirmed running death squads there that summarily executed suspected criminals. Human rights groups say the squads-made up of local police, former communist rebels and hired assassins-have killed more than 1,000 people.

### Bullet-riddled body

Amnesty International said yesterday it is encouraged by Duterte's inauguration pledge to honor the country's obligations under international law. "But now he is in power, he needs to lend substance to those words and break with his earlier rhetoric," Rafendi Djamin, the rights group's director for South East Asia and the Pacific said in a statement. Before dawn yesterday, a bullet-riddled body was found in a Manila slum with a sign on it that read: "I am a Chinese drug lord," local police said. The murder bore all the hallmarks of an extrajudicial killing, which would make it the first of Duterte's presidency. — AFP

## HK PROTESTERS RALLY ON HANDOVER ANNIVERSARY

**HONG KONG:** Protesters took to the streets of Hong Kong yesterday to mark the anniversary of the city's handover from Britain to China, with pro-independence groups rallying for the first time amid fears Beijing is tightening its grip. But a Hong Kong bookseller who was detained and interrogated for months in mainland China, and was due to lead the annual march, pulled out at the last minute citing a "serious threat" to his security.

Tensions are high in the southern Chinese city after the explosive revelations by Lam Wing-kee, whose account of his detention on the mainland after he went missing last year sent shockwaves through a city where residents are worried of eroding freedoms. The 61-year-old was one of five employees of a Hong Kong firm that published salacious titles about leading Chinese politicians and who disappeared only to resurface over the border. His story fanned growing concerns that Beijing is increasing its influence in semi-autonomous Hong Kong, which is ruled under a "one country, two systems" deal enshrined in the July 1997 handover agreement, guaranteeing its freedoms and way of life for 50 years. "Lam Wing Kee is facing a serious threat and is forced to not attend the rally," said protest leader Lau Shan-Ching, who spent 10 years in a Chinese jail as a prisoner of conscience. The march organizers said Lam had pulled out because he had been tailed in recent days.

"He had observed that he had been followed by strangers in the last two days. He got greatly annoyed about his personal safety so he decided not to come today," pro-democracy lawmaker Albert Ho told reporters. "Mr Lam has reason to be scared that this may be people from the mainland," Ho added. The march got underway nonetheless at around 3:30 pm (0730 GMT) from the city's Victoria Park, with the front protesters holding a huge banner that read "Stand in Unity. Protect Hong Kong". "We want to choose our own government," shouted protesters, some of whom carried yellow umbrellas-a symbol of the pro-democracy movement that brought parts of the city to a standstill for months in 2014.

### Anger, disappointment

"As a Hongkonger, I feel I need to speak out for the city. To pursue democracy is the issue this generation is most concerned about," rally participant Eva Li, 20, told AFP. Jackie Hung, a member of pro-democracy Civil Human Rights Front, said the city's unpopular leader Leung Chun-ying should resign. "(Hong Kong people) are angry with the current government and very disappointed at how things are managed," she said.

The turnout at the beginning of the march appeared lower than the organizer's predictions of 100,000, but it was expected to gather pace as it snaked through the city. A sense of impotence clouded last year's rally after the 2014 protests failed to win political reform and the turnout was low. But there are growing calls in the city to take a different path in demanding more rights, particularly from groups like the emerging "localist" movement, which is seeking independence from China.

Some are now demanding a return to British rule as a stepping stone towards independence, while others say violence may be necessary to bring change. Following the main march, several pro-independence groups are due to gather outside China's liaison office in a protest seen as a possible flashpoint. Participants have said they will wear black clothes and masks. — AFP

# UNION GOES ON STRIKE AGAINST TRUMP'S CASINO

## 'ALL DAY AND ALL NIGHT, LOCAL 54 ON STRIKE!'

**ATLANTIC CITY:** Striking union members chanted, banged drums and blew whistles as part of a raucous picket line on Atlantic City's Boardwalk early yesterday outside the Trump Taj Mahal casino amid a contract dispute with owner and billionaire investor Carl Icahn at the start of the busiest weekend of the year for the casino industry. Local 54 of the Unite-HERE union was unable to reach a new contract with the Taj Mahal, which terminated workers' health insurance and pension benefits nearly two years ago.

About 1,000 members began walking off the job at 6 am, joining fellow union members in protest on the Boardwalk. The striking workers include those who serve drinks, cook food, carry luggage and clean hotel rooms. Dealers and security personnel are not included in the walk-out. The casino remained open for business. Picketers chanted: "All day and all night, Local 54 on strike!" and "We don't get no contract, you don't get no peace!"

### Enraged workers

Within 30 minutes, more than 100 union members had joined the picket line. Supervisors from the casino were monitoring the picketing from a balcony. It was not immediately clear whether the Taj Mahal planned to press management into service, hire temporary replacement workers, or some combination of both. The Taj Mahal was the only one of the five casinos targeted by the union that was unable to reach a new deal. The casino enraged workers during its most recent spin through bankruptcy court in October 2014 when it got a judge to allow it to cancel health and pension benefits, deeming them unaffordable to the struggling casino.

Chuck Baker, a cook at the casino since the day it opened in 1990 and a member of the negotiating committee, said Taj Mahal manage-



ATLANTIC: Union members picket outside the Trump Taj Mahal casino. — AP

ment offered to restore some level of health care late Thursday, but the union rejected it as inadequate. "We are fired up and ready to go," he said. "We feel as if we have been mistreated and taken for granted long enough. The time is now to take it to the streets. There's no quit in this fight." Picketers booed loudly when a young man

entered the casino shortly after the strike began, but made no attempt to block access.

The Taj Mahal was opened and once run by Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. But the bankruptcy filing and the benefit terminations happened five years after Trump relinquished control of the

casino and its parent company, Trump Entertainment Resorts, which carried his name. Aside from a 10 percent stake in the company for the use of his name that was wiped out in bankruptcy, Trump has had no involvement with the company since 2009.

### Restore health benefits

On Thursday, the union struck deals with three casinos owned by Caesars Entertainment (Bally's, Caesars, and Harrah's) as well as the Tropicana, which, like the Taj Mahal, is owned by Icahn. Icahn kept the Taj Mahal afloat during its bankruptcy, and took it over in March. He repeatedly threatened to withdraw financial support for the casino and force it to close if he was forced to restore health and pension benefits.

The clash between Icahn and Local 54 leadership, particularly its president, Bob McDevitt, has grown acrimonious and intensely personal. Icahn has likened McDevitt and the union to extortionists, while the union president has called Icahn "a cancer" that needs to be cut out of Atlantic City. Icahn did not immediately respond to a request for comment early yesterday. The company gave union members a cash stipend to buy health care on the private market or through the government-run Affordable Care Act, but many say it does not come close to the actual cost of obtaining insurance. Borgata, Golden Nugget and Resorts were not targeted by the union, and are not affected by the strike.

The union says it recouped a good portion of givebacks it handed the casinos in past negotiations when its financial condition was worse. After four of 12 Atlantic City casinos shut down in 2014, there is less competition for the surviving eight. As a result, they are seeing their bottom lines begin to stabilize. The last time Local 54 waged a strike, in 2004, the walkout lasted 34 days. — AP



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## OBAMA TO JOIN CLINTON ON CAMPAIGN TRAIL NEXT WEEK

**WASHINGTON:** US President Barack Obama will join Democratic White House hopeful Hillary Clinton on the campaign trail for the first time next week, days before Vice President Joe Biden also stumps with her, Clinton aides announced Thursday. Obama is set to join Clinton in Charlotte, North Carolina on Tuesday for his debut appearance on the 2016 campaign trail, the Clinton campaign said in a statement. They "will discuss building on the progress we've made and their vision for an America that is stronger together," it said.

Their first joint campaign event had been scheduled for June 15 in Wisconsin, days after Obama endorsed Clinton, but was postponed due to the mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Obama is expected to campaign heavily for Clinton, his former bitter rival in the 2008 Democratic primaries before she worked closely with him as secretary of state during his first term. The president is keen to protect his legacy by helping a Democrat succeed him amid a deepening partisan standoff in Washington.

Biden will then join Clinton for a Democratic Party event next Friday in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where they both have roots, Clinton's campaign said in a separate statement. The vice president's folksy demeanor and ability to personally connect with working-class voters could provide a much-needed boost for Clinton in her showdown with Republican Donald Trump, particularly among older white male voters. Clinton and Biden have had a lengthy rivalry despite both having served in Obama's cabinet.

Both ran for the Democratic nomination in 2008 and lost. Last year, Biden was seriously contemplating another presidential run, which would have pitted him against Clinton in the primaries. He ultimately announced in October that he would not pursue the presidency following the death of his son Beau Biden. Pennsylvania and North Carolina are both pivotal battlegrounds among the dozen or so swing states experts believe will determine the outcome of the November 8 general election. — AFP

## PUERTO RICO FACES HISTORIC DEFAULT AS BILL APPROVED

### US TERRITORY PREPARES TO ENTER UNCHARTERED WATERS

**SAN JUAN:** Puerto Rico faced a historic default yesterday as the US territory prepared to enter uncharted waters under the guidance of a newly enacted federal control board to oversee the island's finances amid a dire economic crisis. The anticipated missed payment of \$2 billion in debt obligations would be the biggest ever for Puerto Rico and includes \$1 billion worth of general obligation bonds that are given top priority by the island's constitution. But Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla said the government is short on cash as he signed an executive order Thursday declaring a moratorium on that debt and others.

While the market already anticipated the default, it affects the credibility of a territory grappling with \$70 billion in public debt, economist Jose Villamil warned. "This has enormous consequences," he said. "The default is very significant, and it likely means that Puerto Rico will not be able to re-enter the market for many, many years." A rescue package signed Thursday by President Barack Obama will temporarily protect the territory from creditor lawsuits seeking to recover millions of dollars invested in Puerto Rico bonds, which attracted investors because of their triple tax-exempt status. Many of those investors were particularly lured by Puerto Rico's general obligation bonds because of their constitutional guarantee of repayment.

Garcia defended the debt moratorium as well as the state of emergency he implemented Thursday at four government agencies, including the island's largest public university and a retirement system that has been shorted by \$40 billion. "These measures are reasonable and necessary to ensure essential services while the debt is restructured under the legal framework provided by PROMESA," the governor said, referring to the acronym for the bill that Obama signed hours after it won final Senate passage.

#### Months of negotiation

The bill emerged from months of negotiation between Democratic and Republican lawmakers and the Obama administration. It creates a federal control board for Puerto Rico that will



**WASHINGTON DC:** US President Barack Obama speaks before signing the Freedom of Information (FOIA) Improvement Act of 2016 and the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act, into law in the Oval Office of the White House yesterday. — AFP

supervise some debt restructuring and negotiate with creditors. It also allows Puerto Rico to temporarily lower the federal minimum wage for some younger workers. Obama noted there is tough work ahead to get Puerto Rico out of the hole. "But it is an important first step on the path of creating more stability, better services and greater prosperity over the long term for the people of Puerto Rico," he said.

Obama said the debt crisis has been a heavy burden for the territory, with basic services shutting down and government workers not being paid. "We've got to keep on working to figure out how we promote the long-term growth and sustainability that's so desperately needed down there, but the people of Puerto Rico need to know that they are not forgotten, that they are part of the American family," he said. "Congress' responsiveness to this issue, even

though this is not a perfect bill, at least moves us in the right direction."

The bill will provide the island's government some breathing room and allow it to pay workers and suppliers on time as well as maintain essential services, Villamil said. However, it's possible the control board could eventually implement austerity measures that could lead to government layoffs and affect services, he said. Exempt from Thursday's implementation of the debt moratorium is Puerto Rico's heavily indebted power company, which announced that it reached a separate deal with creditors to avoid defaulting on a \$415 million payment. The Electric Power Authority said creditors agreed to buy \$264 million worth of new bonds as part of the agreement. Those creditors hold 70 percent of the agency's \$9 billion debt. Officials said part of the money will be used for capital projects. — AP

## STORM SWEEPS THROUGH VEGAS

**LAS VEGAS:** Las Vegas was hit by flooding as heavy thunderstorms packing golf ball-sized hail, gusty winds and destructive lightning swept through the area, leaving at least one person hospitalized after she was plucked from a flooded wash, authorities said. The woman was believed to have suffered a heart attack while she and two other people were rescued Thursday from rushing water near the Hard Rock Casino Hotel east of the Las Vegas Strip, Deputy Clark County Fire Chief Jeff Buchanan said.

Firefighters reached two other people and their dogs in another wash near Boulder Highway, about 5 miles east of the Strip, and rescued another two people at another site shortly after 6 pm, Buchanan said. At least 21 airline flights were diverted from busy McCarran International Airport, where the National Weather Service said wind gusts were clocked at 56 mph during the height of the storm. Several vehicles stalled with water up to their headlights in one flooded intersection in nearby Henderson. "People don't realize just a few inches of rain can really cause some damage," said Kim Becker, a Henderson city spokeswoman.

Monsoon-style summer storms aren't unusual in the desert around Las Vegas, where one or two storms can go a long way toward filling rain gauges that average only 4.19 inches of rainfall a year. But heavy rain can turn to torrents sluicing off sun-baked desert or pavement into miles of flood channels constructed to protect homes and businesses.

Weather service meteorologist John Adair said Henderson received up to 11/2 inch of rain between 2 pm and 3 pm Red Rock Canyon, about 25 miles west of the Strip, received more than 11/4 inches, and Adair said flooding closed the scenic 13-mile loop road through the preserve. Adair called the 2-inch hail that fell in southwestern neighborhoods near the 215 Beltway the most unusual element of the storm. Hail the size of 25-cent pieces pelted Henderson. Winds felled at least one tree, and Buchanan said lightning sparked a house fire that displaced two adults and their pet dogs.

NV Energy reported almost 4,700 customers without electricity shortly after the rain stopped. Traffic officials reported more than one lane of the US 95 freeway closed for a time due to flooding not far from the Galleria at Sunset mall in Henderson. Airport spokeswoman Christine Crews said flights that were waved off were sent to airports in California and Arizona. Some McCarran departures were delayed for more than two hours, she said. Flood channels did their job, said Erin Neff, spokeswoman for the Clark County Regional Flood Control District.

Water gushed through some 600 miles of channels, including choke points near the Linq observation wheel on the Strip. The water level topped 22 feet at one key detention basin on the way toward the Colorado River and Lake Mead by about 4 pm. Neff said water flows were clocked at about 30 mph. She characterized the rain in some parts of the area as "unprecedented." — AP

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UK warns may miss 2020 budget surplus target 17

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Eurozone unemployment falls to near five-year low 19

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US construction spending fell again in May 16



SHANDONG: People work at an offshore oil engineering platform in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province yesterday. — AFP

## OIL REFINING HUBS SHIFT OUTSIDE EUROPE

### IN CRISIS, EU NOT A LEAD ACTOR IN WORLD OIL

**LONDON:** The European Union's crisis holds political and economic leaders transfixed, but for the oil market it merely underlines the region's established role as only a secondary engine to global energy demand. Britain's vote to leave the European Union and strikes that crippled France's energy industry in May, elicited barely a lasting ripple on global energy markets.

"In terms of oil, it's the best place to have an economic slowdown without having a big impact on demand growth," said Chris Main, oil strategist with Citi Group. "European industry just doesn't contribute much to global demand growth." In oil demand growth, and in refining, the spotlight has for long shifted to developing markets in Asia, the Middle East and even the United States, where drivers hitting the road in record numbers are fuelling a resurgence in demand growth. Oil traders are accustomed to seeing the EU as a market with barely any potential to use more motor fuel.

"GDP in the UK and Europe is not energy intensive, and indeed oil demand has been in decline (more or less) since 2007," Jefferies ana-

lysts wrote in a note. Jefferies estimates that the impact on oil demand from changes to GDP in emerging markets is some five times what it is in Europe - "a far greater risk factor."

The International Monetary Fund warned that Britain's vote could set back its growth by 1.4 to 5.6 percent by 2019, and said it could also lower the growth forecast for Germany, the bloc's largest economy. Typically during economic crises, fears over a drop in consumption stoke oil price declines. But Europe's withered oil demand growth due to energy efficiency and a shift away from heavy industry has cut its importance to the world's demand growth.

Because most European economies are no longer industrially focused, even the slip into recession that some economists warned could hit Britain has failed to create significant oil demand loss fear on the global level. According to the International Energy Agency, demand growth in Europe accounted for 180,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the first quarter of the year, dwarfed by the 956,000 bpd growth in Asia's developing countries.

Risk consultancy Eurasia Group said that Europe's 13.7 million bpd of total demand is only about 14 percent of the global total. It added that every 1 percent change in GDP would knock roughly 70,000 bpd off oil demand growth, a small figure compared with the group's demand growth forecast of 1.5 million bpd in 2016 and 1.1 million bpd in 2017.

#### RESTOCK FIZZLES

Amid fading demand, pressure on refiner profits forced the closure of more than 2 million bpd in European refining capacity over the last decade. This has limited the continent's importance in producing the diesel, gasoline and jet fuel that flow through global markets.

In France, strikes in May closed nearly half its refineries, as well as its main ports, forcing it to tap strategic crude and fuel stocks to keep running. The shock boosted diesel profits, and led to hopes that a rush to restock would further support refining. When similar strikes hit the country six years ago, global oil prices spiked as it scrambled to restock.

Instead, French refiner demand has been subdued as they slowly unloaded the roughly 19 million barrels of crude that was stranded on tankers during the strikes, and strategic stock agencies also gave companies three months to return what they took during the industrial action.

The impact on diesel was blunted as well by the fact that refinery hubs have shifted out of Europe since the last strikes. Two French refineries have closed since 2012, while the Middle East has developed into a refining mega centre with massive, diesel-heavy units helping to pump a growing excess in European storage tanks.

This has kept prices across crude and refined oil products from spiking, as it did following the last widespread French strikes in 2012. "The Middle East was not supplying as much distillates as they are now, and Russia is exporting more distillates," said KBC principal consultant Ehsan Ul-Haq of the changed market. "A few years ago the impact was much bigger," Ul-Haq said of the strikes, adding that now, "producers have more than enough diesel." — Reuters

## OIL FALLS AS OVERSUPPLY CONCERNS RETURN

**LONDON:** Oil prices eased yesterday as the market's focus returned to oversupply as production from Nigeria and Canada revived, and OPEC output reached a record high in June.

Despite yesterday's losses, oil prices were on track for the first weekly gain in three weeks after a bullish run this week on strong buying following Britain's vote in favour of leaving the European Union. Global benchmark Brent crude futures were down 17 cents at \$49.54 a barrel at 1203

GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was trading at \$48.18, down 15 cents day on day. "Oil has settled down after the initial short covering squeeze earlier in the week," said Ole Hansen, commodity strategist at Saxo Bank in Copenhagen.

"A rising contango indicates that the market is getting ready to absorb returning supply from Nigeria and Canada." Militant attacks in Nigeria had brought production to the lowest in 30 years but no new attacks have been carried out since June 16, allow-

ing production to slowly ramp up.

In Canada, oil sands output was also gradually increasing after wildfires had curtailed production. As of Wednesday, around 400,000 barrels per day of production were still affected in the Fort McMurray area. Adding to oversupply concerns, a Reuters survey showed OPEC production rose to a record high in June. Stronger supply from major Middle East producers, except Iraq, underlined their focus on maintaining market share. Despite growing signs of lingering oversupply, US Energy

Secretary Ernest Moniz said on Friday he expected oil supply and demand to balance by 2017. Analysts at Barclays took a different view, cutting their crude price forecasts on the back of expectations for reduced economic growth and oil demand following Britain's vote to leave the EU. The bank trimmed its Brent and WTI price forecasts for 2016 by \$3 each, to \$44 and \$43 a barrel. "Markets have experienced only the tip of the iceberg in terms of the impact of the UK's 'leave' vote," analysts said in a note. — Reuters

## OPEC BASKET PRICE HOLDS AT \$46.27PB

**VIENNA:** The OPEC daily basket price stood at \$46.27 a barrel Thursday, compared with \$45.82 the previous day, the OPEC said yesterday. The monthly average of the OPEC basket price for May hit \$43.21 pb, compared with \$37.86 pb in April, it added.

The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela).

### Iraq LPG shipment

Iraq will export its first shipment of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) today from the southern Umm Qasr port, an oil ministry spokesman said. Asim Jihad said the 2,000-ton shipment was part of the government's strategy to supplement exports of crude oil, which provides most of Iraq's revenues, and condensates. LPG is used primarily in homes and vehicles. — Agencies

## TAJIKISTAN AWARDS CONTRACT TO BUILD \$3.9BN MEGA-DAM

**DUSHANBE, Tajikistan:** Tajikistan announced yesterday it had awarded the Italian company Salini Impregilo a \$3.9 billion (3.5-billion-euro) contract to build a hydroelectric dam that threatens to raise tensions in Central Asia. The ex-Soviet country's presidential press service said a state commission approved on June 27 the Rogun project seen as vital to the water-rich republic's efforts to step up electricity production.

The dam on the Vakhsh river, which at a planned 335 metres (1,099 feet) would be the tallest dam in the world, was begun during Soviet times but faces major opposition from downstream Uzbekistan.

Tajikistan's more populous and militarily powerful neighbor depends on water that flows through Tajikistan for its agricultural sector. Uzbekistan's septuagenarian President Islam Karimov has in the past even warned of potential wars over water in the economically depressed and occasionally volatile region. Tajikistan views Rogun as a means of ending regular winter power outages in the republic and increasing electricity exports to the wider region. —AFP

## US AUTO SALES MAY HIT RECORD IN FIRST 6 MONTHS

**DETROIT:** US auto sales may be slowing, but they're still expected to set a record in the first six months of this year. Sales through June were expected to be up 2 percent over last year to 8.66 million, according to Kelley Blue Book. After six straight years of growth - and record sales of 17.5 million last year - US sales are beginning to plateau. In the first six months of last year, for example, sales were up 4 percent, or double the pace of this year. But low gas prices, low interest rates, enticing new vehicles and strong consumer confidence should keep them at a very high level.

"As long as economic conditions-like low unemployment and easy access to credit-continue, the industry will be in a strong position through the busy summer sales months," said Jessica Caldwell, director of industry analysis for the car shopping site Edmunds.com. —AP



**CANTON:** Vehicles are suspended above other installation stations as they are moved along the assembly line at the Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant in Canton, Mississippi. — AP

# US MANUFACTURING ACCELERATES IN JUNE

## CONSTRUCTION SPENDING FELL AGAIN IN MAY

**WASHINGTON:** American manufacturing expanded for the fourth straight month in June, hitting the strongest reading since February 2015 as the outlook for new orders and production improved.

The Institute for Supply Management said yesterday its manufacturing index rose to 53.2 last month from 51.3 in May. Anything above 50 signals growth. The report suggests US factories are showing some signs of stability after being pummeled at the beginning of last year by a rising dollar, shuttered oil production and weak global economic growth.

The ISM index stayed below 50 from October through February, before shaking off these setbacks beginning in March. Orders began to rebound as factories adapted to the financial headwinds and as the dollar's appreciation became tempered and oil prices stopped plunging.

New orders and production both accelerated, while a measure of employ-

ment turned positive after signaling contraction in prior months. Thirteen of 18 manufacturing industries reported growth last month, including primary metals and textiles. The ISM, a trade group of purchasing managers, surveys about 200 US companies each month.

But other indicators show that US manufacturing continues to struggle, limiting the ability of the US economy to expand faster.

Until last month, the employment component of the ISM's index had indicated that factories were shedding workers. Since January, manufacturers have let go of 53,000, according to the Labor Department.

Similarly, the Federal Reserve's measure of manufacturing output slipped 0.4 percent in May, as auto plants' production fell. Orders to US factories for long-lasting manufactured goods also dropped in May. The Commerce Department said last week that demand for durable goods slid 2.2 percent last

month after rising 3.3 percent in April and 2 percent in March.

Meanwhile, US construction spending fell for a second month in May, with weakness in all areas of building. The Commerce Department says construction spending declined 0.8 percent in May following a 2 percent plunge in April, which had been the biggest monthly setback in five years.

Spending on housing was flat as a 1.8 percent advance in apartment construction was offset by a 1.3 percent fall in single-family activity. Nonresidential construction was down 0.7 percent, with a contraction in the category that includes shopping centers. Government activity dropped 2.3 percent to mark the third straight decline. The back-to-back declines in overall construction caught analysts by surprise. They had been expecting a rebound following the big drop in April. Economists still expect construction will be a positive for the overall economy. — AP





**TOKYO:** A man walks by an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. — AP

## GLOBAL STOCKS RISE AS CBS COUNTER UK TURMOIL

**MANILA:** Global stocks mostly rose yesterday as authorities stepped in to ease the uncertainty surrounding the British vote to leave the European Union. Investors flocked to equities in the face of narrowing choices for investments amid low or negative interest rates on many bonds.

**KEEPING SCORE:** Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.5 percent at 6,537 and Germany's DAX added 0.3 percent to 9,711. France's CAC 40 edged up 0.3 percent to 4,249. US futures indicate a more cautious opening on Wall Street with Dow futures flat and the S&P futures down 0.1 percent.

**BREXIT REACTION:** The Bank of England said Thursday it would likely offer more monetary stimulus to the British economy to help it cope with the drop in business activity it is experiencing due to the "Brexit" vote. The European Central Bank was reported by Bloomberg to be considering broadening its stimulus program. And the British government said yesterday it would abandon its goals of achieving a budget surplus by the end of the decade, which would free up more money for the economy.

**STOCKS VS BONDS:** Expectations of more stimulus from central banks, which lowers returns on fixed-income investments like bonds, have pushed investors into buying stocks. Returns on many government bonds around the world - particularly in Europe and Japan - are negative. "Investors have little choice but plow their capital back into equities," said Bernard Aw, market strategist at IG.

**ASIA'S DAY:** Japan's Nikkei 225 climbed 0.7 percent to close at 15,682.48. China's Shanghai Composite index was up 0.1 percent to 2,932.48. Australia's S&P ASX 200 index gained 0.3 percent to 5,246.60. South Korea's KOSPI rose 0.9 percent to 1,987.32. Taiwan's TAIEX index rose 0.8 percent to 8,738.24. Southeast Asian markets were mixed. The Hong Kong market was closed for holiday. — AP

## BRITAIN FACES NEW RISKS IN EUROPE INTERCONNECTOR PLANS

**LONDON:** British plans for more power links with Europe to avert a looming electricity shortfall could be hindered if the country no longer has a say in European Union regulation of networks and power trading. Britain faces an energy supply crunch by the early 2020s as coal power stations close and its oil and gas production declines.

To help it plans new interconnectors with France, Denmark, Belgium and Norway to provide up to 14 gigawatts of additional capacity. Its current four interconnectors with Europe provide around 4 GW of capacity. But if Britain leaves the EU, it might have to leave the bloc's rule-making internal energy market (IEM) which coordinates access to energy across the EU.

European policymakers have been working on a common approach to wholesale energy markets and a rulebook for gas and electricity network operations. — Reuters

# UK WARNS MAY MISS 2020 BUDGET SURPLUS TARGET

### OSBORNE ADMITS POSSIBLE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF BREXIT

**LONDON:** British Finance Minister George Osborne warned yesterday that the government would likely scrap its promise to achieve a budget surplus by 2020 owing to fallout from Brexit.

The Conservative government, whose Prime Minister David Cameron resigned last week after losing a referendum on Britain's EU membership, had previously pledged to eliminate the budget deficit by the 2019/2020 financial year in a key austerity pledge. "We will continue to be tough on the deficit, but we must be realistic about achieving a surplus by the end of this decade," Osborne told business leaders in Manchester, northern England.

"This is precisely the flexibility that our rules provide for. And we need to reduce uncertainty by moving as quickly as possible to a new relationship with Europe and being super competitive, open for business and free trading. That's the plan and we must set to it."

Echoing the Bank of England's gloomy forecasts from the previous day, Osborne

added that Britain's EU exit would exert a major "negative" impact on the economy. "The referendum result is as expected likely to lead to a significant negative shock for the British economy," Osborne said yesterday. "How we respond will determine the impact on people's jobs and on economic growth. "The Bank of England can support demand (and) the government must provide fiscal credibility," he added.

The BoE had also revealed Thursday that it could slash interest rates soon to counter the downbeat economic outlook, which it said had "deteriorated" because of Brexit. Governor Mark Carney also hinted that the central bank could reactivate its so-called quantitative easing scheme to pump more cash into the economy and boost lending.

#### 'Combinations and compromises'

Osborne stressed yesterday that the government's contingency plans had dealt with chaotic financial markets following the Brexit vote. "We have very extensive

contingency plans in place to deal with disorder in the market," he added.

"We stand ready to react to whatever developments there are in the market and we do this from a position of strength." Britain's banks are in better shape and have ten times more capital than they did during the notorious 2008/2009 global financial crisis, he added.

Prime Minister Cameron will meanwhile step down in the autumn, leaving his successor to deal with EU exit negotiations and trigger the so-called Article 50 that will eventually prompt Britain's departure from the bloc.

Turning to those negotiations, Osborne added that there needed to be "compromises" if Britain wanted to secure certain aspects of the bloc-like access to the single market. "There are going to be as we come to the discussion over the coming months - inevitably combinations and compromises we are going to have to make to work out the best future for our country," he said. — AFP

## IN BREXIT, LONDON STARTUPS SEE RISK, AND SOME OPPORTUNITIES

**LONDON:** Within 24 hours of Britain's vote to leave the European Union, London-based technology startup Netz saw five investors suspend hundreds of thousands of pounds in promised money.

Now the company, which provides data to financial companies on potential customers, can't hire the candidates it had lined up. And should it eventually get the needed investment, it will face the risk of not being able to tap enough talent as Britain's departure from the EU could make it more difficult to hire from the bloc's other 27 countries.

"The people we want to hire, are they still interested in coming to London? There is a lot of uncertainty from a regulatory point of view," said CEO Frank Bertele, a German national. Since the vote, he has accelerated plans to expand into the US.

Britain's decision to break away from the EU has created huge uncertainties for businesses, and there is no more vulnerable a period for a company than its infancy. Survival depends on getting the timing right in attracting investment, hiring workers, and spending on office space and equipment. London's tech companies will scramble to cope - though true to the startup community's culture of adaptability, many are looking to the tumult also as a source of opportunity for new business and to gain ground on the less nimble established companies.

Among the top concerns for startups in London is hiring. Being part of the EU guarantees free movement of workers, without the hassle and costs of visas or work permits. The tech sector is particularly dependent on accessing talent easily. A 2015-survey by Wayra, a startup incubator, found that one third of employees in tech startups in Britain are from outside the country, and one in five comes from another EU nation. The concerns about the potential effect of a British EU exit, or



**LONDON:** Frank Bertele, CEO of tech startup NETZ, works on his laptop in London. Within 24 hours of Britain's vote to leave the European Union, London-based technology startup Netz saw five investors suspend hundreds of thousands of pounds in promised money. —AP

Brexit, come as the UK tech industry is already experiencing a talent shortage. To help with that, the government allows firms to speed up recruitment of nationals from outside EU. Job search engine Adzuna shows there are around 35,000 open software positions in London.

Duedil, a financial technology startup, has doubled its staff every year for the past five years, with 20 percent coming from other EU countries. It is growing far too quickly to have the luxury of waiting for Britain's relationship with the EU to be clarified over coming months. As a result, it has hastily drafted a plan for a European office. It will decide in the next few weeks whether that will be in Dublin, Berlin or another European city. "If it hadn't been for Brexit, we would probably have hired

more people in London," said Damian Kimmelman, CEO of Duedil. According to Pat Saini, the head of the immigration team at law firm Pennington Manches, it costs upward of 5,000 pounds (\$6,650) in visa costs and related fees to hire a person from the US or another country outside the EU. "If EU nationals, with Brexit, end in the same category as nationals from outside the EU, then companies relying on EU labor will have to wait longer and pay extra for workers," she said.

For some startups, however, the uncertainty has not been all bad. Netz saw the number of customer requests quadruple since last week's vote. Wealth managers and financial advisors in particular have flocked to Netz to find potential new clients from the startup's database. —AP

# INDIA TO STEP UP EFFORTS TO EXTEND AIR TRAVEL BOOM

## MANY NEW AIRPORTS BUILT BUT IDLE AS NO FLIGHTS

**NEW DELHI:** India will push to get 90 new airports up and running over the next 12 months, under a government plan to service smaller cities that have missed out on the country's air travel boom, officials said yesterday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to accelerate growth in the world's fastest expanding aviation market while encouraging airlines like IndiGo, SpiceJet and Jet Airways to fly more people to and from smaller, often poorer cities.

Scores of new airports have been built around the country but many are yet to open because airlines do not see sufficient demand as ticket prices are too high for the majority Indians. That has raised worries the government is building infrastructure few can afford to use. Civil aviation ministry officials, however, said yesterday that the government has

identified 30 recently built airports, and another 60 nearing completion, that it says it can get airlines to start flying to soon.

Individual states will offer free land and emergency service support to all newly built airports, while landing charges and taxes on aviation fuel will be kept at low levels, they said. "Economic activity should grow to such an extent that these routes are economically viable," Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju told reporters.

India's aviation growth has been driven by flights between larger cities, catering to a growing middle class as the country enjoys economic growth of more than 7 percent a year. But the government believes there is latent demand in smaller cities where airports are too small or not yet built. In the western

state of Rajasthan, a region the size of Germany, there are only a handful of airports currently open to commercial flights and new airports are not being used. Last month the government approved a policy to cap air fares on services to smaller cities at 2,500 rupees (\$37) per hour of travel, with the government providing part of the funding to make it viable.

Raju said yesterday that funding for the scheme would be set at around 5 billion rupees per annum, with states putting in up to 20 percent of the money, or 10 percent in the case of the remote northeast. A small charge to be levied on airlines on major trunk routes would also raise funds. The draft policy has been put out for public consultation and the rules will be finalised within a month. — Reuters



**PARIS:** International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde (left) shakes hands with Korean vice-minister of strategy and finance Sang Mok Choi during 60th anniversary of the Paris Club, yesterday in Paris. — AFP

## BMW TEAMS UP WITH INTEL, MOBILEYE TO DEVELOP SELF-DRIVING CARS

**FRANKFURT:** German top-of-the-range carmaker BMW announced yesterday that it is joining forces with US computer chip giant Intel and the Israeli technology firm Mobileye to develop self-driving cars.

The three companies "are collaborating to bring solutions for highly and fully automated driving into series production by 2021," they said in a joint statement. The news comes amid growing interest in self-driving cars following tests over the past few years by Google and research by several major automakers.

"BMW, Intel and Mobileye are convinced that automated driving technologies will make travel safer and easier," they said. The aim of the collaboration was to develop solutions that would enable drivers not only to take their hands off the steering wheel, but also reach a stage where they could also take their eyes of the road and ultimately their mind off driving, the statement continued. The final stage would then be "driver off", or without a human driver inside. "This establishes the opportunity for self-driving fleets by 2021 and lays the foundation for entirely new business models in a connected, mobile world," the partners said.

### Autopilot under scrutiny

While the auto industry sees self-driving cars as the way forward, US electric car company Tesla announced earlier that a driver was killed in a car crash in Florida in May while using the "autopilot" self-driving mechanism on one of its models. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said it had opened a "preliminary evaluation" into the performance of the autopilot function in the wake of the crash.

BMW, Intel and Mobileye insisted that "the future of automated driving promises to change lives and societies for the better." Nevertheless, "the path to get to a fully autonomous world is complex and will require end-to-end solutions that integrate intelligence across the network, from door locks to the data centre," they said.

"Transportation providers of the future must harness rapidly evolving technologies, collaborate with totally new partners, and prepare for disruptive opportunities." Intel is the world's leading maker of computer chips while Mobileye describes itself as the "global leader in the development of computer vision and machine learning, data analysis, localization and mapping for Advanced Driver Assistance Systems and autonomous driving." BMW is already a client of Mobileye. And last year it joined forces with its German rivals Daimler and Audi, the luxury subsidiary of Volkswagen, to buy the Here digital mapping service from Nokia.

BMW's Series 7 is able to park itself or keep in line while maintaining a safe distance behind the car ahead at speeds up to 210 kilometres per hour. Tesla, known for its high-end electric cars, unveiled its autopilot system last year which allows the vehicle to automatically change lanes, manage speed and even hit the brakes. The system is activated and overridden by the driver. A major study released earlier this month said the looming arrival of self-driving vehicles is likely to vastly reduce traffic fatalities, but also poses difficult moral dilemmas. Scientists said autonomous driving systems will require programmers to develop algorithms to make critical decisions that are based more on ethics than technology, such as whether to sacrifice a driver or passenger rather than pedestrians. — AFP



**BEIJING:** People walk and ride past a billboard advertisement for a commercial and residential complex in Beijing yesterday. The cost of Chinese new homes rose at a slower rate in June from the previous month, figures showed yesterday as measures to tame prices in the world's second-largest economy took hold. — AFP

## PACIFIC ALLIANCE FMS EYE FINANCIAL INTEGRATION

**FRUTILLAR, Chile:** The Pacific Alliance trade bloc must improve integration of financial systems to spur investment in key areas such as infrastructure, finance ministers from the four member nations said on Thursday. The group, composed of Colombia, Mexico, Chile, and Peru, has already reached several accords in areas such as free commerce and immigration rules. But at a summit in the scenic Chilean town of Frutillar and Puerto Varas, financial leaders stressed that significant opportunities for integration remained.

"The alliance has advanced in commercial agreements, in migratory and diplomatic agreements, but a fundamental step for the bloc and one which

has enormous value, that we can bring about, is financial integration," Colombian Finance Minister Mauricio Cardenas said in a speech to the conference. The ministers said that among the key goals would be to allow pension funds from the countries in the bloc to be able to make a broader range of investments in each other's economies.

Investments in infrastructure, the ministers said, would stand to gain from such an arrangement.

One solution would be to allow pension funds to invest in other countries as if their investments had originated in those countries, thus lowering regulatory burdens, the ministers said.

"We have a paradox in which tradi-

tional investments are giving low returns and on the other hand there is considerable liquidity, and we have infrastructure projects that should give out greater returns," said Fernando Aportela, Mexico's subsecretary of finance.

Pension funds in the Pacific Alliance have about \$404 billion in investments. According to the Interamerican Development Bank, Latin America should increase infrastructure spending by 2 to 4 percent of annual gross domestic product in the coming decades.

In addition to the four member nations, 49 observer states were also present in southern Chile for the talks, which ended yesterday. — Reuters



**TOKYO:** People walk on a street in Tokyo yesterday. Japan was clobbered with a one-two punch yesterday morning as weak data and a lacklustre business confidence report underscored the slowdown dragging on the world's number three economy. — AFP

## JAPAN CLOBBERED BY WEAK INFLATION AND BUSINESS CONFIDENCE

**TOKYO:** Japan was clobbered with a one-two punch yesterday morning as weak data and a lacklustre business confidence report underscored the slowdown dragging on the world's number three economy. The poor readings will heap pressure on policymakers to unveil more stimulus, after the yen surged again in the wake of Britain's shock vote last week to quit the European Union, threatening Japan Inc's profits.

Yesterday's data come ahead of parliamentary elections next week seen as a referendum on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's faltering plan to kickstart the economy, dubbed Abenomics. Spending by households across the country fell in May while inflation dropped for a third straight month, official data showed Friday, in a fresh blow to Abe's war on deflation.

They were the latest in a string of figures - including an earlier drop in factory output-to raise concerns about Japan's prospects. While the labor market remained tight in May, there are growing concerns about second-quarter economic growth. Japan dodged a recession in the first three months of the year. "Today's numbers underscored the weakness in consumer spending, which is likely to keep putting pressure on the Japanese economy," said Hideo Kumano, chief economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute.

Also Friday, the Bank of Japan's closely watched Tankan survey showed confidence among small firms and non-manufacturers worsened during the second quarter of the year.

Sentiment among major manufacturers remained stuck at its lowest levels since Abe kicked off his much-vaunted program to boost growth more than three years ago. The survey of over 10,000 companies is the most comprehensive indicator of how Japan Inc is faring.

### 'Brexit Blues'

Investors tend to buy the yen as a safe asset in times of turmoil, but a stronger currency hits Japan's exporters especially hard as it shrinks the value of the profits they earn overseas when converted back to yen. Yesterday's weak Tankan report does not include the full impact of the so-called Brexit. "It is important to remember that the (Tankan) survey was conducted throughout June and therefore reflects the UK's vote to leave the EU only in part," said Marcel Thieliand at research house Capital Economics.

Friday's disappointing reports will put a renewed focus on the central bank's meeting later this month, as markets try to gauge whether policymakers will unleash more stimulus to prop up Japan's economy. The Bank of Japan's massive 80 trillion yen monetary easing plan is a cornerstone of efforts to bring an end to years of the deflation that held back growth in the once-powerhouse economy. Falling prices may sound like a good thing for consumers but they tend to delay spending, which in turn hits firms' hiring and expansion plans, which is bad for the economy.

Tokyo has struggled to jack up prices, with Abenomics finding itself under a renewed spotlight more than three years on. The plan-a mix of massive monetary easing, government spending and red-tape slashing-brought the yen down from record highs and made Japan's exports more competitive but that has not been enough to deliver consistent growth.

The International Monetary Fund recently said the plan needed to be "reloaded" with steps to boost wages and bring about labor reforms. Japan's parliamentary elections are widely seen as a vote on Abe's plan, although his premiership will not likely be contested. Half of the 242 seats in Japan's upper house are up for grabs in the July 10 vote. — AFP

# EUROZONE UNEMPLOYMENT FALLS TO NEAR FIVE-YEAR LOW

## BREXIT WILL IMPACT EUROZONE RECOVERY: ECB

**BRUSSELS:** Eurozone unemployment fell to a near five-year low in May, official data said yesterday, in a rare positive sign for a sluggish European economy struggling to return to solid growth. The data covers a period before last week's shock Brexit vote, which economists believe has made the eurozone more unstable and could negatively affect growth and job figures in the medium term.

The Eurostat statistics agency said unemployment in the 19-nation eurozone fell to 10.1 percent in May from 10.2 percent in April. The rate fell in with analyst forecasts as the eurozone continues a painfully slow recovery after unemployment hit record highs during the worst of the debt crisis.

"Despite May's decline, the euro-zone unemployment rate ... is still well above the 1999-2007 average of 8.8 percent," said Stephen Brown European Economist at Capital Economics.

Unemployment in the full 28-nation EU was unchanged at 8.6 percent in February, Eurostat said. One of the lowest jobless rates was in powerhouse Germany, at 4.2

percent, while the highest were in debt-laden Greece at 24.1 percent and Spain with 19.8 percent. Unemployment in the single currency bloc hit a record high of 12.1 percent during the worst of the debt crisis. "Given that at least some eurozone firms will probably delay their hiring plans after the fallout of the UK's vote to leave the EU, we still think that the ECB has a lot more work to do..." said Brown.

The European Central Bank launched a massive stimulus program in early 2015 but to little apparent effect and last month added even more unprecedented measures in an effort to get the economy back on track. The uncertainty sparked by the British vote to leave European Union will "inevitably" harm economic recovery in the euro area, European Central Bank executive board member Benoît Coeuré said in a newspaper interview yesterday.

The pick-up in the eurozone economy "will inevitably suffer from the 'uncertainty shock' that the British referendum has triggered, even if the impact is difficult to quantify at the moment," Coeuré told the French daily Le Monde. The effect would

be all the more damaging because "the recovery in the euro area is already there. It's healthy and driven by domestic demand and by investment," even it was being "kept down by high unemployment levels and debt," he argued.

The victory of the Leave vote in Britain last week has already led to severe turbulence on the financial markets. "Central banks are continuing to monitor developments and are ready to intervene if financial stability is jeopardised, by supplying liquidity if necessary," Coeuré said. "The important thing is to clarify how and when Britain will leave, because prolonged uncertainty will carry an economic cost," both for Britain and the EU, he said.

The priority was to "re-establish confidence between European countries," by pushing through structural reforms before pressing ahead with integration. "If everyone plays their part, confidence will return and Europe will be able to move forward," Coeuré continued. The solution to the problems "lies as much with Berlin, Paris and Rome as with Brussels and Frankfurt," he said. — AFP

# GOLD HEADS FOR FIFTH WEEK OF GAINS AND SILVER JUMPS

**LONDON:** Gold rose 1 percent yesterday and was heading for its fifth weekly gain, supported by a weaker dollar and prospects for further monetary policy easing in the wake of Britain's vote to leave the European Union. Spot gold rose to a session high of \$1,338 an ounce, and was 0.8 percent higher at \$1,332.76 an ounce by 1155 GMT. The metal gained 8.8 percent in June, its biggest monthly rise since February.

Gold's strength benefited silver, which breached the \$19 an ounce level yesterday for the first time since September 2014. It rose as much as 3.8 percent to \$19.40 and traded 2.6 percent higher at \$19.18. Silver was on track for its best week since August 2013 having gained more than 8 percent so far. "For gold, the initial reaction was safe-haven demand due to the uncertain political situation in Europe, but then the latest move might be more of a reaction to comments from central banks that they are moving to an easing bias," Danske Bank senior analyst Jens Pedersen said.

"Near term, the pivotal moment for gold will be next Friday's (US) jobs report, because a decent print will at least remove the uncertainty about the state of the US jobs market and the Fed's decision to postpone any rate hike would be more about the external effect of the Brexit vote on the US economy," Pedersen said.

The dollar fell 0.4 percent against a basket of six currencies, while European stocks recovered on signs that central banks such as the Bank of England, the Bank of Japan and the European Central Bank will loosen monetary conditions even further. Concerns about the global

economy have made a US rate rise in coming months less likely, analysts say, but much will depend on US economic data and markets will be watching non-farm payrolls due on July 8 in particular for clues. Low US interest rates are positive for gold because the opportunity cost of holding it decreases and the dollar typically falls, making the metal cheaper.

Societe Generale raised its gold price forecasts on Thursday on concerns about the ongoing political, financial and economic fallout of Britain's vote

last week to leave the European Union. "Looking ahead, it seems that gold will remain one of the major beneficiaries in the current backdrop, as heightened volatility and lingering uncertainty will keep investors' risk appetite in check," the bank said in a note. Platinum marked its highest level since May 18 at \$1,035 an ounce and was on track for its best weekly rise since the end of April. Palladium, heading for its best week since early March, rose to its highest since May 13 at \$601, and was up 0.3 percent at \$594.83. — Reuters

## MEXICO CB BOOSTS RATE AFTER BREXIT

**MEXICO CITY:** Mexico's central bank on Thursday raised its key interest rate by half a point to contain inflation and shore up the peso after its battering following Britain's decision to leave the European Union. Facing the prospect of "sluggish" global growth in the second half of 2016, the bank decided to "increase the interbank base rate by 50 points to a level of 4.25 percent," it said in a statement.

"One of the risks for the global economy has materialized after Great Britain's recent decision to end its membership in the European Union," it added. The peso fell 3.12 percent yesterday, closing at 19.25 pesos to the dollar the day after Britons voted in a referendum to leave the EU. The Mexican currency rallied on Thursday on news of the hike, which was larger than expected.

Brexit had a "negative impact on international financial markets and the prospects of trade and global growth, with corresponding effects on the confidence of businesses and consumers," the central bank said. By increasing the policy rate, it "seeks to prevent the depreciation of the national currency seen in recent months."

The bank had already raised its key rate by half a point to 3.75 percent in February to stem the peso's decline. The Mexican currency had depreciated against the dollar for several months, recently falling below the symbolic threshold of 19 pesos to one dollar.

The peso depreciated by more than 16 percent against the US currency last year, mainly thanks to falling oil prices. Mexico's GDP saw growth of 2.5 percent in 2015. — AFP



**JINJIANG:** Chinese workers assemble toy cars at a toy factory in Jinjiang, southeast China's Fujian province yesterday. Activity in Chinese factories suffered its sharpest deterioration for four months in June, figures showed yesterday as weak demand and industrial overcapacity weighed on the world's second-largest economy. — AFP

# CHINA MANUFACTURING DETERIORATES SHARPLY

## WEAK DEMAND, OVERCAPACITY WEIGH

**BEIJING:** Activity in Chinese factories suffered its sharpest deterioration for four months in June, figures showed yesterday, as weak demand and industrial overcapacity weighed on the world's second-largest economy. The figures are the latest to highlight a long-running growth slowdown in the country as the global outlook weakens.

The private Caixin Purchasing Managers' Index of manufacturing activity came in at 48.6 in June, down from 49.2 in May, the Chinese financial magazine said in a joint statement with data compiler Markit. It was also well off the median forecast of 49.2 in a Bloomberg News poll.

A reading above 50 signals expanding activity, while anything below indicates shrinkage. Investors watch the figure closely as the first available indicator each month of the health of the economy.

Manufacturers shed jobs for the 32nd straight month, Caixin said, as they sought to cut costs in the face of a drop in new work. Overall economic conditions in the second quarter were "considerably weaker" than in the first quarter, Caixin's Zhong Zhengsheng said. "Against the backdrop of a turbulent external environment, and in order to avert a sharp economic decline, the government must strengthen its proac-

tive fiscal policy while continuing to follow prudent monetary policy."

China is a vital driver of global expansion, but its economy grew only 6.9 percent last year, its weakest rate in a quarter of a century. The key manufacturing sector has been struggling for months in the face of sagging global demand for Chinese products and excess industrial capacity left over from the country's infrastructure boom.

### Brexit risk

But the official Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) — which focuses on larger firms than the Caixin survey-painted a slightly more positive picture, with data for June coming in at the breakeven point of 50.0, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The figure was slightly down from the previous two months, but matched economists' median expectations of 50.0 in a survey by Bloomberg News. "It is noteworthy that the current domestic market demand remained weak and real economy momentum was still insufficient," Zhao Qinge, analyst for the National Bureau of Statistics, said in a note.

"Due to the impact of slumping global economic growth, US interest rate expectations, US and European trade protection measures, and Brexit, recently the manufacturing trend has been weak."

Some traditional industries dropped significantly, the NBS said, as the index for activity in highly energy-intensive factories fell 0.9 points to 48.2.

Larger firms, which tend to be state-owned, showed increased activity with a June PMI of 51.0, while activity in medium- and small-scale firms contracted, the NBS said. The data suggested China was "unlikely" to achieve growth of 6.7 percent in the second quarter and the government would support growth with spending, analysts with ANZ said in a note. — AFP

## EASYJET DEMANDS EU FLIGHTS CERTIFICATE AFTER BREXIT

**LONDON:** British no-frills airline EasyJet announced yesterday it has applied for an air operator certificate from the European Union to continue flying throughout the bloc after Brexit.

The carrier said in a statement that it has begun a formal procedure to obtain an air operator certificate (AOC) to keep the status quo after Britain's vote to quit the EU cast doubts over airline routes. "EasyJet is lobbying the UK government and the EU to ensure the continuation of a fully liberal and deregulated aviation market within the UK and Europe," it said in a statement.

"This would mean that EasyJet and all European airlines can continue to operate as they do today.

"As part of EasyJet's contingency planning before the referendum we had informal discussions with a number of European aviation regulators about the establishment of an AOC in an

European country to enable easyJet to fly across Europe as we do today. "EasyJet has now started a formal process to acquire an AOC," it added. The low-cost carrier added that it does not need to make any other

operational or structural changes until the outcome of Britain's EU exit negotiations becomes clear.

EasyJet stressed that it had no plans to move from Luton, which lies north of the British capital and where the airline has been based for two decades. Since the June 23 referendum, both EasyJet and British Airways owner IAG have issued profit-warnings, as the pound dives against the euro on financial markets.

EasyJet said Monday that the surprise vote would create uncertainty in the economy and among consumers, impacting its second-half performance that ends in September. —AFP

## CUBA PLANS CUTS IN FUEL, ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

**HAVANA:** Cuba has ordered some state firms and joint ventures to reduce fuel and electricity consumption, a senior diplomat and the director of a foreign joint venture said on Thursday, in the latest sign a crisis in ally Venezuela is hurting the economy. While it was not clear exactly what triggered the cuts, Cuba's President Raul Castro warned in December that the economy would go through a rough patch in 2016, citing the impact of low oil prices on the trade relationship with Venezuela.

Cuba has a history of energy rationing, especially in the 1990s after the collapse of the Soviet Union, when the Communist government struggled to survive under a severe US embargo. The current restrictions will not be so severe, but they come at a time when Cubans' expectations are higher thanks to the detente with Washington and economic reforms.

The extent of the rationing, which is expected to take effect in July and be announced next week at a session of the National Assembly, is expected to depend on the sector but there are signs some of the belt-tightening could be quite sharp. "I saw a copy of the Economy Ministry instructions to the state oil and electricity monopolies yesterday; it stated quotas would be reduced up to 50 percent through the end of the year," the foreign director of a joint venture said on condition of anonymity.

"I called the ministry that supervises our company and they said the level of cuts to our sector were still under discussion," he said.

### Currency crisis

A statement issued by the Council of Ministers earlier this week said Economy Minister Marino Murillo explained to members the country's economic situation and restrictions being adopted for the rest of the year, without giving details. "He clarified that those activities that maintain the vitality of the country, in particular those that generate (hard currency) earnings and substitute imports, will be guaranteed," it said, providing no further details.

Low oil prices have taken Venezuela to the brink of economic collapse and destabilized its leftist government, which ships Cuba 90,000 barrels of oil per day as part of an exchange that sends tens of thousands of Cuban professionals to Venezuela. So far Venezuela seems to be meeting its oil commitments to Cuba although cash payments for doctors and other Cuban professionals have dried up in the past 18 months, experts say.

"There does not seem to have been a cutback in crude oil and or petroleum products deliveries by Venezuela to Cuba, according to marine traffic reports," Jorge Pinon, director of the Latin America and Caribbean Energy Program at the University of Texas, said.

"They may be expecting one in the future, building inventories or simply trying to save money or trying to insure there are no blackouts for residents as electricity demand increases," he said.

Several Western diplomats in Cuba said they received a stream of reports over the last two weeks that the government would cut fuel and electricity quotas to state companies.

"The Cubans are clearly way behind in paying some of our suppliers and now we have these cuts on the horizon," said one commercial attaché who asked not to be identified because of diplomatic sensitivities. Cuba began cutting back on merchandise imports last year and has been slow in making some payments to creditors and suppliers.

"It is obvious all this has to do with the crisis in Venezuela," he said.

Cuban President Raul Castro told a year-end session of the National Assembly in December that economic growth would slow from 4 percent in 2015 to 2 percent in 2016 due to falling export revenues. Castro said that lower oil prices had reduced the cost of a number of imports such as food but also hurt "mutually advantageous cooperation relations with various (oil-producing) countries, in particular the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela." — Reuters

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# Weekender

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2016

Indian Muslims offer prayers on the last congregational Friday prayers of the holy month of Ramadan, on a street outside the Jama Masjid in Allahabad yesterday. — AFP

**Taynal Mosque, crown jewel of Islamic architecture in Lebanon**

SEE PAGE 27



Young Syrian refugees perform during a play as part of a theatre project touring Lebanon at an unofficial refugee camp in the Lebanese village of Bar Elias. — AFP photos



Young Syrian refugees prepare their mobile theatre stage ahead of a performance as part of a theatre project.

## Syrian refugees tell of pain, hope in travelling theatre play

**C**rouched atop a blue minivan at a refugee camp near Lebanon's eastern border, the Syrians act out tales of pain and hope with which their audience is all too familiar. Gesticulating wildly and engaging with fellow refugees from the makeshift stage, the young actors perform in "The Caravan," a collection of stories about the challenges of daily life as a Syrian in Lebanon. One of them makes a revving noise while another pretends to sit on an invisible motorbike, as the narrator tells the story of a checkpoint at which only Syrian riders are stopped.

"When the Lebanese had their civil war (1975-1990), we hosted them with hospitality. Why are they acting this way with us? We are the same people," says Ahmad, 20, the Syrian director of the play. The young actors will use the van to take their show on tour to refugee camps in Lebanese cities and towns, and across its countryside. More than one million Syrians have sought refuge in Lebanon from the devastating conflict in their homeland that has killed more than 280,000 people. But once in Lebanon, they face a whole new set of challenges including finding adequate shelter, paying for residency papers, and feeling discriminated against by people in general.

Many Lebanese hold deeply rooted prejudices towards Syrians, some as a legacy of the Syrian army's nearly 30-year presence in the country, and others out of fear they will take lower-income jobs and put people out of work. In another scene from "The Caravan," a distressed female narrator calls several Lebanese hospitals to find an incubator for her ailing newborn daughter. But doctors and nurses pass her from one person to the next as she becomes increasingly desperate. "This story really touched me because the woman was not able to hospitalize her daughter, who then died," Ahmad says.

### 'It's about us'

The final production is made up of eight plays chosen from nearly 300 that refugees came up with through storytelling workshops in Lebanon, says its artistic director Sabine Choucair. The 34-year-old Lebanese woman hatched the idea for "The Caravan"

as a way for Syrians to engage in group therapy. "We talk a lot about the number of refugees, but rarely about the human side," she says. Choucair says the objective is to promote coexistence between Syrians and Lebanese, "but also with Iraqis, Palestinians, and other Syrians because these stories are about them, too." The project was sponsored by Beirut DC, an association that promotes Arab cinema, and was funded to the tune of 113,000 euros (\$125,000) by the European Union and the UN children's agency UNICEF.

In the camp near Bar Elias, one of the areas that hosts the most refugees in Lebanon, small children crowd around Choucair to ask when the next performance is. The van that serves as the stage is decorated with orange, green, and red pieces of fabric, bits of wood, and plastic bottles. A crowd of about 100 people, mostly women and children, sit cross-legged on the ground under the summer sun. "Every day, I see Syria in my dreams. I'm with my neighbors at the market in Homs, once the war is over," says Fatima, a mother of two toddlers. "I love this play because it's about us. It gives our children an idea of what we're suffering."

Ahmad's mother says she discouraged him from taking part in the theatre production at first. "At the beginning, I would tell my son that it was ridiculous to be in a play. But now I realize that it's good that he can tell these kinds of stories," says Hasna, 48. She sits next to three of her friends, all dressed in black, and wipes away tears welling up in her eyes. "We lost everything: children, brothers, sisters. My son has three children, and I haven't heard anything about him since 2013," she says, her voice cracking. At the end of the play, a microphone is passed around the audience. "We have to succeed in living together. We love the Lebanese and we would like them to love us too," one woman declares as her fellow spectators clap. — AFP



Lebanese Sabine Choucair talks to Syrian refugee children ahead of the theatre show.



Young Syrian refugees perform a play as part of a theatre project.



Syrian refugees watch a play as part of a theatre project.



US actress Olivia de Havilland poses during an Associated Press interview, in Paris. —AP/AFP photos



This file photo taken on September 09, 2010 shows English actress Jacqueline Bisset (right) next to US actress Olivia de Havilland (left) posing for a photograph on September 9, 2010 at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

# Golden age Hollywood starlet Olivia de Havilland turns 100

Screen legend Olivia de Havilland, who turned 100 yesterday, is the last surviving star from "Gone with the Wind" and one of the last great stars of Hollywood's bygone golden era. The two-time Oscar winner and five-time Academy Award nominee came to embody the elegant glamour of the silver screen in the 1930s and 1940s. But she also made waves with a landmark legal battle against the Hollywood studios and a secret feud with her equally famous sister, Joan Fontaine.

The 1939 box-office blockbuster "Gone with the Wind" brought de Havilland wide acclaim for her role as the noble, long-suffering Melanie, starring opposite Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable in the US Civil War epic. Her performance as love rival to the fiery Scarlett O'Hara, played by Leigh, led to de Havilland's first Oscar nod for best supporting actress. But she lost out to co-star Hattie McDaniel, who played the character of Mammy and became the first African-American to win an Academy Award.

The film sealed De Havilland's reputation as one of Hollywood's top leading ladies, but with her doe-eyed looks she soon felt frustrated at the roles she was offered, fearful of being typecast as a sweet, innocent young thing. "Playing a good girl was difficult in the 30s, when the fad was to play bad girls," she once said in an interview. "Actually, I think playing bad girls is a bore. I have always had more luck with good girl roles because they require more from an actress."

Her screen debut had come as Hermia in "A

Midsummer Night's Dream" in 1935 after director Max Reinhardt spotted her in a local theatre production of the play. She won accolades for her role opposite swashbuckling actor Errol Flynn in "Captain Blood" later the same year, and their on-screen chemistry persuaded studio bosses to cast her alongside Flynn in seven other movies.



This file photo taken on January 01, 1939 shows US actress Olivia de Havilland playing as Melanie Wilkes, in a scene from the 1939 Hollywood epic film, "Gone With the Wind".

## Correcting 'a serious abuse'

De Havilland incurred the wrath of the bosses at Warner Bros., who at that time effectively owned their stars, by rejecting script after script. In what was a shocking move for the era, she sued the studios to be released from her seven-year contract and won, in a far-reaching 1945 ruling which gave actors the right to choose their own roles and career paths. It is still known as the De Havilland law, and the actress once said of it: "I was very proud of that decision, for it corrected a serious abuse of the contract system... No one thought I would win, but I did."

During her court case, she was blacklisted for three years and unable to work, but her legal victory kickstarted her career. The following year in 1946 she won her first Oscar for her portrayal of Jody Norris in "To Each His Own", in an edgier role as an unmarried mother and her heart-breaking struggle to stay near to the child she could never acknowledge. She won her second Academy Award for playing the socially inept spinster Catherine Sloper in "The Heiress" in 1949. In a real-life Hollywood drama, De Havilland was estranged for many years from her sister Joan Fontaine, her junior by a year and a screen legend in her own right.

Neither actress has ever spoken publicly about their feud, but in 1941 De Havilland lost out on an Oscar for her lead performance as Emmy Brown in "Hold Back the Dawn" to Fontaine, who picked up the statuette for Alfred Hitchcock's "Suspicion". The sisters remain the

only siblings in Oscar history to have both won lead acting honors.

## 'Soul-crushing'

The two girls were born to British parents living in Tokyo. In a twist of fate, De Havilland fell ill as a girl leading to an initially short stay in California that stretched into years. De Havilland became a naturalized US citizen in 1941, but in the 1950s her career began to wilt as she despaired at the growing promiscuousness in the movie world. She appeared in a few films in the 1970s and also did some television work in the 1980s. But she is said to have once pronounced: "The TV business is soul-crushing, talent-destroying and human-being-destroying."

Romantically, De Havilland was linked to John Huston, James Stewart and Howard Hughes in the 1940s, but she married novelist Marcus Goodrich in 1946, by whom she had a son, Benjamin. The couple divorced in 1953, and De Havilland later married French journalist Pierre Galante, with whom she had a daughter, Giselle, in 1956. They later divorced but when Galante fell ill, she nursed him during his final days in Paris and remained in the French capital. — AFP

## Kate Beckinsale's 'Underworld' sequel pushed back to 2017

Screen Gems has moved "Underworld: Blood Wars" back three months from its pre-Halloween slot of Oct 14 to Jan 6, 2017. Kate Beckinsale and Theo James are starring in the fifth film in its vampires-versus-werewolves franchise. German cinematographer Anna Foerster, a long-time collaborator with Roland Emmerich, is making her feature directorial debut and helming from Cory Goodman's screenplay. Trent Garrett, Tobias Menzies, Lara Pulver, Clementine Nicholson, Bradley James and Charles Dance are also starring. Lakeshore toppers Tom Rosenberg and Gary Lucchesi are producing along with David Kern, Len Wiseman and Richard S. Wright.

The four films have grossed \$460 million worldwide. The franchise launched in 2003 with "Underworld," directed by Len Wiseman and starring Beckinsale as the vampire Selene who is killing

the Lycans (Werewolves) who allegedly slaughtered her family. The next three films were 2006's "Underworld: Evolution," 2009's "Underworld: Rise of the Lycans" and 2012's "Underworld: Awakening." — Reuters



Kate Beckinsale

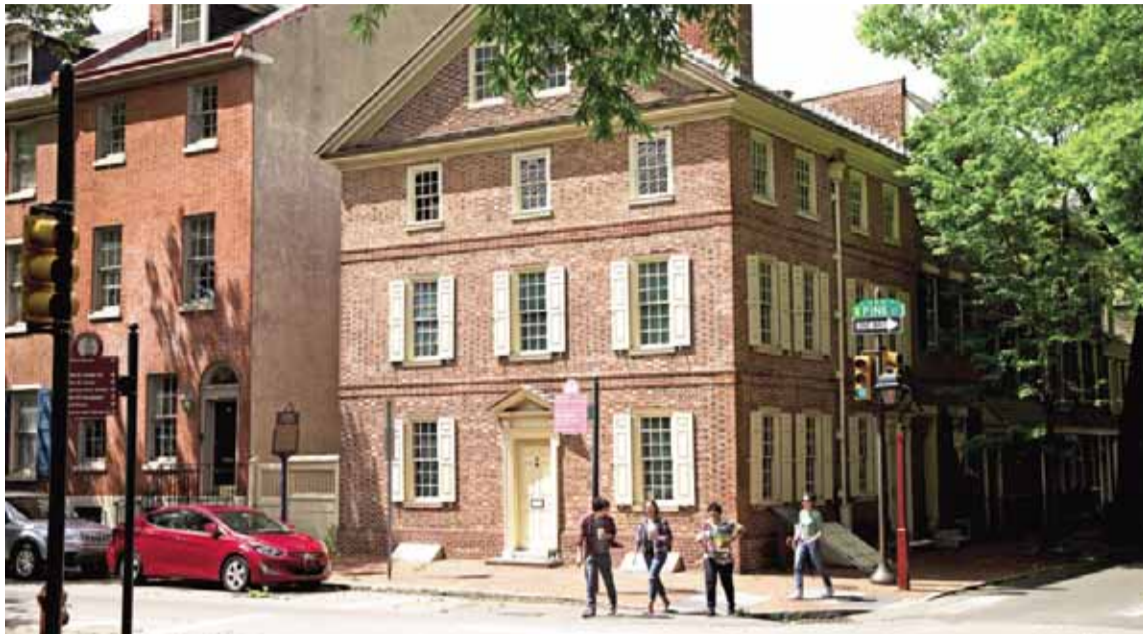
## French-Serbian film turns migrant crisis on its head

A new French-Serbian film portrays a migrant crisis in which tens of thousands of people are trying to cross Balkan borders illegally—but this time, they are coming from the west. "At The Border", which premiered in Serbia yesterday, is set in the year 2022 and shows hordes of people from rich countries abandoning their wealth in search of a happier life in Serbia. The crowdfunded short film was shot last year as hundreds of thousands of migrants crossed the Balkans hoping to start new lives in western Europe, having fled war or poverty in the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

In contrast, the movie shows expensive cars driven from the other direction and abandoned in fields, as smartly-dressed people wave euro notes at Serbian police beyond a razor-wire fence. Actor

Arnaud Humbert, who wrote and starred in the film, told AFP that these "people who have everything" realize they lack a sense of well-being and "they have to go out and find it". A French 34-year-old living in Belgrade, Humbert said he began writing the script in February last year, months before the real-life migrant crisis reached its peak.

"People always ask me what I'm doing in Serbia, it's not common," he said. But "so many foreigners coming to Serbia really appreciate the lifestyle here". In the film he plays a young Frenchman, also called Arnaud, who is love with both Serbia and a Serbian woman, Jelena, but he is not allowed to cross the closed frontier.—AFP



People walk past the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial in Philadelphia. — AP photos



Senior museum curator Robert Giannini speaks during an interview with The Associated Press.



Park ranger Adam Duncan, left, and senior museum curator Robert Giannini take part in an interview with The Associated Press at Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial in Philadelphia.



An interior view of the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial in Philadelphia is shown.



This Nov 10, 2010 file shows a sculpture of Thaddeus Kosciuszko in Philadelphia.

## Smallest national park? Kosciuszko, forgotten son of liberty

If the hip-hop Broadway smash "Hamilton" can reignite interest in the first US treasury secretary, what will it take to drum up interest in another forgotten hero from America's fight for independence? That question has stumped National Park Service employees who oversee the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial. It's the smallest and one of the least-visited sites in the system, despite standing just a few blocks from the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. The few who do come are a passionate bunch - usually tourists with Polish heritage or history buffs familiar with Kosciuszko's pivotal role in the American Revolution. As hordes of people descend on the city for July Fourth, here's a brief look at a man who Thomas Jefferson called "as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known."

### Who was Thaddeus Kosciuszko?

A military engineer from Poland, Kosciuszko came to Philadelphia in August 1776 to offer his services in the fight against the British. His defenses helped the Continental army win the critical Battle of Saratoga in New York, and he later worked on fortifications that secured key access to the Hudson River at West Point - now the site of the US Military Academy. He also fought in the Carolinas. After the war, Kosciuszko returned to Poland and, in 1794, led a rebellion against Russian occupation. He became a hero to his countrymen despite Russia's victory and his ensuing exile. Kosciuszko is pronounced kos-CHOOS'-koh. Alternate spellings include Tadeusz for his first name and Kosciusko (no "z") for his last name.

### Why is the memorial in Philadelphia?

Kosciuszko returned to Philadelphia while in exile and received a warm welcome. From November 1797 to May 1798, he stayed at a boarding house that now serves as the national memorial. While here, Kosciuszko rarely left his bedroom because of a severe leg injury suffered during the fighting in Poland. But he kept busy playing chess, painting and entertaining a steady stream of dignitaries and visitors, including his longtime close friend Thomas Jefferson.

Kosciuszko soon went back to Europe with the ultimate goal of helping Poland regain its independence. It didn't happen in his lifetime, and he died in Switzerland in 1817. To be sure, Philadelphia is hardly alone in its Kosciuszko tribute. A statue stands across from the White House in Lafayette Square, and the Kosciuszko Bridge connects Brooklyn and Queens in New York. Oprah Winfrey was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi, and Australia's highest peak is Mount Kosciuszko. At West Point, the school boasts a Kosciuszko monument and garden. Cadets still study his fortifications, according to US Army Lt Col Dave Siry, who teaches at the school.

### What will I see?

Nearly two centuries after Kosciuszko lived at the boarding house, the building was purchased by Philadelphia philanthropist Edward Pizek, the son of Polish immigrants and co-founder of the Mrs. Paul's frozen fish empire. Pizek gave the three-story brick row

house to the park service, and then bought and donated the home next door to add exhibit space. The memorial opened in 1976 and occupies just 0.2 acres in the historic Society Hill neighborhood, making it the smallest site in the park service's portfolio.

The ground-floor displays tell the story of Kosciuszko's life. Upstairs, his bedroom has been re-created with period furniture and artifacts based on an inventory found in Jefferson's personal papers. There's also a small theater with a six-minute film. All exhibits offer English and Polish translations. The bedroom includes replica papers from an abolition society because of his vehement opposition to slavery. While here, Kosciuszko wrote a will instructing that his American assets - he earned a pension and land for his military service - be liquidated to free slaves and educate them. When litigation arose after his death, the will was invalidated by the US Supreme Court.

### When can I visit?

The memorial used to have daily hours, but now it's open only on weekends for seven months a year. "Some days when we were open full-time, you'd see the mailman - that's it," said park ranger Adam Duncan. "Sometimes we would have bus drivers come in to use the bathroom." A park service survey from 2015 showed the memorial welcomed 1,261 visitors, compared with 4.3 million tourists just a few blocks away at Independence National Historical Park, which includes the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. Only about a half-dozen national parks got fewer visitors than Kosciuszko last year - including a pair of remote sites in Alaska that are accessible only by plane. But while the modest Philadelphia site lacks grandeur, it rewards guests with a compelling story, said Duncan. "We hope that they walk away with a sense of who Kosciuszko was and what he did for the United States, and his dedication to liberty - liberty for all," Duncan said. — AP



Visitors take in the Liberty Bell at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia.





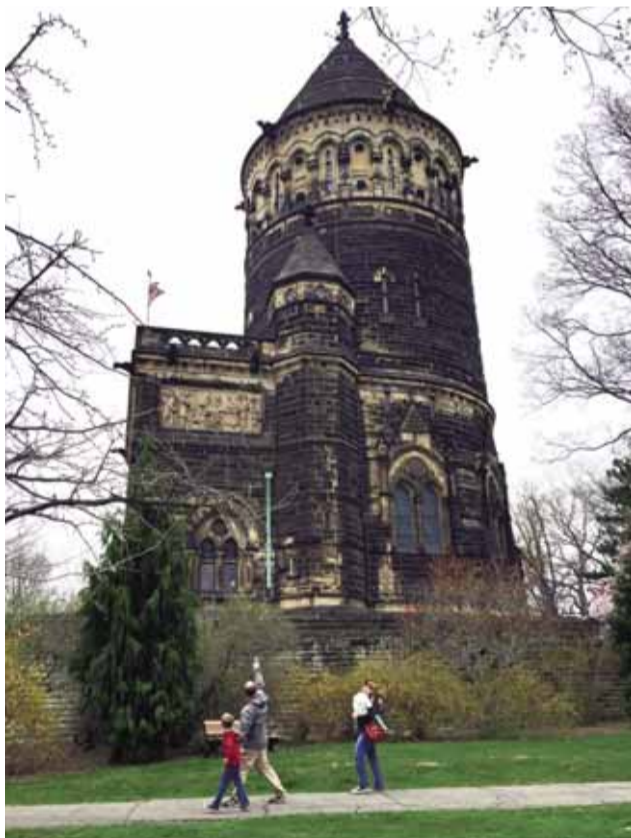
The James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor, Ohio. — AP photos



The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum on the shores of Lake Erie in Cleveland.

## A presidential bar and more: Cleveland for conventioners

Conventioners, political geeks and others heading to the GOP convention in Cleveland, take note: With seven presidents born in Ohio, there's a lot of history here. But what might be the most intriguing presidential-themed site in Cleveland isn't a museum or historic home. Nope. It's a dive bar named for an obscure president who was actually born in New York. It's called the Millard Fillmore Presidential Library, but the only political memorabilia on display is of the goofball variety - like a photo of Mount Rushmore with Fillmore's face plastered in. The drink menu includes a Fillmore Manhattan and drinks named Fireside Chat, 21st Amendment and Jackie O's Firefly Amber. Elsewhere, the Cleveland area has plenty of bonafide political sites - like the James A. Garfield Memorial, honoring the Ohio-born 20th president, and the First Ladies National Historic Site 60 miles away in Canton. But for GOP delegates and anybody else needing a place to kick back when the Republicans come to town to pick their presidential nominee July 18-21, the Millard Fillmore Presidential Library might just be the place.



The exterior of the James A. Garfield Memorial at Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland.

Why Fillmore, when he's not even born in Ohio? Bar owner Tom Bell says he "wanted to puncture the whole idea of presidential libraries. It's such a pompous, self-aggrandizing tribute. So I did a little research and found out the most commonly bottom-ranked president in the history of our country was Millard Fillmore." The bar is located in an emerging hipster 'hood called the Waterloo Arts & Entertainment District, amid businesses on Waterloo Road like Blue

Arrow Records, Star Pop vintage clothing, Citizen Pie pizza and the Beachland Ballroom, a live music club. On a recent visit, a man was throwing up in a sidewalk trash can a few doors down while a shouting match took place at a bus stop. "It's kind of a gritty neighborhood but that's part of the charm," said bartender Jim Caldwell, adding that Cleveland's self-deprecating identity is sometimes summed up like this: "At least we're not Detroit."

### Inaugural gowns

Not that Cleveland doesn't have a bright and shiny side. In the Ohio City neighborhood, you'll find beautifully restored Victorian homes, brew pubs like Bier Markt serving craft beer and artisanal pizza, and the historic, vibrant West Side Market. Vendors at the market illustrate Cleveland's proud ethnic heritage, a melting pot that ranges from Czuchraj Meats, selling homemade beef jerky, to Reilly's Irish Bakery, offering shepherd's pie and Cornish pasties.

The glittering Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum, housed in a glass pyramid on the banks of Lake Erie, is hosting "Louder Than Words: Rock, Power and Politics," an exhibit about rock music's activism in civil rights, anti-war and other protest movements. At the Cleveland History Center, you'll find "Power & Politics," with artifacts ranging from campaign buttons to inaugural gowns.

Political geeks will also want to hit the James Garfield trifecta: His birthplace, home and final resting place can all be visited in one day. He was the last president born in a log cabin, and a replica of that home can be visited in Moreland Hills. The beautifully preserved farmhouse where he later lived with his wife and children in Mentor is a National Park site. And his casket is on display at Cleveland's Lake View Cemetery in a massive, castle-like monument.

In Jefferson, Ohio, history buffs will find the Giddings Law Office, a National Historic Landmark named for Joshua Giddings, a prominent abolitionist and a founder of the Republican Party.

### Away from politics

And let's not forget first ladies, since one of them will be starring at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. Memorabilia connected to Hillary Clinton and other presidents' wives can be seen at the First Ladies National Historic Site in Canton. An exhibit called "Trials of the Campaign Trail" shows that Clinton is hardly the only first lady to weather hostility. A button on display from the unsuccessful 1964 campaign of Republican Barry Goldwater hits President Lyndon Johnson's wife Ladybird: "Ladybird start packing, the Goldwaters are coming."

Canton is also home to a monument honoring President William McKinley, fronted by 108 stone steps. But the Cleveland area is not just about monuments and museums. It's also defined by working-class grit, rust-belt history and melting pot culture. It's the kind of place where folks line up in the parking lot of Sokolowski's University Inn on Friday nights for potato dumplings known as pierogis, served from a steam table. Bill Clinton dined on Lake Erie perch at Sokolowski's, while George W. Bush ate at Cleveland's Slyman's deli, famed for corned beef sandwiches.

There are trendy dining spots too: At celeb chef Michael Symon's upscale Lola, feast on scallop ceviche and roasted heirloom vegetables. At Happy Dog, hot dog toppings range from banh mi pickled vegetables and Brazilian chimichurri sauce to out-there choices like Spaghettis. Finally, just outside Cleveland, you can visit Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The short walk from the parking lot to Brandywine Falls in Sagamore Hills is a great place to get away from politics - or anything else. — AP



A replica of a log cabin where President James Garfield was born in Moreland Hills, Ohio.



The Millard Fillmore Presidential Library, a bar in Cleveland.



Visitors on a walkway overlooking Brandywine Falls at Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Sagamore Hills, Ohio.



A cargo ship prepares to cross the Miraflores locks, as seen from the visitor's observation deck, in Panama City.



A cargo ship prepares to cross the Miraflores locks, as seen from the visitor's observation deck, in Panama City.



A person walks through one of the Miraflores locks, as seen from the visitor's observation deck, in Panama City. —AP photos

## In Panama for business? Take a side trip to the famous canal

**D**ozens of spectators gawk from an observation deck as a bulk freighter carrying grains from the United States to China inches its way closer. Forty-ton locomotives known as mules latch onto the massive vessel with cables and guide it inside the Miraflores locks, employing a mechanical precision that keeps it from banging into the concrete walls despite the tight fit. The ship's crossing through the Panama Canal is nearly complete as the 700-ton steel doors swing shut. While most of their bulk is hidden underneath the water, they're as tall as an eight-story building and the same ones that have been doing the job for over a century.

As a major Latin American hub of finance, commerce and transportation, the Panamanian capital is a growing destination for business travelers. For anyone looking to duck out of a convention center for a few hours, fill a gap between meetings or even if you've just got a long layover at the airport, a visit to Panama City's No. 1 attraction and its newly expanded locks makes for the perfect side excursion.

Shipping geeks in particular will delight at this engineering marvel that revolutionized global maritime trade when it opened for business on Aug 15, 1914, but it also appeals to a broader audience with nearly 3,000 people visiting each day during the January-April high season. The Miraflores Visitor Center offers several stories of space with an up-close view of the machinations of the canal, where ships pass through about 35-40 times a day. With each crossing, an enthusiastic guide informed visitors on a recent sticky, tropical morning, the locks fill with about 26 million gallons (100 million liters) of fresh water that then spill into the Pacific Ocean.

"I'm impressed by the magnitude of this operation," said Vicky Londono, a Colombian traveler who flew into the airport that day with her husband and hopped in a cab to see the

canal before continuing to their final destination, Madrid. The Canal Authority threw a big bash on Monday to formally inaugurate its new Cocoli locks, which doubled the waterway's capacity and can accommodate huge New Panamax-class vessels that carry up to three times as much cargo as those previously able to fit. There will be no separate viewing platform at Cocoli for at least two years, but for now you can see some of the action at a distance from Miraflores. Tip: Bring binoculars.

"This is spectacular," said Tom Matz, a retired lawyer from New York, as a sky-blue liquid petroleum gas ship emerged from Cocoli bound for the Atlantic. "The past, present and future of the canal, all right here." Getting to the canal is a snap, with a host of travel agencies and hotel tours competing for your business. For \$30 or so, depending on your willingness to haggle, taxi drivers will take you from the city center and pick you up a couple of hours later.

Plan on \$60 or more if you're starting from the airport, as well as a 30- to 45-minute cab ride there - possibly longer due to Panama City's chronic traffic congestion. If no ship is passing through right when you arrive, while away the time in the facility's theater and museum for comprehensive exhibits on the canal and its construction - which claimed the lives of more than 25,000 workers, most of them from Caribbean islands, and mostly from tropical diseases such as malaria and yellow fever. A simulator lets you play captain and virtually maneuver a ship through the locks. There's also a snack bar, and a pricier restaurant upstairs that stays open into the evening. — AP



Two canal workers on a small rowboat catch a line from a massive cargo ship as it prepares to enter the Pedro Miguel locks in Panama City.



A variety of water vessels cross through the Miraflores Locks in the Panama Canal in Panama City.



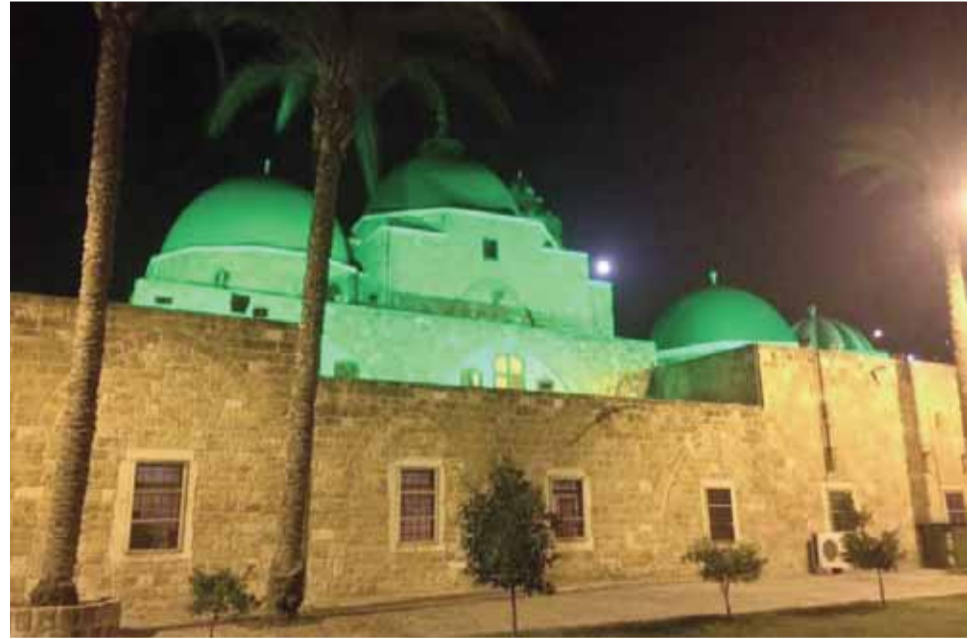
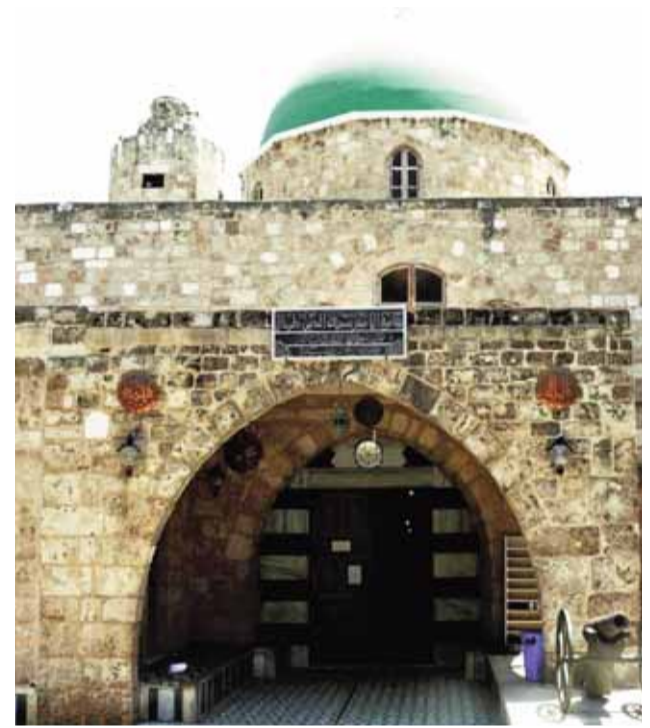
Photos shows the wonderful architecture of the Mameluke mosque Taynal in Tripoli, Lebanon. — KUNA photos



## Taynal Mosque, crown jewel of Islamic architecture in Lebanon

The Lebanese capital of Tripoli is home to several architectural treasures that reflect the history of the city which stands witness to the various civilizations in the Levant, and the Eastern Mediterranean. Islamic architecture, arts and decorations are displayed through dozens of mosques and other historical buildings in the old parts of Tripoli.

The Mameluke mosque of Taynal is the crown jewel of the Islamic architecture in the city, and in Lebanon at large. Built about 700 years ago, Taynal displays unique beauty, magnificence rarely to be found in any of the many mosques built in Lebanon during the Mameluke or the Ottoman eras.— KUNA



## Men of letters: Thais master Scrabble without English

Komol Panyasophonlert struggles to string an English sentence together, but the 31-year-old Thai computer programmer is still hoping to be crowned champion of the word-smith's favorite boardgame, Scrabble, this week. Komol, the world Number Three, is one of several top-ranked Thais hoping to showcase their talents in the King's Cup tournament, which kicked off in Bangkok yesterday. While he claims to have memorized "more than 90 percent of the dictionary" in English, he can only tell you what a few of those words mean.

"I memorize small words first, then big words later," he explained in Thai, adding that he tries to spend at least half an hour each day hitting the books. With some 6,000 players set to attend, the King's Cup is the globe's biggest Scrabble competition and an indication of its wide popularity in Thailand. The game is a favorite among schoolteachers who use it as a language-learning tool, and the kingdom is the only Asian country to field world champions, despite its notoriously low levels of English proficiency.

Amnuay Ploysangngam, who founded Thailand's first Scrabble association in the 80s and is credited with popularizing the game, said today nearly three-quarters of schools have Scrabble clubs. "We never expected that one day we would become world champions," he told AFP. Yet the success of Komol and other elite Thai players—none of whom is a fluent English speaker—is testament to what really drives victories in the top tier: an analytical mind.

"At the highest level Scrabble is a math game. It's like poker. It's all about probabilities and managing a rack (of tiles)," said John Williams a former director of the US's National Scrabble Association. "You don't have to know the definitions," he added. With players at the King's Cup laying down words like "ZOOTY,"—a synonym for flashy—and "VUGS"—a small rock cavity—even native English speakers could be forgiven for failing to recognize their own language on the board. The world's best Scrabble players commit up to 100,000 words to memory, a figure more than double the lexicon of an average English-speaking adult.

"What makes (the Thais) extraordinary is they have no context and are starting at a 40,000 word deficit," said Williams. Despite the Thais' home advantage, this year's King's Cup title is expected to go to Nigel Richards, the famously shy New Zealander who dominates the field and is considered the best player in the game's history. The three-time world champion has won the King's Cup 11 times and stunned the francophone world last July when he also won the French championship. He doesn't speak the language and only spent nine weeks studying the official French Scrabble dictionary. Thailand's Komol, who lost to Richards in the 2013 world championship, still remembers his favorite word from that match—GAZUMPED—meaning "to swindle". Not that Komol will be using it much. "I already forget what it means," he said.— AFP

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2016



This June 10, 2016 photo shows the home-turned-museum where Fidel and Raul Castro grew up in Biran, Cuba.—AP photos

# Fidel Castro's birthplace sees rise in visitors



Government contracted driver Ricardo Reidy washes a Soviet-made car in the Biran River near the home-turned-museum where Fidel Castro and his brother, President Raul Castro, were born in Biran, Cuba.

**A**t the end of a dirt road lined with fields of sugar cane, royal palms and tropical fruit trees, a cluster of wooden houses painted in brilliant yellow, blue and white draws thousands of Cuban and international tourists a year. It's the birthplace of revolutionary leader Fidel Castro and his brother, President Raul Castro. Their father Angel planted and sold sugarcane and timber as well as raising cattle on 46 square miles (119 square kilometers) of land in Biran, deep in the lush green hill country of Holguin province in eastern Cuba.

Visitors who roam the complex, often in sweltering heat, can see the crib where Fidel Castro was born, the bedroom he shared with his brothers and the cockfighting arena where his father's birds fought. For decades, the place was largely ignored by the Castros and their government. It was the first farm expropriated under Cuba's move toward collectivized agriculture and once was due to be flooded by a reservoir, though that was never built.

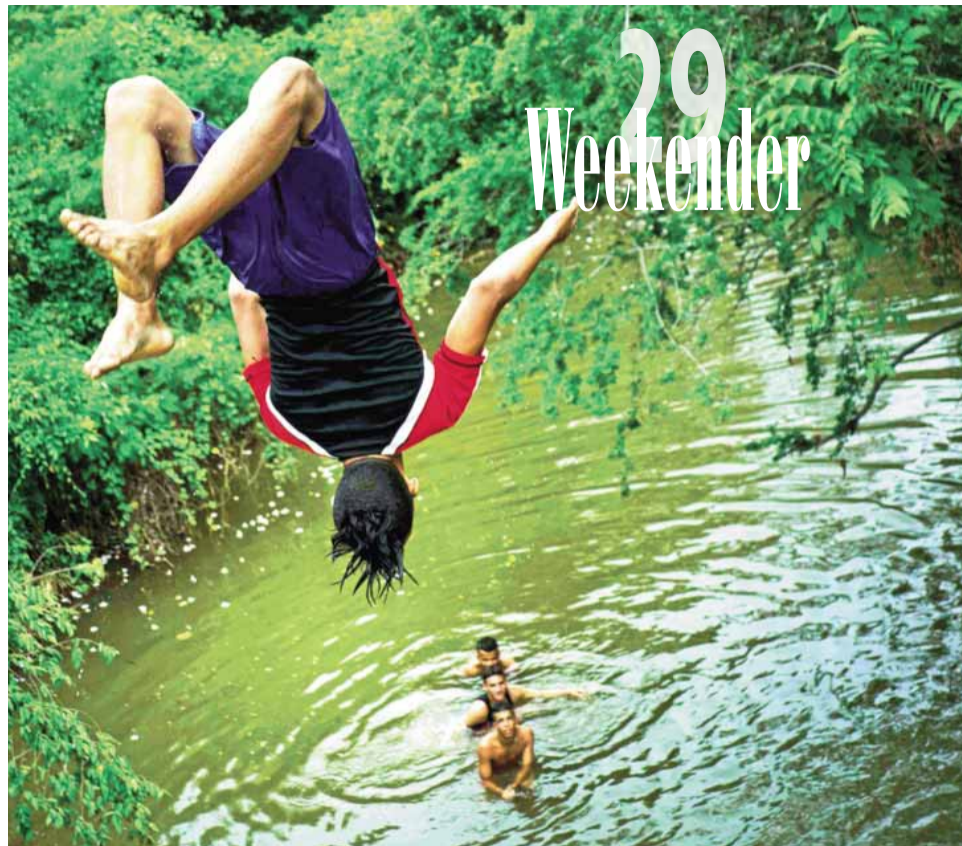


A soldier uses a fan to keep cool as she takes a guided tour, with her colleagues from the Revolutionary Armed Forces, of the home-turned-museum where Fidel Castro and his brother, President Raul Castro, grew up in Biran, Cuba.



SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2016

A nurse shades herself with an umbrella as she walks home after work with a friend near the home-turned-museum where Fidel Castro and his brother, president Raul Castro, were born in Biran, Cuba.



A youth does a back flip from an overpass into the Mayari River as he and friends spend their Sunday afternoon in the village of Mayari.



A message that reads in Spanish 'It's not the best but it's mine' adorns a horse-drawn wagon with men selling sea-caught fish as they ride along the coastline near Gibara in Cuba's Holguin province.



A man carries a house door on the passenger side of a bicycle taxi in Holguin, Cuba, the region where Fidel Castro and his brother President Raul Castro were born and grew up.

But since 2002, the site has been a museum, and it is gaining increasing attention in the run-up to Fidel Castro's 90th birthday on Aug 13. Museum director Lazaro Castro, no relation to Fidel, said 27,800 people visited the site in 2015, two-thirds of them Cubans. So far, 22,000 have come in the first half of this year.

Biran sits in an isolated part of Holguin province, a place of farms and livestock where people still travel dusty roads by bicycle and horse cart. There's been more development closer to Holguin itself, a city of 350,000 people. To the north of the city, near the town of Gibara, the island has built one of its few wind farms to harness the air blowing across the Caribbean. "My father worked with Fidel's parents," says Jose Rodriguez, a 53-year-old rancher who cares for the livestock on the historic site. "This is the history of our country." — AP



Men commute on a motorcycle with sidecar, driving past wind turbines along the way in Gibara, in Cuba's Holguin province where Fidel Castro was born and grew up.



BEIJING: In this file photo, a man sits behind the steering wheel of a Tesla Model S electric car on display at the Beijing International Automotive Exhibition in Beijing. — AP

## TESLA DRIVER'S DEATH USING CAR'S 'AUTOPILOT' PROBED BY NHTSA

WASHINGTON: A driver so enamored of his Tesla Model S sedan that he nicknamed the car "Tessy" and praised the safety benefits of its sophisticated "Autopilot" system has become the first US fatality in a wreck involving a car in self-driving mode. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced the driver's death Thursday, and said it is investigating the design and performance of the Autopilot system.

Joshua D Brown of Canton, Ohio, the 40-year-old owner of a technology company, was killed May 7 in Williston, Florida, when his car's cameras failed to distinguish the white side of a turning tractor-trailer from a brightly lit sky and didn't automatically activate its brakes, according to statements by the government and the automaker. Just one month earlier, Brown had credited the Autopilot system for preventing a collision on an interstate.

### 'Hands down the best car'

Frank Baressi, 62, the driver of the truck and owner of Okemah Express LLC, said the Tesla driver was "playing Harry Potter on the TV screen" at the time of the crash and driving so quickly that "he went so fast through my trailer I didn't see him." The movie "was still playing when he died and snapped a telephone pole a quarter mile down the road," Baressi told The Associated Press in an interview from his home in Palm Harbor, Florida. He acknowledged he didn't see the movie, only heard it.

Tesla Motors Inc. said it is not possible to watch videos on the Model S touch screen. There was no reference to the movie in initial police reports. Brown's published obituary described him as a member of the Navy SEALs for 11 years and founder of Nexu Innovations Inc, working on wireless internet networks and camera systems. In Washington, the Pentagon confirmed Brown's work with the SEALs and said he left the service in 2008.

Brown was an enthusiastic booster of his 2015 Tesla Model S and in April praised its sophisticated Autopilot system for avoiding

a crash when a commercial truck swerved into his lane on an interstate. He published a video of the incident online. "Hands down the best car I have ever owned and use it to its full extent," Brown wrote.

### 'Autopilot'

Tesla didn't identify Brown but described him in a statement as "a friend to Tesla and the broader EV (electric vehicle) community, a person who spent his life focused on innovation and the promise of technology and who believed strongly in Tesla's mission." It also stressed the uncertainty about its new system, noting that drivers must manually enable it: "Autopilot is getting better all the time, but it is not perfect and still requires the driver to remain alert."

A man answering the door at Brown's parents' house who did not identify himself said he had no comment. Tesla founder Elon Musk expressed "our condolences for the tragic loss" in a tweet late Thursday. Preliminary reports indicate the crash occurred when Baressi's rig turned left in front of Brown's Tesla at an intersection of a divided highway southwest of Gainesville, Florida, where there was no traffic light, NHTSA said. Brown died at the scene.

By the time firefighters arrived, the wreckage of the Tesla - with its roof sheared off completely - had come to rest in a nearby yard hundreds of feet from the crash site, assistant chief Danny Wallace of the Williston Fire Department told the AP. Tesla said in a statement that this was the first known death in over 130 million miles of Autopilot operation. Before Autopilot can be used, drivers have to acknowledge that the system is an "assist feature" that requires a driver to keep both hands on the wheel at all time.

### 'Maintain control and responsibility for your vehicle'

Drivers are told they need to "maintain control and responsibility for your vehicle" while using the system, and they have to be prepared to take over at any time, the state-

ment said. Autopilot makes frequent checks, making sure the driver's hands are on the wheel, and it gives visual and audible alerts if hands aren't detected, and it gradually slows the car until a driver responds, the statement said.

The Autopilot mode allows the Model S sedan and Model X SUV to steer itself within a lane, change lanes and speed up or slow down based on surrounding traffic or the driver's seat speed. It can automatically apply brakes and slow the vehicle. It can also scan for parking spaces and parallel park on command. NHTSA said the opening of the preliminary evaluation by its defects investigation office shouldn't be construed as a finding that the government believes the Model S is defective.

Brown's death comes as NHTSA is taking steps to ease the way onto the nation's roads for self-driving cars, an anticipated sea-change in driving. Self-driving cars have been expected to be a boon to safety because they'll eliminate human errors. Human error is responsible for about 94 percent of crashes. One of Tesla's advantages over competitors is that its thousands of cars feed real-world performance information back to the company, which can then fine-tune the software that runs Autopilot.

This is not the first time automatic braking systems have malfunctioned, and several have been recalled to fix problems. Last fall, Ford recalled 37,000 F-150 pickups because they braked with nothing in the way. The company said the radar could become confused when passing a large, reflective truck. The technology relies on multiple cameras, radar, laser and computers to sense objects and determine if they are in the car's way, said Mike Harley, an analyst at Kelley Blue Book.

Systems like Tesla's, which rely heavily on cameras, "aren't sophisticated enough to overcome blindness from bright or low contrast light," he said. Harley called the death unfortunate, but said that more deaths can be expected as the autonomous technology is refined. — AP

## SAMSUNG SELLS GALAXY S7 THAT AREN'T TIED TO CARRIER

NEW YORK: Samsung will sell unlocked versions of its flagship Galaxy S7 phones in the US so consumers can switch carriers more easily. Although two-year service contracts are now rare, consumers are instead stuck with two-year installment plans and cannot take a phone to a rival until it's paid off.

Unlocked phones have no such restrictions. They are also free of carrier-specific apps for messaging, video and other tasks, though Samsung still adds several beyond the standard version of Android from Google.

Samsung's Galaxy S7 will sell for \$670, and a model with a curved side screen called Edge will go for \$770. The prices are cheaper than Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile, though more expensive than Sprint. You pay the phone's full price rather than monthly installments. — AP

## HERE COME THE VIRTUAL REALITY OLYMPICS FOR SAMSUNG USERS

NEW YORK: Athletes in Rio will compete to be the fastest sprinter and highest jumper at the Olympics this August. But there's another test underway as well: How well can virtual reality capture sporting events? NBC says it will provide 85 hours of virtual reality programming during the Rio Olympics in August - though only to users of Samsung Galaxy smart phones and the Samsung Gear VR headset. It's the first time Olympics programming will be available in VR.

Virtual reality coverage of sports, essentially 360 video, has been growing since VR headsets such as the Samsung Gear and Oculus Rift became widely available earlier this year. Sports broadcasters are betting that virtual reality will be the next big game-changing way to watch sports. But right now, the audience is limited to those that have smart phones and VR headsets, which can be pricey. Still, coverage is growing. In May, NBC broadcast the Kentucky Derby in 360 video. The NBA has broadcast some of its games in virtual reality, and Fox Sports broadcast VR streams from the US Open at Oakmont in June.

Gary Zenkel, President, NBC Olympics, said Rio will be a showcase for the "cutting-edge" technology. The Olympics video, which will be presented on delay during the games, will include opening and closing ceremonies, men's basketball, gymnastics, and track-and-field events. Other virtualized sports will include beach volleyball, diving, boxing and fencing. NBC will also release VR highlight packages of those sports. The VR video itself will be captured by Olympic Broadcasting Services, a unit of the International Olympic Committee that provides video feeds to international broadcasters.

Viewers will need Samsung devices and the NBC Sports app. Samsung is the official smart phone sponsor of the 2016 Olympics in Rio. Compatible phones include the Samsung Galaxy S7, Galaxy S7 Edge, Galaxy S6, Galaxy S6 Edge, Galaxy S6 Edge+ and Galaxy Note 5 phones. Other Olympics sponsors have been jumping on the virtual reality bandwagon too. Kellogg's, which sponsors Team USA, shot Olympics contender Tom Shields in 360 video as he practiced underwater for a marketing effort that appeared online and at an event in New York. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: This photo provided by NBC and HD Studio shows NBC daytime and late night set for the Rio Olympics located on Copacabana Beach in Rio. — AP

## APPLE IN TALKS TO ACQUIRE MUSIC STREAMING SERVICE

**LOS ANGELES:** Apple is in negotiations to acquire Tidal, the struggling streaming service owned by hip-hop mogul Jay Z, reported Wall Street Journal on Thursday. While talks may not result in a deal, interest from Apple would represent just the latest tech giant to kick the tires of Tidal. Samsung has been in at least one round of talks with the company. Google and

Spotify have also reportedly approach regarding partnerships. Apple has its own entry in the streaming music category with Apple Music, which hurt Tidal's chances of survival by gaining 11 million subscribers in less than a year. Tidal has garnered about 4 million subscribers despite its roster of star-studded backers.

Kanye West, Beyonce and Chris Martin are just a few of the chart-topping artists behind Tidal, which has attempted to gain a following by getting exclusive content from its artist. West recently released a buzzed-about music video, *iFamous*, that attracted a new wave of attention to the platform. Despite the affiliation of top talent, Tidal has been subject to non-stop turbulence since launch, going through three different CEOs in less than a year.

In March, the company ousted its COO and CFO as well. Apple has experience making flashy acquisitions of music companies backed by hip-hop moguls. CEO Tim Cook moved to snap up Dr Dre-backed Beats Electronics just over two years ago for \$3 billion. Reps for Apple and Tidal have yet to respond to inquiry. — Reuters



**CALIFORNIA:** This file photo shows a sign outside Yahoo's headquarters in Sunnyvale, California. — A

## YAHOO CEO PAINTS BRIGHT PICTURE WITH POTENTIAL SALE LOOMING

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer tried to hit all the upbeat notes during an annual shareholders meeting as the company considers selling its slumping internet operations. The 45-minute gathering Thursday was a routine affair that provided no insight into whether Yahoo's board is leaning toward a sale after four months of wrangling, or will entrust the beleaguered Mayer to engineer a long-promised turnaround.

Mayer told the small turnout of shareholders that Yahoo "is making great progress on our process" without specifying when a decision might be made. Most analysts expect Yahoo to make a choice this summer. If Yahoo sells, Mayer will probably lose her job after four years as CEO and walk away with a \$55 million severance package. Activist shareholder Starboard Value had threatened to lead a mutiny aimed at ousting Mayer until Yahoo agreed two months ago to give the fund four seats on its 11-member board.

### 'Proud of our achievements'

Mayer, 41, defended her efforts to broaden Yahoo's audience and sell more advertising by focusing more on mobile apps and adding hundreds of other features to its array of digital services during her nearly four-year tenure. "We are proud of our achievements overall in our products," she said.

Most of those products are now on the auction block.

Various media outlets have reported that Yahoo has received offers exceeding \$3 billion for a portfolio of digital services that includes the company's email, news, sports and finance sections. The bidders include Verizon Communications, a group led by Quicken Loans founder Dan Gilbert, and various private equity firms that specialize in buying struggling companies at discount prices. Yahoo has steadfastly refused to provide any updates on its deliberations since its board hired investment bankers and other advisers to round up prospective buyers four months ago.

Mayer told shareholders Thursday that she has been encouraged by the level of interest in Yahoo's internet business, though most analysts initially thought the company would fetch more than the \$4.4 billion that Verizon paid for AOL last year. The company restricted attendance to Thursday's meeting in Santa Clara, California, to shareholders and their appointed representatives, forcing The Associated Press and other media to watch the proceedings on a webcast.

### 'Bidders for a package'

Yahoo also recently began soliciting bidders for a package of about 4,000 technology patents, representing most

of its intellectual property. Yahoo's auction stems from the company's inability to boost its revenue during the past eight years even though advertisers have been steadily increasing the amount of money on digital marketing. Its revenue has fallen from \$5.1 billion in 2008 to \$4.1 billion last year, with another decline of as much as 17 percent to \$3.4 billion projected for this year.

Most of Yahoo's current market value of \$35 billion is locked up in stakes that it holds into China's e-commerce leader, Alibaba Group, and Yahoo Japan. In a tacit acknowledgement that her previous turnaround plans had gone awry, Mayer pivoted at the beginning of the year and started to close Yahoo's least profitable services, including a video operation and digital magazines hatched during her reign.

Mayer is also laying off 15 percent of Yahoo's workforce to whittle the payroll to 9,000 employees and trying to pull off a spin-off that would put the internet operations into a separate company. Yahoo Inc. would then become a holding company for Alibaba Group, and Yahoo Japan. "We need to make sure every product counts and every market matters," Mayer told shareholders Thursday. Yahoo's stock ended Thursday up 70 cents, or almost 2 percent, at \$37.56. It is up almost 13 percent in 2016. — AP



**CALIFORNIA:** This photo provided by Google shows the Android Nougat statue, at Google campus in Mountain View, California — AP

## GOOGLE SERVES A 'NOUGAT' TO FANS OF ITS ANDROID SOFTWARE

**MOUNTAIN VIEW, California:** Google is serving a new morsel for fans of its Android software: The next version has been dubbed "Nougat," extending Google's tradition of nicknaming each overhaul of Android after a sweet food. The Nougat name announced Thursday comes seven weeks after Google sought suggestions during its annual conference for software engineers.

Nougat is scheduled to be released in new smart phones this fall when the makers of existing Android devices will also be able to enable updates to the new software. Nougat's new features will include the ability to run apps without actually installing them on a device.

The nicknames for earlier Android versions have included Marshmallow, Lollipop, KitKat, Ice Cream Sandwich and Gingerbread. Google commemorates the different Android nicknames with statues near its Mountain View, California, headquarters. — AP



00:40 The Believer  
02:20 The Blair Witch Project  
03:40 High Tide  
05:20 Charge Of The Light Brigade  
07:25 Clifford  
08:55 Pieces Of Dreams  
10:35 Mirromask  
12:15 Big Screen  
12:30 Teen Witch  
14:00 Robinson Crusoe  
15:30 The Magnificent Seven Ride!  
17:10 Groundhog Day  
18:55 Big Screen  
19:10 Follow That Dream  
21:00 Fear The Walking Dead  
22:00 Talking Dead: Fear Edition  
23:00 Fear The Walking Dead

07:00 Bloomberg West  
08:00 Countdown  
09:00 Countdown  
09:30 On The Move  
10:00 On The Move  
11:00 The Pulse  
12:00 Bloomberg Surveillance  
13:00 Bloomberg Surveillance  
14:00 Bloomberg Go  
15:00 Bloomberg Go  
16:00 Bloomberg Go  
17:00 Bloomberg Markets  
18:00 Bloomberg Markets: European  
Close  
19:00 Bloomberg Markets  
20:00 Bloomberg Markets  
21:00 Bloomberg Markets  
21:30 Brilliant Ideas  
22:00 Bloomberg Markets  
23:00 What'd You Miss?



00:00 News Update  
00:30 Dialogue  
01:00 News Update  
01:15 China 24  
02:00 The Heat  
02:30 News Update  
03:00 Global Business  
04:00 News Update  
05:00 News Update  
06:30 Dialogue  
07:00 News Hour  
08:00 Global Business  
09:00 News Update  
10:30 Sports Scene  
11:00 Global Business  
12:00 News Update  
12:30 Culture Express  
13:00 Africa Live  
14:00 News Update

14:30 Dialogue  
15:00 News Update  
15:15 China 24  
16:00 News Update  
16:15 Global Business  
17:00 News Update  
17:15 World InSight  
18:00 Asia Today  
18:30 Culture Express  
19:00 News Update  
19:30 The Heat  
20:00 Africa Live  
21:00 Global Business  
21:30 Dialogue  
22:00 News Update  
22:15 China 24  
23:00 News Update  
23:15 World InSight



00:00 CNBC Conversation: Felipe Calderon  
00:30 CNBC Conversation: Kyriakos Mitsotakis  
01:00 U.S. Squawk Alley  
02:00 Asia Squawk Box  
05:00 Asia Street Signs  
07:00 Capital Connection  
08:00 Squawk Box Europe  
11:00 Europe Street Signs  
12:00 Worldwide Exchange  
13:00 U.S. Squawk Box  
16:00 Squawk On The Street  
18:00 U.S. Squawk Alley  
19:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report  
20:00 U.S. Power Lunch  
22:00 U.S. Closing Bell



00:20 Fast N' Loud  
01:10 Salvage Hunters  
02:00 Redwood Kings  
02:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown  
03:40 Extreme Collectors  
04:05 Storage Wars Canada  
04:30 Auction Hunters  
05:00 How Do They Do It?  
05:30 Fifth Gear  
06:00 You Have Been Warned  
06:50 Troy  
07:40 The Carbonaro Effect  
08:05 Superhuman Science  
08:30 The Island With Bear Grylls  
09:20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive  
10:10 So You Think You'd Survive?  
11:00 Salvage Hunters  
11:50 Redwood Kings  
12:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown  
13:30 Misfit Garage  
14:20 Overhaulin'  
15:10 Extreme Car Hoarders  
16:00 So You Think You'd Survive?  
16:50 So You Think You'd Survive?  
17:40 So You Think You'd Survive?  
18:30 So You Think You'd Survive?  
19:20 So You Think You'd Survive?  
20:10 So You Think You'd Survive?  
21:00 Misfit Garage  
21:50 Overhaulin'  
22:40 Extreme Car Hoarders  
23:30 Killing Fields



00:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

01:08 Secret Space Escapes  
01:55 Moon Machines  
02:42 How The Earth Works  
03:29 Mythbusters  
04:16 Secret Space Escapes  
05:03 Moon Machines  
05:50 Nyc: Inside Out  
06:37 How Do They Do It?  
07:00 How Do They Do It?  
07:23 Mythbusters  
08:08 How The Earth Works  
08:53 Nyc: Inside Out  
09:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
10:23 Secret Space Escapes  
11:08 Moon Machines  
11:53 Nyc: Inside Out  
12:38 Mythbusters  
13:23 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
14:10 How The Earth Works  
14:57 Invent It Rich  
15:44 Moon Machines  
16:31 Future Firepower  
17:18 How The Earth Works  
18:05 Mythbusters  
18:50 Da Vinci's Machines  
19:40 Moon Machines  
20:25 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
21:15 How The Earth Works  
22:00 Da Vinci's Machines  
22:45 Moon Machines  
23:35 Mythbusters



00:00 Crime Stories  
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
02:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
03:00 My Crazy Ex  
04:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
05:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover  
06:00 I Killed My BFF  
07:00 Britain's Biggest Heists  
08:00 Crime Stories  
09:00 Surveillance Oz  
09:30 Private Crimes  
10:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
11:00 After The First 48  
12:00 The FBI Files  
13:00 I Killed My BFF  
14:00 Crime Stories  
15:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
16:00 Britain's Biggest Heists  
17:00 After The First 48  
18:00 The FBI Files  
19:00 I Killed My BFF  
20:00 Crime Stories  
21:00 The First 48  
22:00 The Killer Speaks  
23:00 Nightmare In Suburbia



00:00 Violetta  
00:45 The Hive  
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Hank Zipzer  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Violetta  
03:15 The Hive  
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
04:10 Hank Zipzer  
04:35 Binny And The Ghost  
05:00 Violetta  
05:45 The Hive  
05:50 Mouk  
06:00 Lolirock  
06:25 Sofia The First  
06:50 Gravity Falls  
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
07:40 Jessie  
08:05 Shake It Up  
08:30 Shake It Up  
08:55 Hannah Montana  
09:20 Hannah Montana  
09:45 Girl Meets World  
10:10 Girl Meets World  
10:35 A.N.T. Farm  
11:00 A.N.T. Farm  
11:25 Jessie  
11:50 Jessie  
12:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets  
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
12:45 Fish Hooks  
13:10 Austin & Ally  
13:35 Austin & Ally  
14:00 Liv And Maddie  
14:25 Cars Toons  
14:30 Liv And Maddie  
14:55 Dog With A Blog  
15:20 Dog With A Blog  
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
16:10 Violetta  
17:00 Violetta Recipes  
17:10 Invisible Sister  
18:40 Best Friends Whenever  
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles  
19:30 Violetta  
20:20 Violetta Recipes  
20:30 Wizards Of Waverly Place - The Movie  
22:00 Binny And The Ghost  
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:10 Hank Zipzer

00:05 Art Attack  
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:45 Calimero  
01:00 Zou  
01:15 Loopdidoo  
01:30 Art Attack  
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
02:05 Calimero  
02:20 Zou  
02:30 Loopdidoo  
02:45 Art Attack  
03:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:20 Calimero  
03:35 Zou  
03:45 Loopdidoo  
04:00 Art Attack  
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:35 Calimero  
04:50 Zou  
05:00 Loopdidoo  
05:15 Art Attack  
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:50 Calimero  
06:00 Zou  
06:20 Loopdidoo  
06:35 Art Attack  
07:00 The Hive  
07:10 Zou  
07:25 Loopdidoo  
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
08:05 Sofia The First  
08:30 Goldie & Bear  
08:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
09:35 Doc McStuffins  
10:00 Sofia The First  
10:30 Goldie & Bear  
10:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
11:00 Miles From Tomorrow  
11:25 Special Agent Oso  
11:40 The Hive  
11:50 Handy Manny  
12:15 Jungle Junction  
12:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
13:00 Sofia The First  
13:25 Miles From Tomorrow  
13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
14:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
15:10 Miles From Tomorrow  
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
16:00 Sofia The First  
16:25 Jungle Cubs  
16:50 Aladdin  
17:15 Gummi Bears  
17:40 Goldie & Bear  
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow  
18:30 Sofia The First  
19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
19:30 Miles From Tomorrow  
20:00 Goldie & Bear  
20:30 Sofia The First  
21:00 Jungle Cubs  
21:25 Aladdin  
21:50 Gummi Bears  
22:20 Lilo And Stitch  
22:50 Zou  
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster



00:45 Human Prey  
01:40 River Monsters  
02:35 Tanked  
03:25 Shamwari: A Wild Life  
03:50 Shamwari: A Wild Life  
04:15 Gator Boys  
05:02 Treehouse Masters  
05:49 River Monsters  
06:36 Swamp Brothers  
07:00 Swamp Brothers  
07:25 Treehouse Masters  
08:15 Treehouse Masters  
09:10 Treehouse Masters  
10:05 Treehouse Masters  
11:00 Dog TV  
11:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven  
12:50 Queens Of The Savannah  
13:45 Queens Of The Savannah  
14:40 Queens Of The Savannah  
15:35 Animal Cops South Africa  
16:30 Shamwari: A Wild Life  
17:00 Shamwari: A Wild Life  
17:25 Queens Of The Savannah  
18:20 Rugged Justice  
19:15 Gator Boys  
20:10 In Search Of The King Cobra  
21:05 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven  
22:00 Rugged Justice  
22:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven  
23:50 Gator Boys



00:20 Eastenders  
00:50 Holby City  
01:50 Stag  
02:45 Silent Witness  
03:40 Waking The Dead  
04:40 Eastenders  
05:10 Doctor Who  
06:00 Holby City  
06:55 Doctors  
07:30 Eastenders  
08:00 Dickensian  
08:50 Death In Paradise  
09:45 Doctor Who  
10:50 Doctor Who  
11:40 Doctor Who  
12:35 Doctor Who  
13:25 Holby City  
14:25 Doctors  
14:55 Eastenders  
15:25 Death In Paradise  
16:20 Death In Paradise  
17:15 Death In Paradise  
18:15 Doctors  
18:45 Doctors  
19:20 Father Brown  
20:05 Happy Valley  
21:00 Happy Valley  
22:00 Undercover  
23:00 Stag  
23:55 Doctors



00:00 Charlie Rose  
01:00 Bloomberg West  
02:00 First Up With Angie Lau  
03:00 First Up With Angie Lau  
04:00 Trending Business  
05:00 Trending Business  
06:00 Asia Edge



NON-STOP ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION



SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2016

23:20 Calimero  
23:35 Zou



06:00 Boyster  
06:10 Super Matrak  
06:35 Super Matrak  
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
07:25 K.C. Undercover  
07:50 Supa Strikas  
08:15 Annedroids  
08:40 Lab Rats  
09:10 Kirby Buckets  
09:35 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
10:00 Rocket Monkeys  
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man Web Warriors

10:50 Boyster  
11:20 Boyster  
11:45 Pair Of Kings  
12:10 Pair Of Kings  
12:35 Lab Rats  
13:00 Lab Rats  
13:30 Phineas And Ferb  
13:55 Phineas And Ferb  
14:20 Kickin' It  
14:45 Kickin' It  
15:10 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
15:15 Rocket Monkeys  
15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
16:05 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
16:30 Kirby Buckets  
16:55 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything

17:25 K.C. Undercover  
17:50 Supa Strikas  
18:15 Lab Rats  
18:40 K.C. Undercover  
19:05 Cars Toons  
19:10 Annedroids  
19:35 Phineas And Ferb  
20:00 Kirby Buckets  
20:25 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
20:55 K.C. Undercover  
21:20 Pickle And Peanut  
21:30 Pickle And Peanut  
21:45 Lab Rats  
22:10 Mighty Med  
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am  
KSA



00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show  
01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
02:20 E! News  
03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
04:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
05:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
07:50 Style Star  
08:20 E! News  
09:15 Giuliana & Bill  
10:15 Giuliana & Bill  
11:10 The Grace Helbig Show  
11:35 The Grace Helbig Show  
12:05 E! News  
13:05 Dash Dolls  
14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
16:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
17:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
18:00 E! News  
19:00 Christina Milian Turned Up  
20:00 WAGS  
21:00 WAGS  
22:00 E! News  
23:00 Botched



00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
01:00 Private Chef  
01:30 Private Chef  
02:00 Valerie's Home Cooking  
02:30 Valerie's Home Cooking  
03:00 Man Fire Food  
03:30 Man Fire Food  
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
05:00 Iron Chef America  
06:00 Chopped



SON OF A GUN ON OSN MOVIES HD

07:00 Man Fire Food  
07:30 Man Fire Food  
08:00 Chopped  
09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
10:00 The Kitchen  
11:00 Anna Olson: Bake  
11:30 Anna Olson: Bake  
12:00 Chopped  
13:00 The Pioneer Woman  
13:30 The Pioneer Woman  
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
15:00 Man Fire Food  
15:30 Man Fire Food  
16:00 Chopped  
17:00 The Kitchen  
18:00 Anna Olson: Bake  
18:30 Anna Olson: Bake  
19:00 Chopped  
20:00 Iron Chef America  
21:00 Chopped  
22:00 Cutthroat Kitchen  
23:00 Kitchen Casino



00:20 Pawn Stars  
00:45 Pawn Stars Australia  
01:10 Down East Dickering  
02:00 Ice Road Truckers  
02:50 Ax Men  
03:40 American Restoration  
04:05 American Restoration  
04:30 Pawn Stars  
05:00 Grave Trade  
06:00 The Curse Of Oak Island  
06:50 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us  
07:40 Hunting Hitler  
08:30 American Restoration  
08:55 Mountain Men  
09:45 Ax Men  
10:35 Swamp People  
11:25 Fifth Gear  
12:15 Counting Cars  
12:40 Counting Cars  
13:05 American Pickers  
13:55 Grave Trade  
14:45 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us  
15:35 Hunting Hitler  
16:25 Counting Cars  
16:50 Shark Wranglers  
17:40 Aussie Pickers  
18:30 Duck Dynasty  
18:55 Duck Dynasty  
19:20 Ax Men  
20:10 Swamp People  
21:00 Storage Wars: New York  
21:25 Storage Wars: New York

21:50 Pawn Stars  
22:15 Pawn Stars Australia  
22:40 Hunting Hitler  
23:30 The Curse Of Oak Island



00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
01:05 Emmerdale  
01:30 Eggheads  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 Keep It In The Family  
03:25 Black Work  
04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show  
05:15 Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King  
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
07:00 Eggheads  
07:30 Black Work  
08:25 The Jonathan Ross Show  
09:20 Keep It In The Family  
10:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
11:05 Eggheads  
11:35 Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King  
12:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
13:25 Emmerdale  
13:50 Emmerdale  
14:20 Coronation Street  
14:45 Keep It In The Family  
15:35 Royal Stories  
16:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs  
16:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries  
17:25 Home Fires  
18:20 Emmerdale  
18:45 Emmerdale  
19:10 Coronation Street  
19:35 Royal Stories  
20:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs  
20:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries  
21:25 Home Fires  
22:20 Coronation Street  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Emmerdale  
23:40 Tracey Ullman's Show



00:10 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen  
00:35 Tom's Istanbul Delight  
01:00 Cesar To The Rescue  
01:50 Chefs Run Wild  
02:15 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
02:40 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
03:05 Cruise Ship Diaries  
03:30 Tales From The Bush Larder  
03:55 Street Food Around The World  
04:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
04:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of

Australia  
05:10 Tales From The Bush Larder  
05:35 Tales From The Bush Larder  
06:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea  
06:50 Cesar To The Rescue  
07:40 Chefs Run Wild  
08:05 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
08:30 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
08:55 Cruise Ship Diaries  
09:20 Tales From The Bush Larder  
09:45 Street Food Around The World  
10:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
10:35 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
11:00 Tales From The Bush Larder  
11:25 Tales From The Bush Larder  
11:50 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea  
12:40 Cesar To The Rescue  
13:35 Chefs Run Wild  
14:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
14:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
14:55 Cruise Ship Diaries  
15:25 Miguel's Feasts  
15:50 Street Food Around The World  
16:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
16:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
17:15 Tales From The Bush Larder  
17:40 Tales From The Bush Larder  
18:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea  
19:05 Cruise Ship Diaries  
19:30 Miguel's Feasts  
20:00 Street Food Around The World  
20:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
20:50 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
21:15 Tales From The Bush Larder  
21:40 Tales From The Bush Larder  
22:05 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea  
22:55 Cesar To The Rescue  
23:45 Chefs Run Wild



00:30 Hot In Cleveland  
01:00 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore  
01:30 Web Therapy  
02:00 The Brink  
02:30 You're The Worst  
03:00 Mad Love  
03:30 Living With Fran  
04:00 Two And A Half Men  
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
05:30 My Name Is Earl  
06:00 The Bernie Mac Show  
06:30 Community  
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

08:00 Two And A Half Men  
08:30 My Name Is Earl  
09:00 Mad Love  
09:30 Kevin From Work  
10:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter  
10:30 Community  
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
12:00 The Bernie Mac Show  
12:30 Two And A Half Men  
13:00 My Name Is Earl  
13:30 Community  
14:00 Living With Fran  
14:30 Kevin From Work  
15:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter  
15:30 Hot In Cleveland  
16:00 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore  
16:30 The Bernie Mac Show  
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
18:00 Fresh Off The Boat  
18:30 Black-ish  
19:00 2 Broke Girls  
19:30 The Simpsons  
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
21:00 Hot In Cleveland  
21:30 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore  
22:00 Comedians  
22:30 The Brink  
23:00 You're The Worst  
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:00 Inside  
02:00 Stranded  
04:00 Destruction: Las Vegas  
06:00 Non-Stop  
08:00 Crimson Tide  
10:00 Dying Of The Light  
12:00 The X Files  
14:00 Non-Stop  
16:00 The Marine 4: The Moving Target  
17:45 Crimson Tide  
19:45 Oblivion  
22:00 Sin City: A Dame To Kill For



00:00 The Starving Games  
02:00 The Bounty Hunter  
04:00 My Father The Hero  
06:00 Mr. Destiny  
08:00 Sweet Home Alabama  
10:00 My Father The Hero  
12:00 The Bounty Hunter  
14:00 Bottle Rocket  
16:00 Sweet Home Alabama  
18:00 The Devil Wears Prada  
20:00 I Give It A Year  
22:00 American Reunion



DRAMA

01:30 One Last Look  
03:00 Foxcatcher  
05:15 A Valentine's Date  
07:00 1911  
09:00 10 Years  
11:00 A Valentine's Date  
13:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike  
15:00 God Help The Girl  
17:00 10 Years  
19:00 Not Fade Away  
21:00 A Walk Among The Tombstones  
23:00 By The Gun



FESTIVAL

01:00 Vanity Fair  
03:30 Gattaca  
05:30 The Apostle  
08:00 Won't Back Down  
10:30 Happiness  
12:30 What Dreams May Come  
14:30 Gattaca  
16:30 Won't Back Down  
19:00 True Colors  
21:00 Jersey Boys  
23:15 The People vs Larry Flynt



01:15 The Expendables 3  
03:30 McFarland, USA  
05:45 JLA Adventures: Trapped In Time  
06:45 The Theory Of Everything  
09:00 The Maze Runner  
11:00 McFarland, USA  
13:15 Ant-Man  
15:15 Batman: Assault On Arkham  
16:30 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes  
18:45 Tomorrowland  
21:00 The Water Diviner  
23:00 Son Of A Gun



KIDS

01:00 Hatching  
02:45 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama  
04:30 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion  
06:00 Tarzan  
08:00 Blackie And Kanuto  
10:00 Zarafa  
11:30 Marco Macaco  
13:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama  
14:45 Snow Queen  
16:30 Jungle Shuffle  
18:15 Zarafa  
20:00 Echo Planet  
22:00 Snow Queen  
23:45 Jungle Shuffle



PREMIERE

00:00 Careful What You Wish For  
02:00 Next Goal Wins  
04:00 Not Safe For Work  
06:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine  
08:00 Until She Came Along  
10:00 Son Of Batman  
12:00 Fast Girls  
14:00 Ashes  
16:00 Until She Came Along  
18:00 High Road  
20:00 No Good Deed  
22:00 Sleeping Beauty



00:30 Super League  
02:30 Inside The PGA Tour  
03:00 PGA Tour  
06:30 European Tour Weekly  
07:00 Golfing World  
08:00 World Rugby  
08:30 Welsh Open Snooker  
10:00 Super Rugby Highlights  
10:30 Live Super Rugby  
12:40 Live Super Rugby  
15:00 World Rugby



## PRAVASANDRA TDP HOSTS IFTAR

**P**ravasandra Telugu Desam, Kuwait organized an Iftar yesterday in Hawally. Prominent Islamic preacher Babu Khan gave a speech on the significance of Ramadan and fasting. Pravasandra Telugu Desam, Kuwait President Mulakala Subbarayudu Naidu gave a speech on the importance of tolerance regardless of

differences for a better future and a peaceful society in this world of communal polarization.

Kadapa Islamic Welfare Association members Aneef, Namatulla, Imran, Khadar Basha, Raffiq, Dada Peer, Chitvel Rafi, Anwar Basha and Saleem led the organizing teams. Chejerla Indra Kumar Raju,

Malepati Suresh Babu Naidu, Koduri Venkat, Prakash, Saad Kumar, K Venkateswarlu, Raja Sekhar, BP Naidu, Pidikiti Srinivas Chowdary, Mulakala Ravi, Polarapu Babu Naidu, Paleti Prasad, Divakar, Rajendra, Ramesh, R Krishna Reddy, Chadra and representatives of many Telugu community associations were also present for the event.

## KIENCA HOSTS BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN

**1**50 Indian ambulance nurses working in Kuwait participated the "Save the 1" blood donation campaign by the ministry of health. According to the sources of Kuwait central blood bank there is a shortage of blood during Ramadan this season. So Kuwait Indian Emergency Nurses Cultural Association organized an urgent blood donation camp on 20th June at 10am to 2pm. 150 Indian nurses working in ambulance department in various regions of the country were involved in this campaign.

The President of Kuwait Indian Emergency Nurses Cultural Association, Eby Varghese inaugurated the campaign while Secretary Roji Jose and other executive committee members made all arrangements for this campaign. The manager for donors of Kuwait central blood bank Dr Hanan gave her special thanks for helping the department during the crisis. The PRO of Kuwait Central Blood bank Ali said that it's a great social work by Kuwait Ambulance Nurses of various regions.



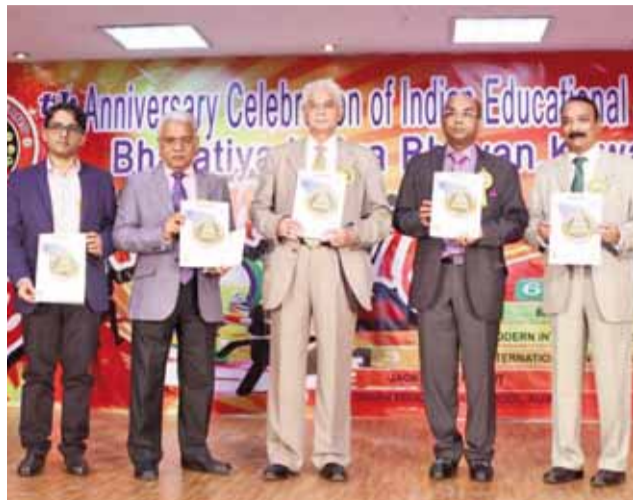
## AWAMI VOLUNTEER LEAGUE KUWAIT HELD AN IFTAR MAHFIL



**B**angladesh Awami Volunteer League Kuwait held an Iftar Mahfil at Gulshan Hotel Kuwait City on 23 June 2016. The Mahfil was Presided over by Mohammed Masud Karim the President of Awami Volunteer League Kuwait & brilliantly Conducted by the Acting General Secretary Mohammed Belal Uddin. Freedom Fighter Engineer Abdur Rob the chief Advisor of Awami Volunteer League Kuwait was the chief guest at the Mahfil.

Freedom Fighter Morshed Atom Badal, Sultan Faruk, both of Advisor Awami Volunteer League Kuwait. Awami league Leader Ashrak Ali Ferdous, Imam Uddin Badal Convenor of Awami Juboleague Kuwait, Moynul Al Islam president of pro-jonmo League, Engineer Mohammed Jinnah president of BADESHIK, Poet Salim Reza General Secretary of Probashi Shahitya Porishad, Hasan Ali General Secretary of Joy Bangla Cultural Group Kuwait were Special guests at the Mahfil.

The Mahfil Started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Mowlana Abu Bakar, he also conducted prayer Mahfil at the Function. Awami Volunteer League Kuwait Vice- President Abu Taher, Mohammed Yousuf, joint Secretary Shahadat Hossain, Organizing Secretary, Anisul Hoque Sumon, Mohammed Rashed, Jakir Hossain, Publication Secretary Monir Hossain, Mizanur Rahman, Mohammed Motaleb delivered their Speeches at the Mahfil.



## BHAVANITES CELEBRATE ALUMINUM JUBILEE IN STYLE

Indian Educational School (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan) celebrated its ten years of excellence in education exuberantly on May 7th, 2016 in the school premises. The delight of the decadal achievement was enlivened with the launch of a two day interschool cultural fiesta, Bhavyam - 'splendid' with over 1000 students from 16 Indian schools in Kuwait, 10 events, 30 judges and more than 350 prizes.

### Inaugural Ceremony

The enthralling program, the first of its kind in the saga of the school, was honored by the auspicious presence of the Guests of Honor, Sunil Jain, the Honorable Ambassador of India to Kuwait. The stunning event unfurled with all its grandeur with the entry of the eminent guests of honor, escorted by the chairman and the principal into the auditorium with the traditional Panchavadyam and Thalapoli, amidst thunderous applause. The events of the day commenced auspiciously with the recitation of a verse from the Holy Quran and the rendition of the Kuwait National Anthem. The lighting of the ceremonial lamp was conjointly performed by the esteemed Guests of Honor, the Chairman, the Director and the Principal. The minstrels of the school choir further rendered the prayer song.

Sunil Jain, the Honorable Ambassador of India to Kuwait, formally inaugurated Bhavyam - 2016, the decennial celebrations of Bhavans Kuwait. He expressed his delight and pride in being a part of such a spellbinding celebration. While addressing the gathering, he restated the thoughts of the director, Sooraj Ramachandran, and also said that the young minds should be prepared to compete and excel in their days ahead. He also stressed on the need to extend quality education for the growing Indian community in Kuwait, and

congratulated N K Ramachandran Menon, the Chairman, Bhavans Middle East for being very instrumental in imparting quality education by turning over every new leaf on his path to excellence. Sunil Jain expressed his happiness over the opening of a second Bhavan's school in Kuwait in September 2016 and wished the team the very best.

A dazzling classical dance performed by the most talented dance teachers of Bhavan's Rhythmscapes, the cultural wing of Bhavans Kuwait, and a semi-classical dance and Kathak performed by the vibrant lady teachers of IES further brightened the audience and left them spellbound. The multifarious events added more entertainment and luster to the whole inaugural function. Sreerag Mahadevan, the Cultural Secretary of IES pro-

posed the vote of thanks. Anika Anil Kumar, Deputy Head Girl and Kisara Batugedara (Grade 10) were the proud emcees of the program. The inaugural function of the Tenth Anniversary Celebrations of Indian Educational School solemnly concluded with the singing of the Indian National Anthem. The conclusion of the ceremony also marked the beginning of the cultural extravaganza; Bhavyam - 2016.

### Accolades

The IES auditorium glittered with more than 350 trophies elegantly arrayed for the winners. The prize distribution ceremony was performed by the chief guest along with the chairman and the principal. Indian English Academy School (IEAS) was declared the sec-

ond runners up. The wunderkinds of Indian Educational School (IES) emerged champions.

The Chief Guest, Ashok Pradhan IAS (Retd) congratulated each and every participant and expressed his full delight in being the Chief Guest of such a program of great splendor. He also congratulated N K Ramachandran Menon for his striving efforts to take education to greater heights. He called the chairman as the Ambassador of Education in the Middle East with ten prestigious institutions to his credit. He said that the horizon keeps widening as the second campus of Indian Educational School (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan) in Kuwait is all set to start in September, 2016. He added, "Each teacher is a sculptor, and every student is his/her sculpture. He/she carves the students to the best. The teacher sculpts the students to attain greater heights."

The Chairman, N K Ramachandran, observed that Bhavyam had been a true dedication to the school. In his address he urged the teachers to have their own visions and missions in life. To him, success lies in the achievement of a vision. "Success can be achieved if an individual competes with himself/herself," he said. He also expressed his profound gratitude to Pradhan for leaving an indelible mark in the minds of the whole Bhavans family. Aditya Jaypal, the Head Boy of IES proposed the vote of thanks. The cultural extravaganza, solemnly concluded with the singing of the Indian National Anthem. Rajni Menon, the Head of Bhavans' Pearls Nursery, was the emcee for the ceremony.

The participants partook of the jubilation and nurtured their talents in the captivating cultural fiesta 'Bhavyam 2016', the adjudicators appreciated the proficiency, the guests sensed the charisma and those at Bhavans, savored the harvest of more than a month long labor and the bounty of their solidarity.





**VIETNAM:** In this image, environmental activists protest Taiwan's Formosa Ha Tinh Steel Corp in Hanoi, Vietnam. — AP

## TOXIC DISCHARGES FROM TAIWANESE PLANT RESPONSIBLE FOR FISH DEATHS

'WE WILL NOT TRADE THE ENVIRONMENT FOR FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT'

**HANOI, Vietnam:** Vietnam's government said toxic discharges from a Taiwanese-owned steel plant were responsible for massive fish deaths that have decimated tourism and fishing in four provinces and highlighted the risks of rapid growth in foreign investment. An estimated 70 tons of dead fish washed ashore along more than 200 kilometers of Vietnam's central coastline in early April, sparking rare protests across the country when authorities could not initially pinpoint the cause.

A government minister, Mai Tien Dung, told reporters on Thursday that Formosa Ha Tinh Steel Corp, a subsidiary of Taiwan's Formosa Plastics Group, admitted it had caused the environmental disaster and has pledged \$500 million to clean up the environment and compensate affected people, including helping fishermen to find new jobs. Dung said waste water containing toxins such as cyanide and carbolic acids was released into the sea during a test run of the plant.

### 'Seafood farming is impossible'

Formosa's \$10.6 billion steel complex, which includes a steel plant, a power plant and a deep sea port, is one of the largest foreign investments in Vietnam. The country's authoritarian government, hoping to boost economic growth and reduce poverty, has overseen an influx of foreign investment deals amounting to at least \$70 billion in the past decade. But ordinary Vietnamese have become increasingly aware of and concerned by the environmental and human costs of such rapid development.

A Vietnamese fishing industry group said it was a positive that the government was holding Formosa to account, but said much more needs to be done to restore the health of the environment in the four affected provinces Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue. "There are no fish or shrimp for fishermen to catch, seafood farming is impossible and the tourism industry has also been affected," said

Nguyen Tu Cuong of the Vietnam Fishery Association.

He said most fishermen can't easily switch to another occupation as the only skill they know is fishing. Phan Thanh An, a fisherman from Quang Tri province, said that for 15 days after the dead fish began washing ashore, "I did not catch any live fish, only fish bones." "I have never seen such massive amounts of dead fish like that before," he said. An, who has been fishing since he was 13, said he hasn't taken his fishing boat out for two months but may try next week.

### 'Environmental disaster'

The chairman of Formosa Ha Tinh Steel, Chen Yuan-Cheng, apologized in a video shown at the news conference on Thursday. "Our company takes full responsibility and sincerely apologizes to the Vietnamese people ... for causing the environmental disaster which seriously affected the livelihood, production and jobs of the people and the sea environment," he said.

The parent company, Formosa Plastics Group, is one of the world's biggest produc-

ers of poly vinyl chloride and has a patchy environmental record. Its US subsidiaries agreed to pay millions of dollars in fines and remediation costs in 2009 after a long-running battle over air, water, and hazardous waste violations at two petrochemical plants in Texas and Louisiana.

Chen said the company was working to fix shortcomings at the steel plant's waste water treatment facility that were behind the disaster. Separately, state media reported that the Vietnam Environment Administration had ordered inspections of a Chinese paper factory in the Mekong Delta province of Hau Giang because of concerns its waste water treatment system was discharging toxins that could pollute the Mekong River and kill fish.

Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Dang Huy Dong said that the government wants to attract foreign investment that is technologically advanced and friendly to the environment, and will not lure investment at any price. "We will not trade the environment for foreign direct investment," he said. — AP

## ORANGUTANS RESCUED FROM FOREST FIRES RELEASED BACK INTO WILD

**JAKARTA:** Three orangutans rescued when forest fires destroyed their Indonesian rainforest habitats were returned to the wild on Borneo island last week. Karmele Llano Sanche, International Animal Rescue program director in Indonesia, made a three-day journey by car, boat and through the forest to release the animals in Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park.

"You know, it's amazing to see a big orangutan like that moving across the forest, this is home, home, back home," Sanche said. Sabtu, 25, was saved in March 2015 from a village near the IAR sanctuary in Ketapang, West

Kalimantan province, one of the area's most affected by the fires last year.

Butan and Marsela, both around seven and eight years old, were also rescued by IAR when their home was destroyed by fires. Deforestation and land clearing for pulp paper and palm oil plantations has depleted the habitat of Bornean and Sumatran orangutans. Fires are often set by companies to clear the land. Orangutans, which means "person of the forest" in Malay, are endangered animals. There are only about 60,000 left in the wild, down from around 230,000 a century ago. — Reuters

## HEALTH OFFICIALS RACE TO PREVENT CONGO YELLOW FEVER DISASTER

**DAKAR:** It is the stuff of a disaster movie: An outbreak of yellow fever in Congo's capital city, full of unvaccinated people mostly huddled together in slums with too few drains and the kind of sticky, fetid climate that mosquitoes love. Kinshasa's 12 million people - twice as many as there are doses of yellow fever vaccine anywhere in the world - are largely unprotected against this sometimes deadly but easily preventable illness, which has killed at least 353 in Democratic Republic of Congo and neighbor Angola.

And though the mosquito-borne virus has yet to gain momentum in Africa's third largest metropolis, officials in Congo's government and the World Health Organization (WHO) are racing to avoid a repeat of the kind of urban epidemics that decimated Western cities like New York and Philadelphia in centuries past. With three weeks to go before they start a vaccination campaign for 11.6 million people against the hemorrhagic virus in three Congolese provinces, and only 1.3 million doses of the vaccine on their way to Congo, time is not on their side.

"The epidemic has become something that can exponentially reinforce itself. It's not that easy to reverse," Doctors Without Borders (MSF) head of operations Bart Janssens said. "The risk is ... (significant) that this could become a big epidemic ... That's what we'd like to avoid at all costs." There are currently just six million doses of vaccine in the world, and the method of making more, using chicken eggs, takes about a year. As an emergency measure, health officials have decided to split the doses into fifths, enabling them to cover more people, although only for a year rather than a lifetime.

"Kinshasa has millions of inhabitants. We cannot allow the epidemic to spread there," Congo's health minister Felix Kabange told Reuters by telephone. "We realized that if we gave the full dose, the time needed to manufacture all those vaccines would risk allowing the epidemic to embrace the whole country."

### Slow burn crisis

Yellow fever was once a big killer in the West, wiping out about a tenth of the population of New York and Philadelphia in the 18th century. Then, 80 years ago, a vaccine was created and the virus was quickly eradicated in the rich world. In Africa it mainly persists in remote rural areas, and not since the 1970s has it threatened a major city.

The current outbreak, with 3,464 suspected cases so far, about a third of them in Congo, began in Angola in December. Hitching a ride on popular trade routes from the capital Luanda, it jumped the border into Congo, then to its megacity capital. A small but significant fraction of those who catch the disease die from jaundice, bleeding and multiple organ failure.

In Kinshasa, a city whose tin-roofed shanty towns encircle the skyscrapers of its business district, the fear is palpable. "Everyone is panicking at the news of yellow fever. I'm afraid of catching it and dying," said street vendor Gallo Musambu, who has little hope of being able to afford the vaccine. "I don't even want to touch people from Angola because that's where it came from," he added, revealing that the government also has work to do explaining how it is transmitted.

Unlike the Ebola virus, which has killed 11,300 people in West Africa since 2013, yellow fever initially spreads slowly, as the mosquitoes carrying it don't travel more than 100 meters from where they are born, health officials said. That may give some breathing space for the response. The response in Angola was at first somewhat lumbering, the MSF's Janssens said, but officials raised their game when it reached Congo, mobilizing resources and implementing mass vaccinations.

Yet the bigger risk with a city, he said, is that the mosquitoes themselves start passing the virus on to their own larvae, enabling them to become a reservoir for the disease. And, as with Ebola, a worry is that airplanes can carry the virus to other more distant cities. Asia has never had yellow fever, despite being home to the mosquitoes that spread it. But this year 11 Chinese expatriates working in Angola contracted it and brought it back to China. — Reuters

# SUICIDE BY JOB: FARMERS, LUMBERJACKS, FISHERMAN TOP LIST

**NEW YORK:** Farmers, lumberjacks and fishermen have the highest suicide rate in the US, while librarians and educators have the lowest, according to a large study that found enormous differences across occupations. The study didn't explore the reasons behind the differences, but researchers found the highest suicide rates in manual laborers who work in isolation and face unsteady employment. High rates were also seen in carpenters, miners, electricians and people who work in construction. Mechanics were close behind.

Dentists, doctors and other health care professionals had an 80 percent lower suicide rate than the farmers, fishermen and lumberjacks. Thursday's report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is perhaps the largest US study to compare suicide rates among occupations. But it is not comprehensive. It only covers 17 states, looking at about 12,300 of the more than 40,000 suicide deaths reported in the entire nation in 2012.

Because of the limited data, they could only calculate suicide rates for broad occupation categories, but not for specific jobs. The categories, which sometimes seem to group professions that have little to do with each other, like athletes and artists, are based on federal classifications used for collecting jobs-related data. So it's not clear what the suicide rate is just for farmers. Or for mathematicians. Or journalists.

Suicide is the nation's 10th leading cause of death. Public attention often focuses on teens and college students, but the highest numbers and rates are in middle-aged adults. Suicide is far more common in males, and the rankings largely reflect the male suicide rates for each group. The highest female suicide rate was seen in the category that includes police, firefighters and correc-



**NEW YORK:** In this file photo, a forest grows back beneath a few uncut white pines several years after it was logged near Soubunge Mountain in northern Maine. — AP

tions officers. The second highest rate for women was in the legal profession.

It's not the first time a suicide problem has been noted for some of the jobs. In the 1980s, media reports detailed high suicide rates in Midwestern farmers. That was attributed to a tough economy and farmers use of pesticides that scientists have theorized may cause symptoms of depression.

**The CDC's occupational suicide list:**

1. Farm workers, fishermen, lumberjacks, others in forestry or agriculture; 85 per 100,000.
2. Carpenters, miners, electricians, construction trades; 53.
3. Mechanics and those who do installation, maintenance, repair; 48.
4. Factory and production workers; 35.
5. Architects, engineers; 32
6. Police, firefighters, corrections workers, others in protective services; 31.
7. Artists, designers, entertainers, athletes, media; 24.
8. Computer programmers, mathemati-

9. Transportation workers; 22
  10. Corporate executives and managers, advertising and public relations; 20
  11. Lawyers and workers in legal system; 19
  12. Doctors, dentists, and other health care professionals; 19
  13. Scientists and lab technicians; 17
  14. Accountants, others in business, financial operations; 16
  15. Nursing, medical assistants, health care support; 15
  16. Clergy, social workers, other social service workers; 14
  17. Real estate agents, telemarketers, sales; 13
  18. Building and ground, cleaning, maintenance; 13
  19. Cooks, food service workers; 13
  20. Childcare workers, barbers, animal trainers, personal care and service; 8
  21. Office workers, administrative support; 8
  22. Education, training, librarians; 8
- AP

## ISRAEL'S BATWOMAN WORKS IN SECRET TO HEAL WINGED FRIENDS

**ELLA VALLEY:** Call her Israel's batwoman. She works in secret, out of an erstwhile chicken coop in central Israel that has become shelter to hundreds of fruit bats being nursed back to health for various ailments. Amid the bats' high-pitched chatter, Nora Lifschitz, a purple-haired 29-year-old and longtime animal rights activist, says it is their eyes that penetrate her soul.

"When bats are hurt, something in their eyes becomes like a Disney cartoon. It breaks your heart, and then and there you say 'I'll die for you,'" she said. Lifschitz had since 2014 taken fruit bats in need of rehabilitation and sanctuary into her Tel Aviv apartment, where they would receive medical treatment and care from her and volunteers. But as their numbers grew and they dominated her home, forcing her to keep her windows and doors shut at all times, she realised she needed a new and bigger space.

An Internet campaign by her group Atalef (Hebrew for bat and an acronym for "help and treatment of fruit bats") yielded funds. And an appeal for a new home was answered in the form of a small, tin-walled chicken coop in an unassuming town far from Tel Aviv in the Ella Valley, near Beit Shemesh. The bats are held in two large areas delineated by nylon mesh walls within the coop, ropes stretching across the ceiling for the benefit of the creatures and to hold stuffed dolls that also serve as hanging points.

The floor is covered with droppings and rotting fruit, discarded by the bats after they suck the juice from their food, and the smell is powerful in the heat of summer. They hang upside-down in thick clusters like over-ripe fruit, many of them with mouths open. Two teen girls were helping Lifschitz care for the bats, gently feeding baby formula through needle-less syringes while the small creatures hung to their shirts upside down, crates of unopened fruit and cages for transferring the bats lying all around.

Lifschitz moved into the coop along with about 100 bats from her Tel Aviv home. In recent days, she has received around 260 bats that had been living in a now-demolished building in Hadera, a coastal city between Tel Aviv and Haifa. — AFP

CLINIC  
PAGE



Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
فهد علي المخيزيم

Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



## PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw



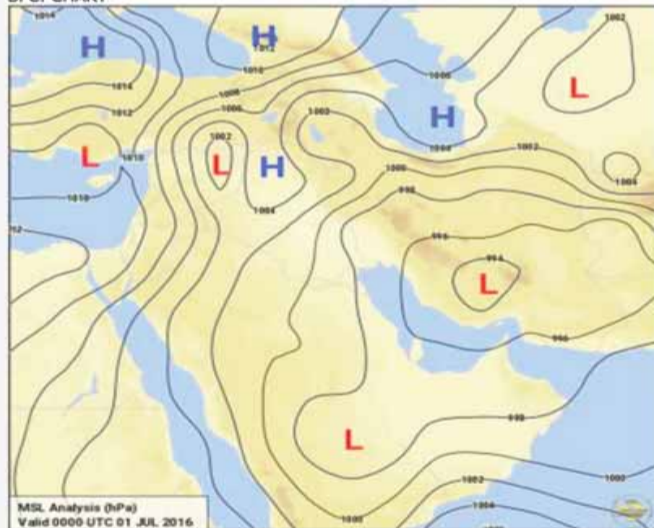
### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 01/07/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 49 °C

**By Day :** Very hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 25 - 45 km/h causing raising dust  
**By Night :** Relatively hot with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 45 km/h causing raising dust

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Expected Weather	very hot + raising dust	Dust	Dust	very hot + raising dust
Min Temp °C	35	32	30	30
Max Temp °C	49	48	49	50
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	20 - 45	20 - 40	20 - 40	15 - 40

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

### Warnings

Strong Wind

### Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	36	49
KUWAIT AIRPORT	38	49
ABDALY	36	50
BUBYAN	34	49
JAHRA	36	50
FAILAKA ISLAND	35	49
SALMIYAH	36	47
AHMADI	38	43
JAL ALIYAH	34	49
QAROH ISLAND	34	44
UMM AL-MARADEM	35	42
NUWAISIB	37	48
WAFRA	36	50
MANAGISH	34	50
SALMY	32	48
MUTRIBA	34	50

### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	51
Min Temp (°C)	31
Max Rel Hum (%)	22
Min Rel Hum (%)	05
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	53 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	04:52
Sunset	18:52

### Prayer Times

Fajr	03:17
Sunrise	04:52
Zuhr	11:52
Asr	15:26
Sunset	18:52
Isha	20:23

Kuwait Times  
Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

### Prayer timings

Fajr:	03:17
Shorook	04:52
Duhr:	11:52
Asr:	15:26
Maghrib:	18:52
Isha:	20:23



## 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
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381



WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

Old TV Shows 4

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- |          |              |                 |
|----------|--------------|-----------------|
| AIRWOLF  | CYBILL       | SPIN CITY       |
| ALF      | FRAGGLE ROCK | ST ELSEWHERE    |
| AMEN     | GET SMART    | STAR TREK       |
| AVENGERS | KNIGHT RIDER | THAT GIRL       |
| BARETTA  | KUNG FU      | THE BRADY BUNCH |
| BENSON   | LARAMIE      | THE X FILES     |
| BLOSSOM  | MAGNUM P I   | ZORRO           |
| BONANZA  | MATLOCK      |                 |

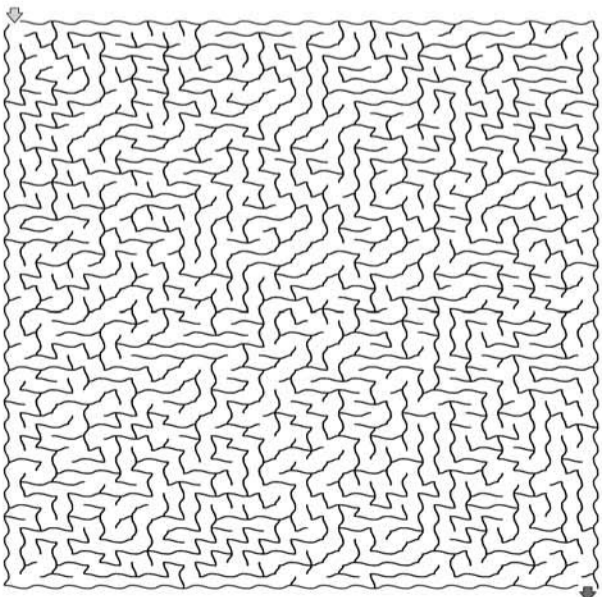
Yesterday's Solution

Old TV Shows 3 - Solution

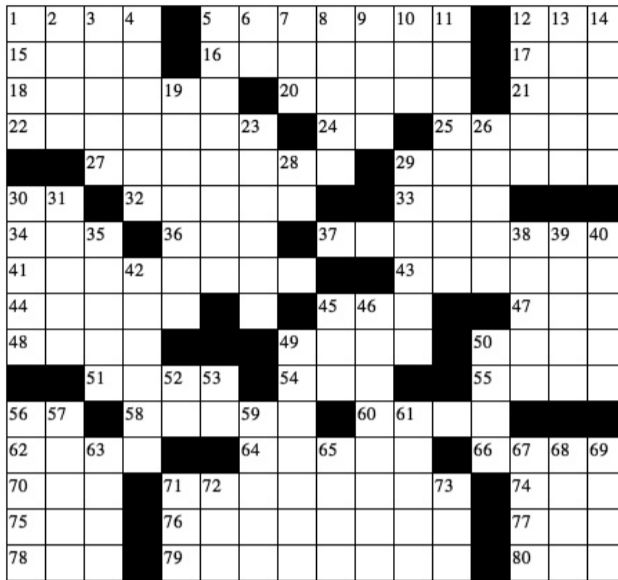
N I T R A M S N O S T E J E H T A  
 M T N I G H T G A L L E R Y T L E  
 S U M A E T A E H T A P N J U L E  
 E E R B R F P O O L W E E O C G R  
 N N J P U E B T L T C Y Y V R F E  
 O F O H H M T Y H D I T B E L L T  
 J D Q S U Y M S O A U O E Q K I S  
 Y W R L A C B Y B O P N E L E P I  
 B S O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

- |               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| ALLY MCBEAL   | FLIPPER       | NIGHT GALLERY |
| BANACEK       | GREEN ACRES   | PERRY MASON   |
| BARNABY JONES | HAPPY DAYS    | PEYTON PLACE  |
| CHIPS         | L A L A W     | THE A TEAM    |
| COLUMBO       | MAD ABOUT YOU | THE JETSONS   |
| DR KILDARE    | MARTIN        | VEGAS         |
| DRAGNET       | MISTER ED     | WEBSTER       |
| DYNASTY       | MURPHY BROWN  |               |

CHALLENGING MAZE



C R O S S W O R D 1 3 0 2



ACROSS

1. A primeval personification of air and breath.
5. An African river.
12. (computer science) A computer that is running software that allows users to leave messages and access information of general interest.
15. A Russian river.
16. A capacitance unit equal to one billion farads.
17. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
18. A pin used to hold the tie in place.
20. A river in northern Italy that flows southeast into the Adriatic Sea.
21. Decay usually accompanied by an offensive odor.
22. A fabric made of silk or a silklike fabric that resembles organdy.
24. A brittle gray crystalline element that is a semiconducting metalloid (resembling silicon) used in transistors.
25. The superior of an abbey of monks.
27. Web-footed diving seabirds of northern seas.
30. Unknown god.
32. Antipsychotic drug (trade name Molar) used in the treatment of schizophrenia.
33. A castrated tomcat.
34. The month following March and preceding May.
36. Someone (especially a woman) who annoys people by constantly finding fault.
37. The quantity a flask will hold.
41. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
43. (South African) An ear of corn.
44. Relating to the deepest parts of the ocean (below 6000 meters).
47. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
48. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
51. Grains used as food either unpolished or more often polished.
54. A zodiacal constellation in northern hemisphere between Cancer and Virgo.
55. The capital of Switzerland.
56. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
58. The iridescent internal layer of a mollusk shell.
60. A language unit by which a person or thing is known.
62. (informal) Exceptionally good.
64. Someone whose business is advertising.
66. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
70. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
74. The act of slowing down or falling behind.
75. The compass point midway between south and southeast.
76. A pocket-size case for holding papers and paper money.
77. 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
78. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
79. (informal) Diamonds.
80. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.

DOWN

1. Of or being the lowest female voice.
2. Israeli statesman (born in Russia) (1898-1978).
3. Lake in northwestern Russia near the border with Finland.
4. Gasoline jelled with aluminum soaps.
5. An island in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa.
6. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
7. A master's degree in fine arts.
8. An emblem (a small piece of plastic or cloth or metal) that signifies your status (rank or membership or affiliation etc.).
9. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
10. An angular shape characterized by sharp turns in alternating directions.
11. Consider as ideal.
12. Found along western Atlantic coast.
13. The fluid (red in vertebrates) that is pumped by the heart.
14. Type genus of the Sittidae.
19. (trademark) An nickel-base alloy with chromium and iron.
23. (of tempo) Leisurely n.
26. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
28. An associate degree in nursing.
29. (of reproduction) Not involving the fusion of male and female gametes reproduction".
31. Strike with disgust or revulsion.
35. Measuring instrument in which the echo of a pulse of microwave radiation is used to detect and locate distant objects.
38. The process of combustion of inflammable materials producing heat and light and (often) smoke.
39. A member of a Turkic people of Chinese Turkestan and neighboring areas (formerly of Mongolia and eastern Turkestan).
40. Acquire or gain knowledge or skills.
42. (usually followed by 'to') Full of eagerness.
45. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
46. Relating to or affecting the infant during the first month after birth.
49. Someone who rides a sled.
50. In bed.
52. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
53. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
57. Understanding of the nature or meaning or quality or magnitude of something.
59. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
61. Native to Egypt but cultivated widely for its aromatic seeds and the oil from them used medicinally and as a flavoring in cookery.
63. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
65. Constituting a copy or imitation of something.
67. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
68. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
69. A city in northern India.
71. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.
72. (informal) Uncomplimentary terms for a policeman.
73. An emotional response that has been acquired by conditioning.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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





**TORONTO:** Mike Napoli #26 of the Cleveland Indians slides across home plate to score a run in the sixth inning during MLB game action against the Toronto Blue Jays on June 30, 2016 at Rogers Centre. — AFP

## STREAKING INDIANS WIN 13TH STRAIGHT

**TORONTO:** Carlos Carrasco struck out a season-high 14 while Jason Kipnis and Rajai Davis hit solo home runs as the Cleveland Indians matched a franchise record by winning their 13th consecutive game Thursday night, beating the Toronto Blue Jays 4-1. Cleveland's streak is the longest by any team this season, and the longest for the Indians since winning 13 straight in 1951. Cleveland also won 13 in a row in 1942. Carrasco (4-2) allowed one run and three hits in 7 1/3 innings to win back-to-back starts for the first time since April 13 and 19. The right-hander was sidelined from April 25 to June 2 with a strained left hamstring. Cody Allen got the last three outs for his 17th save. RA Dickey (5-9) allowed three runs and eight hits in seven innings.

### TIGERS 10, RAYS 7

Cameron Maybin capped a dramatic eight-run ninth inning with a tiebreaking three-run double as Detroit overcame a five-run deficit. Detroit trailed 7-2 entering the ninth and opened the inning with four consecutive hits off Ryan Garton, including Victor Martinez's RBI single. Erasmo Ramirez (7-7) replaced Garton and allowed Justin Upton's run-scoring single, Steven Moya's sacrifice fly and an RBI single to Jarrod Saltalamacchia that made it 7-6. Jose Iglesias drew a walk to load the bases, and Ian Kinsler got another free pass on a 3-2 pitch to tie it 7-7. Maybin's drive to left-center cleared the bases to put Detroit up 10-7. Winner Anibal Sanchez (5-8) gave up two runs in two innings. Francisco Rodriguez got the final three outs for his 22nd save.

### YANKEES 2, RANGERS 1

Chase Headley scored on a passed ball with

two outs in the bottom of the ninth as New York won in its final at-bat for the second straight game. Didi Gregorius, who had the winning home run Wednesday night, hit a solo shot in the fifth to tie the score after Shin-Soo Choo homered to lead off the game. Tony Barnette (5-3), the third Rangers reliever of the afternoon, walked Headley to lead off the bottom of the ninth. With runners on second and third and two outs, his pitch got through catcher Robinson Chirinos and Headley just beat the throw. Aroldis Chapman (2-0) earned the win after pitching a scoreless ninth.

### METS 4, CUBS 3

Yoenis Cespedes socked a colossal home run while Jeurys Familia pitched out of a huge jam in the ninth inning and rookie replacement Brandon Nimmo keyed a three-run rally in the seventh that sent New York past Chicago in their first meeting since last year's NL Championship Series. Baez's throwing error at second base allowed Nimmo to score the go-ahead run as the Mets overcame a 3-0 deficit to stop their four-game slide. New York, which swept Chicago last October to reach the World Series, had lost nine straight regular-season games to the Cubs dating to August 2014. Joel Peralta (0-1) walked slumping pinch-hitter Alejandro De Aza before Nimmo, starting for injured outfielder Curtis Granderson, singled on the ninth pitch of a gritty at-bat for his first career RBI. Erik Goeddel (1-0) struck out two in 1 2/3 hitless innings for the win.

### GIANTS 12, ATHLETICS 6

Madison Bumgarner pitched into the seventh to snap a two-start skid and also batted in an AL ballpark as San Francisco avoided a four-

game sweep. Brandon Belt had four RBIs and hit a go-ahead two-run double in the third ahead of Buster Posey's ninth home run. Bumgarner helped start the rally with a leadoff double. Bumgarner (9-4) was given the option by manager Bruce Bochy to bat himself rather than the Giants using a designated hitter and of course the big lefty chose to swing the bat. A's lefty Dillon Overton (1-1) was done after three innings in his second major league start, giving up eight runs and eight hits.

### MARINERS 5, ORIOLES 3

Taijuan Walker held powerful Baltimore to just four hits over 6 1/3 innings and Seth Smith hit a two-run home run for Seattle. Walker (4-6) gave up a solo home run to Hyun Soo Kim in the seventh but otherwise did not allow a runner past first base. He struck out five and walked no one. With Kim's homer, the Orioles set the major league record for most home runs in June with 56. The 1996 Oakland A's had held the record of 55. Chris Tillman (10-2) took the loss, ending his nine-game winning streak. Steve Cishek got four outs for his 19th save.

### NATIONALS 13, REDS 4

Danny Espinosa hit a grand slam and a three-run homer to finish with a career-high seven RBIs as Washington cruised to its fifth straight victory. The switch-hitting shortstop connected off Brandon Finnegan (3-7) batting right-handed, then went deep from the left side against Josh Smith. Gio Gonzalez (4-7) gave up four runs and struck out nine over six innings for the NL East-leading Nationals.

### ROYALS 4, CARDINALS 2

Kendrys Morales homered and recorded his

sixth straight multihit game to lead Kansas City. Wade Davis recorded his 19th save in 21 opportunities. Morales, a designated hitter playing right field for the second straight night, doubled in the sixth inning off Mike Leake (5-6) to push the lead to 3-1. Kansas City reliever Dillon Gee (3-2) picked up the win allowing one run in two innings.

### DODGERS 8, BREWERS 1

Trayce Thompson, Yasmani Grandal and Corey Seager hit home runs to lead Los Angeles. Kenta Maeda (7-5) held the Brewers to one run over six innings. Thompson put the Dodgers in front in the second with a two-run homer off Zach Davies (5-4). Grandal extended the Dodgers' lead in the fourth with a solo blast over the left-field bullpen. Seager's homer in the fifth accounted for two of the Dodgers' three runs in the inning.

### WHITE SOX 6, TWINS 5

JB Shuck's two-out single scored the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning and Todd Frazier hit his 23rd home run for Chicago. Fernando Abad (1-2) got the first two batters in the eighth before consecutive walks. Shuck's career high-tying third hit of the game to left scored Avisail Garcia from second. Nate Jones (4-2) allowed a hit while getting four outs and David Robertson worked around a single in the ninth for his 21st save.

### BRAVES 8, MARLINS 5

Pinch-hitter Brandon Snyder had two RBIs in a four-run sixth inning to help Atlanta rally. Dario Alvarez (2-1) earned the win. Wei-Yin Chen (4-3) allowed eight hits, four runs, two walks and struck out two in 5 1/3 innings. — AP



**DHAKA:** This file photograph taken on July 30, 2015 shows Bangladesh cricket captain Mushfiqur Rahim (R) as he is watched by South Africa's wicketkeeper Dane Vilas while playing a shot during the first day of the second cricket Test match between Bangladesh and South Africa at The Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium. — AFP

## ANGUISH AT SPLIT PLANS FOR TEST CRICKET'S NEW NATIONS

**DHAKA:** Test cricket's newest nations are in despair at plans to split the format into two divisions, fearing it could undo decades of hard-fought progress on the field and kill interest in the game. Cricket's governing body the International Cricket Council (ICC) is meeting in Edinburgh this week to debate proposals for the seven top-ranked teams to establish a de facto premier league in a bid to boost waning interest in Tests.

Under the scheme being considered by the ICC, the other three countries with Test status would join a five-strong second division along with Afghanistan and Ireland. While the shake-up would guarantee cricket's leading nations play each other every other year, the other sides would be starved of matches which draw in crowds and lucrative broadcast deals. As things stand, the two latest arrivals at cricket's top table—Bangladesh and Zimbabwe—will be doomed to the second tier and could be joined by another relative newcomer Sri Lanka. "This will spell the death of international cricket as we've known it," said Ahmed Sazzadul Alam, a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director.

Bangladesh lobbied for years to join cricket's elite before playing their first Test in 2000. Their record has been poor, winning just seven of their 93 Tests and they are currently ranked ninth, just above Zimbabwe. However, performances have improved significantly of late and Bangladesh has only lost six of

their last 18 Tests. BCB vice president Mahbubul Anam warned Bangladesh "would go backwards" if they stop playing teams such as England and India, both of whom they are due to play later this year. "The more we play against competitive sides, the better we'll get," said Anam.

Alistair Campbell, a former director of Zimbabwe's board, appreciated the arguments for a split because of the gulf in class between the top and bottom sides. But Campbell, a former captain who played in Zimbabwe's inaugural Test against India in 1992, said it would be heartbreaking if current players would never be able to compete against the best. "It's going to be a tragedy if you are growing up in a country like Zimbabwe or Bangladesh," he told AFP. "It means you might never get the opportunity to play with top tier sides. That might drive players to go and seek greener pastures."

### 'Disaster'

There are similar fears in Sri Lanka which has fallen down the rankings in the last two years after batting greats Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene retired. Sri Lanka is currently ranked seventh and in danger of being overtaken by an improving West Indies by the time the proposed split comes into force. Sri Lanka also struggled in the first decade after their inaugural Test in 1982 but then found their feet and won the 1996 World Cup.

Sidath Wettimuny, who scored Sri Lanka's first Test century, warned the architects of the split were playing with fire. "It's okay to make some tweaks but what is proposed is going to be a disaster in every sense of the word," he said. Sri Lanka board's secretary Mohan de Silva was cool on the proposal. "We are not very much in favour, but we need to discuss with our executive committee after studying it carefully before taking a final decision," he wrote in a text from Scotland. But Sports Minister Dayasiri Jayasekera insisted the shake-up should be opposed as it would "have a negative impact".

### 'Financial ruin'

Sri Lanka's cash-strapped board is hugely dependent on TV money and ticket revenue from tours by the likes of India and Australia. But neither broadcasters nor spectators will pay significant amounts for matches involving minnows such as Ireland. "If you club the weakest teams in one league, who'll be interested in watching those games? This will lead to financial ruin," Jayasekera told AFP. The BCB's Alam also warned of dire financial consequences. "There would be an inevitable loss of interest among younger followers of and a decline in interest from the media and sponsors," he said. "The resulting downturn in revenues would undermine development programs and funding of domestic leagues. "It will effectively mean the end of cricket for countries like us." — AFP

## BUTT: AMIR TO RETURN LIKE MOHAMMED ALI

**KARACHI:** Former Pakistan Captain Salman Butt said yesterday his spot-fixing accomplice Mohammad Amir will be in top form on his return to Test cricket, just like boxer Muhammad Ali was after his suspension from boxing. Pakistan take on England in the first of four Tests at Lord's from July 14 with the focus on Amir. He will play his first five-day match at the same venue where he, Butt and Mohammad Asif were caught in a sting operation in 2010.

The trio had arranged deliberate no-balls in return for money during the Lord's Test against England on Pakistan's tour, resulting in a five-year cricketing ban and jail terms in the UK. But Amir's ban ended in September last year, and he has since returned to the top of Pakistani cricket. Butt, 31, said Amir will need to focus on his game. "He has bowled well in limited over matches and can deliver," he told AFP, adding that he did not see any areas where Amir could improve. "Long lay-offs can hurt in many ways, but it depends on individuals and if they show the same hunger and determination-like Ali did in his forced lay-off-then one can succeed."

Three-time heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, who passed away last month, was suspended from boxing from 1967 until 1970 after refusing to join the US war in Vietnam. However Butt admitted Amir could face a hostile reception in England, saying he will "have to ignore" any enmity. "People will move on once he does well and doesn't react." Amir, regarded as a rising star at the time of his ban, pleaded guilty in a UK court.

That pushed his return to domestic matches six months prior to the lifting of his international ban in September last year. He has since played 13 limited over matches (two one-day and 11 Twenty20 internationals), during which he appeared to have lost none of his talent. "There are no doubts that he can be Pakistan's key bowler against England across formats, just like on the tour of 2010," said Butt. As for himself, Butt said he also hopes to return to the international stage in the near future.

Earlier this year he scored 536 runs in the national one-day cup. "I am working hard and trying to perform in any type of cricket I play because that is the only road to get back into the team," he said. Former head coach Waqar Younis had demanded Butt to be included in Pakistan's side for the World Twenty20 in India earlier this year, but selectors rejected his request. Chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq last month said Butt and Asif will only be considered once they perform in first-class cricket. — AFP

## LEHMANN URGES ICC TO PREVENT PLAYER BURNOUT

**MELBOURNE:** Australia coach Darren Lehmann has urged cricket's governing body to help reduce the workload on players competing in all three forms of the game as he fears the current packed schedule is unsustainable. As the Indian Premier League (IPL) appears set to capitalize on recent International Cricket Council (ICC) changes to the schedule through a "mini IPL" in September, Lehmann fears such a tournament would further restrict time off for his players.

In 2015, Australian cricketers who played all three formats spent on average 280 days overseas. Under Cricket Australia (CA) contracts, players are given a six-week break from commitments, which many use to sign lucrative IPL contracts. Lehmann said that while the financial incentive to play in India was tempting, it often wore players out and the ICC should use a common sense approach to future scheduling so that the toll on bodies was not too high.

"If it keeps going like this, with players playing IPL as well, they are inevitably going to break down," Lehmann told Australian media yesterday. "Hopefully changes will happen at the ICC and then you will see a refined schedule which will be better." Lehmann said while players often consider setting themselves up for life by playing in the IPL, it was a "tough conundrum" for national selectors, as they are reluctant to advise players not to take on out-of-contract commitments.

"If you look across a two-year cycle, all of our players have had to come home at some point," he said, while referring to injuries Steve Smith (wrist) and Mitchell Marsh (hamstring) picked up in the most recent IPL season. Lehmann believes that while players may be primed to perform under matchday stresses, it was the constant travel, variable conditions and lack of adequate rest which was putting them most at risk. "It's not so much the cricket, it's the travel to these places. You're on the road, you have training and all that stuff," he said. The ICC is currently considering the introduction of a two-tiered test Championship and a one-day league, which would go some way to lightening the workload. —Reuters

## HAMILTON FEARS PENALTIES WILL WRECK TITLE DEFENSE

**SPIELBERG BEI KNITTELFELD:** Lewis Hamilton fears his world championship defense is in danger of being undermined by engine failures and grid penalties as he seeks to cut Mercedes team-mate Nico Rosberg's 24-points lead. The three-time champion yesterday went into opening free practice for this weekend's Austrian Grand Prix taking parts of his fifth new power unit this year, leaving him facing certain to use further new parts, for which he will be penalised, in the second half of the season.

Drivers are permitted a maximum of five changes

to the six designated parts of an engine before they are penalized. "I'm starting with my last engine this weekend," Hamilton told reporters. "And so, I will have at least one race where I start dead last, most likely two, with two more new engines I have to take, the sixth and seventh. "The worst thing is that I'm the only Mercedes driver to have that. "For sure, it's difficult for us as a team and it's difficult considering that we are the Mercedes team.

"If there were 40 engines, you would hope that we would have the best of the 40, but that's just the

way it goes... "I have to do the best I can with the one I have no and then hopefully the next one or two beyond that." Rosberg, who topped opening practice yesterday morning at the Red Bull Ring, is using only his second power unit of the season. "For sure, it's not easy," said Hamilton. "When you look at the table and you see the eight Mercedes drivers and everyone else is on the normal plan, on their second engine. They have four left - and I have one left! "For sure, it doesn't feel great, but there's nothing I can do about it." — AFP

## THONGCHAI AND ILONEN SHARE FRENCH OPEN LEAD

**SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES:** Thongchai Jaidee and Finn Mikko Ilonen both carded under-par second rounds yesterday to take a share of the lead in the 100th French Open at Golf National. The experienced Thongchai had a topsy-turvy day with three bogeys and four birdies for a 70, while Ilonen joined him at the top of the leaderboard after firing an excellent three-under-par 68.

Earlier, defending champion Bernd Wiesberger, starting on the back nine, soared into a four-shot lead with five birdies in his first eight holes, only for a triple bogey at the 18th to halt his momentum. Two closing bogeys left him a stroke behind Thongchai, Ilonen and afternoon starter Lucas Bjerregaard of Denmark. It was another bad day for Masters champion Danny Willett, who looks set to miss the cut, although playing partner Lee Westwood was three under par for his second nine holes to secure a place for the weekend.

Thongchai backed up his opening 67 with a solid second day. A fine iron shot into the ninth green, his last hole, set up a simple birdie to reach five under par for the tournament. The world number 262 Ilonen, who was ranked in the top 50 less than two years ago but has struggled with injury and loss of form, looked back to his best in France. The five-time European Tour winner had five birdies in his round, with an excellent par save at 17 helping him stay on five under.

Dane Anders Hansen, who only came out of retirement last week at the BMW International Open, carded a three-under-par 68 to move into a tie for fourth place alongside Wiesberger and big-hitting Belgian Nicolas Colsaerts. Westwood fought back from a difficult start with three consecutive birdies on the back nine en route to a second-round 70. After starting on the 10th, the 43-year-old was five over par for the tournament through nine holes, but a good downhill birdie putt on the par-three second hole got his week belatedly up and running.

The Englishman, who collapsed in the final round of the US Open at Oakmont less than a fortnight ago, now looks all but certain to make the cut on two over par. There was no such luck for Willett, as the world number nine struggled to find any consistency with his swing and missed a succession of birdie efforts on the greens. A second round score of 72 leaves him on five over, three strokes below the projected cut line and needing plenty of favors from the afternoon starters to make the weekend. The 2013 and 2014 winner Graeme McDowell will miss the cut by a distance. The 2010 US Open champion endured a nightmare first-round 80 on Thursday, and followed that up with another over-par effort to end up on 11 over par. — AFP



**COUTANCES:** Riders with team Tinkoff ride along the Normandy coastline during a training ahead the start of the Tour de France cycling race. — AP

# TOUR DE FRANCE 1ST LEG KICKS OFF IN NORMANDY

**SAINT-LO:** The landing beaches. The war cemeteries. The museums. The first towns that were liberated more than 70 years ago. The D-Day and World War II history that is embedded in the culture of Normandy is earning extra spotlight this weekend when the Tour de France opens with two stages in the region.

Today's opening leg starts at Mont-Saint-Michel, a World Heritage Benedictine abbey perched on a rock off the coast, and ends at Utah Beach, one of the key landing sites for Allied troops on June 6, 1944. The first stage also passes through Sainte-Mere-Eglise, where American paratrooper John Steele dangled from a clock tower after his parachute got caught during the invasion, and survived. The town is now home to the Airborne Museum.

Stage 2 on Sunday finishes in Cherbourg-En-Cotentin, site of the Battle of Cherbourg. Tejay van Garderen, the BMC rider who represents the United States' best hope for overall victory in the Tour, was wide eyed as he took a look around this week. "It really puts into perspective what we're doing here," Van Garderen said on Friday. "We always say that we're soldiers going to war and then you see the real soldiers and you're like, 'OK, maybe this is just bike racing.'"

Teams were driven into the official team

presentation in Sainte-Mere-Eglise on Thursday. "I like the way organizers and the local people here have put together the appropriate historical reminders, that teams have been accompanied on the jeeps by the local people in costumes," said Brian Cookson, the British president of the International Cycling Union.

### Team diversity

A legacy of the war was freedom, underlined by the diversity of the Tour teams. Van Garderen, who was in third place when he had to abandon last year's Tour in tears due to illness four stages from the end, shares the BMC leadership with Australian standout Richie Porte. They are backed by riders from Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland, and Belgium. "We're such an international team," Van Garderen said. "It shows that the world has come a long way."

The top favorites for overall victory in the three-week race are two-time winner Chris Froome of Britain, two-time runner-up Nairo Quintana of Colombia, and two-time champion Alberto Contador of Spain. After today's stage, American, British, Canadian, French, and German riders will take part in a ceremony on Utah Beach to commemorate the Allied landings. Amael Moinard, a French

member of BMC, was born in Cherbourg and knows all about D-Day. "Growing up here, I've been into it from an early age because all our school trips were related to D-Day commemorations: Utah Beach, the Sainte-Mere-Eglise museum, the Caen memorial,"

Moinard said. "Then the 50th D-Day anniversary was something big for me, with all the presidents from countries across the world coming to Normandy. It has always been in the back of my mind, so it's nice to start here from a historical standpoint." Like the paratroopers before him, Moinard has a deep understanding of the winds in La Manche, as this area of Normandy is called. The way he sees it, the seven kilometers of open and exposed road along the coast with 30 kilometers to go in the opening stage will create more damage from fear about the wind - which has the potential to split the peloton in two - than the wind itself.

"As soon as you see the sea on the map each rider will say, 'It's going to be windy, tricky,'" Moinard explained. "It's going to make everybody nervous and for sure a crash will happen. So all of the leaders and sprinters will want to be in the front. "But then we take a much more protected road for the last 25K," Moinard added. "So it's more telling them, 'Just be relaxed. Everything is going to be OK, hopefully.'" — AP

## RAIN-HIT WIMBLEDON MAY PLAY ON A MIDDLE SUNDAY

**LONDON:** Wimbledon organizers admitted they were considering playing on the middle Sunday for the first time in 12 years in an attempt to get the rain-lashed tournament back on track, an official told AFP. "Sunday play is being considered but a decision won't be made until tomorrow," a spokesman for the All England Club said yesterday. Play on the middle Sunday—the traditional rest day in the Wimbledon fortnight—last took place in 2004. It has only happened on two other occasions: in 1991 and 1997.

This year's Wimbledon has been

badly affected by the weather with long delays on Tuesday and Wednesday. Only one minute of action was possible on the outside courts yesterday and just a quarter of an hour on Court One with a resumption not expected before 3:00pm (1400 GMT). Rain has seriously disrupted the schedules for the past four days. Organisers had to pay out refunds of between 50 percent and 100 percent on Wednesday's tickets for the open courts. There were still 16 second round singles matches to complete yesterday—the day usually reserved for

the start of the third round.

Play on Centre Court, featuring Juan Martin del Potro against Stan Wawrinka was continuing under the roof, with multiple Wimbledon champions Serena Williams and Roger Federer due to play. Scheduling during rain delays will ease in 2019 when a new roof over Court One will be in operation. The last time matches were staged on the middle Sunday, in 2004, was prompted by a washout on the previous day. In both 2004 and 1997, two days of play were completely rained off in the first week.

Before the roof was installed on

Centre Court, play was extended to a third Monday in 1992, 1996, and 2000 in order to complete the finals, and memorably again in 2001 when Goran Ivanisevic, playing on a wild card, won the men's title on a Monday. A total of 30 days have been completely lost to rain in the history of the tournament, which dates back to 1877. Since the Championships moved from Worple Road to the current Church Road grounds in 1922, there have only been six completely rain-free tournaments: in 1931, 1976, 1977, 1993, 1995 and 2010. — AFP



**LONDON:** Britain's Andy Murray returns to Taiwan's Lu Yen-hsun during their men's singles second round match on the fourth day of the 2016 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon. — AFP

## CITY SLICKER MILLMAN SET TO TRADE BLOWS WITH MURRAY

**LONDON:** Australia's John Millman has traded in his smart suit and the world of city finance for a shot at former Wimbledon champion Andy Murray. The world number 67 is up against the British second seed in the third round at the All England Club—a world away from the injury misery that forced him to seek work in a friend's finance firm while he rebuilt his career.

Millman, who normally doles out drinks to the handful of fans who cheer him on, will have his work cut out to keep up the tradition today. He is certain to play on either Centre Court or the secondary 11,000-seater Court One—both arenas that he has never even set foot inside. "You dream of playing on the biggest courts against the biggest players," said the 27-year-old from Brisbane. "I feel as if I deserve to be there. And third round Wimbledon, it's uncharted territory for me. I have never been one to go out with an intimidated mindset before I play. That's being disrespectful to the game. So we are going to start at 0-0-0. I'm going to give it everything. "These are the matches you

live for and these are the ones you will remember for the rest of your life."

The Queenslander, who is now on a career high, required shoulder surgery in 2013, which saw him trade in the tennis shorts for some sharper attire. "I worked in the city for a little bit at one of my mate's companies. I was dressed up in a suit each day," he said. "I was working at a finance place. A mate of mine knew I was annoying my mum too much at home. They needed to get me out of the house, so I needed to go in there and annoy them there! "Then I'd go and do a little bit of rehab. It's a slow process. "I really have an appreciation of these moments right now because there was a big time there where I wasn't too confident. "I know that tennis can change pretty quickly, and I know you're one big injury away from being back at university."

### Fridge raider

Now playing his seventh Grand Slam tournament, Millman's habit of raiding the players' free cold drinks to give to supporters might have to change come

today. "I do it at most tournaments, actually. I try to raid the fridges. Here it's so overcast that you have to hand out coffee or something," he said. "If I was a little kid and I wanted some drinks, I would have loved it. It's always good to give back."

Millman's place at the Rio Olympics was confirmed on Thursday, with Nick Kyrgios and Bernard Tomic both failing to make the plane due to well-documented behavioural issues and fall-outs with the authorities. But Millman knows he is going to Brazil on merit thanks to his ranking. "It's the greatest honour to play at the Olympic Games and represent your country. I'm pumped," the right-hander said.

Millman is a fan of England's Liverpool Football Club, an obsession from childhood that started out in winding up his Manchester United-supporting relatives. "On my dad's side of the family, they're all United supporters, and the team they hate the most is Liverpool," he said. "So being an annoying little six year old, you probably go against the team they hate the most." — AFP

## BITTER LESSON DRIVES YADAV'S PATH TO RIO

**NEW DELHI:** Vikas Krishan Yadav has learned from the bitter experience that he can leave nothing to chance in the Olympic ring and it is a lesson the Indian boxer will carry with him to the Rio Games. Four years ago, the then 20-year-old welterweight thought he had clinched a place in the quarter-finals of the London Olympic tournament after beating American Errol Spence 13-11.

His joy turned quickly to outrage when amateur boxing's governing body AIBA, after reviewing video footage, overturned the result and awarded the American four additional points for fouls committed by Yadav. India subsequently took the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which rejected the appeal. Yadav has since moved up to the 75kg category, but the feeling of being wronged in London has never left him.

"London taught me a big lesson," the softly-spoken boxer told Reuters in an interview, sporting a mosaic of bruises on the top half of his face and a couple of stitches over his right eye. "It taught me I can't leave anything to chance. It taught me results of close contests can go either way even after you've been declared the winner. "Since then, I have always tried to make my bouts one-sided and win it really big. That will be my effort in Rio as well."

Shattered by the London setback, Yadav largely shunned the ring for the next 18 months, undertaking training to become a policeman in the northern Indian state of Haryana instead. "I was a lot younger and more vulnerable then. I saw no point in continuing boxing. I would wake up at nine, sleep late and be casual about my training," he recalled. "But a boxer is like a caged bird which doesn't know what to do with freedom. I started craving the rigour of boxing. "The time away from ring allowed me to think about boxing. Now I'm better prepared to deal with any such heartbreak." He is, though, determined to ensure he does not have to deal with anything similar in Rio. "I have an unfinished business in the Olympics," he said. "My dreams were shattered in London. I want to fulfill them in Rio."

### On competition mode

Yadav secured his Rio spot only last week at an Olympic qualifier in Baku, where he settled for bronze after a cut he sustained rendered him medically unfit for his semi-final bout. "I qualified for London eight months before the Games and probably got a bit too casual," said the boxer who is supported, among others, by JSW Sports. "This time I could not qualify from (last year's) world championship, so the pressure was building. It helps in a way, for I'm now in competition mode and I'm not going to relax."

For Yadav, who claimed the lightweight gold at the 2010 Asian Games and the middleweight bronze in the next edition of the continental gathering in Incheon, winning is all. He feels embarrassed when all he has to show from one of his trips abroad is a souvenir T-shirt or a bag full of duty-free. To avoid any such embarrassment after Rio, Yadav is approaching the Games as if they were his last as he bids to emulate Vijender Singh, who won India's first boxing medal with a bronze, also in the 75kg class, at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"I'm taking it as my last attempt at an Olympic medal and I feel I'm better prepared this time," Yadav added. "In London, I was just another clueless young boxer in his first Olympics. Four years down the line and I'm still young but I have Olympic experience behind me too. "My health is perfect, I got enough ring experience and my coaches and my family are right behind me. If I can't win a medal this time, I probably won't ever." — Reuters

## RESURGENT BEN ARFA MAKES 'DREAM' TRANSFER TO PSG

**PARIS:** France international midfielder Hatem Ben Arfa has signed a two-year deal with Paris Saint-Germain from Ligue 1 rivals Nice, the French champions announced yesterday. "Paris Saint-Germain is happy to announce the signing of Hatem Ben Arfa's contract until June 30, 2018," the club said on its Twitter account. The former Lyon, Marseille and Newcastle winger becomes the club's first recruit since new Spanish coach Unai Emery replaced Laurent Blanc this week.

Both Emery and the gifted Ben Arfa will be officially presented by the club at their Parc des Princes ground on Monday by the club's Qatari backer Nasser Al-Khelaifi. The 29-year-old Ben Arfa, who missed out on Didier Deschamps' Euro 2016 squad, is available on a free transfer after his contract with Nice expired this summer. "Paris Saint-Germain has always had a special place in my heart and wearing this jersey at the Parc des Princes is a childhood dream," said Ben Arfa, who comes from Clamart on the outskirts of Paris.

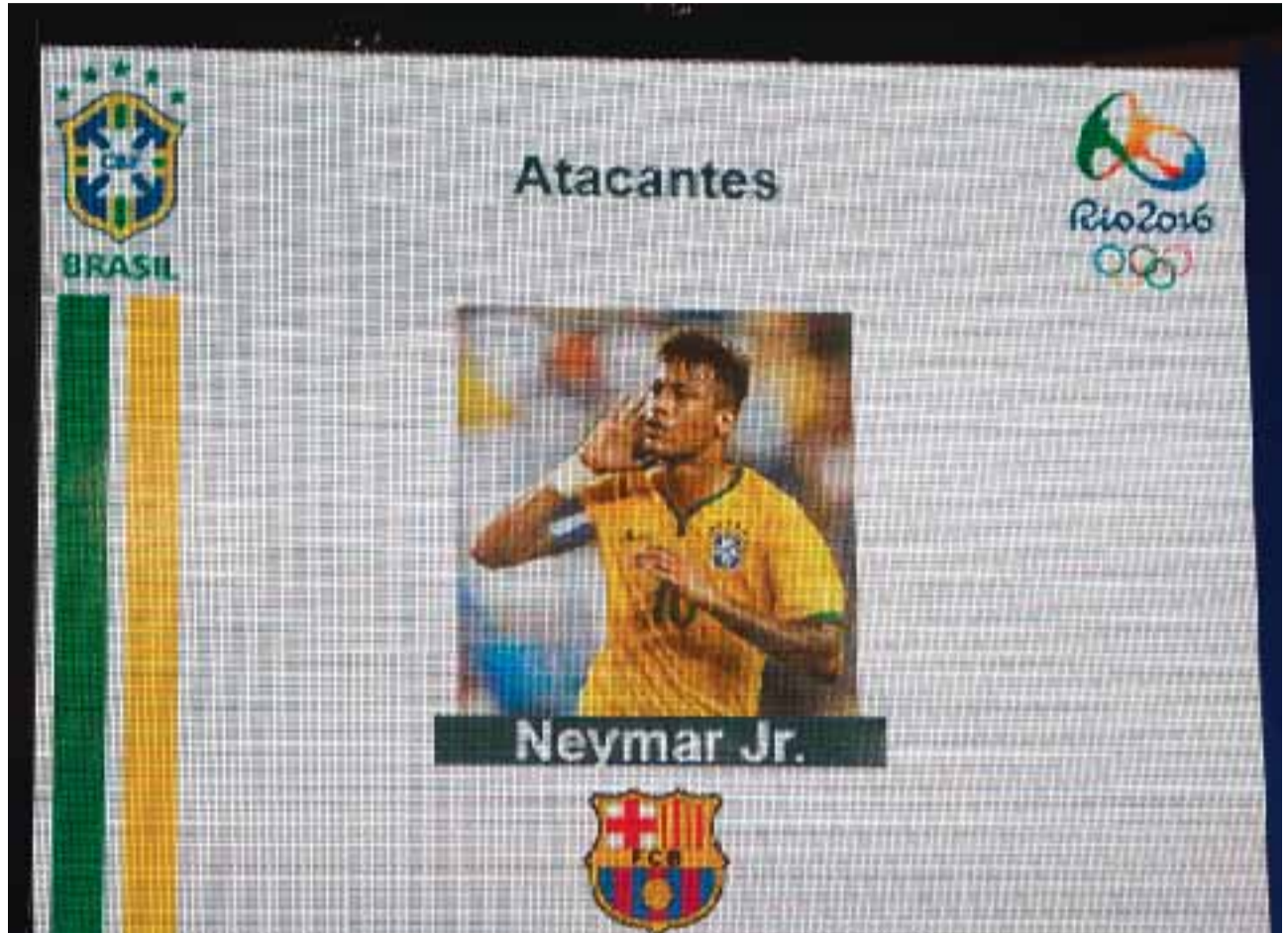
"I'd like to thank Nice, who enabled me to refind pleasure in playing football and to show the French public what I'm capable of on the pitch," he added on PSG's website. Ben Arfa moves to the French capital after a 17-goal haul last term which inspired Nice into a club-best third in the table. At Nice, under the south coast club's then coach Claude Puel, he shed his sometimes badboy image forged by various run-ins with former coaches.

He had a largely disappointing spell in England with Newcastle and a loan spell with Hull City followed by six months out of the game in 2015 before his career-boosting move to Nice. His arrival came the day after PSG's out-of-contract Swedish superstar Zlatan Ibrahimovic announced he was joining Manchester United. Ben Arfa is the first signing of new coach Emery, who was named Tuesday as the man to finally achieve PSG's long quest for Champions League success.

Emery terminated his contract with Sevilla this month, having guided the Spanish side to three successive Europa League titles. Ben Arfa signed for the four-time French champions after reported interest from Barcelona, Seville, and one of his former teams, Lyon. He made his debut for Lyon at just 17-years-old in 2004 and went on to play 91 times for the club, winning four straight Ligue 1 titles. He moved from there to Marseille in 2008, switching to Newcastle three years later. — AFP



**NICE:** This file photo taken on April 10, 2016 shows Nice's French forward Hatem Ben Arfa applauding as he leaves the pitch during the French L1 football match between Nice and Rennes at the Allianz Riviera stadium. — AFP



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** An image of Brazil's soccer player Neymar is projected on a screen during a press conference. — AP

## NEYMAR AGREES TO SIGN NEW FIVE-YEAR BARCELONA DEAL

**SAO PAULO:** Brazilian striker Neymar will sign a new five-year contract with Barcelona this week, his agents said Thursday, ending speculation over his future at the Spanish champions. The international, 24, is widely regarded as one of the finest talents in world football and is part of the much-feared attacking trident alongside Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez at Barcelona.

"The athlete, along with his family, has decided to stay with FC Barcelona and will renew his contract for five more years," said NN Consultoria, the agency representing the international forward, 24. "The contract will be formalised this week. The decision puts an end to speculation about the star's future." Neymar wrote on Twitter: "I am very happy to continue living this dream. Long live Barca and long live Catalonia!" The Catalan club's president Josep Maria Bartomeu had earlier rejected rumours over Neymar's possible transfer to another club, with Manchester United among the teams supposedly chasing him. The prolific Neymar was already under contract until 2018 with Barcelona, having transferred in 2013 from Brazil's Santos. That transfer deal has haunted the club because of alleged hidden payments that have sparked legal action. Speculation had mounted around whether or not Neymar would extend his stay at the Camp Nou or make another lucrative move.

Paris Saint-Germain, Real Madrid, United and Manchester City had been named as possible suitors. "I read that there are many clubs interested in Neymar. It's normal they are, but Neymar has never said he wants to leave Barca, just the opposite," Bartomeu

said. "Neymar wants to continue at Barca and Barca wants Neymar to continue with us."

### Neymar transfer woes

Neymar has been a huge success for Barca on the pitch but a judicial nightmare off it. He helped them win the Spanish league last season for the second year in a row, narrowly beating their fierce rivals Real Madrid. But he has been investigated in Brazil and Spain over his transfer from Santos. Barcelona agreed on June 13 to pay a 5.5-million-euro (\$6.2 million) fine over the transfer in a deal with prosecutors that sees the club avoid trial on tax evasion charges. "It was better to accept this agreement than continue on with the uncertainty that has dragged on for a long time over the Neymar case," Bartomeu told reporters at the time.

Neymar was named on Wednesday as the star of a young Brazil Olympic football squad for next month's Games in Rio de Janeiro. Brazil are looking to bounce back from a humiliating group stage exit from the Copa America Centenario this month. They are also hoping Olympic gold will help soothe the trauma of their devastating 7-1 semi-final loss to Germany in the 2014 World Cup on home soil. "Neymar is different. He is one of the best players in the world. Any national team would want to have a player of his profile," the Olympic squad's coach Rogerio Micalle told a news conference. "He will mean a lot for the team. I hope he will be able to help the younger players." — AFP

## NOLITO SIGNS FOR MAN CITY

**MANCHESTER:** Spanish international forward Nolito has signed for Manchester City from Celta Vigo, the Premier League club confirmed yesterday. The 29-year-old has agreed a four-year contract and becomes new manager Pep Guardiola's second signing after Germany midfielder Ilkay Gundogan. It will be the second time both have worked together after Barcelona in 2011, before Nolito joined Benfica.

"Pep Guardiola is one of the best managers in the world," Nolito told

City's official website. "He knows a lot about the game and he's going to help me progress as a player and I'm sure he'll get the best out of me. "I'll try to bring as much as I possibly can. I'll do everything that the manager asks of me, try my absolute best and do everything I can to try to repeat the form I've shown throughout my career at various clubs. "It's just about trying to play my normal game and let's hope that I can help Manchester City to win games."

Nolito, whose real name is Manuel Agudo Duran and who has been given the number nine shirt, started each of Spain's four fixtures before their elimination from Euro 2016. During his three seasons at Celta he scored 39 goals in 103 appearances. He will face stiff competition in City with Sergio Aguero expected to remain their first-choice striker, meaning Nolito's rivals include, among others, David Silva, Kevin De Bruyne, Raheem Sterling, Jesus Navas and Samir Nasri. — AFP



A combination of two file pictures shows Iceland's defender Ragnar Sigurdsson (L) in Nice on June 27, 2016 and France's forward Antoine Griezmann Decines-Charpieu near Lyon on June 26, 2016. France face Iceland in Saint-Denis near Paris on July 3, 2016 in the quarter-finals of the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP

# ICELAND'S EURO SUCCESS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER

**ANNECY:** The jokes have been doing the rounds on social media since Iceland's stunning 2-1 victory over England put them in the Euro 2016 quarter-finals. Kolbeinn Sigjorsson's winning goal made him a hero in Iceland while the last 16 defeat signaled the end of Roy Hodgson's career as England manager. "Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, We're out of the Euros, And out of the EU #engice," quipped one England fan after Monday's defeat and the Brexit referendum.

Now hosts France are the next big name hoping to avoid being made laughing stocks by the Nordic minnows in tomorrow's quarter-final in Paris. A big chunk of Iceland's population of 330,000 is in France to support their team and the island is going nuts for football. The mood in the Iceland camp is relaxed. There are lots of jokes in their press conferences alongside a confident air of determination.

"This is the biggest game in our history," said midfielder Birkir Bjarnason. "I don't think any team is going to underestimate us

after the England result." Unusually, the team has two coaches-Heimir Hallgrimsson, who works as a part-time dentist, alongside Sweden's Lars Lagerback. "We're the team behind the team," said Lagerback. The duo have shared the duties since 2014, but this is their last joint venture and Hallgrimsson, 49, will take over after Euro 2016 as head coach. Media interest in the smallest nation to qualify for a major tournament has exploded since the England win. "Things went a bit crazy," said press officer Omar Smarason.

### Nothing sloppy

Journalists want to know the secret behind Iceland's success, but the simple answer is hard work-and not being "sloppy". "We have set guidelines to work within, it's about creating a standard both on and off the pitch," explained Lagerback. "For example, standards were a little sloppy and in the euphoria of the win (over England), a few of the guys were late to dinner the day after.

"Normally we're flexible, but that was one of the details we brought up. "Don't think you are over the hill just because you beat England - keep the standard" "I think the best way to challenge a footballer is to ask if he is 100 percent professional."

There was nothing sloppy about how Iceland qualified for France. They made the football world take notice by beating the Netherlands home and away. Before that, Iceland almost qualified for the 2014 World Cup before losing a play-off to Croatia. Iceland had finished second-bottom of their group in the Euro 2008 and Euro 2012 qualifying campaigns. Iceland's success in France is the fruit of a decision made by their national football association (KSI) fifteen years ago to invest in indoor football arenas and improve coaching. Lagerback has also been important. Before he started to work with Iceland in 2011, the 67-year-old had taken his native Sweden to five major finals and coached Nigeria at the 2010 World Cup.

### 'Priceless'

"His contribution has been priceless," said Hallgrimsson. "You have to realize that Iceland is a very small country, the coaches there are amateurs. "So to have a guy come in, with all his international experience, was a big deal," added Hallgrimsson. "He probably doesn't realize what he is leaving behind and what a difference he has made." Results in France have put Iceland on the footballing map, but Hallgrimsson says the challenge is to carry the success into the 2018 World Cup qualifiers. And to find the next generation of giant killers.

"If you take your child, to football training (in Iceland) there is a 90 percent chance the trainer working with the kid will have an A or a B UEFA license," he said. "I think we are amongst the best in the world for kid's coaching. "When it comes to 17,18 or 19, then it's better to be in academies abroad, that is what we're looking to improve in the future." Hallgrimsson switches effortlessly between Icelandic and English, the latter of which is often spoke in training for Lagerback's benefit. — AFP

## NO ROOM FOR EGOS AS FRANCE FACES UNDERDOGS ICELAND

**PARIS:** With an unassuming group of players lighting up the European Championship, Iceland's dazzling advance has been infectious. Even France, which has a recent history of rebellion, is talking up the importance of team unity as the two-time European champions prepare to face Iceland in Sunday's quarterfinal. "If someone wants to act like a star, we'll put them back in their place," France defender Patrice Evra said. "The team is the star." France may be host of Euro 2016 and one of the favorites to win the tournament, but the limelight has been well and truly seized by the fearless Icelanders, who are unbeaten in four matches and dispatched England to reach the last eight. Not bad for a team from the smallest nation to ever contest the European Championship.

Iceland hasn't scrapped through with ultra-defensive football. It has scored the same number of goals as France - six - and stands potentially 180 minutes from the final. "A lot of people have underestimated the smaller nations," Evra said. No longer, although France hasn't lost to Iceland in 11 previous meetings. Iceland's ascent in international football can be traced through its past fixtures with France. Now ranked 34 in the world by FIFA, Iceland was as low as 131st when it last faced France in a friendly four years ago. Even then there were flickers of optimism for the Nordic nation of 330,000.

### Potential for revenge

Iceland led 2-0 before France came from behind to win 3-2. It was the same final score when Iceland was last at the Stade de France in 1999 for a European Championship qualifier against the then world champion. However vast the rankings gulf has been, Iceland has been no pushover. "Maybe we have players with less individual quality, if you compare our players with the French team, which has players in almost every position playing in the Champions League day in day out," Iceland joint-coach Heimir Hallgrimsson said. "There's not many in the Iceland team that has played Champions League. In individual quality you can see that they are superior. So we have to be collective and work together to make up for it." The pressure and expectation is all on France - and particularly striker Olivier Giroud, who hasn't found the net since the opening game against Romania when the host won 2-1.

"Because he hasn't scored for two games some people might criticize him and say, (Antoine) Griezmann's scoring all the goals," Evra said. Evra highlighted how Giroud's header set up Griezmann for his second - and match-winning - goal against Ireland in the round of 16. "We need Olivier and we believe in him," Evra said. France will have to cope without the suspended duo of center back Adil Rami and midfielder N'Golo Kante on Sunday. Yohan Cabaye is expected to take Kante's place as was the case when Didier Deschamps rested the Leicester player for the final group game against Switzerland. Samuel Umtiti has been tipped to fill in for Rami and make his France debut on the biggest of stages. Set for a post-Euro 2016 move to Barcelona, Umtiti only made the France squad after two teammates pulled out injured. — AP



This combination of pictures shows France's coach Didier Deschamps Iceland's coach Heimir Hallgrimsson (L) and Iceland's coach Lars Lagerbaeck. — AFP

## ICELAND SHIRT IS EURO 16'S MUST-HAVE ITEM

**ANNECY:** Iceland's march to the Euro 2016 quarter-finals has caught the football world by surprise-and left new-found fans struggling to get their hands on a replica shirt. Iceland's eye-catching blue playing shirt has become the tournament's must-have item after their shock 2-1 win over England in the last 16 thanks to Kolbeinn Sigthorsson's winning goal.

Because of the Nordic nation's European Championship success in beating England demand for the shirts has been almost 2,000 percent higher than expected, Iceland team press officer Omar Smarason said on Friday. And that could go higher as Iceland prepare to face hosts France in Paris on Sunday for a place in the semi-finals. Internet orders for shirts have swamped Sport Company

Ehf, Iceland's official jersey distributor, and Edrea, the Italian manufacturers. "Based on the number of emails and Facebook messages we've been getting, yes, we are sold out," Smarason said.

"Demand is 1800 percent over what was predicted, which is good on one hand, but bad for everyone who has not got the shirt they wanted yet. "We have every faith in Errea and we're sure everyone will get their shirt eventually." Iceland's tale is similar to the plight sportswear firm Puma suffered when unfancied Premier League winners Leicester City won this season's title. Puma, who make Leicester's shirts, ran out of replica kits in January, four months before the end of the English league season. — AFP

## DEL BOSQUE QUILTS SPAIN, FOOTBALL

**MADRID:** Vicente del Bosque brought the curtain down on one of the most successful managerial careers in football on Thursday, saying he has resigned from the Spain job and does not expect to coach again. His departure at aged 65 comes just days after the reigning champions crashed out of Euro 2016, a sad end to a trophy-laden career with club and country.

"Without a doubt, I have no intention to remain as coach, but you have to be discreet. No matter what the result of the Euros, I had no doubt about what my future would be," he told Spanish public radio RNE, confirming Spanish media reports that he was stepping down. "I have handled this issue discreetly. But it is a decision that was taken in advance," he added. Spain was eliminated from Euro 2016 on Monday following a meek 2-0 last 16 defeat to Italy. Madrid-based sports

daily Marca says that ex-Sevilla coach Joaquin Caparros is the favourite to take over.

Del Bosque, who succeeded the late Luis Aragones after Spain's triumph at Euro 2008, is a popular figure in Spain after leading the national team to a maiden World Cup victory in 2010 and a second consecutive European Championship two years later. But some felt a fresh start was needed after Spain's failure to advance beyond the group stage at the 2014 World Cup finals in Brazil.

Del Bosque held on for a further two years hoping to bow out on a high in France, but the gamble did not pay off. "I had already said it. I had no doubts. It would be hard to win (the tournament) again. Maybe we did not perform well against Italy. The first stage went well. But the most difficult part would be winning again," Del

Bosque said. He told the radio station he will remain in his post until his contract expires on July 31 and then he will leave football coaching for good.

### 'I will always remain close'

"On July 31 I will leave football. I will be available to help. I will leave the bench although I will always remain close and will want things to go well for Spanish football. If I can help in anything, I will," he said. Del Bosque said no one at the Spanish football federation had asked for his advice regarding who should replace him. Caparros, who is currently out of work but has managed a host of Spanish clubs including Villarreal, Granada, Athletic Bilbao and Levante, told Marca: "I would be excited to manage the national team, any Spanish coach would be honored to take this job." — AFP

## SUPER SANCHES LEAVES RONALDO IN THE SHADE

**MARSEILLE:** Cristiano Ronaldo is one step closer to the holy grail of an international trophy but was overshadowed by the rising star of 18-year-old teammate Renato Sanches as Portugal booked their place in the Euro 2016 semi-finals. Despite still having failed to win a game in 90 minutes, Ronaldo is just two games away from delivering Portugal's first major tournament win as A Selecao scraped past Poland 5-3 on penalties in Marseille.

The quarter-final clash had been billed as a shootout between two of Europe's leading marksmen. Poland's Robert Lewandowski and Ronaldo scored a combined 93 goals for Bayern Munich and Real Madrid this season. And it was Poland who struck first blood as Lewandowski ended his Euro 2016 drought before Ronaldo had even touched the ball. Yet, rather than being revived by Ronaldo, Portugal's savior was Sanches as his energy, class and brilliant goal brought Fernando Santos's men back to life.

Sanches hadn't even started an international match before, but his impact off the bench to earn man-of-the-match from a drab 1-0 win over Croatia in the last 16 forced Santos's hand to release him onto the big stage. Bayern Munich's move to seal his signature from Benfica for 35 million Euros (\$38 million) now looks a wise one with the reputation of one of Europe's hottest prospects only enhanced by his showing in France.

### Slow and riled

By contrast, Ronaldo, in keeping with his displays at Euro 2016, looked slow, surly and riled by some Polish roughhouse tactics. Sanches, by contrast, had taken control with his power and energy in midfield and got his reward. A neat one-two with Nani opened up a sight of goal and his left-footed effort arched into the corner via a slight deflection off Grzegorz Krychowiak. Ronaldo finally got the space he craved early in the second half, yet still couldn't take advantage.

He fired wildly into the side-netting when played in behind by Nani and failed to even make contact with an embarrassing swipe at nothing but fresh air from another dangerous Nani cross. Ronaldo's mood only worsened. Joao Mario felt his wrath after a misplaced pass and it encouraged Polish fans to chant the name of his eternal rival for the crown of the world's best player, Lionel Messi. For all that he still had the moment to seize glory from a frustrating night, only to again fail to make contact with just Lukasz Fabianski to beat five minutes from time.

Another miscontrol let the scrambling Polish defence off the hook minutes into extra-time by which point Ronaldo's rage had turned to resignation. Indeed the swiftest piece of movement he showed all night was to dodge a pitch invader who made for the Real Madrid star in extra-time. Ronaldo learned his lesson from Portugal's Euro 2012 heartache against Spain when he opted to take Portugal's final penalty and the shootout never got that far as Joao Moutinho and Bruno Alves missed. — AFP



MONTPELLIER: Italy players attend a training session at the Bernard Gasset center. — AP

## GERMANY HOPES TO THROW OFF STORIED ITALY SHACKLES

**BORDEAUX:** Europe's titans clash today when Germany and Italy meet in the plum Euro 2016 quarter-final with huge stakes for both countries. Germany captain Bastian Schweinsteiger is poised to make his first start in the Bordeaux match, while Italy's veteran defender Daniele de Rossi faces a race to be fit. Like two heavyweight boxers eyeing up their opponent before the first bell, both teams have talked up the respect factor and down played the significance of Italy winning the last eight meetings at major tournaments.

In the most recent matches, Italy claimed a 2-1 win in the Euro 2012 semi-finals while Germany romped to a 4-1 win in a meaningless friendly in March. Joachim Loew's Germany insists they have no 'Italy trauma' as they look to beat the Azzurri at the ninth attempt on a big stage and throw off their Italian shackles. Antonio Conte's Italy has compared taking on the world champions as football's equivalent of 'climbing Everest'. Italy have their own trauma after crashing out of the 2014 World Cup in the first round.

Both squads insist this will be their toughest test so far at the European Championship finals. No doubt penalties have been practiced behind closed doors, should the tie be decided by a shoot-out.

The Azzurri proved they are up for the challenge by dumping previous holders Spain out of the competition with a 2-0 win in the last 16. But Conte's team will have to become the first team to score past the Germans at Euro 2016, unless the tie is settled by penalties. The clear, often repeated, German message this week has been of great respect, but no fear of the Azzurri. As has been well documented in the media of both European footballing powerhouses, Italy has a rare unbeaten record over Germany at major tournaments.

### Italian curse

"It doesn't mean anything to me that we have never beaten Italy in a big tournament", said Germany midfielder Toni Kroos. "They are the best team we will have faced here. I'm looking forward to the game and I'm very optimistic." But the question will be whether previous failures appear at the back of German minds should Italy take the lead in Bordeaux. Torino striker Ciro Immobile, who spent an unhappy season at Borussia Dortmund, is not impressed with the respectful noises coming from the Germans.

"We've beaten them so many times ... they're just trying to cover themselves," he said. "We know Germany are strong and

will be sure of themselves. But our victory over Spain has really lifted our confidence." Germany have all their players fit and no suspensions. Centre-back Jerome Boateng has recovered from a calf strain which made him doubtful for the 3-0 win over Slovakia in the last 16. The burly Bayern Munich defender scored his first international goal against Slovakia.

### Record-breaker Neuer

After three Euro 2016 appearances off the bench, Die Mannschaft's leader Schweinsteiger is poised to make his first start after a knee injury. Germany's shot-stopper Manuel Neuer is on a record run of five games unbeaten, a first in the 108-year history of the German FA, which includes the 2-0 warm-up win over Hungary. Italy have Thiago Motta suspended and are waiting on the fitness of two other midfielders.

Italy's De Rossi is almost certain to miss out after injuring his right thigh in the win over Spain. Likewise, Lazio winger Antonio Candreva is doubtful after suffering a hamstring injury in their 1-0 group stage win over Sweden nearly two weeks ago. Neither took part in Thursday's Italy training session behind closed doors. Let battle commence. — AFP

# Sports



Germany hopes to throw off storied Italy shackles

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**MARSEILLE:** Portugal's defender Pepe, Portugal's defender Fonte and Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo celebrate after winning the Euro 2016 quarter-final football match between Poland and Portugal at the Stade Velodrome. — AFP

## SHOOTOUT WIN SEES PORTUGAL INTO SEMIS

### TEENAGE SENSATION SANCHES SCORES CRUCIAL EQUALIZER

**MARSEILLE:** Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal battled their way to a place in the European Championship last four on Thursday winning a penalty shootout 5-3 against Poland in a tense quarter-final. Teenage sensation Renato Sanches, who scored Portugal's goal and smashed home one of the penalties, said it was a "wonderful moment for the team and for me for scoring".

Portugal have reached the last four without winning a single game within 90 minutes. "People criticize us but we don't care, because we are in the semis," Sanches said, after Portugal reached the semi-finals for the fourth time in the last five European Championships. Poland had started strongly, with Robert Lewandowski scoring his first goal of Euro 2016 inside two minutes in the Marseille clash

before 18-year-old Sanches, his new teammate at Bayern Munich, equalized with a powerfully driven shot. The game then went through extra-time deadlocked at 1-1.

Goalkeeper Rui Patrício and Ricardo Quaresma were Portugal's heroes in the shootout. Ronaldo was among the players fist-pumping when Patrício dived to his left to save Jakub Blaszczykowski's tame fourth shot for the Poles, who had reached the quarter-finals for the first time. Quaresma was next up for Portugal and made no mistake firing high into the net to beat Poland goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski. "It hurts and it will hurt for a long time," Lewandowski said as Ronaldo celebrated taking the latest step toward winning a first major international trophy with Portugal.

Poland made a blistering start to the game.

After barely 100 seconds, Kamil Grosicki hurried past Southampton right-back Cedric Soares to deliver a great cross that Lewandowski drove past a flailing Rui Patrício at his near post. The Polish striker's first goal of the competition, after hitting a record 13 in qualifying, stunned Portugal. The early goal gave Poland momentum, and a defiant but borderline interception by Grzegorz Krychowiak on Sanches set Arkadiusz Milik up for a 25-yard drive that sailed wide on the quarter hour.

#### Invader caught

Ronaldo hit the defensive wall with one free kick and goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski had no trouble with Ronaldo's 18-yard drive from a Nani cross. German referee Felix Brych waved away Ronaldo's claims for a penalty on 31 minutes despite replays

suggesting the Real Madrid star was bundled over by centre-back Michal Pazdan as he went to meet a cross. Sanches made amends for Portugal less than two minutes later with a stunning leveller on his first start at Euro 2016.

The midfielder collected Nani's cutback from the right side of the area and hit a fierce shot that deflected off Grzegorz Krychowiak and beat Fabianski at his near post. Poland's slick passing game, however, was impressive throughout. Kamil Glik's long ball found Grosicki in space to fire in a great cross at the back post that forced Patrício into action as Lewandowski hovered. And it took a timely intervention from Jose Fonte just after the restart to stop Lukasz Piszczek's cutback reaching Lewandowski, who got his head to a cross moments later that Patrício gratefully collected. — AFP